

The Three Villages Magazine



COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Building Community in Print and Online
Share · Showcase · Support

Issue 11

September 2024

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Business Spotlight on Bruce Hansing Studios at Stanstead Bury
- Charity Focus on new community group, Coffee and Coping
- Another look inside the hive of activity that is The Maltings!

Price: £1.00

Bike 'n' Hike 2024



**Saturday 14th September
9am to 5pm**

Bike 'n' Hike is a fun day out where you get sponsored to visit beautiful historic churches by cycling, walking, or any mode of transport on a route of your choice.



- ⇒ Have fun visiting churches in your area
- ⇒ Raise Funds for your local church
- ⇒ Help save other churches in Beds and Herts too

Take part and help your church – half of what you raise goes to your local church!

Bike 'n' Hike Family Map

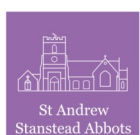
Sign up & collect or print a specially designed Family Map
for a circular route between our three churches.

Route starts at any of the churches and can be done on foot or bike.

Our three churches will be open for pit stops along the way!

Email admin@3churches.net for next steps

Scan the QR code to find out more



The 3 Churches Benefice



The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Issue 11

September 2024

From the Editor...



Cover: Autumn glory
© Paul Wood

Welcome to the September 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.

In this issue we will be taking a look inside The Maltings again and finding out more about this unique hive of activity! We also have the

next in our Local Historic Faces and Places series, a focus on new charity 'Coffee and Coping', meet local Helen Payne (Leader of 1st Stanstead Abbots Brownies) and lots more!

The photograph featured on the cover is by the talented local photographer Paul Wood. Paul, who lives in Hoddesdon but whose wife grew up in the villages, uses photography as a reason to get out and enjoy the outdoors, and capture the beauty of the countryside. This image shows a very autumnal scene and has a nostalgic quality created by the focus on the bike propped jauntily against the railings, creating a soft focus in the background. If you would like to enter your work for the next cover, please send your photograph(s) to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com. We are looking for seasonal images of the local area.

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 last issue of 2024, the deadline is 4th October (December Issue). Alternatively, we can also promote our event/share your news on our News & Event blog. Please do get in touch!

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), 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 continued 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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Contents

FROM THE VICAR	2
LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: EMIGRANTS TO THE NEW WORLD	3
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS	4
HERTSLYNX	5
FROM HARVEST TO PINT: THE LOCAL JOURNEY OF FRENCH & JUPPS BARLEY	6
PAW PRINTS: HASSLE-FREE GROOMING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS	7
CHARITY FOCUS: COFFEE AND COPING HERTFORDSHIRE	8
UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS	9
PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER TERRY COLLINS	12
MEET A LOCAL: HELEN PAYNE	13
REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS	14
HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH WALKS	15
THE AMWELL SOCIETY	15
CHAIR YOGA	16
GREAT AMWELL WOMEN'S CLUB	16
ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD	17
POEMS BY RAY FISH	18
RECIPE: CHEESE PINWHEELS	18
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BRUCE HANSING STUDIOS	19
SPORTS	20
DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS	21
ADVERTISEMENTS	22

The Three Villages Magazine

FROM THE VICAR

As September arrives, suddenly I have been in the villages for four years. The funny thing about arriving in a parish as the vicar or priest in charge is that you are often the last person who arrived: the newest resident, but with one of the oldest jobs, in and around some of the oldest buildings!

Thankfully, we have people with a knowledge and passion for our four churches, and we also have the local expertise to keep them in good condition.



Our historic churches (from left to right): St John the Baptist, Great Amwell; St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets; St Andrew and St James, Stanstead Abbots

Fundraising to keep the churches from falling down is a continuous effort in most parishes, and in the last four years I have seen the incredible work of the congregations as they try to do their best to preserve the churches for the next hundred years and more. The tower repairs at St John the Baptist last year are a great example of the passion, toil and cost, which came to £90,000!



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts

When the plans and costings come in for a job, big or small, one of the places we can go to for help is the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust who provides grants. They in turn rely on donations and fundraising, and their biggest annual event is in September, with the Bike 'n' Hike. This sponsored cycle ride or walk is a

fantastic opportunity to see the churches in the area and to raise money to keep all of them open. The funds raised by biker/hikers go two ways: half is donated to the Trust and half goes directly to the church you choose.

Last year the largest fundraising effort across the two counties came from our benefice in the efforts of Jonathan Trower, who as Chair of the Friends of St James' committee decided to hit the road and cycle his heart out, earning a gold certificate and raising £3,027!

This year in response to his amazing performance, we are encouraging the wider community to join in by creating a local circular route map for our churches in the benefice, which is perfect for children and families, and is a great starting point for more experienced walkers and cyclists too. Refreshments will be provided at each church, so it's a great way to explore, have fun and raise money for some of our oldest buildings!

Check out the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust site (<https://bedshertshct.org.uk/>) for details and email us for a map!



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



The 3 Churches Benefice

LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: EMIGRANTS TO THE NEW WORLD

Immigrants crossing the sea in perilous small boats? Nothing new there, then! Following the success of the pioneering pilgrims on the Mayflower (1620) from 1630 to 1640, a staggering total of around 20,000 people left the British Isles for the New World. They were part of what became known as The Great Migration. And some folk from Stanstead Abbots and nearby villages were among them!

During those ten years church ministers and their church members, sometimes complete congregations and even complete villages, risked the journey. They were all leaving everything they owned, which in many cases may not have been much, selling what they could to pay the fare, and heading for an unknown and very uncertain future. As suggested by the large number of clergy, their reasons had to do with their quest for freedom to worship how they wished.



The Pilgrim Fathers arriving on the Mayflower and landing in New England
(Getty Images/Hulton Archive)

Among ministers with some local connection, we know of three: Samuel Stone who was born in Hertford and founded Hartford, Connecticut in 1636 (his statue stands outside Castle Hall in Hertford); Charles Chauncy, a vicar of St Mary's Church, Ware, who was appointed the first president of the prestigious Harvard College in 1654; and John Eliot, born in Widford but growing up in Nazeing, who became a missionary in 1646 to the 'Indians' near the town of Roxbury in Massachusetts where he was the minister.

In that era it's reckoned that only a third of the population could write and so ships' manifests were not always reliable. But on the good ship Hopewell, which left these shores in 1635 (the same year that Edward Baesh opened his grammar school in the Clock House), the manifest lists five folk from our village: Laurence Whittimor (63) 'a husbandman', Elizabeth Whittimor (57), Robert Day (30), Elizabeth Turner (26), Wm. Peacock (12) and Sara Elliott (6) with evidence that her parents were also on board.

Laurence was a husbandman, i.e. 'a man who tills or cultivates the ground; a farmer' (Oxford English Dictionary). We do not know if he owned a piece of his own land or was a tenant. He must have had some possessions to be able to sell them to pay for his and his wife's passage to New England. Laurence was 63 and Elizabeth was 57 when they embarked on the Hopewell to bravely face this new adventure in their lives. In the seventeenth century, the average expected life span was around 35 to 40, so Laurence and his wife's comparative longevity reflects well on the healthy environment of Stanstead Abbots! He died at Roxbury near Boston at the age of 72; his wife had died a year earlier.

The only other passenger that we have information about is Robert Day. He was born in Stanstead Abbots probably in 1605 and was a brickmaker by trade. Following the ship's arrival he moved almost immediately to the new settlement of Ipswich, Massachusetts, thirty miles north east of Boston, where he married a girl who also had arrived in that year, Hannah Pengry – they went on to have five children. Robert was an active member of town affairs; according to the Day Genealogy website: 'He was made a freeman on May 6, 1635. He served on the Ipswich petit jury in 1642, and on the Grand Jury from 1651. He became a Town Constable in 1660.'

While our knowledge of these Stanstead Abbots' worthies is meagre, we nevertheless celebrate the fact that our village and its neighbours played its small role in making America 'great'!

For further reading, see 'To the New World from Stanstead Abbots' by the Rev'd Dr Ron Davies in Media 3 of the Stanstead Abbots Local History Societies website. Equally fascinating on that period is *The Act of Oblivion* by Robert Harris (Cornerstone, 2022).

Bob Hunt, SALHS

The Three Villages Magazine

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Amwell Parish Council

Previous articles have outlined various issues considered by the Parish Council and projects it is pursuing. One project that is nearing completion is the provision of new bus shelters (and a litter bin) along the A1170. The old wooden shelters at the Amwell Roundabout end of the A1170 (on both sides) have been replaced and two new shelters provided on the western and eastern sides outside Van Hages (the eastern shelter installed at the end of July). The Parish Council's new website has been completed: <https://greatamwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>.

Community Groups may already be aware of grant support opportunities provided by Stansted Airport through its Passenger Community Fund and its Community Fund:

- * The Passenger Community Fund donates money to local causes within a 20-mile radius of the airport. Consideration is given to requests from sports clubs, pre-schools and nurseries, junior sports clubs, Brownies, Guides, clubs and other local charities. For further information and to request an application form, email: sandra_king@stanstedairport.com.

- * The Community Fund is dedicated to bringing lasting benefit to those areas most affected by the airport's operations. It forms part of the Airport's Community Engagement programme, committed to minimising the impact its operations have on surrounding communities, and offers grants to groups within an approximate 10-mile radius of the airport. A grant of up to £5,000 for tangible items of lasting benefit, such as equipment and furniture, may be available. Applications for operating costs, running costs, maintenance, venue hire, salaries or other consumables for a project will not be considered.

There is also a flagship Award. For further information, please follow the link below: magcommunityfunds.smapply.org.

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 etc. Please contact the District Council directly on issues such as litter picking, anti-social behaviour and refuse collection (www.eastherts.gov.uk/contactusform).

Jeff Hughes

St Margarets Parish Council

The Ware & Stanstead Abbots Safer Neighbourhood Team held the first 'Coffee with a Cop' session in the parish in May. The sessions are designed to give residents the opportunity to raise issues or concerns or to just get some advice on police matters. Further dates for future sessions will be announced shortly and posted on the Parish Council Facebook page and website.

We continue to liaise with the District/County Councils to sort flooding issues on Hoddesdon Road, St Margarets Road and Hailey Lane. The junction of Station Road/Lawrence Avenue has recently been reviewed and appropriate remedial works carried out. Interim repair works were carried out to the road surface on Hailey Lane and there will be further repairs made later in the year/early next year.

We continue to work towards improvements in the area and are finalising arrangements to deal with the graffiti on the A414 flyover pillars. We have also purchased a new noticeboard that will be located at the Nigel Copping Community Building on Hoddesdon Road and hope the addition of an extra noticeboard within the parish will help capture a wider audience. In addition, we are in the process of having a D-Day commemorative bench delivered and fitted at the bus-stop by St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets' Parish Church on Hoddesdon Road following a request from a resident.

If you think there is an area within the parish that needs improvement then please do let us know by contacting the Clerk at clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07422 582172. For more information about the Parish Council, please visit our website: www.stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Christina Whellams

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

Ideas Wanted

The Parish Council is looking for ideas and suggestions from residents for making the Meadow, which is the grassed space behind the village playground in the High Street more attractive to residents to visit. Suggestions so far have included: football goals; dog agility; wildflower area; sensory space; BBQ area. Please send any suggestions you have to clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk and the councillors will discuss options at the next council meeting.

Volunteering

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 and your email address will be added to our volunteer group email.

High Street Flowers

Our handyman Bob has recently planted up the planters in the High Street and the one in Roydon Road opposite The Red Lion. As Bob doesn't have a water source, he has to bring containers of water twice a week from home to water them. If any of the residents or business owners close to the planters would be willing to water them regularly through the summer it would make his job a lot easier.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Parish Council, please visit our website www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Sarah Neighbour



HERTSLYNX

I had no idea that such a wonderful service existed until a friend mentioned it. Have you heard of HertsLynx? Since having to give up driving because of my deteriorating sight, I have been unable to visit a friend who lives in Royston. I live in Great Amwell and there is no bus route from near me that goes anywhere near Royston. A train line used to go to Buntingford, but that closed down long before we came to live in Great Amwell and that was some 37 years ago.

However, I made a telephone call and was advised to register and make use of Dial-a-Ride – especially if I needed to be taken to a hospital appointment, for instance. I had heard of Dial-a-Ride and certainly that service includes collection from my door step, but it does not go to Royston.

I carefully re-read the leaflet that had been given me and made a further telephone enquiry and was delighted to be told that I could indeed use the HertsLynx service to get to Royston. When did I want to travel? On a Friday in about a fortnight's time. What time of day to set off? About 10am, please. Do I realise I have to reach a proper departure point? Yes, the bus stop at St Margarets Station. Hold on please...the HertsLynx bus will be at the station bus stop at 9.45am on that date and will take you to Royston Bus Station arriving at 10.35am going via Buntingford. You are already registered with us? Do you have a Hertfordshire Senior Bus Pass? Yes. Bring it with you. How much will this trip cost? Nothing!

This service is available to anyone wishing to travel to and from villages and towns throughout Hertfordshire, except that Decorum has its own service and at the moment they do not interlink. People who wish to travel have to book, of course, and those without concessionary passes have to pay for their transport. Once registered, you can book online at hertslynx.co.uk or by phone to 01992 555513. I would recommend it!

Rosemary Imroth



The Three Villages Magazine

FROM HARVEST TO PINT: THE LOCAL JOURNEY OF FRENCH & JUPPS BARLEY

One might be forgiven for thinking that the French & Jupps facility here at The Maltings is just like any other manufacturing site around the country. Lorries come and go, and the distinct glow of high visibility jackets can be seen being worn by team members on site; yet hidden behind The Maltings Business Centre sits a historic production facility that has been making fine roasted malts in the heart of Stanstead Abbots for over 160 years. Little has changed over the centuries; our raw materials and manufacturing process remain all natural and, importantly, our raw materials are not sourced from faraway lands – they're grown right here on our doorstep within our local community.



French & Jupps barley in spring

So where does our barley grow? Well, chances are you will have seen it, as all the barley we use to create our speciality crystal and darker patent malts is grown within 50 miles of our maltings here in Stanstead Abbots. Our closest agricultural partner is just a stone's throw from where you are possibly reading this article now, in Watton at Stone, Hertfordshire. Just weeks ago, the fields surrounding the area would have been rippling with golden waves of barley ready for harvesting.

Our malting process requires two simple ingredients: barley and water. We carefully combine them to mimic the natural conditions the barley seed experiences when sown in September, bringing the kernel to life. French & Jupps sources over 10,000 tonnes of local winter barley annually. While spring barley is more common in malting, we find winter varieties ideal for our small-batch roasting process. Importantly, winter barley benefits our farmers by allowing them to better manage their workload throughout the year, supporting oilseed rapeseed cultivation while still delivering strong yields.

Our process commences by 'steeping' the barley in water, and after 3 days, the barley moisture levels have risen dramatically and the kernel springs into life. Following a controlled germination phase, we then gently apply heat to preserve the kernel and its valuable starch content. The magic happens during the next steps, where we carefully apply heat and gently roast the grain in a rotating drum. Our skilled operators consistently take samples and use their

trained eyes to achieve the wide range of colour profiles desired by our customers. We produce 14 roasted malt types, ranging from pale golden Cara Malts to the powerful dark Chocolate and Black Malts, which bear a striking resemblance to the roasted coffee beans we enjoy at home.

Whilst harvest festivals may typically take place in September, for us, the barley harvest happens in July. This aligns perfectly with the maturity of our chosen winter barley and ensures the optimal crop moisture and maturity for harvesting. Throughout the seasons, we will visit our agricultural partners to regularly monitor the barley's progress, where the farmer's expertise is vital. For them, maintaining the right balance of fertiliser, controlling weeds and protecting the plants from disease are all essential for ensuring the barley's quality.

French & Jupps isn't just about producing exceptional roasted malts, we're committed to a sustainable brewing journey that begins right here in our community. Sourcing barley locally minimises our indirect emissions (Scope 3 footprint) while fostering strong relationships with local partners, from farmers to esteemed brewing customers like Hertford's McMullen's Brewery.

This close collaboration allows us to closely monitor crop health, ensuring a sustainable supply chain for our customers and minimising waste throughout the process. We utilise every part of the grain: barley becomes malt, while any unsuitable grains extracted during our 'dressing process' are returned to the farms for animal feed, ultimately generating fertiliser that nourishes the next season's crop. This completes the circle, ensuring a sustainable future for our craft and our community from this harvest, to the next.

James Marinos, Marketing and Sales Manager at French & Jupps



Local barley being harvested in July

PAW PRINTS: HASSLE-FREE GROOMING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Here at The Maltings Business Centre, our furry friends bring endless joy to our days, both in our office spaces at The Lounge and back at home. However, keeping their nails clipped and coats looking their best can sometimes feel like a daunting task, especially with muddy river walks alongside the River Lea Navigation or Amwell Nature Reserve. That's where Jade at Paw Prints, located conveniently within The Maltings Business Centre in Stanstead Abbots, steps in!

'We're dedicated to creating a happy, calm and stress-free environment for your canine companion,' owner Jade Gadsdon Smith says. As a dog lover, Jade prides her service on treating every dog as an individual, and this shines through with the fact that she prioritises their well-being with a truly personalised experience. Some pups may relish the grooming experience, while others might feel a little nervous. Therefore, Jade tailors the grooming process to each dog's personality. 'A happy and relaxed dog is our top priority, not speed or achieving perfection. If your furry friend needs a break or feels overwhelmed, we will happily take things slow, even if that means spreading the appointment over two sessions.'



Knowing your dog is in good hands is a huge weight off your shoulders, and Paw Prints staff are fully qualified and insured, ensuring a stress-free experience for owners too. While your pup is being pampered, you can get on with your day, safe in the knowledge that they're receiving the best possible care.

Whether your dog needs a full groom after a muddy adventure exploring Amwell Nature Reserve, a nail trim after a playful scamper up the high street, or a good bath after a dip in the Mill Stream, Paw Prints offers a variety of services to keep our companions looking and feeling their best!



Contact Jade at Paw Prints today and let her help you create a stress-free grooming experience for both you and your dog.

Visit Paw Prints at Unit 10, The Maltings Business Centre, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire SG12 8HG.

Email: Jadegadsdonsmith@gmail.com

Telephone: 07896880858 / 01920 318110

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jadepawprints/>

Instagram: @pawprints.grooming

The Three Villages Magazine

CHARITY FOCUS: COFFEE AND COPING HERTFORDSHIRE

Coffee and Coping Hertfordshire was born from making the podcast '50 and Coping?' on YouTube, which is a mental health and support show. Making that and meeting so many people involved in charities, as well as going on amazing adventures and looking deeply into addiction, we concluded that building community was a really important way of helping people. From a strong community base, people can succeed in getting well or just being a part of something meaningful. Once that realisation was made, I had to put my money where my mouth is as it were!

When we talk about community, WE see it as all inclusive, so no one feels alienated. In life we have exclusive communities, like sports communities and business communities etc., which feel a little estranged from inclusive. I'd like community to be seen as the people in the immediate area you live in giving and receiving support, or signposting to real solutions.



This all harks back I suppose to my upbringing in Somerset, a community in which you could usually trust your neighbours, and where no one felt the need to lock their doors. Times have changed and obviously security is so important, but the need for companions hasn't changed, just like the need for help from people around you has always been there.

Our moto is *Communitas vincit solitudinem*, which means community fights loneliness and I think that says it all!

Our partnership with Walking with the Wounded Charity gives us the ability to help veterans and their families using the new Op Courage government initiative. This gives veterans a constant ongoing source of guidance and empowerment, which is available to anyone who has served our country, either recently or in the past.

Our plans are to secure our charity number then expand all over Hertfordshire to make sure that loneliness and mental well-being are looked at properly, and that support hubs are provided to do so. This all takes time to build but already the responses from the Parish Council and indeed local businesses have been amazing, as well as having regular members of our drop-in already!

We meet every Wednesday and Friday at 12:00 to 1:30pm at the Ashlea Room, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, attached to the Parish Hall!

Everyone is welcome and our staff, including the CEO, have level 2 counselling skills and are fully prepared to converse, signpost to help, or even just listen.

Website: www.coffeeandcoping.org

Insta: @cc.herts

Facebook: @coffeeandcopinghertfordshire

Email: coffeeandcopingherts@gmail.com

Telephone for those not on the internet: 07990730188

Jim Aitken-Ballard



Communitas vincit solitudinem.

Community fights loneliness

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



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

It hardly seems believable that we have come to the end of another academic year. Our Year 6 children completed their SATS and our results are well above the National Average. We have done equally well in both our Year 1 Phonics Screening and our Year 4 Multiplication Test. Even more importantly we have continued to provide our children with a well-planned curriculum, covering all the subject areas, which has helped to develop and enrich their knowledge. We have ensured that, despite the more difficult economic climate, our children are still provided with a rich and varied assortment of visits and visitors, sporting and musical opportunities.

Trips in the summer term have included EYFS to Shepreth Wildlife Park, Year 1 to Capel Manor Farm, Year 2 have had a 'Great Fire of London' experience, Year 3 have investigated the Romans at Welwyn Museum, Year 4 have had a Greek Experience day, Year 5 had a trip around The Maltings, while Year 6 went on their residential trip to Wiltshire. Visitors to school have included a juggling scientist, baby chicks, Rev'd Sarah, the police and fire brigade (under the title 'Super Heroes') and Hertford Museum, to lead an artefact handling opportunity for Year 1.



Sporting opportunities have included Tri-Golf, Dynamo Cricket, District Athletics, WWW Games and Badminton, as well as our own school Sports Day. Our excellent sporting provision has been recognised by the School's Mark team as we have been awarded our Platinum School Games Mark, which is the highest award we can achieve. As the School's Mark team said, 'It is a true reflection of all the hard work you put in to PE & Sports Provision within your school.'

Our school choir also continues to thrive, singing at the School Music Festival in April and supporting Hertford Symphony Orchestra in June.

Our parental body continues to work hard for our school. FOSTA (Friends of St Andrew's) have organised this term a sponsored bounce event, 'Frozen Fridays' Mother and Father Day sales and our wonderful Summer Fête. These events, not only raise much needed funds, but also help to develop our family and community links and relations.

Finally, our summer term has been completed by our amazing Year 5 and 6 performances of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean.' This was a complete triumph and really showed how confident our Year 6 are – ready to step out and begin life at their new secondary schools. We are very proud of them.

Helen Gillingham, Headteacher



Have you subscribed to our **News & Events Blog**? Check it out at 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

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St John the Baptist CE VA Primary

Our summer term got off to an exciting start, with the school choir performing in the Hertford and Ware Primary Schools' Music Association's Music Festival, held over three nights in Sele School. The school choir joined with five other schools to form a mass choir to perform the cantata 'Along Came Man'. Zoe Hernandez and Alesya Ivanova were selected as narrators, and Scarlett Danbury sang a beautiful solo.

In May, we hosted a visit from Right Reverend Dr Jane Mainwaring, the Bishop of Hertford, who came to celebrate our excellent Church School Inspection (SIAMS) report from our inspection earlier in the year. The Bishop joined us for an act of Collective Worship, before visiting each of the classes and answering questions from the pupils. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all that the report reflected about our school. The report can be read on our school website: <https://www.sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/sjbaptist>.

A highlight of our summer term is our annual Sports Week. During this week, the pupils get to participate in a range of sporting activities as part of our drive to ensure every child finds a sport, or physical pursuit, they enjoy before leaving us, helping them to live active lives. The week was kick started by a visit and talk from Chris Tawiah, Team GB basketball player. He talked to the children about how he had tried many different sports before finding his talent on the basketball court. He then led the children in a fitness challenge. During the week, the children were able to sample Bollywood dancing, skateboarding, pilates, Ultimate Frizbee, curling, archery, lawn bowls, Drumba and football. The children enjoyed pilates saying 'This was really good but tiring. It helped us stretch out and got rid of all of our stress. We felt very calm afterwards.' They also enjoyed skateboarding, which was 'Something new to try. It helped us to strengthen our school values as we really had to trust our partners.' We were very pleased to hear at the end of the term, that we had been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark, the highest of the School Games Mark awards. We are very proud of this achievement.



The children have been getting out and about as we enhance our curriculum. Year 5 took the train to visit RSPB Rye Meads, enjoying a great day investigating animal habitats. Years 1 and 2 went to Dane Mead, where they made and cooked their lunch over the fire they had built, having enjoyed lots of Forest School activities. Reception had a lovely day at the Lea Valley Animal Adventure Park, where they fed the goats, stroked the rabbits and enjoyed digging for dinosaurs. Years 3 and 4 headed off to Celtic Harmony Camp and enjoyed learning about life in Stone Age Britain, fighting Romans and developing their archery skills.

Throughout the term, Year 6 were busy working on their mini-enterprise project to Make £5 Grow. They researched products to make and sell, and then set up a market on our Open Evening, selling decorated pebbles, keyrings, bookmarks, bracelets, sweetie cones and ice pops. The money they made was put to good use by the Year 6 children, who used it to pay for their end of year trip to Walton on the Naze, paying for their ice creams and hire of the soft play area.

At the end of the term we sadly said goodbye to our Year 6 children, who we know will continue to go on to great things in the next stage of their lives. We also welcomed our new Reception children, who came to visit for their Stay and Play transition sessions. We look forward to welcoming any of you who have children starting school in September 2025. For tours of the school in October, please call the school office to book an appointment (01920 870135).

Lydia Hunt, Headteacher

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Butterfly Memorial Garden

Amwell View School opened its Butterfly Memorial Garden on Thursday 4th July 2024. The Memorial Garden was designed within the school's adventure playground so that the memory of the children we have lost is amongst children playing and having fun. The Memorial Garden is at the front of the school under a tree, which also creates a peaceful area for parents, family members and friends to visit.

Each child has a coloured steel butterfly with their name and date of birth. Everyone at Amwell View believes that if children have attended the school they are part of the school forever.



The opening ceremony welcomed parents, family members and friends who wished to remember their child and those who kindly raised money to donate to the project. Alongside the butterfly decorations visitors enjoyed butterfly cakes, refreshments and background music provided by our Music Teacher and Music Therapist. Lower school children then came to the Memorial Garden dressed in butterfly wings and scattered butterflies that children had made around the base of the tree.

Headteacher, Neil Ward said that the memorial event was beautiful and a perfect way for us all to remember our children who have sadly passed.

We plan to make this an annual event and may have a Butterfly Ball and a Butterfly Picnic in the future. We would love parents and family members to visit us often and hope that Amwell View supports them to remember their child in their happy and colourful school.

Ofsted Outstanding 2024

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College was rated Outstanding again by Ofsted in April 2024. Neil Ward, Headteacher said, 'We are extremely proud of the children and the school. As a staff group we remain dedicated and committed to continuing to develop the school and the learning opportunities we offer, so that our children have the very best education and opportunities that we can offer and that they deserve.'

The report states the following under 'What is it like to attend this school?':
This school opens up the world to its pupils. Pupils make astonishing progress because staff are highly skilled. They deliver expertly bespoke curriculums according to pupils' needs. Staff's aim is to 'unlock cognitive potential' and they do this through a variety of means. Developing pupils' ability to communicate is at the heart of the school's work. They do this with tangible success. Staff know pupils exceptionally well. There is no ceiling to the ambition they have for the pupils in their charge. During their time at school, pupils have many opportunities they may not ordinarily experience, such as rock climbing and horse riding. Some even develop the confidence to sing at the Royal Albert Hall. Post-16 students learn how to run the school's charity shop and garden for the local business community. There is a highly positive learning atmosphere at the school. Staff use of gentle humour, coupled with boundless enthusiasm, develops trust where pupils want to 'have a go'. For example, steering their wheelchair through obstacles during a physical education (PE) lesson or floating on their back in the therapy pool. If a pupil is unsure and becomes anxious, staff adeptly manage behaviour. This means that pupils feel safe in this controlled environment.

Janet Warrington, School Business Manager



The Three Villages Magazine

PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER TERRY COLLINS

CRYPTIC: GOING UNDERGROUND

Below are eight cryptic clues to London Tube Stations. How many can you decipher?

1. MINERS FOREST
2. A COUNTY TOWN ENTRANCE
3. RABBIT THOROUGHFARE
4. A TEA PARTY AT THE BIG HOUSE
5. A EUROPEAN RESIDENCE
6. NOT CIRCULAR
7. A HIT FOR THE NEW VAUDEVILLE BAND IN 1967
8. DOMINICAN MONKS



LEGAL MATTERS

1. What is the Scottish equivalent of a Coroner?
2. Who is the highest ranking legal officer?
3. What is the difference between libel and slander?
4. When a barrister is appointed King's Counsel, what name is given to it?
5. How many witnesses are needed to make a will legal?
6. Who is the senior civil judge?
7. How many people are needed to legally constitute a riot?
8. The shortest trial in British history ran for how long: 30 seconds, one minute or three minutes.
9. The Age of Majority was changed to 18 in what year?
10. Since 1313 it has been illegal to wear what in the House of Parliament?
11. What is the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales?
12. What is a mouthpiece in the criminal world?
13. True or false: is it an offence to deface a United Kingdom banknote by writing on it.
14. At what age can a child be left at home alone?
15. How many people are on a jury in Scotland: 12, 11 or 10?
16. Who was the last woman to be executed in the United Kingdom?
17. Who was the last hangman in the United Kingdom?
18. At what age can you legally become a blood donor?
19. It is illegal to carry a plank of wood along the pavement in London: True or False?
20. Is it illegal to be drunk in charge of a horse: yes or no?



WHO AM I?

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



1. I was born in 1926.
2. I had an unhappy childhood and lived with foster parents.
3. When I was 16 I married a factory worker named Jim Dougherty.
4. My early career consisted of modelling and walk-on film parts.
5. I studied method acting with Lee Strasburg.
6. In December 1953 I was 'sweetheart of the month' in Playboy magazine.
7. One of my husbands was a famous playwright and another was a baseball star.

MEET A LOCAL: HELEN PAYNE

Helen Payne has been running 1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownie Pack (which meets at The Wilshire Hall, attached to St Andrew's Church) for the last 15 years. It takes a special person to give up their time and talents for free to benefit others, but Helen shows her humility too when she says, 'I feel really lucky to be involved with Girlguiding and I love organising exciting trips such as pack holidays, sleepovers at museums and activity evenings.'

Having never been a Brownie or Guide, Helen got involved when her daughter's Rainbow unit was closing; stepping in with a friend to run it. Now, all these years later, Helen doesn't regret her decision at all, stating: 'It is very rewarding and we have a great team of other leaders, helpers and young leaders. I think I am very enthusiastic and love working with children.' With her sense of adventure and love of the outdoors, Helen's favourite term is the summer term when they are out and about a lot. She always enjoys the week they go sailing and likes den building in the woods. When they go on pack holiday, her favourite time is singing around the camp fire!

Helen lives in Ware now, but has previously lived in Great Amwell, and of course has strong links to Stanstead Abbotts. After living in the area for 37 years, Helen knows only too well what a lovely area it is, saying 'we are so lucky to be able to walk or cycle along the river, and also walk out into the countryside so quickly.' She likes to eat at The Red Lion in the village and also likes Choppy's. Helen will often meet a friend at the Leafy Oak for lunch too.



Helen is a primary school teacher by training, but now tutors maths (Year 4 to Year 11) from home. In her spare time, she likes to knit, so enjoys shopping at Crates of Wool in Ware, along with checking out lots of the charity shops locally for toys and books. Helen's favourite book is *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë; although she did enjoy *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Her favourite films are often musicals, such as *Meet me in St Louis* starring Judy Garland, but she also likes *The Big Country*, which features Gregory Peck and Jean Simmons.

Helen strikes me as an energetic and fun-loving person, which is no doubt why so many girls have enjoyed their time at Brownies over the years. Helen has inspired these young people to have fun, make friends and discover they can do anything! We are very lucky to have Helen as part of our community.

If you'd like to know more about Girlguiding, visit their website or www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Anna Bond

Interested in joining the fun?

By volunteering with Girlguiding, you'll be helping girls build their confidence, have adventures and learn new skills. It doesn't matter what your experience or background is, or how much time you have. Plus, volunteering for Girlguiding is a great way of meeting new people and taking a break from your daily routine. You can also build your own skills by taking our leader development programme, becoming a first aider or qualified outdoor activity instructor.

Whatever it is you're looking for, there'll be something in it for you!

Find out more by visiting www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/



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 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 or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Community Hub Drop-in: Offers a safe space for anyone in the community who is in need of a listening ear or practical help. During winter months this is a Warm Welcome Space. Meets every Wednesday, 10:30–11:30am at St Mary's Church, St Margarets.

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.

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. For membership details email: 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 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 (07875221543).

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 – 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).

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 / 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.

Coffee and Coping Hertfordshire: A community support hub that aims to build community, curtail loneliness in the older generation and help support our veterans. Meeting every Wednesday and Friday, 12:00 to 13:30 in The Ashlea Room at Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall.

St Margaretsbury Cricket Club: A friendly cricket club that welcomes all ages and abilities. Email info@stmcc.org.uk for more information.

If you would like to add a club, group or meeting to this list, please send details to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH WALKS

Do you want to include more walking in your day? If so, join one of our free, friendly and safe Health Walks. Hertfordshire Health Walks are free walks coordinated by Countryside Management Service (CMS). They aim to help people lead a more active lifestyle.

Led by volunteers, these walks encourage people of all ages and abilities to get outside, explore their community, meet new people and experience the health and well-being benefits walking provides. All walks are free with no booking required, just turn up at least 10 mins before the start time shown, as they set off promptly and there will be a pre-walk briefing.

No special equipment is needed! Just be sure to wear a sensible pair of suitable shoes, dress for the weather and bring a bottle of water to keep hydrated. Walks will start and finish at the same place, unless otherwise stated. Walks might be altered or cancelled without prior notice in bad weather or hazardous conditions, so be sure to check the weather on the day!

First Steps walks

First Steps walks are a great place to start! They are for people who are returning from illness and injury and those who haven't been physically active in a while. The free walks are on flat, smooth paths and are led by qualified volunteers.

To find the best First Steps walk for you (other grades are available too) visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks. Don't forget to register!

For more information, get in touch!

Email healthwalks.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call 01992 555888

Office hours: 9–11.30am and 2–3pm, Monday to Friday



THE AMWELL SOCIETY

The Society has had fewer talks this year, but we will continue to have talks when a good speaker and topic can be found. In April we had another quiz night, which are never as ordinary as you expect. Telling toddler art from valuable artworks was very difficult.

Our walks leader has planned and led many walks, which have allowed members to not only meet and chat as they walk, but also to compare the quality of pub food around the area. Everyone is welcome. Walks continue to alternate between Wednesday and Saturday to help suit different people's schedules.

The Theatre Club have been to see *Gypsy* in Sonning, *Iolanthe* at the Coliseum and most recently *Sister Act* at the Dominion Theatre, which was fronted by Beverly Knight and Ruth Jones. All were very well received and with coach transport from the village are very convenient and excellent value.

The Book Club meets regularly every 8 weeks, meeting in turn at the 11 members' houses. They have read a very diverse range of books, some of which were enjoyed more than others, but all helped broaden their reading experience.

Our 'Keep Amwell Tidy' leads are regularly in contact with East Herts District Council to prompt action. EHDC took back the management of the litter bins (and the associated budget) from the Parish Council; you may have seen QR codes and bin numbers appear on the bins, so that anyone can report an overflowing bin. Please do just that as they seem not to be emptied anywhere near as fast as they fill. Many members do their own litter picking and we are grateful to them all.

Planning & Environment has been a hot topic this year; we objected to the new house below the George IV, but the application was approved on appeal. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the appeal relating to the equestrian development by Thrift's Lake, where we objected primarily to the loss of the scheduled deciduous woodland and associated biodiversity.

Our opposition to the move of Great Amwell to the Broxbourne County Constituency fell on deaf ears. We shall see how long it takes to be changed again; we were in that constituency before.

The Three Villages Magazine

CHAIR YOGA

If you'd like to learn how to remain flexible from a chair this is the activity for you! Would you like to feel confident doing warrior poses and trees? You can when there's a chair beside you to grab.

Chair Yoga currently takes place on Thursdays at 11.15am to 12.15pm in The Nigel Copping Community Building, which is located on the corner of Sanville Gardens and Hoddesdon Road, St Margarets. It is a pleasant, often sunny hall. After each session Heidi, the yoga teacher, distributes mugs of coffee and participants can enjoy chatting.



GENTLE YOGA FOR ALL



Heidi writes: 'I absolutely love teaching these accessible for all yoga classes. In fact they are my favourite classes of the week! We move slowly through yoga poses with the help of a chair. We flow like a dance through some sequences, and even stand and practise our balance too. We then have a beautiful relaxation at the end and then some tea and chat. What more could you want? Movement, relaxation and making friends... the perfect class.'

If you would like to find out more, contact Heidi on 07957772661 or email info@pilatesandyogabyheidi.com.

Julia Davies

GREAT AMWELL WOMEN'S CLUB

Affiliated to the NAWC (The National Association of Women's Clubs) we have held our club at Great Amwell Parish Hall for 34 years. The committee works hard to bring together our club members on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We are a jolly group of members enjoying each other's company with a variety of speakers who give talks on a variety of subjects, we enjoy outings, lunches, quizzes, bingo, themed nights etc. to make for enjoyable social evenings and events together.

At Great Amwell Women's Club we also support a local charity every year. This year we supported Teens Unite; whose headquarters are in The Jailbreak Café, Hoddesdon (which is well worth a visit). They also have a shop and sell brand new, donated clothes from various retailers. This year we raised £735 for this charity. So thank you to everyone who supported our quiz night in April. We also hold a charity garden party for the NAWC in August when we usually raise over £100.

If you feel you would like to come along to our club, you will be very welcome. Telephone Christine, our Chair Lady, on 01920 466689.

Dulcie Fordham

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

11am at St James' Church,
Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots

HARVEST LUNCH

12.30pm in the Haybarn at Stanstead Bury Farm,
Stanstead Abbots

Admission includes your lunch and a complimentary glass of wine on arrival

Scan the QR code to book your tickets



Enjoy the beautiful historic church of St James and celebrate locally produced food in all its variety with lunch at Stanstead Bury Farm



ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD

As you drive along the Roydon Road, weaving round the tight bends, it is quite easy to miss the white sign that says Historic Church Open. If you are new to the village, you probably don't even realise that St James' Church is the old parish church for Stanstead Abbots, or that it has been the place where generations of local people have been laid to rest for at least eight centuries. While the church itself is retired, and the Parish Church is now St Andrew's on Cappell Lane, the churchyard is still in use and a special place for many local families. It is a beautiful spot, a pausing point for footpath walkers, but most importantly a place where families can come to remember, and to seek some comfort and peace.



It's also a huge meadow filled with multiple obvious obstacles, ant skyscrapers, hidden curb stones and plenty that makes a quick mow impossible. Finding someone to do the job regularly and reliably has been painful and frustrating! The days when you could ask a few volunteers to pop round are long gone, although one parishioner remembers her Dad going out regularly to maintain St Margaret's Churchyard with his scythe!

The cost of maintaining the churchyard is carried by the congregation of St Andrew's, but has been generously supported over the years by many folk, regular donations, and some will remember the tenacious fundraising of Iris Lyon, who now rests in peace at St James.

So we have put together a plan that looks to both the long-term funding and sustainability. Strimming and mowing the churchyard takes two people approximately eight hours and it needs to be undertaken monthly during the summer months. The total cost at £15 per hour is £1,700 per year. Including machinery and maintenance costs, we need to raise approximately £2,500 a year. An income of £400 already comes from Grave Trust Funds: investments set up a number of years ago by individuals to provide a regular income to support the maintenance of particular graves in perpetuity. It is our intention to do a similar thing for the churchyard as a whole and so we have launched a Churchyard Fund Appeal to raise £40,000, which along with the existing trusts would give us a solid fund from which to draw an income of £1,800 a year to support the regular maintenance of our churchyard for the whole community. We have made great progress so far thanks to very generous donations from five local donors, and we have already raised nearly £20,000, but there's still another £20,000 to find.

Can you help? If St James' Churchyard is important to you (and from the many complaints we have had in our contractor struggles, I know it is) then please give generously! We now have a solid maintenance contract in place and the churchyard is looking great again, accessible and well maintained... please help us keep it that way!

There are several ways to give:

- BACS Transfer to the 'St James Stanstead Abbots' Account: Sort Code 60-22-32, Account Number 49458205, with 'Churchyard Fund' as the reference;
- Cheques made payable to 'St James Stanstead Abbots' can be posted to St Andrew's Church, Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8BU;
- Or there's a JustGiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stjameschurchyard>.

Thank you so much for loving our churchyard and supporting the whole community to keep it beautiful and accessible in the long term!

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest

The Three Villages Magazine

POEMS BY RAY FISH

RAINY DAYS

It's rained all day again today
It never seems to stop

Everywhere you try to work
It's full of mud and slop

The wells are overflowing
And the rain goes on and on

I'll never get the digging done
The summer's been and gone

The spuds are rotting in the shed
No chance to get them out

It's raining cats and dogs again
It's pouring out the spout

The river's overflowing
The streets are all a flood

The garden's like a quagmire
Full of sludge and slimy mud

Will it ever end I ask myself
As I look out from the shed

Why can't it just rain in the night
While we're all tucked up in bed

ON THE PLOT

I feel so privileged sitting here
Breathing in this sweet fresh air

I dread to think what could have been
If I'd not found this place so green

I get such pleasure working this ground
And seeing the wildlife all around

I've seen deer and woodpeckers, herons too
Sometimes it's just like at the zoo

Sometimes I sit here on my own
I feel like a king upon his throne

I don't need money, well not a lot
I have my wealth upon this plot

There's broad beans, carrots, onions and leeks
They'll keep me fed for weeks and weeks

The church clock just struck half past three
It's time to go home for my tea

Ray has such a distinct voice that is full of humour and his poems wonderfully share the joy of a simple, allotment life. Here we feature two more of his lovely poems.

RECIPE: CHEESE PINWHEELS

I give the basic version here, but this is a really easy recipe to adapt. You can personalise it by adding fresh mozzarella/spinach/pesto/sun-dried tomatoes/pepperoni/ham... really anything you like!

Anna Bond

INGREDIENTS

- 1 x 325g sheet all-butter puff pastry
- 150g (5oz) fresh tomato pasta sauce
- 50g (2oz) cheese of your choice, grated
- 1 egg, beaten
- 15g (1/2 oz) parmesan, finely grated (optional)

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C, Fan 180°C, Gas Mark 6.
2. Unroll the pastry sheet onto a baking sheet lined with non-stick baking paper and spread evenly with the tomato sauce, leaving a 1 cm border.
3. Scatter with cheese (and, if you like, here's where you add your extras!). Kids will really enjoy doing this.
4. Taking one of the short ends, roll up the pastry as tightly as possible.
5. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes or until firm to the touch.
6. Cut the roll into 12 equal slices and place on 2 baking sheets, well spaced.
7. Brush the tops with beaten egg and scatter over the parmesan (optional).
8. Bake for 15–20 minutes, or until puffed up and golden. Leave to cool for 5 minutes before serving.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BRUCE HANSING STUDIOS

Artist Bruce Hansing has lived for most of his life in Ware and for the last 15 years he has been working in a studio at Stanstead Bury producing scenery and props that form key parts of films and TV shows. There are various independent companies at Stanstead Bury, which is also a working farm, but Bruce is the only creative. He loves going to work there and thoroughly enjoys the rural scenery and ambience – even though sometimes delivery drivers and lorries that come to take away his splendid creations struggle to find him.

Bruce is not at all a conventional artist as he creates figures and objects from materials that include clay and fibre-glass, which can be seen in films, TV shows and theme parks. Outside his studio when I arrived to interview Bruce were a giant pumpkin as well as a very large bird or two. Bruce graduated with a First Class degree in Fine Arts from Cheltenham College of Art back in 1986. After that he became a sculptor and mould-maker whose work since 1987 can be seen in *Robocop I and II*, *Batman* and *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves*. Sometimes he would work on set and actors including Pierce Brosnan (007) and Jack Nicholson (the Joker) were around.

Bruce's career has included much travel and work abroad. He worked in the early 90s for Euro Disney creating artificial rockwork and other major props. After that he worked for Elstree Studios on *Gladiators*, *Star Wars*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, *Alien Resurrection* and *Lost in Space*. At around this time Bruce developed a very keen interest in the work of HR Giger who had created the monster for *Alien*. Bruce has become so expert at producing his own alien monsters that he has regular requests to produce them from the HR Giger Museum in Gruyere, Switzerland and for a themed Aliens discotheque in Basle.



Bruce with one of his incredible creations



The studio is full of amazing pieces like these



When Bruce was working on *Jurassic Park*, he could see how much computers were going to be replacing the need for his props. That was when he changed course and worked more to provide theme parks that could not rely on computer-generated images, but needed the physical scenery. He enjoyed producing the Jaguar Shrine for the Jumanji ride at Chessington World of Adventure.

Bruce does have some opportunities to relax – he used to enjoy badminton in the village, but tends now to relax by the river at The Jolly Fisherman with friends. He finds the Co-op very handy for shopping. Like many of us, Bruce loves the

countryside feel of our village, but also the easy access to London on the train. When he is busy sculpting and moulding his fantasy animal creations the peace and quiet at Stanstead Bury is ideal for his concentration.

Julia Davies

The Three Villages Magazine

SPORTS

St Margaretsbury Cricket Club



It has been another great season with some fantastic play. Well done to all our teams!

One highlight this season was the Home Counties Women's Cricket League finals day at Beaconsfield Cricket Club in June, which saw our ladies (below) come home victorious with the trophy, beating Chesham Cricket Club Women's Team in the final of the Super 8s Development Cup. Well done to all involved across the competition!

The club offers cricket for all ages and abilities with games played at home every Saturday in the summer and friendly matches on Sundays.

For more details, including fixtures and results, see our website <http://stmcc.org.uk/>, email info@stmcc.org.uk or follow on Facebook.

Steven Ansell

Club Chair, St Margaretsbury Cricket Club



St Margaretsbury Football Club



We are a thriving Senior & Youth Football Club with facilities including a stadium pitch and two more full-sized football pitches, as well as changing rooms and clubhouse. The season is now underway, so please do come along to home matches and support our teams.

For more information about the club, visit <https://stmargaretsburyfc.leaguerepublic.com> or follow on Facebook.

Gary Stock

Programme Editor, St Margaretsbury FC

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club

With Wimbledon inspiring many to find their local courts, tennis is a game for all ages and skill levels. With excellent quality AstroTurf courts, a welcoming atmosphere, and teams in the local Datchworth and Hot Rackets leagues, St Margaretsbury Tennis Club offers an excellent range of both social and competitive tennis.

Visit the website to discover more: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/stmargaretsburytennis>.

Mark Rothwell

Chairman, St Margaretsbury Tennis Club



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 Cricket Club, St Margaretsbury Football 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.

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 Bryan 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: Mr Daniel Pollard

danandchrisspollard@outlook.com

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.

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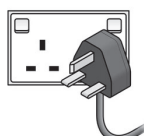
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IT**



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WHEN?

12 to 2 pm
Monday 28th October
and Friday 1st November

WHERE?

The Wilshere Hall
St Andrew's Church
Stanstead Abbots

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RICHARD/MARGARET MELLOR (01920 460474 / richardmellor@btinternet.com)

PUZZLE ANSWERS (from Page 12)

CRYPTIC: GOING UNDERGROUND

1. COLLIER'S WOOD
2. LANCASTER GATE
3. WARREN STREET
4. BOSTON MANOR
5. SWISS COTTAGE
6. OVAL
7. FINCHLEY CENTRAL
8. BLACKFRIARS

WHO AM I?

Marilyn Monroe

LEGAL MATTERS

1. Procurator fiscal
2. The Lord Chancellor
3. Libel is written and slander is spoken
4. Taking silk
5. Two
6. The master of the rolls
7. Twelve
8. Thirty Seconds the Murder Trial of Brian Cawley in 1959
9. 1970
10. A suit of armour
11. 10
12. A Solicitor or Barrister

13. True

14. Whilst the law does not specify any age it is an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk of harm

15. 12, same as England

16. Ruth Ellis (13 July 1955)

17. Albert Pierrepoint

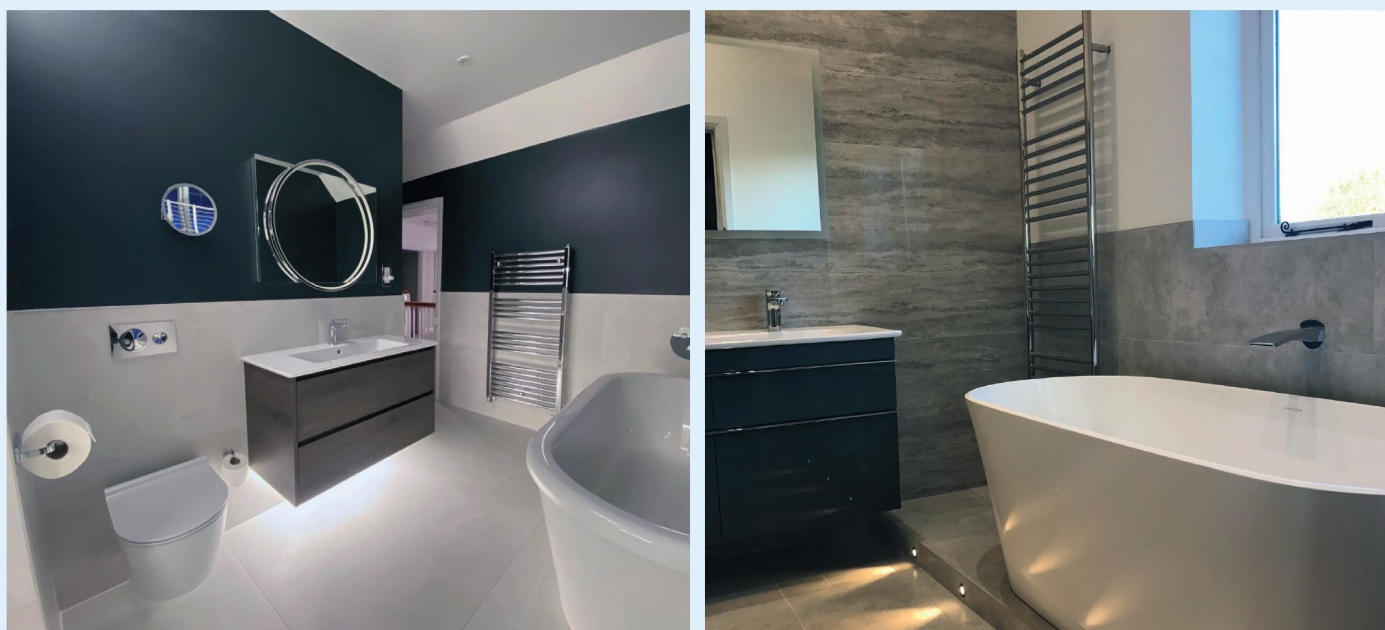
18. 17

19. This is an offence under the Metropolitan Police Act of 1839, and is still in force

20. Yes



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