



# The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Building Community in Print and Online  
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Issue 17

March 2026

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- Find out all about the work of local artist, Oliver Combellack
- Discover the fascinating history of 'The Clock House'
- Read about an incredible local charity, All Sorts Dementia Group

**NOW  
FREE!**



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

## Sunday 29th March ~ Palm Sunday

9am **Eucharist** at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell

10.30am **Holy Communion** at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

## Monday 30th March ~ Holy Week

7.30pm **Compline** at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

## Tuesday 31st March ~ Holy Week

7.30pm **Easter Meditation** on Zoom

(join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2701785021> or scan the QR code below)

## Wednesday 1st April ~ Holy Week

Midday **Holy Communion** at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

7.30pm **Compline** at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

## Thursday 2nd April ~ Maundy Thursday

6.30pm **Maundy Thursday Meal** at The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

7.30pm **Tenebrae Service** at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

## Friday 3rd April ~ Good Friday

10/10.30am **Good Friday Walk of Witness and Reflective Service** from St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell/St Mary's Church, St Margarets to St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

2pm **The Way of the Cross**, a Passiontide Service at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell

## Sunday 5th April ~ Easter Day

5.30am **Easter Day Dawn Vigil** at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

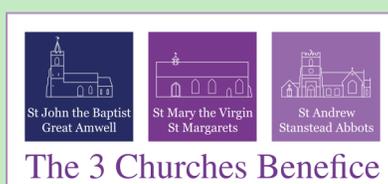
9am **Easter Day Eucharist** at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell

10.30am **Easter Day Holy Communion** at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots



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# The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Issue 17

March 2026

## From the Editor...



Cover: 'Spring is in the air' © Annette Hannah

Welcome to the first issue of 2026! 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 have the latest updates from our local schools; meet local artist, Oliver Combellack; take a look at incredible local charity, All Sorts Dementia Group; we have the next in our new series, 'Glimpses into our Past'; a fascinating article about The Maltings; and lots more!

This issue features a stunning photograph of the Meridian Stones sculpture surrounded by blossom. It was taken by Annette Hannah, who is a published author and long-time resident of Stanstead Abbots. If you would like to enter a photograph for the next cover, please send your images to [threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto: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! Looking ahead, the approximate deadlines for submissions are: 3rd April (June Issue), 3rd July (September Issue) and 3rd October (December Issue). Alternatively, we can also promote your upcoming event/share your news on our News & Events blog. Please do get in touch!

Continued thanks are offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our generous sponsors. We are also grateful for the support received from French & Jupps, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council, Great Amwell Parish Council and St Margarets Parish Council.

Please do check out our website, subscribe to our News & Events blog for all live events and important up-to-date news, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Anna Bond, Editor*

### THE THREE VILLAGES TEAM

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

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# The Three Villages Magazine

## FROM THE VICAR



It's a bright and sunny late winter day, and the snowdrops are looking lovely, with the promise of daffodils visible in the bright green spikes coming up next to them. Spring is on its way!

It's a busy time of year in the church, with Pancake Day, Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Then before you know it, it's Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the most important days of the Easter Triduum (or three days): Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Lent starts in the dark of winter and stretches out over what can feel like a very long 40 days, but they bring us to Easter in time to celebrate amidst the colour and light of spring.

Of course, the Easter eggs have been in the shops since Boxing Day; long aisles of chocolate, waiting eagerly for months! I do like a good Easter egg, but it is strange to have them arrive so long before we're planning to actually give them. And have you ever thought why we give them? They originate from ancient spring fertility symbols, which the early Christians incorporated into their celebrations. The original Easter eggs were decorated, hard-boiled eggs rather than chocolate. They were boiled and painted to both celebrate the festival of Easter and to preserve the eggs during Lent, because the traditional fasting (particularly in Medieval times) included not eating eggs. Pancake Day (the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday) was an opportunity to eat up all your eggs before the fast, and from then on you were thinking about boiling them! The eggs and bunnies of Easter date back to ancient times, so I suppose we should not consider the overwhelming number of eggs, bunnies, pastel-coloured flowers and chicks to be surprising... maybe just their early appearance?

This Easter is an early one, falling over the first weekend in April. It is a 'movable feast', which seems from time to time to annoy those who like predictability. It moves because it is tied to the lunar cycle and the spring equinox; Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, following the spring equinox (March 21st), and it is historically linked to the Jewish Festival of Passover, which also uses a lunar based calendar. The rules around the setting of the dates were established by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, so we've been doing Easter like this for 1700 years, so I think it's here to stay.

I suppose the thing that I worry about is the disappearance of Lent. The 40 days of Lent remind us that, before Jesus began teaching and preaching, he went away into the desert by himself to get ready for the work ahead. Through prayer and fasting, he was able to focus on the work God had planned for him, to spend time listening to the quiet voice of God. For Christians, Lent is a time to slow down and focus on God, to pray and fast, to be disciplined and intentional about seeking what God wants to do in our lives. It's not all about chocolate, but about choosing the right way to live and be. That's why it's important not to fast forward through Lent just to get to the exciting egg-filled part, and why I sigh gently when I pass the Easter aisle in January!



*Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest*  
*Vicar of The 3 Churches Benefice*



**The 3 Churches Benefice**

### GLIMPSES INTO OUR PAST: THE CLOCK HOUSE

In our new series we are researching notable structures from our villages' long-term history and, without doubt, the most notable building as you drive over the 100-year-old River Lea bridge is 'The Clock House'. Situated at the junction of the High Street, Cappell Lane and Roydon Road it lends an historic and enticing 'feel' to our village – as well as being the most photographed! But questions immediately arise – How old is it? Why was it built? Who has lived in it? So, let's see if we can answer some of those queries.

The received history is that The Clock House was erected about 1636 by the Lord of the Manor, the second Sir Edward Baesh, as part of the earliest provisions he made under the Baesh Charity. Or, given a later architect's opinion, it may have been built in the reign of Elizabeth I by the first Sir Edward Baesh or even by his son and successor Ralph. Early records relate that, 'At the end of the 13th century John son of John son of Robert Clericus had licence from the abbot [of Waltham] to build a chapel in honour of the Virgin Mary.' The plot of land the early chapel was built on was just a small rectangle of land orientated east to west. The later school building was also built on this small plot, the curtilage only being enlarged to its present size after the sale of the property by the Baesh Charity in 1913.

It is the thirteenth-century chapel that gave rise to the name Chapel Lane, which then changed to Park Road in the late nineteenth century, until reverting to the more latinised form of Cappell Lane in the early twentieth century. It also gave rise to the naming of the fields above the chapel as Chapelfields.

Edward Baesh established his Free Grammar School for boys on that Chapel site in 1636. The school became part of the Baesh Charity established on Sir Edward's death in 1653. It was also used on Sundays to offer religious services and a minister was provided to take these services. This action offered a welcome alternative to the long walk along Roydon Road and up to St James' Church – especially in the testing and stormy winter months!



Engraving of 1834



The modern view (2009)

The noticeable bell and cupola on the roof was added in 1705, while the colourful clock appeared in 1788. The school continued to provide an education for local boys even after the nearby village school opened in 1869, which initially only provided for infants and girls. However, from 1872 onwards boys from the Baesh School began to apply for a transfer to the new village school. This subsequently led to the closure of the Baesh School in 1879.

Following its closure as a school The Clock House, for a time, became a café selling teas and cakes plus luncheons and teas as full meals. Now that the Grammar School building had lost its original purpose the Baesh Charity Trustees eventually sold off the property in 1913. After this it became known as The Clock House and it has remained residential ever since. It has undergone three refurbishments, with a big-change refurbishment plus modern extension in 2017. So Chapel, school, cake and tea shop, modern dwelling – over its many centuries The Clock House has seen it all!

Rev'd Dr Bob Hunt (based on research by Stuart Moye and Ron Dale's book, *A History of Stanstead Abbotts*, published by Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society, which meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Roydon Road. Visit [www.salhs.org.uk](http://www.salhs.org.uk) for more information.)

# The Three Villages Magazine

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Great Amwell Parish Council



At its most recent meeting, Great Amwell Parish Council agreed its budget (Council Tax Precept) for 2026/27. It was decided to maintain expenditure at the same level as in 2025/26.

The Parish Council also agreed to make grant awards to the:

- \* Armchair Singers, a local organisation that aims to provide safe space for elderly residents in the community to share in the collective celebration of singing; and
- \* St John the Baptist Church to maintain the churchyard and public footpaths that traverse this area.

Unfortunately, the restoration project for the War Memorial, funded by the Parish Council, was not completed in time for the 2025 Remembrance Service. Works will be completed once the weather improves.

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead Margarets (which also includes part of the Parish of Great Amwell) is to be the subject of a referendum. At the time of writing, a poll on whether or not to adopt the Plan was set to take place on Thursday, 29 January 2026. All qualifying electors in the area covered by the proposed plan were eligible to vote. [See page 6 for the result]

Great Amwell Parish Council meets every second Thursday in each month (except in August) in the Parish Hall, Hillside Lane at 8.00pm.

*Jeff Hughes*

### St Margarets Parish Council



St Margarets Parish Council continues to liaise with Herts County Council in relation to the flooding on the junction of Lawrence Avenue, and also in conjunction with Great Amwell Parish Council who are trying to resolve the flooding at the station car park.

The Council are also considering options for erecting an official flagpole for the parish, to install some benches along the riverside near Lawrence Avenue and to repair the broken planters on Hoddesdon Road, so watch this space over the coming months.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Parish Council then please contact the Clerk on 07422 582172 or at [clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk).

*Christina Whellams*



*Community Hub Drop-in*

- 📍 St Mary's Church, St Margarets
- 🕒 Every Wednesday, 10.30–11.30am

Looking for friendly faces, a cuppa, or just somewhere to relax? Come and join us!

**FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE**

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

#### Calculating the Parish Council precept and budget

**What is a precept?** The precept is a tax that Parish Councils levy (charge) their local council taxpayers to meet their budgetary requirements. Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their precept plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide. The Parish Council precept forms part of the local Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payments.

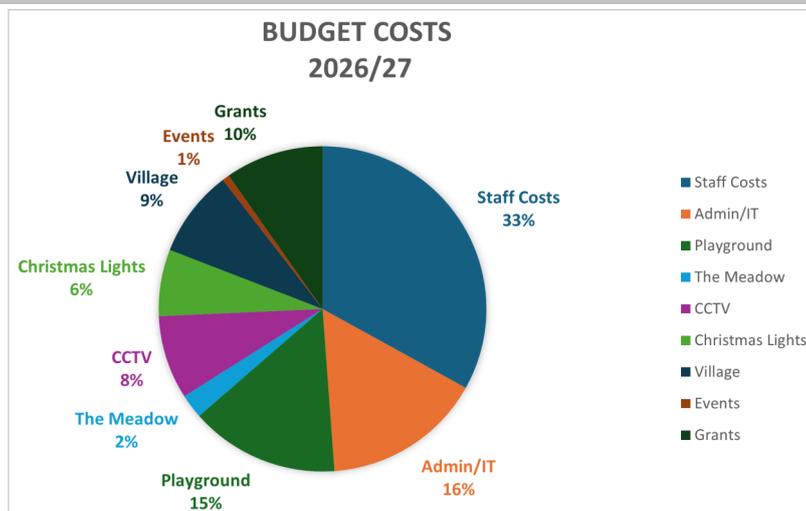
**How is it calculated?** The precept requirement is the difference between the Parish Council's estimated income and its anticipated spending requirement for the financial year. Therefore, the Parish Council needs to agree a budget before it can set its precept, and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council.

When calculating the precept, the Parish Council takes into consideration:

- \* Current year's spending levels – for ongoing services for which it is responsible e.g. village playground, street lighting, CCTV, Christmas Lights and insurance
- \* Costs of any additional spending plans or projects
- \* Provision for contingencies and reserves
- \* Levels of anticipated income

The Parish Council forecasted next year's budget at £82,000, which is a £7,000 increase on the budget for 2025/26. The additional £7,000 is made up of an increase in the grant budget from £6000 to £8000, an additional budget of £2000 for IT equipment to support remote meetings, an extra £1400 for the village playground and the remaining £1600 covers a 5–10% inflation cost rises. The precept was approved at £82,000 which equates to an annual charge of £111.41 per Band D property in Stanstead Abbots.

Sarah Neighbour



## COMMUNITY SUPERMARKETS: EXTRA SUPPORT WITH FOOD COSTS

With the cost of living rising, community supermarkets across Hertfordshire are helping residents save on food and household essentials, with many items priced under £1. They support people who may not need a food bank, but are finding it harder to manage household costs. There are currently eight community supermarket locations across the county (Hemel Hempstead, Borehamwood, Letchworth Garden City, Rickmansworth, St Albans, Stevenage, Watford and Hatfield), with plans to expand.

To use a community supermarket, residents need to sign up and complete a simple eligibility assessment. Once registered, the first eight visits are free, thanks to funding from the Household Support Fund. After that, a small membership fee applies alongside the cost of the shopping.

The scheme, run by Community Help Hertfordshire and working with Hertfordshire County Council, also offers information about other types of support that may be available.

To apply or find out more, visit [www.communityhelpherts.net/communitysupermarket](http://www.communityhelpherts.net/communitysupermarket) or call 01727 649980 or email [info@communityhelpherts.net](mailto:info@communityhelpherts.net).

# The Three Villages Magazine

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN APPROVED

### THE STANSTEAD ABBOTTS & ST MARGARETS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

#### REFERENDUM RESULT

The Neighbourhood Plan has been voted on and approved by the residents of the Neighbourhood Area. With a turnout of 18%, there was an overall 'yes' vote of 500 (79.7%) votes, against 127 (20.3%) 'no' votes.



January 29th proved to be a day for celebration for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: 500 voters supported the introduction of the Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.

To paraphrase the statement issued before the referendum by East Herts District, our local community has now set out where the 94 new homes allocated by East Herts for this community will be built where it was considered by the clear majority to be most appropriate.

The community will be positively going forward with policies on the look and density of new developments. Our most loved views will be protected as will our heritage assets. We have been able to ensure that popular local green spaces will remain as exactly that. We now have pledges to protect and enhance the riverside, which is being used so much more today.

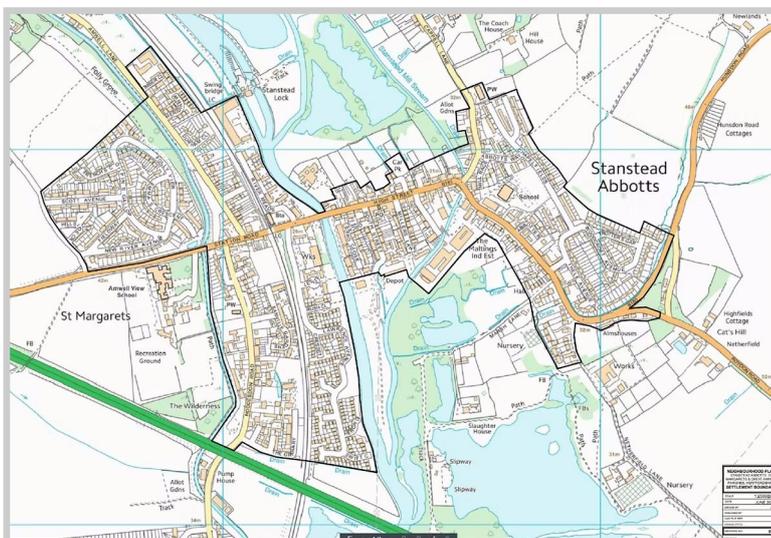
Wildlife and habitats will be protected before building takes place. Businesses and farm diversification will be supported while community facilities will be protected.

The many volunteers on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are really delighted. After an 8 year slog the Plan had been so carefully prepared that the inspector who approved it to go forward to the referendum did not require any examination in public. This was no doubt owing to the invaluable input from members of the Steering Group with their professional knowledge of planning and architecture.

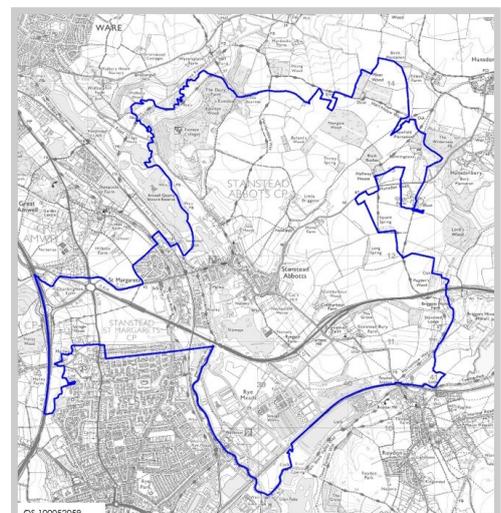
Of course, nobody is pleased that those opposed to the Plan (127 voters) are disappointed, but the Steering Group volunteers are truly optimistic that this Plan will be really good for Stanstead Abbots and beyond.

*Julia Davies*

*Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*



The Neighbourhood Plan Settlement Boundary



The Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area

CHARITY IN FOCUS: ALL SORTS DEMENTIA GROUP



All Sorts Dementia Group is a small charity that has been running since 2018. The founder Kelly Felton, after witnessing her own grandfather's journey through Alzheimer's, developed a passion for improving dementia services and supporting people to live well with the illness. She went on to complete training in Health and Social Care, and eventually spent eight years working for the NHS Hertfordshire Memory Service supporting people who had received a diagnosis of dementia and their families.

It was during this time she realised there was a very real need for people with memory problems to have somewhere to go and feel part of something proactive that was also social and stimulating, and where they could feel they fit in. It was then the idea for All Sorts started and, along with a colleague Brenda Rodriguez who was retiring, they started a group in Ware. This has now grown into five groups per week across East and North Herts, with the variety of activities and entertainment expanding all the time.

All sessions are based around the themes of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, which is offered in a limited way from the NHS and has proven therapeutic benefits. Our sessions can cover a wide range of activities including Dementia Book Club; Poetry Writing; Reminiscence; Adapted games and sports such as chair football and cricket; Movement to Music; Choir; Art Therapy; Music Therapy; Pilates and Drumming, as well as promoting word finding and number skills through interactive games. We also welcome lots of musical entertainers and two local primary schools for multi-generation arts and crafts, which has been fun for all involved.

We are really proud to work in partnership with lots of outside professionals to provide the best quality of activity possible for our group members, and we have an amazing team of trained support staff and volunteers to ensure the days run smoothly, and so that we can care for any needs that those attending may have.

One such member's husband, who now uses his valuable experience to volunteer with All Sorts explains his own experience:

*'My wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in early 2017. The following year, via Hertfordshire Social Services, we were introduced to Kelly Felton of the All Sorts Dementia Group. She explained the purpose and aims of the group, the activities that were provided and offered my wife a trial place at a forthcoming session. Apprehensively, we attended that session not knowing quite what to expect. My wife was immediately made welcome and introduced to other members by enthusiastic and empathetic staff. She enjoyed the session and, as a result, we both decided that it would be mutually beneficial for her to continue as part of the group.'*

*Over the next five plus years of attending the Group (with a short break due to COVID), my wife enjoyed the companionship of other members and the participation in all of the activities, especially the music themed ones. Her condition did deteriorate over this time, but the All Sorts staff did not change their approach or style; in fact, they were more supportive. My role as a full-time carer was made easier by knowing that my wife was well looked after and this enabled me to have an essential break to deal with all other domestic and personal issues, and to meet friends.*

*In 2023 my wife could no longer attend the sessions due to her condition having worsened. However, All Sorts continued their support by coming to my home to sit with my wife and to give me a break. They did this until she eventually died in 2024. I am extremely grateful to Kelly and to her All Sorts team, for all that they did for my wife to make her dementia journey as pleasant as possible and in their unwavering support to me.'*



Kelly Felton, CEO of All Sorts Dementia Group CIO

# The Three Villages Magazine

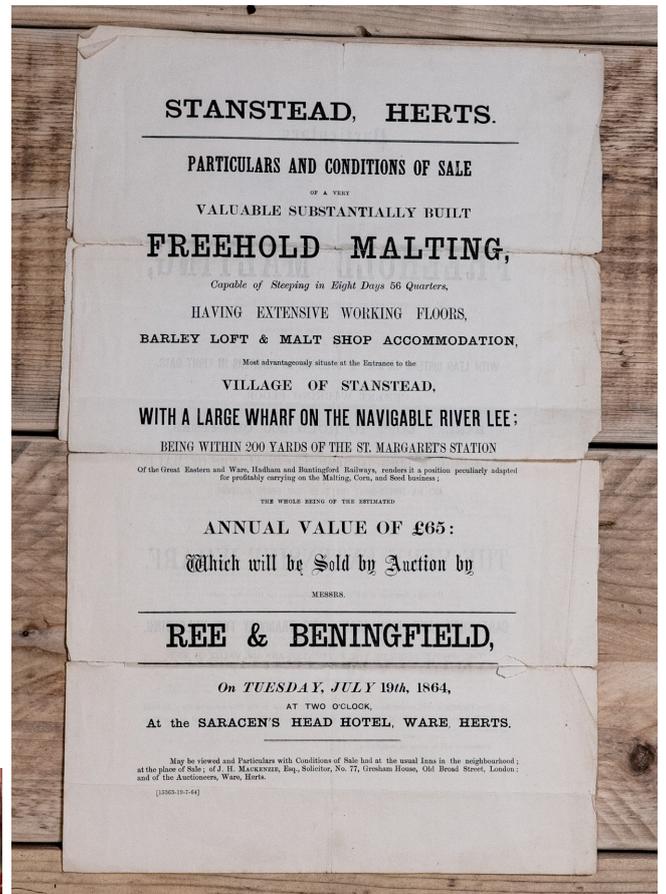
## EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF BRITISH MALTING HERITAGE AT FRENCH & JUPPS IN 2026

For the last 162 years, French & Jupps has been incredibly fortunate to call the three villages home, where it is now the sole surviving maltings in the county, handcrafting speciality roasted malts for the brewing, whisky and food industries globally.

It was in 1864 that our Chairman David Jupp's ancestor, William Jupp, bought the freehold to our malthouse at auction. The property, situated on either side of the River Lea in Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, was sold at the Saracen's Head Inn on Ware High Street.

Today, French & Jupps proudly continue our centuries-old tradition of malting, a heritage that pre-dates our time in Stanstead Abbots to 1689. This makes French & Jupps Great Britain's oldest maltster.

It was in last June's issue of *The Three Villages Magazine* that we first shared news of opening our doors to the public. Now, in the spring of 2026, we are delighted to continue the journey of sharing the story of our craft and heritage with our local community.



### Experience our craft first-hand on our 2026 community tour dates

We are delighted to share the dates for our upcoming tours in 2026, offering local residents of Stanstead Abbots and the neighbouring villages the opportunity to step inside our historic maltings.

Spaces for these unique tours are limited to ten people per group during each time slot, so be sure to secure your slot soon! To reserve your place and delve into the fascinating world of malting, contact [james.marinos@frenchandjupps.co.uk](mailto:james.marinos@frenchandjupps.co.uk).

#### Tour

Spring Tour  
Summer Tour  
Autumn Tour

#### Date

Thursday, April 16th  
Tuesday, July 28th  
Thursday, November 19th

#### Time Slots

11:00am & 1:30pm  
11:00am & 1:30pm  
11:00am & 1:30pm

Don't miss the chance to step inside a piece of living history and celebrate the incredible heritage of French & Jupps Maltings, right here in our village.

*James Marinos, Marketing and Sales Manager at French & Jupps*

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



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

It's been a wonderfully festive time here at St Andrew's since our last update. We had two amazing nativity shows thanks to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, which saw the nativity story retold in two different ways. It was lovely to see the children all shine on stage and build up their confidence with performing for others.

Reception class have been learning how to sew to make Christmas cards for their families. Although it was a bit tricky at first, they showed great persistence and are rightly very proud of their results.

Year 4 very much enjoyed their visit to The British Museum. They were able to see many of the real-life Egyptian artefacts, that they had learnt about during their History lessons, and enjoyed pointing them out in the different rooms of the museum. A highlight of the trip was seeing the Rosetta Stone.



Year 5 have been creating dragon eyes out of clay using a marble as the pupil and building up the surrounding eye. The children have thought carefully about the texture and pattern that they are creating to produce the impression of scales.

Year 6 have been using Microbits as part of their coding learning. They began by learning how to make images and messages display on the screen before finishing off with creating their own 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' game.

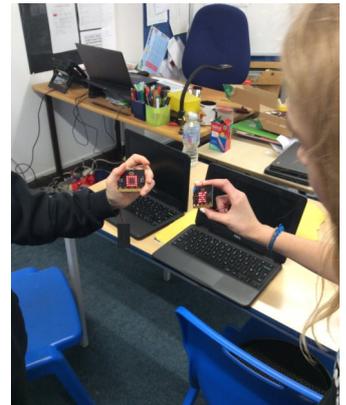
In Art, the children explored the Japanese art concept of 'Notan' where positive and negative spaces are used to create artwork.

We hope you enjoy seeing and reading about just some of the fun we've had at St Andrew's this term!

*Michael Speed, Headteacher*

Telephone: 01920 870097

Email: [admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk)



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- \* Subscribe to our **News & Events Blog**: [thethreevillages.com/news-events](http://thethreevillages.com/news-events)
- \* Follow/like our **Facebook page**: @TheThreeVillagesMagazine
- \* Find us on **Instagram**: @thethreevillages

Online is 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



The Spring Term got off to a fun start, with a light fall of snow and a playtime competition to build a snowman. Whilst they were small in size, the children really enjoyed working together to build a snowy character. Some children were even brave enough to try to create snow angels in the light dusting that had fallen.

Children from Year 3 made cards and delivered them in person to the residents at Willowthorpe. The class really enjoyed chatting to everyone they met and giving out their cards. They were enjoying themselves so much that they didn't want to leave and return to school. Thank you Willowthorpe, for making them so welcome.



Our children enjoyed developing their Design and Technology skills as we launched our enhanced Design and Technology curriculum. The children learnt about pneumatics and made their own moving toys, using tubes and syringes to make different parts of their models moved. The children worked really well with their partners to make their finished products. Children in Years 5 and 6 designed and created seasonal vegetable pasties. They learnt to make pastry and the claw and bridge technique to cut the vegetables safely. Their finished pasties were delicious.

A team of children from Key Stage 1 participated in a gymnastics competition on 14th January, performing routines and skills practised in school. The team made a triumphant return to school having achieved first place in the team event and having also gained several individual ribbons. An excellent achievement for them all.



One of the highlights of the Autumn Term was showing parents and children round the school as parents began the process of making applications for Reception places for 2026. If you have just moved into the area and are looking for a place for your child, please do contact us.

*Lydia Hunt, Headteacher*

Tel: 01920 870135

Email: [admin@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sjbaptist.herts.sch.uk)



### Make Lunch Club

The 3 Churches Benefice's **Make Lunch Club** offers a chance for you and your school-aged children (and their younger siblings) to get together, share a meal and have some fun during the school holidays. 12–2pm, Mondays & Fridays at The Wilshere Hall, Cappell Lane.

If you would like to join us, please email [makelunch@3churches.net](mailto:makelunch@3churches.net)

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



**Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College**

**'Winter Wishes' at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland**

Following one of our Parent Governor's informing Amwell View about 'Winter Wishes', Tonwell Class Teachers applied for and were successful in acquiring tickets to visit Winter Wonderland during their event on 19th November 2025.

Hayley Warrington, Tonwell 1 Class Teacher said, 'This special event sees Hyde Park closed to the general public, operating on dramatically reduced numbers in order to support those less able to access the park under normal circumstances.'

Parents and carers were given the opportunity to attend alongside their young person for this offsite visit trip and twelve family members accepted the invitation, joining the pupils and staff for an amazing day in London.

Hayley said, 'The pupils were fantastic. They very much enjoyed the long coach journeys to and from Central London, as well as the excitement in the park. A highlight was visiting the Magical Ice Kingdom which was -10 degrees Celsius! It was an experience the pupils have never had before and found very exciting. Being able to spend time alongside the pupils and their families was lovely, and we are so pleased with the number of adults who were keen to attend.'

*Janet Warrington, School Business Manager*



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# The Three Villages Magazine

## PUZZLES

### WHO AM I?

Below are clues to a famous person. Can you guess who they are?



1. In 1982, I released a workout video that became the highest-grossing home video of all time, leading to over 20 successful exercise tapes.
2. In 1972, a photo of me on a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun sparked controversy.
3. I learned at age 12, through a magazine, that my mother's death was actually a suicide, not heart failure as I had been told.
4. In 2005, I made a major acting comeback with *Monster-in-Law*, while my autobiography topped The New York Times Best Sellers list.
5. In my 80s, I was arrested five times while protesting climate change as part of 'Fire Drill Fridays.'
6. I'm the only daughter to win an Oscar for Best Actress, alongside my father, who also won the award.

### WORDSEARCH: ICONIC WOMEN IN HISTORY

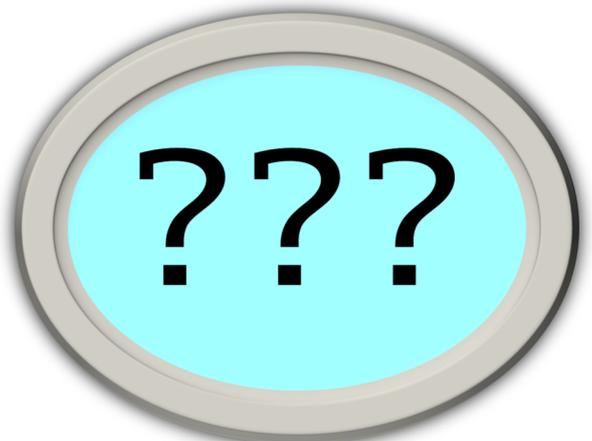
A	X	M	A	R	T	A	P	O	E	L	C	H
M	U	E	A	J	C	T	H	A	S	M	A	A
E	F	D	F	A	U	K	A	E	J	A	K	R
L	S	F	R	N	I	Y	K	B	P	D	X	R
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R	J	K	A	T	E	R	J	P	U	I	P	U
H	A	A	B	E	T	R	E	J	B	A	E	B
A	T	H	V	N	H	D	N	H	L	U	O	M
R	T	L	S	K	R	A	P	A	S	O	R	A
T	E	O	T	G	H	M	C	V	M	O	A	N

MARIE CURIE  
FRIDA KAHLO  
CLEOPATRA  
ETTA JAMES  
ROSA PARKS

AMELIA EARHART  
JANE AUSTEN  
HARRIET TUBMAN  
AUDREY HEPBURN  
MADONNA

### RIDDLE ME THIS

1. I have keys, but open no locks. I have space, but no room. You can enter, but you can't go inside. What am I?
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
3. I am not alive, but I can grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air. I don't have a mouth, but water kills me. What am I?
4. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
5. I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?



### MEET A LOCAL: OLIVER COMBELLACK

Oliver Combellack has lived in the villages since 2002, arriving as a baby when his family moved from Highgate in London. Although he doesn't remember those early days, this area is the only home he has really known and it is a place he speaks about with clear affection.

Today, Oliver feels the villages offer the best of both worlds. They are not too big and not too small, with good transport links into Hertford and down towards London. What matters most to him, however, is the access to the surrounding countryside. He particularly enjoys walking through the fields between the village and Wareside, which he describes as some of his favourite local routes.

When it comes to food, Oliver doesn't hesitate in naming his favourite local restaurant: The Taste of Raj. He praises the friendly staff, the warm atmosphere and, above all, the quality of the food. As for shops, he gives credit to a familiar local staple. The Co-Op, Oliver says, is an essential part of village life and one most of us would miss if it weren't there.



Oliver is an artist and considers himself fortunate to be able to make a living through creative work. A key part of his practice involves working outdoors, drawing and painting directly from life. His work focuses on documenting moments, exploring the world around him, and expressing those experiences through drawing and painting. When he is not outside, Oliver works from a studio and gallery in Hertford called Brotherhood. There, he is part of a group of seven artists who share the space. He describes them as an eclectic bunch, but also as some of the best people to be around and work with.



Exploration and learning are central to what motivates Oliver, both in his work and in his wider life. One piece of advice from an art tutor has stayed with him over the years: to keep making work and worry about what it all means later – a mindset he feels can apply beyond art alone.

Away from the studio, Oliver has also taken on physical challenges. In 2018, he and a friend completed the Three Peaks Challenge, climbing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales (Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon) all within 24 hours. It remains an achievement he is particularly proud of – quite rightly!

Oliver's favourite book is *Pigment Stories*, which explores the history and modern use of pigments, while one of his favourite films is *Peanut Butter Falcon*, a story he describes as both beautiful and moving. If he could invite four people to dinner, he would choose artists Van Gogh and Monet to talk about art, alongside Ozzy Osbourne and James Hetfield to discuss music.

For anyone visiting the villages for the first time, Oliver's recommendation is simple: take a walk along the canal to Hertford. It's an easy route, but one that offers some truly lovely views along the way.

Our thanks to Oliver for sharing a glimpse into his life and work. We encourage readers to take a look at his artwork and support a talented local artist. You can see more of Oliver's artwork on Instagram at [@olivercombellack](#), or visit his website at [olivercombellack.co.uk](http://olivercombellack.co.uk).



# 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, Beavers: boys and girls aged 6–8 years, Cubs: boys and girls aged 8–10½ years, Scouts: boys and girls aged 10½–14 years. All groups meet at Scout HQ on London Road, Ware. 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 on Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts. For details visit [www.stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk](http://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. Meets every Wednesday, 10:30–11:30am at St Mary's Church, St Margarets.

**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, Rosemary James. 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 (07875221543).

**Hope in Action:** a group concentrating on addiction in all forms, for concerned family members as well as addicts. Meeting in The Ashlea Room, Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall, from 5–6.30pm.

**St Margaretsbury Football Club:** 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 [stmargaretsbury@outlook.com](mailto:stmargaretsbury@outlook.com)/07958 636388.

**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. 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! Contact Pete (07429142525 or [pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk)).

**St Andrew's Church Card-making Group:** Meets in The Wilshere Hall at 1pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month. £4 per session covers materials used and two cards made each session. Refreshments are included. New members welcome. 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. Please contact Mary ([maryhallett14@gmail.com](mailto:maryhallett14@gmail.com) / 07899 861297).

**Bell Ringing at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell:** Meeting every Thursday, 7.30–9.00pm. A new skill for all ages to stimulate the brain and keep you fit. Just come along or contact Frances Adams 07876496654/[fmadams750@gmail.com](mailto:fmadams750@gmail.com).

**Coffee and Coping Hertfordshire:** A community support hub that aims to build community, curtail loneliness and help support our veterans. Meets every Wednesday at 12–1.30pm & 5–6.30pm, and Friday at 12–1.30pm in The Ashlea Room, Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall.

**Stanstead Abbotts & St Margarets Village Club:** The perfect place to relax, socialise and have fun! Enjoy our Sports Bar with Snooker, Pool & Darts, a welcoming Family Bar, Live Music, Bingo, Community Events and a beautiful Riverside Garden. New members welcome. Contact 01920 870820/[savc.comms@gmail.com](mailto:savc.comms@gmail.com).

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

**All Sorts Dementia Group:** Mondays & Thursdays at High Cross Village Hall and Wednesdays in Essendon Village Hall. Groups run for 4.5 hours with activities, entertainment and a hot lunch. Contact 01279 970474/[allsortsdg@gmail.com](mailto:allsortsdg@gmail.com).

## GIRLGUIDING

Brownies enjoy a wide range of exciting, hands-on activities that help them learn new skills, build confidence and have lots of fun together. One recent highlight for 1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownies was an unforgettable sleepover at the Natural History Museum, where the girls learned about octopuses, took part in a torchlit treasure hunt among the dinosaurs, explored the space gallery and even experienced what an earthquake feels like.

The term was packed with other fun and creative challenges too, from themed activities and a Brownie disco to a lively pantomime visit – all great examples of the adventures and opportunities Brownies can look forward to each week.

*Helen Payne, Leader*

*If you're looking for a new challenge and to be part of the community, why not volunteer with Girlguiding? Find local opportunities by scanning the QR code or visit [volunteer.girlguiding.org.uk](http://volunteer.girlguiding.org.uk)*



## THE HODDESDON WOMEN'S CLUB CHOIR

Hoddesdon Women's Club was part of a National Organisation called The National Association of Women's Clubs and every December they held a Carol Concert in The Central Hall Westminster where choirs from clubs around the South East would sing. After attending the concert for many years, Hoddesdon Club decided to form its own choir. About 10 ladies were interested and, as the husband of one of the members could play the piano, we would meet around her house each week from September and practise. We sang at our first concert to over 2000 ladies!

From these 'small' beginnings we went on to sing together for over 40 years raising a lot of money for charity on the way. We have sung at weddings, funerals, a VE Day concert in Bexhill-on-Sea, in nursing homes and many concerts in the surrounding churches especially in St Mary's Church, St Margarets and of course at our National Association Concerts in London, which after many years had moved to a smaller venue, The Salvation Army Citadel in Oxford Street.

Like all clubs we stopped meeting during the pandemic, but we got back together again in 2021 and sang once again at St Mary's Church, St Margarets and in London. Many of the original choirs had fallen by the wayside, but a new group from Kent had formed a choir. In 2022 our dear Queen died and the choir felt they would like to pay their own tribute to her, so via video links we practised with the Larkfield Choir and came together on the night and sang 'The Rose'. It was beautiful and for many a crowning moment. Unfortunately, we couldn't get another pianist so the choir disbanded, but a few of us sang at The Christmas Tree Festival held at St Mary's Church, St Margarets last December and so enjoyed it we are looking at maybe getting together again. To do so we need a pianist...any offers?

*Maureen Harwood*



## JANE EYRE IS COMING TO STANSTEAD BURY FARM



WHEN: Friday 20th March, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

WHERE: Stanstead Bury Farm, Nr Ware, Herts. SG12 8JZ

This Is My Theatre is bringing a new production of *Jane Eyre* to Stanstead Bury Farm!

Orphaned and alone, Jane Eyre grows up in a world that seeks to silence her spirit. Defiant in her search for freedom, belonging and love, she finds herself at Thornfield Hall where the enigmatic Mr Rochester hides dark secrets behind its walls...

Passion, mystery and resilience collide in this sweeping story of self-discovery and courage, brought to life in a bold new adaptation!

# THIS MY THEATRE



You can find tickets (Adults £16) and more information at [www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1961792](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/1961792) or scan the QR code (left).

To learn more about This Is My Theatre visit [thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com).

## MAKE CHURCH: A NEW KIND OF CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Make Church is a brand new monthly gathering especially for children and families, designed to be inclusive, sensory and joyful – a place where children of all abilities can explore faith in their own way.

Come along and enjoy...

- Songs and actions
- Hands-on sensory experiences
- Movement and play
- A warm, safe space where all children are welcome

And it's not just for the kids – parents and carers are part of the journey too. Whether your child is full of energy, prefers to observe, or has additional needs, there's a place for them at Make Church.



When?  
Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 4:00 PM

Where?  
St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

Come as you are. Let's Make Church together.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

*The Three Churches Benefice*



### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: WILLOWTHORPE CARE HOME

Willowthorpe is a residential care home for the elderly, peacefully located away from the High Street along the banks of the River Lea, surrounded by tranquil grounds.

Originally a family home, the property was purchased 20 years ago by Mr W. Hughes of B&M Care. With the support of local councillor and resident Nigel Copping, Willowthorpe Residential Care Home was officially opened and welcomed its first residents.



The home currently offers 56 rooms, with this number set to increase to 60 following the completion of a new extension featuring landscaped views. Willowthorpe is consistently fully occupied, reflecting the high standard of care provided for respite, long-term, and end-of-life needs. A dedicated team of 69 staff members ensures the home is supported around the clock, 24 hours a day.



We provide specialist dementia care and value the strong connections we have within our village community. In December, we were delighted to welcome visits from local primary schools, as well as Scouts and Cubs, who sang carols and presented Christmas gifts and cards. These visits help foster meaningful intergenerational friendships. We were also proud to support the Hertfordshire Police Christmas Appeal for the second year running, and it was heart-warming to see residents and their families purchasing gifts in support of this cause.

Animals are always welcome at Willowthorpe, and studies show that interaction with pets can lower blood pressure, ease symptoms of depression, and reduce feelings of loneliness — even short sessions can offer measurable emotional and physical benefits. Willowthorpe has been home to our much-loved resident cat, Tom, for over 15 years. He regularly visits residents in their rooms and communal areas, offering comfort and companionship.

At Willowthorpe, we continually strive to maintain and enhance the exceptional care we provide. Our person-centred approach focuses on treating each resident with dignity and respect, while learning about their life histories with the support of their families. This helps us build strong relationships and deliver meaningful, engaging care.

Willowthorpe's Home Manager, Lisa Edwards, has worked with B&M Care for 29 years, 18 of which have been spent at Willowthorpe. Lisa enjoys interacting with residents and families, supporting staff with day-to-day care, and ensuring a true "home-from-home" environment. If you are interested in a career or volunteering opportunity at Willowthorpe, please feel free to visit us for a chat and a tour.

*Clare Maynard*



Willowthorpe Care Home  
Email: [willowthorpe@bmcare.co.uk](mailto:willowthorpe@bmcare.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bmcare.co.uk](http://www.bmcare.co.uk)  
Address: High Street, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire SG12 8AS



# The Three Villages Magazine

## POEM BY LYNNE HERRAUD

### I'D LIKE A LITTLE DOGGIE

I'd like a little doggie  
To sit upon my knee  
To snuggle on the sofa  
And watch TV with me

I'd like a little doggie  
I'd pat him on the head  
And when I go upstairs at night  
He'll follow me to bed

I'd like a little doggie  
To be a friend to me  
I'd take him to the seaside  
And we'd paddle in the sea

I'd like a little doggie  
Who'd listen when I talk  
And every day without delay  
I'd take him for a walk

I'd like a little doggie  
I'd give him lots of treats  
Some biscuits, bones and chewy sticks  
(I wouldn't give him sweets)

I'd like a little doggie  
He'd have a special ball  
He'd 'sit' and 'shake' and give a woof  
And come back when I call

I'd like a little doggie  
But alas, it's not to be  
So I sit at home all on my own  
And drink a cup of tea

By Lynne Herraud

*If you have a poem you would like to see published, email us at [print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).*

## RECIPE: EASTER BUNNY BARK

This is a really simply recipe for making some fun Easter Bunny Bark. It is delicious and an easy one for the kids to help with too. The measurements are all very rough and you can adjust it to suit your taste!



### INGREDIENTS

200g (roughly) dark or milk chocolate

200g (roughly) white chocolate

Assorted toppings (hundreds and thousands, M&M's, mini Smarties and/or crushed mini eggs)

### METHOD

1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside.
2. Melt the dark/milk chocolate, either in a bowl over boiling water or in a microwave. If using the microwave, stop and stir the chocolate every 20 seconds.
3. Pour onto prepared baking sheet and spread out into a large rectangle. Set in the refrigerator to chill for 20 minutes or until no longer wet-looking and fully cool.
4. Melt the white chocolate (as above) and let it sit for 5–10 minutes before pouring on top of the cold bottom layer.
5. Spread the white chocolate into an even layer on top, then decorate with your toppings.
6. Allow the bark to set at room temperature in a cool, dry environment (usually around 45 minutes) or you can put it in the fridge to help speed things up.
7. Once hardened, break into pieces as large or as small as you want.
8. Store in an air-tight container at room temperature, or in the fridge to keep for longer.

*Inspiration: Sally's Baking ([sallysbakingaddiction.com](http://sallysbakingaddiction.com))*

## DISCOVER THE HUNDRED PARISHES ON FOOT

There is no better way to explore the distinctive landscape, history and character of The Hundred Parishes than on foot. Walking allows you to slow down, notice the details and truly appreciate the villages, countryside and heritage that make this area so special. To encourage residents and visitors alike to enjoy the area responsibly, The Hundred Parishes Society has developed an extensive and carefully researched collection of walking routes.

The walks are organised into three main series, making it easy to choose a route that suits your preferences and circumstances. 'Station Walks' begin and end at a railway station, offering a convenient and environmentally friendly way to explore without needing a car. 'Quiet Lane Walks' follow mostly peaceful country lanes with little traffic, ideal for those who prefer firm surfaces and open views. 'Other Walks' make use of footpaths, bridleways and tracks where possible. Walks range in length from a gentle 1 mile to a more demanding 17 miles, and while most routes are circular and start near convenient parking, they can be joined at any point along the way.



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of route descriptions, but walkers should be aware that paths can be diverted and conditions may change with the seasons or the weather. Walkers are therefore asked to take personal responsibility for their own safety. Carrying an Ordnance Survey Explorer map (1:25,000 scale) is strongly recommended. The Hundred Parishes area is covered by Explorer maps 183, 194, 195, 209 and 210, available from good bookshops or online.

When enjoying the countryside, everyone is asked to follow the Countryside Code, which helps protect both the landscape and the people who live and work within it:

### Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Do not block gateways or driveways when parking
- Be friendly: say hello, share the space
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the environment

- Take your litter home and leave no trace of your visit
- Do not light fires
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight
- Bag dog waste and bin it — any public waste bin will do
- Care for nature and avoid causing damage or disturbance

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions before setting out
- Plan your walk and know what to expect
- Take time to enjoy your surroundings, have fun and make lasting memories



Whether you're a seasoned walker or just starting out, The Hundred Parishes offers a wealth of opportunities to explore, enjoy and reconnect with the countryside right on our doorstep.

Visit [hundredparishes.org.uk/walks/](http://hundredparishes.org.uk/walks/) to find your next walk!

# The Three Villages Magazine

## THOMAS CLARKSON (THE MAN WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO ENDING SLAVERY) AND WADESMILL



If you walk up the hill from Wadesmill on the Old North Road (Ermine Street), you will see an unusual memorial close to the side of the road. It marks the spot where Thomas Clarkson (1760–1846) paused on his route from Cambridge, where he was a student at Cambridge University, to London in June 1785 and decided to devote his life to the abolition of the slave trade. He had entered an essay in Latin for a competition entitled *Anne liceat invitos in servitute dare* (Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?) He read everything he could on the subject of slavery and subsequently had what he called a spiritual awakening from God.

Why is the Memorial on the road near Wadesmill? Clarkson was returning from the Senate House in Cambridge, where he was required to read his essay aloud in Latin, and, in his own words: 'I frequently tried to persuade myself... that the contents of my Essay could not be true. The more however I reflected upon them, or rather upon the authorities on which they were founded, the more I gave them credit. Coming in sight of Wades Mill in Hertfordshire, I sat down disconsolate on the turf by the roadside and held my horse. Here a thought came into my mind, that if the contents of the Essay were true, it was time some person should see these calamities to their end.'

He decided that he himself would be the person to see an end to the slave trade and he devoted his life to accomplishing this feat. He published his essay in English and gained a following of Quakers, non-conformists and other abolitionists. An offshoot of the group formed the 'Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade'. Clarkson asked William Wilberforce, who had considerable influence as both a Member of Parliament and an Anglican, if he would help him, and he agreed to support the cause. Clarkson also obtained 'slave narratives', first-hand accounts of the horrors of the slave ships. The most famous of these was by Olaudah Equiano, who had written a first-hand account of enslavement in his book *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*, which was very influential.

The first bill to outlaw the slave trade was introduced by Wilberforce in 1791 and was easily defeated by 163 votes to 88 because many of the MPs had financial interests in the slave trade. The subsequent war with France delayed progress on the subject but the Slave Trade Act was finally published in 1807. This only ended the trade in slaves; slavery itself was not ended until 1833 when the Slavery Abolition Act was passed. Thomas Clarkson died in 1846 aged 86 having achieved his goal.

In 1879 a monument was erected in Wadesmill to Thomas Clarkson. It reads 'On this spot where stands this monument in the month of June 1785 Thomas Clarkson resolved to devote his life to bringing about the abolition of the slave trade'. Wordsworth wrote a sonnet to Clarkson which begins: 'Clarkson. It was an obstinate hill to climb.'

If you walk up the obstinate hill outside Wadesmill, you can see a monument to the man whose work ended slavery in Britain and British territories. He was truly a great man.

David Davies

We love to receive articles from local residents who have an interesting story or insight into the history of our three villages. If you have something to share, send it to us at [threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com).

## DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS

### THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

#### Vicar

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870009/07488 914972

#### Lay Ministers

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

Primary contact: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

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

Churchwardens: Mr Peter Melrose 01920 422092

Mr John Woodward 07942 674994

Organist: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PCC Secretary: Mrs Michele Ross 07783 443332

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Michele Ross 07783 443332

#### 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 07736 172533

#### 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 Gerald King 07710 872218

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall:

Mr Andrew Day 07588 016148

The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church:

Ms Maureen Freeman 01920 870632

### NATIONAL & LOCAL HELPLINES

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Telephone Advice Service 111

24-hour National Domestic Abuse Hotline 0808 2000 247

Herts Domestic Abuse Hotline 08088 088 088

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).

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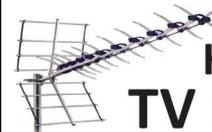
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Herts Connected is a free interactive messaging service from Hertfordshire Constabulary. It's quick and easy to sign up.

You can find out more and sign up to Herts Connected at: <https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/> or scan the QR code.



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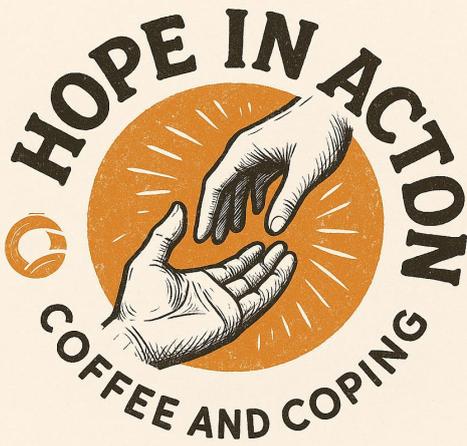


HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY

In an emergency always call 999 or visit our website to report crime online – [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk).

Prevention First

By working together, we can make Hertfordshire an even safer place to live and work.



## Hope in Action

The Ashlea Room, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots

This group is for people who are worried about drinking too much or taking drugs and losing the ability to say no, which is the definition of addiction.

It is also very much for the families who are living in the fallout of addiction. We can provide some support for them as well as a safe place to vocalise your concerns for who ever the addict is and the trouble that may cause for them.

If you are worried about any member of your family or yourself in regards to drinking too much or drug use come and talk to a trained recovery worker who can help you.

Please email Jim ([dm@coffeeandcoping.org](mailto:dm@coffeeandcoping.org)) and he will arrange a time to make contact and help you.

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Advertise with us and...

- \* BE RECOGNISED AS A TRUSTED LOCAL TRADER \*
- \* SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE \*
- \* REACH CUSTOMERS ACROSS THE LOCAL AREA \*



The fee is now only £90 and includes...

- \* A slot within every remaining issue of the print magazine AND

- \* Inclusion in our advertisements directory and scrolling adverts panel on the website.

PLUS

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- \* We also feature an Advertiser of the Month on our News & Events blog, shared to Facebook and Instagram.

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For more information, email

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### PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS (from page 12)

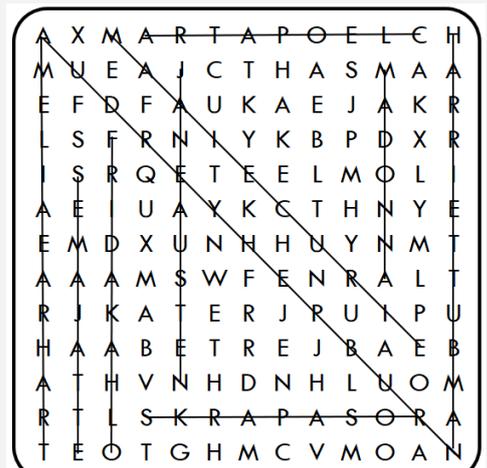
#### WHO AM I?

Jane Fonda

#### RIDDLE ME THIS

1. A keyboard
2. Footsteps
3. Fire
4. The letter 'M'
5. A candle

### WORDSEARCH





# STANSTEAD ABBOTTS & ST MARGARETS VILLAGE CLUB

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Thursday: 4:00pm – 10:00pm  
Friday: 4:00pm – 11:00pm  
Saturday: 12:00pm – 12:00am  
Sunday: 12:00pm – 9:00pm\*

\*Closing times may be extended at management discretion for major sporting events



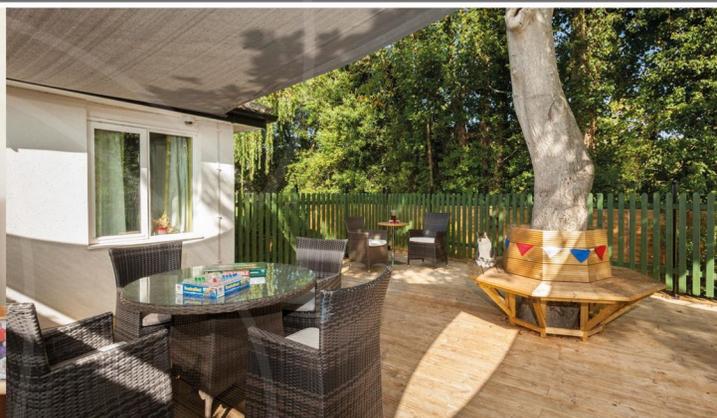
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