

# The Three Villages Magazine



COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

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**Issue 10**

**June 2024**

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- Business Spotlight on Hair & Beauty Award Finalist, Remi LS Beauty
- Charity Focus on Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust
- SPECIAL double-page feature exploring The Maltings

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# The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Issue 10

June 2024

## From the Editor...



Cover: Fields on Rye Common © Alison Cox

Welcome to the June Issue! The Three Villages Magazine is a joint venture between the three Parish Councils of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots, and The 3 Churches Benefice. It is intended as a community resource that is accessible to everyone. The online and print formats provide a platform to share local news and information, showcase local talent and support local businesses.

Since the last issue, we have been working hard to expand our reach and find new ways to support local businesses. We have

teamed up with Paul King, Managing Director of French & Jupps, who has kindly agreed to write a regular feature exploring the amazing businesses that call The Maltings home. To mark this collaboration, every business in The Maltings will receive a copy of this issue! We are also pleased to welcome a new Quizmaster: Terry Collins. Check out his puzzles on p.12.

Do you have an interesting story or an upcoming event to promote? We would love to hear from you! If you have something to contribute to the remaining 2024 issues, the deadlines are 5th July (September Issue) and 4th October (December Issue). Please send all submissions to [print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).

The photograph featured on the cover is by Alison Cox and shows a glorious view of the fields on Rye Common, behind the Pumping Station at St Margarets. Alison has lived in St Margarets since 1990 and loves the paths along the New River and River Lea. If you would like to enter your work for the next cover, please send your photograph(s) to [threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com). We are looking for seasonal images of the local area.

Continued thanks are offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our generous sponsors. We have also been kindly supported by a grant from East Herts Council.

Please do check out our website ([www.thethreevillages.com](http://www.thethreevillages.com)), subscribe to our News & Events blog for all live events and important up-to-date news, and follow us on Facebook.

Thank you for your support.

Anna Bond, Editor

### THE THREE VILLAGES COMMITTEE

Anna Bond	Rosemary Imroth
Julia Davies	Clare Maynard
Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest	Lyn Paddon

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# The Three Villages Magazine

## FROM THE VICAR

We love athletics in our family, thanks in part to my husband's experience as a 110m hurdler, and so we are big fans of the Commonwealth Games and of the Olympics. This year's coverage will find us glued to our screens to follow the excitement, but not before we have got a little local Olympic fun underway!

This year is an exciting year as the Olympics return again to Paris in 2024, 100 years after the exhilarating games of 1924. The rivalry and races of Paris 1924 were immortalised in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire* in which the extraordinary athletic abilities of two very different men were explored. Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams came from different religious and social backgrounds but were brought together by their talent as young athletes, and trained and raced ready for the 1924 Olympics. There they represented Great Britain, coming home with their hard won medals; Eric Liddell with a Gold for the 400m and Harold Abrahams with Britain's first 100m Gold medal.



Harold Abrahams lived his later life in the village of Great Amwell, having married Sybil Gordon, an actress and singer whose best remembered performances were of Gilbert & Sullivan roles. Harold had a distinguished career as a Barrister, while continuing his involvement in athletics both by commentating and by serving the sport as Chairman of the Amateur Athletics Association. Sybil and Harold were involved in village and church life, and when he died in 1978 he was buried with Sybil in the Churchyard of St John the Baptist.

It is this connection between our village and Harold Abrahams and his gold medal, awarded 100 years ago now, that we are celebrating this July. The Village Olympics, advertised on our inside front cover, is planned as a chance to come together and have some fun, run some races, enjoy some games and build community. So make sure you have it in your diary, pack a picnic, get your running shoes on and let's celebrate together. I will be praying very hard for the weather to be glorious!



*Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest*  
*Priest in Charge, The 3 Churches Benefice*



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## LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: ARCHIE MILLER

Archie Miller was born c.1868 as one of eight brothers and sisters living all his life in Stanstead Abbots. He was one of the well-known Miller family whose surname is commemorated in Millers Lane.

Much of his working life was spent with the Metropolitan Water Board looking after the channel and grassy banks of the New River. He became famous as an otter catcher, as well as for buying his own coffin long before he needed one!

In 1927, aged 59, while attending a friend's funeral he was rather taken by the fine oak coffin. So, he asked the undertaker if he would make one just like it for him – it was delivered within a week for £23! He often encouraged interested visitors to take his picture while sitting in his coffin. He told a Daily Mirror reporter that he also slept in it at night! Local myth has him leaving the coffin propped up against the parapet of the river bridge!

Archie kept an immaculate garden at his home in Riverside Cottages, which provided him a good supply of vegetables. One of his early achievements was the construction of a shack at the bottom of his garden made out of discarded materials. This formed a museum of sorts, which housed many items that he had picked up and salted away. An old empty clock case was to be found at the entrance to the museum that was appropriately labelled 'No Tick'.



Archie and his famous six-foot-long coffin

In 1951 he was interviewed by a newspaper that reported that Archie had a six-foot-long unpolished oak coffin with a fine silk lining! The wider public was particularly interested in Archie's additional occupation as an Otter Catcher. The newspaper mentioned that he had killed 87 Otters and it was thought that this tally was a record for any one individual. It was also explained how coping with otters was dangerous as they were vicious things, and one had attacked Archie and mauled his face. When Archie appeared on the BBC radio programme *In Town Tonight*, he emphasised the risky nature of catching otters: he said that 'If you have never touched an otter, you do not want to, they are dangerous'.

By 1978, largely because of Archie's exploits, all otters had disappeared from our part of the Lea Valley. But in 1991 otters bred in captivity were released locally back in to the wild. These otters were released quite close to the Amwell Magna Fishery where Archie had previously been paid to kill otters. However, all this took place well after Archie had died in 1959, some 41 years after he had purchased his oak coffin with rosewood inlay and silk lining.

P.S. Have you seen one of the local otters? A photo even? If so, please let the Editor know.

[Copy extracted from the fuller, excellent article on Archie Miller by Stuart Moye on the [www.SALHS.co.uk](http://www.SALHS.co.uk) website.]

Bob Hunt, SALHS

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# The Three Villages Magazine

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Great Amwell Parish Council



The picture of the Memorial was taken following the last refurbishment project funded by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall, Hillside Lane at 8.00pm (except August when there is no meeting).

Previous articles have outlined various issues considered by the Parish Council and projects it is pursuing. As the lowest tier of local government in Hertfordshire, the Parish Council has few statutory powers. Its focus is on representing local views to the principal authorities (Herts County Council and East Herts District Council) and Government agencies on various matters. Additionally, it aims to maintain the environmental wellbeing of the parish through activities such as litter picking.

The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the War Memorial along Amwell Lane. The siting of the memorial near to a waterway is not ideal from a maintenance perspective!

On page 5 is an article by the District Council on the East Herts Community Safety Partnership. Useful contact information is provided.

Another useful contact point can be found in the link below. This link will take you to a webpage where you can report overflowing litter bins to the District Council: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/report-overflowing-or-full-litter-bins>.

If you have an issue of concern that falls within the remit of local government then please contact the Parish Council ([greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com](mailto:greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com)) to make your views known. You may also wish to contact the District Council directly (<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/contactusform>).

### St Margarets Parish Council



St Margaret's Parish Council are working with the Ware & Stanstead Abbots Safer Neighbourhood Team to offer a 'Coffee with a Cop' session in the parish, which will give residents the opportunity to raise issues or concerns or to just get some advice. A date and venue will be announced shortly. In addition, the team want to hold a community event in the area in the summer months, so watch this space.

We are continuing to liaise with the District/County Councils to sort flooding issues on Hoddesdon Road, the junction of Station Road/Lawrence Avenue, St Margarets Road and Hailey Lane. In addition, we have asked that some repair works are carried out to the road surface on Hailey Lane. We have also requested that litter on the highways, particularly the A10/A414 slip roads, are dealt with.

We are working towards some improvements in the area, which includes dealing with the graffiti on the A414 flyover pillars, introducing a new noticeboard at the Nigel Copping Community Building on Hoddesdon Road, and relocating the noticeboard on Lawrence Avenue to the corner of Station Road to capture more of an audience. We have also had a request for a bench at the bus stop by St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets church. If you think there is an area within the parish that needs an improvement then please do let us know by contacting the Clerk via email on [clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by calling 07422 582172.

For more information about the Parish Council, please visit our website: [www.stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk).



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

*Would you like to volunteer?*

On Saturday 23rd March we held a volunteer morning at the village playground. Luckily the rain stayed away long enough for several jobs to be completed including litter picking, fence rail repairs, clearing wood from the Meadow and playground equipment cleaning. Thank you to all our volunteers who turned up on the day, your help was very much appreciated.

We are always looking for volunteers who are willing to spare a couple of hours a few times a year to help keep the village and playground well maintained and litter free. If you are interested in volunteering for the Parish Council, please email [clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk) and your email address will be added to our volunteer group email.



### Roydon Road Flower Beds

The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining five flower beds in Roydon Road and over the last year they had become very neglected as our previous contractor retired, and it took some time to find a replacement. All five flower beds have now been tidied up by our new contractor and we hope residents are happy with the results. The next job he will be working on are the two planters in the High Street and the barrel planter on the corner of Roydon Road: we are looking forward to seeing some colourful plants in them to brighten up the High Street.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Parish Council, please visit our website [www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## EAST HERTS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a collection of agencies, including Herts Police, East Herts Council, Herts Fire & Rescue, Housing Associations and Hertfordshire County Council, that work together to ensure that the district remains a safe place to live, visit and work. There can be occasions where communities experience anti-social or nuisance behaviour, and residents can be unsure of how and who they can report incidents to. To enable the CSP to take positive and robust action against individuals or groups responsible for anti-social behaviour (ASB), they require evidence from the community about the type of behaviour, when and where it is happening and how it is affecting the quality of life of others.

For several reasons people may feel reluctant to report incidents, provide statements or attend court. However, hearsay evidence can be presented on behalf of residents, by members of the CSP relaying facts they have been told rather than residents having to make statements or attend court.

The CSP will also utilise a range of other measures to address ASB and nuisance behaviour such as environmental improvements, prevention and engagement. A range of support services are also available for those who may experience challenging situations.

### Ways to report

- \* Contact the police non-emergency number, 101. This is charged at a local rate and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 101 online reporting is also available at [herts.police.uk/Report](https://herts.police.uk/Report).
- \* Report to the Community Safety Dept at East Herts Council – online via <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-and-wellbeing/anti-social-behaviour>, email: [community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk) or call 01279 655261 (Mon. – Fri. only).
- \* Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
- \* If you are a tenant of a housing association, or are having problems with a tenant, you can contact them as they have powers to tackle ASB.

Julie Pomfrett

**ALWAYS DIAL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY**

# The Three Villages Magazine

## ART & LITERATURE IN THE WAITING ROOM

### A project delivered by your Community Rail Partnership Officer, Katie Goldthorpe

As part of Greater Anglia's ongoing station improvements, the Waiting Room at St Margarets on the New River Line was identified as needing an upgrade. The whole project needed to be completed in under three months.

I was invited to the initial planning meeting in January 2023 along with a team from Greater Anglia, their contractors and Robin our station adopter. I was keen to ensure that the refurbished space was welcoming and would become a place that the community could take pride in. I suggested a mural instead of a plain grey wall and shelves to be incorporated into the design. Following a previous discussion with the Parish Council I knew they wanted to have a book swap in the village and this would provide a great location. These proposals were accepted so I got straight to work. The aim was to have a waiting room that the community could take pride in and that offered passengers a comfortable, interesting and inspiring place to sit and wait for their train.

I offered to contact the painter of the original mural, to organise the re-homing of the old benches, to source and pay for the mural and to start the community book swap. The artist of the original mural, which he had painted in 2002, was surprised to hear it was still there, so he wasn't too upset to hear it was going to be painted over! Pleasingly one of the benches went to St Andrew's Primary School.



Due to the tight timescale I contacted Paul Wood, a local photographer who is always so generous in sharing his images, to see if he could supply five images of the area for the community to choose from for the new mural. He agreed and the voting process was launched via social media. Over 200 people placed a vote and the winning image received over 50% of the votes: 'it is unmistakably Stanstead Abbots' read one comment. The image was reproduced on a huge sticker by local company, Universal Signs and installed by their team.

Once the shelves had been built and the waiting room became accessible, I sent out a request for books and let local companies and organisations know they could leave flyers there. The shelves were full within a couple of weeks. I also contacted local author Annette Hannah who had been inspired by the station for one of her books. Annette kindly left a number of her books for people to borrow.

It was a fantastic project to work on and we were pleased to have been shortlisted at the annual Community Rail Awards. Unfortunately we didn't win, but with over 180 submissions we did well to get shortlisted!

Please do follow us on social media to see what other projects are coming. We are excited that our new Rail Ale Trail will be launched soon.



Katie Goldthorpe

X and Instagram – CrpNew  
Facebook – The New River Line Community Rail Partnership



### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: REMI LS BEAUTY

On our News & Events Blog, we recently shared the fantastic news that local beauty business Remi LS Beauty was a finalist in the UK Hair and Beauty Awards in the following THREE categories: Nail Technician of the Year, Beauty Therapist of the Year and Make-up Artist of the Year. With this success in mind, we thought it would be great to find out more about Remi and her thriving business!

Remi LS Beauty is run by Remi Hodges, who is a small business owner, and is based in St Margarets, Stanstead Abbots. Her business is based purely around beauty treatments: from make-up and lash extensions to waxing and nails!



Remi has worked in the industry since 2016 when she qualified in London College of Beauty Therapy. Since then she focused on make-up and worked with some of the best high-end brands. Remi took a small break from the industry working a 9–5 job in 2019, but she knew where her heart lay, so just after COVID (in 2021), when life started to return back to 'normal', 'Remi LS Beauty' began. She left her 9–5 job and focused solely on her small business, doing more courses and gaining experience to get her to where she is now. It has been a lot of hard work, but Remi knew this was what she really wanted, and worked with passion and dedication – and it has paid off with her recent national award nominations!



Remi LS Beauty has been based in St Margarets for 3 years this coming July. Remi herself has lived in the village since she was 10 years old – nearly 17 years! This area is where many of her memories are from, she has even worked part time at the Co-operative in the village while studying in London College of Beauty Therapy!

Starting up a business and making it thrive takes real ambition, and Remi has the drive to take her business even further forward. Remi's short-term goals are to keep growing the business and reaching more possible clientele. Her long-term goals would be to become an expert in the treatments that she offers, so eventually she will be able to teach her own academy in a Salon that she owns. Here she would still offer all the treatments she loves, but also teach other aspiring beauticians, and share her experience and love for the industry.

To see all Remi LS Beauty has to offer and to book an appointment, please visit her booking app: [remilsbeauty.book.app](https://remilsbeauty.book.app)

You can also take a look at her work using her social media platforms:

Instagram – [@remilsbeauty](https://www.instagram.com/remilsbeauty)

Facebook – [RemiLSBeauty](https://www.facebook.com/RemiLSBeauty)

Tiktok – [@remi.ls.beauty](https://www.tiktok.com/@remi.ls.beauty)



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# The Three Villages Magazine

## CHARITY FOCUS: ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE



### Your local life-saving charity

Did you know that your local air ambulance service is a charity, run solely on donations? You would be forgiven for thinking that the helicopters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) often seen flying overhead are part of the NHS. But this free life-saving service provided 24/7 by helicopters and rapid response vehicles (RRVs) receives limited government funding and no National Lottery grants. The charity relies on the goodwill of local people and businesses across Hertfordshire and Essex to raise enough funds to cover the significant operational costs involved in providing such a vital medical emergency service.

Last year, their critical care team treated just over 1,900 patients, operating from two strategically located airbases: Earls Colne and North Weald. Each critical care team consists of a pilot and co-pilot, a pre-hospital care doctor and a critical care paramedic who can be rushed to the scene of a medical emergency with life-saving equipment to deliver advanced clinical care, usually only available in the hospital emergency department. Many patients have received blood transfusions from the blood carried on board the helicopters and RRVs.

There are many volunteers who lend a helping hand to support the charity, and all play an important part and are very highly valued as part of the team. Jane Morton, EHAAT Volunteer Manager explains: 'The core of our operations extends beyond our fleet of helicopters and advanced medical interventions, it's the spirit of our supporters and volunteers that drive us forward. From helping in our charity shops to sorting treasures in our warehouses, picking up collection tins, giving engaging visitor centre tours and supporting events, every hour of volunteering makes a meaningful difference. Yet, it's more than the tasks at hand – it's about making connections and lasting friendships. Whether it's sharing experiences, learning new skills, or stepping in to support community events, our volunteers not only impact our operations as a charity but inspire others and create positive change across our local communities.'

If you're looking to give back to your local life-saving charity in the most meaningful way, please visit [ehaat.org/volunteer/](https://ehaat.org/volunteer/) and discover how your contribution can support their mission. If you prefer to discuss how you can get involved or have any questions, EHAAT Volunteer Manager, Jane Morton, is just a call or an email away at 0345 2417 690 or [jane.morton@ehaat.org](mailto:jane.morton@ehaat.org).



Lynda Barrow



### Embark on Sky High Family Fun! Sunday 14th July, 12-4pm at Hatfield House, AL9 5HX

Following a successful campaign of fundraising to 'build their future fleet', the charity is looking forward to welcoming its second AW169 helicopter later this spring. To help them celebrate, you are invited to their Heli-bration event on Sunday 14th July. Set against the stunning backdrop of Hatfield House, it will be an afternoon packed full of excitement. Meet the crew and see the new helicopter up close... even taking a peek inside! With activities for all ages, there's something for everyone to enjoy, plus don't miss the opportunity to learn life-saving CPR techniques!

To register your place at this **free** event visit: <https://ehaat.org/heli-bration>.



## UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



### St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Our Spring Term has been full of interesting trips and visitors, which have enriched the taught curriculum.

In February we celebrated NSPCC Number Day, during which we raised money for this great cause whilst also completing lots of fun number activities and dressing up as numbers. Another opportunity to dress up was provided by our World Book Day, during which the children investigated their favourite authors and shared some of the books that they love.



In March we started off our Science Week with a really exciting science circus workshop. The children were equally amazed and challenged by many of the tricks and performances shown, all exploring forces. Everyone enjoyed watching a staff member try to ride a teeny tiny bike, and held their breath as they watched an amazing juggling display on a very tall unicycle! After the show, the children took part in workshops, helping them to explore how forces work upon us all at all times. Our younger children, in Nursery and Reception, explored light and shadow creating a theatre complete with some wonderful shadow puppets.

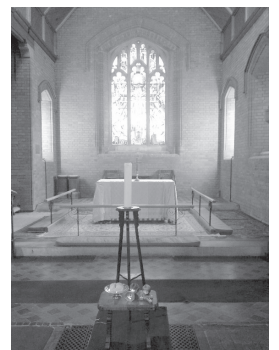
Other events during the Spring Term included a visit of chicks to the Early Years. The children watched them hatch and then helped to take care of them. Year 1 had a special History morning examining toys from Hertford Museum, considering how they differed to toys that they own at home.

Year 2 had a day of awe and wonder as they visited St Albans Cathedral. The children learnt about the special symbols and places within the cathedral, and visited the different areas in this beautiful building. They listened carefully to the tour guides who told them many interesting facts about the history and purpose of the building. In the afternoon, the children had a chance to make clay tiles, inspired by the morning's tour.

Our Year 5 class had a terrific time at Hudnall Park on their two-night residential trip. The site lends itself to a variety of environmental activities, and on their final day the children went go-carting and enjoyed stories, games and marshmallows around the camp fire.

In our final week of the Spring Term we held our Easter church service at St Andrew's Church where Rev'd Sarah and our class speakers led us through the momentous events of Holy Week. Finally, our wonderful Year 3 and 4 children performed their Easter play that mapped out the events from Palm Sunday, through the Crucifixion, leading to the Resurrection of Jesus. It was wonderful to see the confidence of the performers shining out and their singing was absolutely amazing.

*Helen Gillingham, Headteacher*



# The Three Villages Magazine

## UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



### St John the Baptist CE VA Primary



This term we have taken a deep dive into books, helping our children develop a real love of reading. We marked World Book Day with an exciting day of activities, joining in with online lessons with authors, enjoying shared reading times between classes and holding a book swap. In some classes, the children used Rock, Paper, Scissors to decide on who would take home a specific book. We also used this day to

launch our new Stay and Read sessions for parents. Parents can join their child in class each Friday morning, to stay and read with them and other children in the class. We have also introduced a weekly 10-Minute Book Club, where a small group of children in each class share a review of a book they have recently read. This has certainly had impact in getting the children reading from a wider genre of books, and pupils have been going to the library and book shops to select the books recommended. Teachers have also been reviewing the texts they use to teach writing and we have partnered with the Book Nook in Ware, to source a range of exciting new stimulus texts.



We were very pleased to be able to build a new Summer House on our school field this term, thanks to the incredible fundraising by St John's PTFA. This structure will help enhance our Forest School provision, as well as providing a shady spot during sunny playtimes on the field over the Summer Term. The school gathered together to celebrate its grand opening.



Children have continued to participate in events hosted by the local sports partnership. Our netball team came second in the medium schools' tournament; children from Years 3–6 took part in the Cross Country competition and many of those participating were pleased that they improved on their personal best from the last run; Years 5 and 6 competed in the Sportshall Athletics competition, with the Year 6 boys teaming coming third; our football team reached the semi-finals in the Hope Cup competition and came second in the medium schools' football tournament. We are looking forward to our Sports Week in the Summer Term.

Our Spring Term drew to a close with a performance by Years 4 and 5 of The Gospel Show: a moving depiction of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Children from both year groups gave incredible performances and we enjoyed some brilliant small group and solo singing.

*Lydia Hunt, Headteacher*

Tel: 01920 870135

Fax: 01920 872543

Email: [admin@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk) (current parents please contact us by email at: [parents@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk](mailto:parents@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk))

Website: [www.sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk](http://www.sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk)



## UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



### Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

As mentioned in our last updated, Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College has recently opened a new learning space at the school called 'The Hatch'. It continues to be a huge success and offer some fantastic new learning experiences.

Amwell View's Class 4 is for pupils who have profound and multiple learning disabilities, and the Spring Term saw the return of The Class 4 Café. Lisa Dillon, Class 4 Teacher said:



*The pupils were split into two teams, Team Cake and Team Biscuit. They made cakes and biscuits in their Food Technology lessons to offer to their peers in The Class 4 Café or provide a takeaway service from The Hatch.*

*Some pupils use Eye Gaze technology to decide what ingredients we need and what flavours to add, while others use switches to operate the food mixers. All pupils use their senses to explore the ingredients, and demonstrate preference and choices by smell, taste, touch and sight.*

*Some classes visit The Hatch, where Class 4 pupils provide a takeaway service. This provides another opportunity for Class 4 pupils to use their Eye Gaze technology, Big Mack switches and symbols to communicate with their peers.*

Amwell View School's RE and Sensory Week (5th–9th February 2024) was celebrating the Lunar New Year, which is the beginning of the New Year based on the lunar calendar. Pupils celebrated by making different pieces of artwork inspired by the Lunar New Year celebrations, such as dragon masks, lanterns and cherry blossom trees. Class 4 hosted the 'China Garden Takeaway' in The Hatch, which several classes visited and enjoyed eating afterwards. The school came together wearing dragon masks in Assembly and shared photos of the different activities they had participated in.



Janet Warrington  
School Business Manager



Community Car Scheme

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# The Three Villages Magazine

## PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER TONY COLLINS

### WHO AM I?

Below are clues to a famous person. How many clues will you need to get the answer...?!

1. I was born in 1812
2. My father was imprisoned for bad debt
3. Aged 12, I worked in a shoe polish factory
4. My wife had 10 children between 1837 and 1852
5. I always slept facing north
6. I was fascinated by hypnotism and practised it on my wife



### I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE



Listed below are seven cryptic clues to coastal towns or areas in Britain. Can you figure them out?

1. Gospels, castle or singing group
2. Known for its operatic corsairs
3. A bay where you prepare for a windy washday
4. Situated behind a male shin
5. Woolly officer who led the charge – with his horse
6. Male sheep enter here
7. Two facial features

### HISTORY

1. What was the last Land Battle on British soil and when did it occur?
2. What city was the Saxon capital of England?
3. By what name was the sea battle fought off Denmark on 1916?
4. In which year was the General Strike?
5. Who was the father of Henry I of England?
6. Who was the Emperor of Rome at the time of the Crucifixion?
7. In which European country was there a civil war between 1946 and 1949.
8. Which European country saw the Carnation Revolution in 1974?
9. In 1918 what claimed more lives than the First World War?
10. Which came first: The Iron age or the Bronze Age?
11. In which year did BBC2 begin broadcasting?
12. What towns were buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79?
13. In what year did Jack the Ripper terrorise parts of east London?
14. What British hero was murdered in Sudan in 1880?
15. Which British King was known as The Merry Monarch?
16. Which year did the Civil War between Parliament and the Crown Begin?
17. Who was Lord Mayor of London four times between 1397 and 1479?
18. In which year did William Shakespeare die?
19. Which infamous prison was stormed on 14th July 1789?
20. What were the names of the two spies who defected to Russia in 1951?





### MEET A LOCAL: CHERYL GOODEY

Cheryl grew up in Hoddesdon and she has lived in Bengeo for 22 years so she knows the area very well. She loves the community feel of Stanstead Abbots and she is clearly pleased that her customers, volunteers and friends refer to her personally as well as the shop she manages as the 'Village Hub'. The truth of this is obvious to anyone who spends any time at all in her shop: the much-loved Amwell View School Charity Shop.

Cheryl is naturally kind and friendly to all, which she puts down to her experience of being in care as a teenager. This was not at all a happy experience and she left care as soon as she could. Her drive and capabilities have certainly been of great benefit to the shop and before that with her family. Cheryl has two children and two grandchildren, as well as three stepchildren and step grandchildren. Her husband is a well-regarded local carpenter who originally helped to fit out the shop with help from Cheryl.

The demands of the shop on Cheryl are many and she scarcely ever stops working during her busy shop days. Luckily Cheryl is a great multi-tasker and her volunteers are clearly very willing to turn their hands to support her in many ways – each section of the shop is neatly organised – noticeably the books are beautifully displayed and regularly updated. The secret to the length of service from the volunteers lies in the generosity of Cheryl and the warmth of her management style. The volunteers look forward to the Christmas celebrations not for their lavishness but for the time being together and feeling appreciated.



Cheryl in the shop with volunteer Brenda Lawrence



Amwell View School Charity Shop

The initial single shop was so quiet that Cheryl used to have time to read a book. Since that time there has been expansion into a second shop, which allowed space for a really good children's section attracting families as they walk home from school. Subsequently a third shop has been added principally for the benefit of the Amwell View School students who are able to use the space and the room behind the shop area for learning life skills in preparation for leaving school.

When asked, 'What is your favourite film?', Cheryl doesn't hesitate – it's *Dirty Dancing* she tells me with her jolly giggle and twinkly expression. Cheryl's favourite read has been *The Island* by Victoria Hislop. Cheryl prefers a book that is based on something real – she would like to visit the former leper colony that is the setting for much of the novel.

If Cheryl were to arrange her ideal dinner party with people living or dead she would not be interested in inviting anyone famous. She would ask her friend Julie, her Nan, Tara and her Auntie Gill with whom she visits in her care home each week after work.

Cheryl sums up her approach to life in four words: 'One life, live it'.

Julia Davies



Have you subscribed to our **News & Events Blog**? Check it out at [thethreevillages.com/news-events/](https://thethreevillages.com/news-events/)

The place to go for the latest news and information about up-coming events in the three villages of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.

# The Three Villages Magazine

## REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS IN THE THREE VILLAGES

**1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownies:** Mondays 5.45–7pm (The Wilshere Hall) for girls aged 7 to 10 years. Guider in charge: Helen Payne (01920 462676).

**Great Amwell Scout Group:** Squirrels: boys and girls aged 4–5 years old, Beavers: boys and girls aged 6–8 years old, Cubs: boys and girls aged 8–10½ years old, Scouts: boys and girls aged 10½–14 years old. All groups meet at Scout HQ, 142 London Road, Ware SG12 9NH. For details visit [www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk](http://www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk) or call 01920 320142.

**1st Stanstead Abbotts & St Margarets Scout Group:** Age groups as above. All groups meet at Scout HQ, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts SG12 8QT. For details visit [www.stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk](http://www.stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk) or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

**Bingo for the over 60s:** Every Friday 2.30–4pm in Folly View Community Centre. New players welcome, just turn up.

**Great Amwell Women's Club:** Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7.30–10pm at the Parish Hall, Great Amwell. Club Secretary: Dulcie Fordham. Contact number for enquiries: 01920 466689 (Christine).

**Herts Wheelers (Cycling Club):** Weekly Sunday club rides for various abilities normally starting in Ware. Contact [membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk).

**The Amwell Society:** Quarterly talks in the Parish Hall, Great Amwell, as well as trips, walks and activities locally. For details of membership contact William Brown on 01920 872450 (Chairman).

**Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society:** Chairman, Bob Hunt. Regular meetings for both members and non-members. For details visit: [www.salhs.org.uk](http://www.salhs.org.uk). For membership details email: [admin@salhs.org.uk](mailto:admin@salhs.org.uk).

**St Margaretsbury Tennis Club:** A friendly club with social sessions on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturday and Sunday mornings, plus a junior section, coaching available, and opportunity to play match tennis in local leagues. For details contact: [secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk) or come along to a social morning.

**'Armchair Singers' for everyone:** A chance to eat, drink, sing and quiz all in one afternoon. Fun, fun, fun. Held in the Nigel Copping Community Centre every Monday 1.30–3.30pm. Singing for health and well-being. All ages welcome. For more details please contact Gabby Hanley on 07875 221543.

**St Margaretsbury Football Club:** The Recreation Ground, Station Road, St Margarets (near Stanstead Abbotts). A Chartered Standard local football club for Youth, Ladies' and Men's football, with youth starting from 6 years upwards in non-competitive leagues, and more competitive as they move up into Under 18s', Ladies' and Men's Football. Contact: Club Secretary at <https://stmargaretsburyfc.leaguerepublic.com/contacts.html>.

**Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall Table Tennis Club:** A friendly club meeting on Friday afternoons from 2pm, and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm with the opportunity to play in local leagues. For further details please call 07841 583256 or email [saphttc@yahoo.com](mailto:saphttc@yahoo.com) – or just come along!

**Carpet Bowls Club:** Our Carpet Bowls club meets every Tuesday from 7pm in Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall. We are an all-inclusive sport, suitable for all ages and abilities. Our members range in age from 9 to 90. No need to bring any equipment, everything is provided. First night is free. Come along and give it a try! For more details contact Pete (Tel: 07429142525 / Email: [pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk)).

**St Andrew's Church Card-making Group:** We meet in The Wilshere Hall starting at 1pm on the first and third Tuesdays every month. The cost is £4 per session to cover materials used and two cards will be made each session. We have a break midway for refreshments, which is included in cost. New members welcome – please contact Janet Dance on 07941096834.

**Just Friends:** a group for widows, widowers and divorced or separated people. We meet as friends to support each other, arrange activities and share names of trusted tradespeople. Meeting every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday. If interested, please contact Mary ([maryhallett14@gmail.com](mailto:maryhallett14@gmail.com) / 07899 861297 or 01920 870527).

**Bell Ringing at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell:** We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm until 9.00pm. A new skill for all ages to stimulate the brain and keep you fit. Just come along or contact Frances Adams 07876 496654/[fmadams50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fmadams50@yahoo.co.uk).

*If you would like to add a club, group or meeting to this list, please send details to [print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).*

### 1ST STANSTEAD ABBOTTS BROWNIES

1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownies have been busy having lots of fun! This term our highlights have been a night hike in Post Woods, Ware and a visit to Inflata City in Ware too.

We have filled pots with flowers and given them as gifts to people we know that are not in our family, such as a teacher or neighbour. We had visitors from four countries one evening with the girls learning and tasting foods from Hong Kong, Lesotho, Switzerland and Germany. We decorated cakes with Li Dimaria (a local cake-making business lady) and of course had pancakes. We finished our term making bunny pencil holders and having an Easter Egg Hunt! To finish up the term, we also had two girls gain their Brownie Bronze Award. Well done to Alice and Jessica!

*Helen Payne, Leader*



### FOUR YEARS ON AND THE VILLAGE PLANT SWAP KEEPS GROWING



Back during lockdown when everyone couldn't go to garden centres to buy plants or seeds, but everyone was busy gardening, I started a plant swap outside our house on Hoddesdon Road. Four years later it is still going!

It was hugely popular when it started, with so many people walking by and picking things up one day and then, if they had things to donate, bringing things to donate on other days. If people didn't have things to drop off, that was always fine. Many didn't, but were always incredibly grateful.

After the garden centres opened, lots of people wanted me to keep it going, and every year since. It may not be quite as busy as it was back then, but it's been lovely to see people getting involved again this year and with the cost of living crisis hitting so many people's pockets, I am really hoping yet more people will get involved again this year. Plus it's fun as you never know what might appear in the box!

I'd like to say a massive 'Thank you' to everyone who has taken part over the last four years and supported it and, as always, happy gardening! Find us at Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead Abbotts, SG12 8EG. Please label your plants/seedlings/cuttings if you can, and please don't leave any plastic plant pots. Look out for more news and updates about the Plant Swap on our village Facebook page: [#StansteadAbbottsPlantSwap](#).

*Fiona McKenzie-Smith*

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CARD MAKING GROUP

St Andrew's Church Card Making Group came into being 12 years ago. It was started by Yvonne, the wife of the then Curate Don Alcock, as a social activity for anyone in the Benefice. When Don was given his own Parish near Chester, Yvonne asked me to take over the group. Out of the six original members, three still remain part of this group. Over the years numbers have ranged from six to fourteen members, many having to leave to take up 'Grandparent Duties'. At present we have eight members in total. During the summer months we often welcome a lady who lives on a houseboat who visits Stanstead Abbotts for a short time. We also used to have a regular visitor from Scotland when she spent time with family at Easneye.

We make a selection of greetings cards to suit many occasions and meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1–3.45pm in The Wilshere Hall on Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbotts. Midway we have a tea break with biscuits or cakes. The cost is £4 per session to cover materials and refreshments, making two different cards each time.

New members always welcome! Please contact me on 01920 871262.

*Janet Dance*





# The Three Villages Magazine

## THE MALTINGS: A UNIQUE HIVE OF ACTIVITY

The Maltings



What a rollercoaster ride for all of us it has been over the past four years. While a very challenging time for the team at French & Jupps and The Maltings, we all look forward to upcoming years with a greater degree of optimism.

We are a unique business in the fact we operate two core businesses: Roasted Malt Production, driving the bulk of our revenue; and The Maltings Business Centre where we offer unique office space and facilities within our historical malting buildings to over 140 diverse businesses. A little-known fact, during the working week we have over 400 people across a wide range of businesses working in The Maltings Business Centre and at our second property, the

Riverside Maltings opposite The Jolly Fisherman. The Maltings and Riverside Maltings are always a hive of activity, and the value they all bring to the village of Stanstead Abbots is immeasurable.

Coming out of COVID the demand for office space has steadily increased, today we operate at capacity and are immensely proud of the wide range of businesses that call The Maltings home. Glancing at the directory board at the entrance of the site, you quickly get a feel for the rich diversity of businesses we support: from legal services to accountants, personal care, printing, catering, and not forgetting the range of businesses offering the very best care for our pets.

We encourage all our local residents to sample the wonderful food, coffees and drinks that Nat and Henry offer in The Lounge. A vibrant relaxed setting in the heart of The Maltings, a great place to escape to, perfect for catching up with friends or making time for an informal business meeting.



Kiln cowl

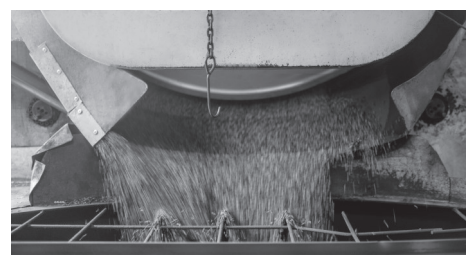
We are often asked what exactly it is we produce at The Maltings. We've been making Roasted Malted Barley products for over two centuries. The Jupp family were originally farmers in East Sussex as far back as the 1600s. In 1810, William Jupp bought a Malt House on the bank of the River Thames next to Kew bridge. Margaret French soon joined the business and the name 'French & Jupps' was born. Margaret owned and operated five barges on the river, transporting our malt and corn into London. Forty years later production moved to Stanstead Abbots and for over 160 years French & Jupps have been producing specialty roasted barley malts in the heart of the village for brewers.

We bring in barley from the rich local Hertfordshire farmlands, carefully allow it to germinate and then roast to the brewers colour specification. Our lighter crystal roasts find their way into lagers and light ales, our darker chocolate and black malt roasts deliver rich flavours and colour to strong ales, porters and stouts. We supply to over fifty champion brewers across the UK, and many more in Ireland and The United States. If you raise a glass of McMullen's ale in The Jolly Fisherman or open a can of Carlsberg at home, you'll be enjoying the character our malt provides.

Food manufacture has become more important to us coming out of COVID, and an increasing percentage of our dark roasted malt production is processed by our customers into a range of bread flours. These rich, flavourful flours enhance the taste of wholemeal flour mixes; it's very likely your favourite wholemeal bread will contain all-natural roasted malt from Stanstead Abbots.



Barley field at Watton Farm



Malt being released from the Roaster



*Paul King, Managing Director of French & Jupps*

### INSIDE THE MALTINGS: THE OLIVE TREE BABY BOUTIQUE



From the moment you see those two pink lines appear to the surreal experience of bringing home your tiny new human from the hospital, there are few such exciting (and sometimes overwhelming) times in our lives. The Olive Tree Baby Boutique, formerly based in Cheshunt but now located in The Maltings Business Centre in Stanstead Abbots, know the feeling well.

They have been serving the expecting mums and dads of Hertfordshire for over 25 years, and have been lucky enough to have grandparents who shopped with them as parents the first time round, come back and shop with their now adult children for their new grandchildren!

Alison Cameron, owner of The Olive Tree Baby Boutique, and mum of three, has a passion for all things baby: 'We really wanted to create an amazing shopping experience for first time parents. Buying for your new baby can be daunting, there's just so much out there on the market, it can be hard to know where to start. Our team have years of expert knowledge of guiding and advising new parents on all of the products and items needed to suit their specific needs and lifestyle'.

The Olive Tree Baby Boutique sell all the top brands such as iCandy, Egg, Bugboo, Joie, Maxi Cosi and BabyZen YoYo as well as nursery furniture, clothing, accessories and toys.

'It's not a one size fits all,' says Louise Dayes, The Olive Tree Baby Boutique's store manager for over 12 years and mum of two. 'We love getting to know all our parents and providing a personal service. There is never such a thing as too many questions. We can help you choose and decide on every little detail from car seat safety down to whether the pram you have chosen will fit in the boot of your car!'



Their location is perfectly placed in The Maltings Business Centre in Stanstead Abbots for easy access with over 400 car park spaces, so mums to be don't have to waddle too far to get to the shop.

Visit them for a warm welcome at Unit 19/M6, The Maltings Business Centre, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire SG12 8HG.

Find them on Instagram [@olivetreebabyboutique](https://www.instagram.com/olivetreebabyboutique) for up to the minute information with their website [www.olivetreebabyboutique.co.uk](http://www.olivetreebabyboutique.co.uk) relaunching soon. Email them at [olivetreebabyboutique@gmail.com](mailto:olivetreebabyboutique@gmail.com).

#### **Interested in The Maltings Business Centre?**

Feel free to contact us with any questions you have. Whether you're a startup new to renting an office or are an established business looking to relocate. We are ready to help. You can contact us on: 01920 870015 or email us at [info@frenchandjupps.co.uk](mailto:info@frenchandjupps.co.uk).



# The Three Villages Magazine

## SPORTS

### In Focus: St Margaretsbury Tennis Club

Are you a tennis player who wants to play regularly?

Are you a 'rusty racquet' who wants to pick up a sport that used to give you a lot of fun?

Are you a parent who wants to introduce your children to the joy of tennis?

If so, St Margaretsbury Tennis Club should be ideal for you. We are a friendly, community tennis club welcoming people of all ages and abilities with three all-weather courts, all of which have recently installed floodlights allowing evening play.



The club holds regular social tennis sessions several times per week and fields teams in a variety of competitive tennis leagues throughout the year. Should you be nervous about playing socially, you have the option of booking courts for private use so that you can build up your confidence and skills playing with friends or family.

In addition, there are frequent social activities including BBQs, quiz nights and curry nights.

We offer a full range of memberships for adults, families, and juniors, all available at very competitive rates, including temporary memberships for lapsed or new players who just want to give us a try.

If you have any questions or want to visit the club, please do not hesitate to contact the club secretary at [smtchonsec@gmail.com](mailto:smtchonsec@gmail.com).

For more information, including information about membership and our facilities, please visit our website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/stmargaretsburytennis>.

We look forward to welcoming you to our club soon.

*Graham Davies,*  
*St Margaretsbury Tennis Club Honorary Secretary*



## ST MARGARETSBURY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club provides sports facilities for the three villages. They host three member clubs: St Margaretsbury Football Club, St Margaretsbury Cricket Club and St Margaretsbury Tennis Club. They also have a function room (The Croft Room), which is fully licenced and available for hire. There is free parking on site with plenty of spaces.

For all enquiries please contact on 01920 870473 (club opening hours).

St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club, The Recreation Ground, Stanstead Abbots, Herts SG12 8EH.



## SPORTS

### St Margaretsbury Football Club

Our Charity Memorial Football Match held on Good Friday raised a whopping £1,186.84, which was equally split and donated to The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK.

The event honoured FC members Jack Smith and Dave Stock, who sadly passed away over the Christmas period. Jack's Grandson Kevin and Dave's son Adam, both took part in the match itself, which was a nice poignant gesture of respect.

It was initiated by Tony Smith, who organises this and other SMFC Charity Team events with other ex-FC Players, and organised by the Football Club, Sports & Social and active support from our fellow Cricket Club friends. All of which enabled us to feature an in-House FC vs CC Football match.



We were blessed with good weather, a great turnout and the Cricket Chairman's post-match BBQ went down a treat too!

Our thanks to the Cricket Club and everyone who took part, or came along to support the event and also match sponsors Lanes Estate Agents and Prime Motors.

The game showcased the spirit of the occasion, but you can see the highlights to decide if the final 7–1 score line was reflective of the play! Watch match highlights here at <https://youtu.be/MSOTMdHx-dE>.

P.S. We expect the Cricket Club to seek revenge when we play them at cricket!

Gary Stock

Programme Editor, St Margaretsbury FC



### St Margaretsbury Cricket Club

In spite of the incessant rain in April, we managed to get the cricket season underway with only a one week delay, with the ground looking lovely for the first game of the season against the club's friends from Cromer in Norfolk. We also visit Cromer and play in their cricket week every August, a tradition that has been running for many, many years and the early season game has now become a regular feature. We are again running four men's teams in the Herts League and a Ladies XI playing on Sunday.

New playing members are always welcome: the men train on a Wednesday and the ladies on a Thursday. Feel free to get in touch if you are interested in playing for us. We still have lots of junior cricket matches on most evenings (6pm) with the bar open, so if you fancy walking up and having a drink, you will be more than welcome.



Lastly, many visitors to the ground will have also noticed that the beautiful cherry trees by the pavilion have been cut down. Sadly, the trees were riddled with disease and we had no choice but to get them taken down and removed. A sad day as they were a beautiful feature of the ground. However, they have now been replaced with new cherry trees which will, we are sure, look nice in time.

Steven Ansell

Club Chair, St Margaretsbury Cricket Club



## HERTFORDSHIRE REEDBED CONSERVATION IS A BOOMING SUCCESS

A Bittern has been heard making a mating call in Hertfordshire for the first time in recent history following a long-term conservation project to create more reedbed habitat for the protected species. Prompted by the near-extinction of the Bittern – a member of the heron family – and led by the RSPB, a huge nationwide conservation effort to create more reedbed habitat took place in the early years of the millennium.

Locally, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust worked with conservation partners and, from 2004–2010, doubled the area of Bittern-suitable reedbed in the region to 24 hectares – the equivalent of about 33 football pitches. At Amwell Nature Reserve, the Trust improved the reserve's reedbeds to provide undisturbed places for Bittern to hunt with the hope that the birds would eventually breed there. That vision came a step closer on 5th March 2024, when a male Bittern was recorded 'booming' (a mating call which sounds like the low pitched 'hooo' from blowing across the top of a bottle) for the first time at Amwell, signifying that the bird feels the habitat and food is good enough to consider trying to attract a mate there. Its booming has since been repeated and whilst a second bird has not been seen answering it yet, this is being noted as great progress by the wildlife charity and other local conservationists.

Tim Hill, Conservation Manager at Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, says:

*In 1997, the Bittern was recorded at its lowest ebb with just 11 booming males left in the UK. Across the county, and with our partner organisations, guided by a dedicated Bittern conservation action plan, we have worked hard to create more reedbed habitat for these elusive birds, scarce and shy birds. It's fantastic for all concerned to see the reports of this breakthrough booming and clearly demonstrates that we can reverse the terrible declines we are seeing in our native wildlife, through conservation management and action. [...] You might wonder why a Bittern heard booming at Amwell is important and relevant so let's put that into context; The State of Nature report (2023) showed that one in six species is at risk of extinction, with that number climbing to 43% among bird species, so good news stories such as this one really do provide hope for the future of our ecosystem.*



Bittern in the reedbed at Amwell  
Nature Reserve © Tim Hill

The Bittern is a well-camouflaged bird, with pale brown plumage, streaked with beige and black markings, distinctive yellow eyes, bony feet and a dagger-sharp beak. In contrast to its more commonly seen cousin, the Grey Heron, the Bittern is shorter and more thick set. Back in time, when reedbeds were more prevalent, the Bittern was a common bird, hunted for the table and in East Anglia was known as the fenmans' roast! In keeping with its stocky appearance, the Bittern has a thick layer of fat (this was liked by cooks, who appreciated its self-basting quality) but thankfully, Bitterns are now protected by law and no longer make an appearance on the menu. The male's 'booming' together with its love of wet reedbed habitat and its once common population in Norfolk and Suffolk, has earned the bird its nicknames of 'bogblutter' – and also 'bull of the bog' and 'bog monster'. In Hertfordshire, Bitterns are now a frequent winter visitor to Amwell and have been sighted at Rye Meads and Marsworth Reservoir, but are yet to breed once again in the county. According to survey results from the RSPB and Natural England, published in 2023, there were 228 booming Bittern males counted in the 2022 breeding season – an increase of 1973% over 25 years. Amwell's booming bird will now enhance those encouraging statistics further still.

Members of the public are welcome to try hearing the Bittern booming, by visiting the James Hide at Amwell Nature Reserve. The birds are likely to be most vocal at dawn during March and early April.

To find out more about how the Trust is working across the region to improve habitats and support species like the Bittern, please visit [hertswildlifetrust.org.uk](https://hertswildlifetrust.org.uk).

Debbie Bigg

## DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS

### THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

#### Priest in Charge

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115 / 07488 914972

#### Lay Ministers

Mrs Elizabeth Goldsmith 01920 422065

Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

Mrs Rachel Melrose 01920 422092

#### Great Amwell with St Margarets

Churchwardens: Mr Richard and

Mrs Margaret Mellor 01920 460474

Assistant Churchwardens: Mr Martin and

Mrs Sue Vaughan 01920 877779

Mr Brian Brace 01992 447845

Organists: Mrs Jill Hall 01279 842328

Mrs Lynda Harrington 01992 422398

PCC Secretary: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

#### St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

Treasurer: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Alex Richardson 01920 871391

#### St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets

Treasurer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

#### Stanstead Abbots

Churchwarden: Mr Peter Melrose 01920 422092

Organist: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PCC Secretary: Mrs Michele Ross 01992 302279

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Michele Ross 01992 302279

#### St Andrew, Stanstead Abbots

Treasurer: Mr Edward Trower 07919 003949

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

### PARISH COUNCILS

#### Stanstead Abbots

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Sarah Neighbour 07943 602877

#### Great Amwell

Parish Council Clerk: Mr Jeff Hughes

greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com

#### Stanstead St Margarets

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Christina Whellams 07422 582172

### SCHOOLS

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports

College, Stanstead Abbots 01920 870027

St Andrew's C of E (VC) Primary School, Stanstead Abbots 01920 870097

St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School, Great Amwell 01920 870135

### CHURCH/PARISH HALLS

Great Amwell Parish Hall: Mrs E. Hawkins 01920 467927

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall: Mrs Vicky Burt 07703 402790

Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church: Ms Maureen Freeman 01920 870632

### NATIONAL & LOCAL HELPLINES

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Telephone Advice Service 111

Free 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Hotline 0808 2000 247

Samaritans (Freephone) 116 123

The Three Churches Foodbank Hub 07487 350918

East Herts Citizens Advice Service 03444 111 444

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) 0800 328 0006

Anne Robson Helpline: Time to Talk 0808 801 0688

If you would like to add a number to this directory, please email [print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).



## DJ Garage Services Ltd



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- \* Our reputation is based on honesty and dedication to customer satisfaction
- \* Which? trusted traders
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See customer reviews at [www.djgarage.co.uk](http://www.djgarage.co.uk)

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(Situating in Amwell Lane)

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## The Red Lion

BAR & KITCHEN

We are set in the heart of the village, with our own pub garden & parking. We are dog friendly & our menu has lots of fresh ideas.

For more information on our menu, opening hours & events please visit our website.

We look forward to offering you a warm welcome.

1 High Street, Stanstead Abbots, Ware SG128AA

**01920 410056**  
[www.theredlion.net](http://www.theredlion.net)



The Walled Garden grows organic vegetables and fruit, and have pasture-fed cows and sheep grazing our fields.

Since March 2018 we have had community gardening sessions for local families, particularly 3-5 year olds and their parents.

For more information, email [ginitrower@btinternet.com](mailto:ginitrower@btinternet.com) or call 07721 751910. Find us on Facebook (The Walled Garden - Stanstead Abbots).



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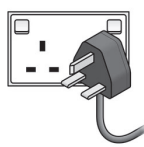
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**East Herts Lottery**

**No risk - No fees - No admin**



**Help your fundraising grow**

**How does it work?**



Sign up and get your **own page** on the lottery website



Send your supporters to your page to buy tickets



Your good cause keeps 50% of all ticket sales!



Players can WIN prizes up to the **£25,000 jackpot!**

**Why should you join?**



There are **NO** costs to you, ever.



Regularly updated marketing materials



Access to your own online dashboard



Funds paid directly to your bank monthly

w: [www.easthertslottery.co.uk](http://www.easthertslottery.co.uk)  
e: [support@easthertslottery.co.uk](mailto:support@easthertslottery.co.uk)  
t: 01279 912 777

**Scan the QR code to find out more and sign up! ➔**





**East Herts Lottery**

- No risk
- No fees
- No admin

**How it works**

The East Herts Community Benefit Lottery is a weekly online lottery. All funds raised go to good causes that benefit the local community in East Herts. The draw takes place every Saturday night at 8pm.

Each ticket costs £1 per week and consists of six numbers. The more numbers you match in a draw the bigger the prize you win! There is a 50:1 chance to win prizes up to the £25,000 jackpot.

Players choose who their ticket purchase will support. They can either support the Community Fund (funds are distributed to the local community) or they can choose a specific good cause to support.

There are a range of payment options. Players can play monthly via Direct Debit or credit/debit card so they never miss a draw. They can also make a one-off payment via Debit Card for 1, 3, 6 or 12 months.

Players are notified by email when they win. To claim their winnings, they log in to the lottery site and choose to either have the winnings paid directly into their nominated account or donate their winnings back to the good cause they support.

**60% from every ticket sold goes directly to local good causes!**

Good causes receive 50p from every ticket purchased via their lottery page. A further 10p is distributed to other local good causes via the central fund. 20p goes towards the prizes which can be won by supporters every week and 20p covers the cost of running the lottery and VAT.



**How can your good cause join?**

Applying is easy - it's all done online and takes a few minutes. East Herts Council lottery team will check each cause qualifies with the 'cause conditions' and approve them. A full list of criteria can be found on the website.

Once you're approved the sky is the limit - you can go and sell as many tickets as you wish to start raising unlimited funds for your cause! We provide all of the marketing materials you need to spread the word to your community via Facebook, Twitter or leaflets, plus there are additional special offers throughout the year. All you need to do is shout about the lottery to your supporters.

There is a dedicated support team to help answer any questions you or your supporters may have.

w: [www.easthertslottery.co.uk/](http://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/)  
e: [support@easthertslottery.co.uk](mailto:support@easthertslottery.co.uk)  
t: 01279 912 777

**Scan the QR code to find out more and sign up! ➔**





**T L G** transforming  
lives for good



## Make Lunch Club

Looking for something to do with the kids during the holidays?  
Come along and join us at **Make Lunch Club!**

### WHEN?

12 to 2 pm

JULY: Friday 26th, Monday 29th

AUGUST: Friday 2nd, Monday 5th, Friday 9th, Monday 12th,  
Friday 16th, Monday 19th, Friday 23th and Friday 30th

### WHERE?

The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church  
Stanstead Abbots

To book a place, email [makeLunch@3churches.net](mailto:makeLunch@3churches.net)



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### THE THREE VILLAGES COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!



The Three Villages Committee is looking for some new members! Are you interested in being involved in this joint project between the Parish Councils and The 3 Churches Benefice, which aims to build community, one issue at a time?  
If yes, then get in touch!

We would love to hear from you if you are keen to give back to the community, have some ideas about how we can increase our reach in the local community, have experience in marketing or are keen to help us share, showcase and support our three villages!

If you would like to know more, please email [threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).



### PUZZLE ANSWERS (from Page 12)

#### WHO AM I?

Charles Dickens

#### I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEA SIDE

1. Lindisfarne
2. Penzance
3. Pegwell
4. Calf of Man
5. Cardigan
6. Ramsgate
7. Eyemouth

#### HISTORY

1. Culloden 1745
2. Winchester
3. Jutland
4. 1926
5. William I (the Conqueror)
6. Tiberius
7. Greece
8. Portugal
9. Spanish Influenza
10. The Bronze Age
11. 1964 April 20th

12. Pompeii and Herculaneum
13. 1888
14. General Gordon
15. Charles II
16. 1642
17. Richard (Dick) Whittington
18. 1616
19. The Bastille, Paris
20. Burgess and Maclean



# DJ *Garage Services*



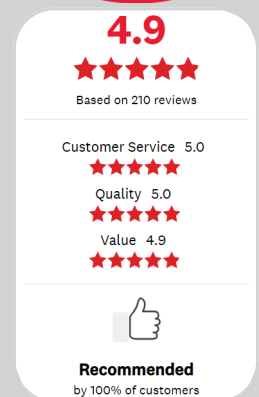
DJ Garage Services is a family run establishment with over 50 years' experience.

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- ⇒ Replacement Parts
- ⇒ Petrol and Diesel Engines
- ⇒ Cars and Light Commercial Vehicles
- ⇒ Exhausts and Batteries



## GET IN TOUCH

If you want to book in your car or just need advice.

**Call 01920 465431 or**

**Email [chris.vince@djgarage.co.uk](mailto:chris.vince@djgarage.co.uk)**



## WHERE TO FIND US

Unit 5, Jest & Ruskin Industrial Estate  
Amwell Lane, Stanstead Abbots  
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## OPENING HOURS

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# Willowthorpe

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