

Where is Ralph's wife?

Many of you will know the story of Sir Ralph Sadleir, Standon's most famous resident, who was born in 1507. Aged about 14, he entered the household of Thomas Cromwell who later became King Henry VIII's Chancellor of the Exchequer. Ralph survived the disgrace and execution of Cromwell in 1540, and became Principal Secretary to Henry and a Privy Councillor. He also served Edward VI and Elizabeth I and was custodian of Mary Queen of Scots.

In 1544 he acquired land in Standon where he built a great mansion; part of it survives - the gatehouse, which we all know as Standon Lordship. He died in 1587, the richest commoner in the country, and his tomb is in the chancel of St Mary's Church, to the right of the altar and opposite the tomb of his eldest son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Gertrude. But why is Ralph on his own? Why is his wife, Helen, not with him?

The truth is, no-one knows.

Helen was the daughter of John Mitchell of Dunmow and first married Matthew Barre of Sevenoaks in 1526 when she was 'a mere child'. He 'lived riotously and consumed his time unthrifly at unlawful games' and eventually disappeared. With two children, Helen was reduced to extreme poverty and made extensive efforts with the help of Matthew's brothers to discover his whereabouts. Hearing that 'a man of Sarum' had 'affirmed certainly that the said Matthew was dead' she assumed that she was now a widow. She applied to become a nun in a priory in Clerkenwell, but the abbess referred her to Thomas Cromwell's mother-in-law as she was 'too lusty a young woman'. She joined Cromwell's household, some say as a laundress. There she met Ralph, and they were married in 1533.

Unfortunately Matthew hadn't died and turned up in London in 1545 boasting that he was Lady Sadleir's husband. He quickly disappeared (paid to keep quiet, one assumes) but that left the problem of the legality of Ralph and Helen's marriage and the legitimacy of their children. However Ralph was such a



Sir Ralph Sadleir's tomb.

prominent man in parliament that he managed to have an act passed which legitimised their children.

Helen so impressed King Henry that he wished to send her to Scotland to tutor his great-niece, Mary Queen of Scots, in the ways of the English court. However Ralph requested that she be excused as, having not been brought up in court herself, she didn't fully understand its ways.

It would appear that their marriage was a very happy one. Ralph seemed to dislike life at court, preferring to spend time with Helen at Standon. He once remarked that 'every day away was a year'. They had seven children who are represented kneeling on the front of Ralph's tomb.

All we know of Helen's death is that she predeceased Ralph but the date and whereabouts of her body are unknown.

Is it because of the scandal of their marriage that their son decided Helen should not be with Ralph on his tomb or is it because of her humble upbringing? And why is this all relevant now? No-one knows the answer to the first question, but the second is easier.



Thomas and Gertrude's tomb.

Although Sir Ralph expressed the wish for his body to be buried without pomp, Thomas had other ideas and commissioned tombs for his father and himself, both of which are quite ornate. Nikolaus Pevsner, the art historian and author of the Buildings of England series, is most enthusiastic about them. He particularly mentions the excellent ribbonwork and says that both tombs 'obviously come from leading London workshops'. They are in good condition considering their age but do need some expert attention by a recognised specialist conservationist, not least to remove centuries of grime.

Sadleir Tombs Refurbishment Project

We have set up the Sadleir Tombs Refurbishment Project to undertake this work. We are honoured to have as our patrons Dame Hilary Mantel, twice

Do you have difficulty reading PS News?

If so try the online edition at www.psnews.org.uk/dec20.pdf and increase the size of the print on your tablet, computer, etc.

Booker prize winning author of The Wolf Hall trilogy in which Sir Ralph plays a major part, Dione, Countess of Verulam, an artist who was until recently Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and Fiona, Viscountess Trenchard of Standon Lordship and a former High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

We wish we were refurbishing Helen as well as Ralph. We are sure that without his 'lusty woman' beside him, he wouldn't have been the man he was.

To know more about this project please email us at sadleirtombs@gmail.com or look at our website www.sadleirtombs.org

We are extremely grateful to Julius Field for designing our website. You can contact him and see more of his work at www.throughthelens.media

Toby Spencer

Herts & Essex Garage Services are on the move!

Jackie and Keith would like to make you aware that Herts and Essex Garage Services have relocated to Anchor Lane (by the Anchor Pub) Wadesmill SG12 0TE.

- We welcome your custom and are on the same telephone number.
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Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon!

Jackie and Keith

Standon May Day 2021

We are delighted to have had some volunteers step forward recently, THANK YOU! However, we're still in desperate need of more able-bodied and willing volunteers please. This is your opportunity to help shape Standon May Day and give something back to the community. It's not a massive commitment - you can either join the committee and have a few meetings in the pub (currently via Zoom) or simply lend a hand on the day - early May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2021.

With May Day 2020 being cancelled, many groups and organisations couldn't fundraise as they normally would. In light of the current difficult circumstances, the Standon May Day Committee would still like to contribute to local causes needing a donation. Please email any requests to info@standonmayday.co.uk for consideration by the committee.

Sue Spalding

info@standonmayday.co.uk

Let's stop idling!

If you use to take your children to school by car, please stop your engine, park further away from the school and walk with them.

Be considerate to the health of those around you, Play Your Part and protect your community.

Please be aware - Fake PayPal emails

There have been 21,349 Action Fraud reports featuring fake PayPal phishing emails recorded between January to September 2020, with a total reported loss of £7,891,077.

Online marketplace sellers have received a fake email that appears to be from PayPal, stating that the fraudster has made a payment for an item. A follow up email requests the shipping tracking order reference, prompting the seller to dispatch the item. The fraudster relies on the seller not verifying that the payment has been received in their PayPal account, before shipping the item leaving the seller at a loss.

The reporting to Action Fraud does not suggest that PayPal are implicated or complicit in any fraud, either directly or indirectly; the use of a popular brand may be exploited by fraudsters to commit fraud.

What you need to do:

Verify the payment: If you're selling goods on an online marketplace, such as eBay, don't post the item to the buyer until you have verified, using the official app or website, that the payment is in your account.

Report suspicious emails: If you've received an email you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

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Village Lunch - What a difference a year makes

This time last year, we were busy finalising the 2019 Christmas lunch, confirming guests' attendance and checking our lovely helpers were ready for all their jobs. Thinking back to that day, we hope this photo of part of the church choir singing, and guests and helpers joining in with their favourite carols will bring back happy memories.

Looking back a lot further to the beginnings of the lunches, we asked Judi Smith for her memories and she told us:

"The village lunch may have existed in some form predating my version but as I remember, I started a village lunch for my old cleaner, Mrs Jean Petchey, after visiting her after Christmas one very snowy year, probably 12-15 years ago. I realised she had not left her house for weeks and I felt a need to do something to get her out and seeing other friends.

Sarah Baker and Diana Dale were stalwart founders with me and it started in a pretty small way with only about 20 people; a lot who came had had a connection with the farm and it was always lovely to hear their stories of village life and tales of potato picking and harvest, often fondly remembered. Many people who cooked generously donated their food and we were able to do the meal for a nominal fee to put towards tea bags, milk and so on, as well Christmas crackers and Easter eggs.

We started spreading the word and numbers grew to about 40 but the first year we did a proper Christmas lunch we squeezed in an eye watering 55 people and survived to tell the tale!!!

Sarah Baker had the brainwave to ask the school to bring the children along to sing carols for us which was completely enchanting... It was fabulous to see young and old alike enjoying a sing along and the very young giving such pleasure to our celebrations!

Over the years, our merry band of helpers expanded with lots of people, too numerous to mention by name but they were all wonderful and made the events possible, whether it was shopping, cooking, setting tables, serving or clearing up!! Everyone did their bit and made it all happen".

As many people know, a couple of years ago the lunch moved to the village hall as the barn was getting used for other purposes. We very much hope that with



the move we have continued the ethos of the lunches as set up by Judi, Sarah and Diana. Sadly it's still impossible to make any plans for the next one. But when we can, as well as enjoying each other's company and a good lunch, we will look forward to using the smart, brand new kitchen in the Village Hall which some of you may already have seen.

Wishing all our guests and helpers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Helena (822177) and Brenda (822293)

Note from the Editor:

If anyone has any memories of the lunches, please send them in and we'll collate them for a future article (email address at the top of the page).

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A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

It is good to be able to write to you again, especially as we have entered our second period of lockdown. Like everyone else we have faced uncertain times as a church, hardly knowing at times what we can and cannot do. However, we are continuing with our live streaming of the Sunday services (the church increasingly looks like a television studio on Sundays!) and have the church open for private prayer during the week. Everyone is welcome!

Having said that, we have a number of important initiatives going on. You will read elsewhere about the Sadleir Tombs. We have also had renovation work on the bells and plans are progressing for the conservation area in the churchyard. However, the most immediate events are the walking Advent Calendar and the Christmas services, and it is these I wanted to update you on (as far as I can).

I hope that you received the letter regarding the Walking Advent Calendar. December looks pretty bleak, even with a vaccine on the horizon, so this is an idea to help brighten up the dark hours before Christmas. The idea is to have an Advent Calendar we can see by walking around.

The whole of the village is the calendar and houses/schools/pubs/shops are the "windows" which open day by day. The theme of the windows are Christmas carols. You can see all the details by logging on to our website, www.ubsms.org.uk, where we have the dates, subject and way to register. By the time you receive this edition of PS it will probably have already started, but it will not be too late to take part. Do join in!

The Christmas services this year will be affected by COVID. We already know that we cannot have our usual Christingle service (it will instead be recorded with the school) and we will also be releasing a Carol Service online, recorded in all three of our churches. Nevertheless, we plan to have a midnight service at St. Mary's and possibly a Christmas Day service. (There will also be services elsewhere in the Benefice). As has become familiar you will have to book into these services. Again, all details are on our website and the precise services will be advertised a little nearer the time. To some extent we have to wait and see what is possible!

Finally, I would like you to be assured that we are praying for our villages and all who are in them. We are continuing to try and support all we can. Before and

over Christmas we plan to have meals and support for families who, through no fault of their own, are struggling at this time. Christmas is the time we remember God coming to His world as a baby to give us "tidings of comfort and joy". I pray that you may know his comfort and joy this Christmas.

John Chitham
01920 739483
www.ubsms.org.uk

Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe

It's been nine months since our last Community Cafe was held in March.

I do hope that everyone has been able to keep well and safe since then.

Unfortunately, at the moment, I think it would still be a risk to resume the cafe but I look forward to a time when we can all safely meet again once a month at the Community Cafe. Until then, please stay safe and well.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and safe Christmas season.

Best wishes
Alison



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Sunday 12 till 5 Roasts only



East Hertfordshire Aviation Society

The East Herts Aviation Society has resumed its activities in spite of Covid-19 restrictions. On 28 September our president, Vic Flintham presented to members via the Zoom computer app a superbly researched account of the work worldwide of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Dry though this may sound to the uninitiated, the well orchestrated subject matter proved to be very interesting.

The presentation was a precursor for a visit on 1 October by several members (carefully observing the Covid self-distancing protocol) to our nearest CWGC cemetery that's within Cambridge City Cemetery. The neat simplicity, precision (of both the layout and inscriptions), uniform architecture of each headstone, and immaculate upkeep of the 1000+ war graves there (each telling their own story of ultimate sacrifice) was in sharp contrast to the hotchpotch and random nature of the 1000s of civilian headstones and monuments crammed

together that surround the cordoned-off the principal war cemetery. Those who took part in this uplifting visit now know what to look out for when seeing another war grave elsewhere. (There are 5 in St Mary's Braughing churchyard for instance).

Vic has written a brief note for our members on how to research any British or Commonwealth soldier, sailor or airman, who was killed on active service since 1914. If any PS News reader wishes to research perhaps an uncle or grandparent killed during WWI or WWII etc, I should be happy to pass on a copy of Vic's note to help them.

We welcome new members. Anyone with any interest whatsoever in any aspect of aviation is welcome to join us at our "virtual" meetings and hopefully thereafter, when we are able to meet monthly again at The Sword in Hand, Westmill. For further details please contact me at rogerstainton@icloud.com or 07785 245400.

Roger Stainton

Carols Round the Tree – another casualty of Covid

Usually in this edition of PS we advertise the date for the annual gathering of our community to sing carols round the Christmas tree in Standon High Street, which I've organised for some years now, with Richard Prince playing keyboard for us.

Unfortunately, this year we're not going to be able to do that. The 'rule of six' means that we may not gather in groups of more than 6 people from more than one household, and if you've ever been to Carols Round the Tree you'll know that there are certainly more of us gathered than that!

Sadly, therefore, I've decided that I must give Carols Round the Tree a miss for this year. I fully intend, though, that we'll be back in 2021, singing our hearts out as we look forward to Christmas.

Caroline Franks



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Ralph Sadleir School

Dear PS News by BL C5

I am writing to you to tell you how my time at Ralph Sadleir School has gone.

When I first came in to school, I was scared and excited to meet my new teacher Mrs Coppen. But when I met my new teacher I knew everything was going to be OK and I was going to have an amazing year and had no reason to be scared.

I think the supplies to battle COVID are really good and we have a great system. All the teachers are very nice and greeting and welcome. I also love the uniform, I feel very posh.

Some of my favourite lessons are computing, science, French and PE. We do lots of fun stuff and I highly recommend. At first we all had packed lunch but then they bought in hot dinners (they are really good). The school is really big and hard to get around at first but it gets easier.

Dear PS News by HK C5

When I first started Ralph Sadleir I was nervous but as I get to know my teacher and classmates more and more I find Ralph Sadleir is an amazing and fun place to be. I love it here! Every day I wake up happily knowing that I will be going to the most wonderful school ever. The classes are fun and have hilarious teachers!

We have some rules though because of COVID-19. We have to wash our hands before and after breaks and when we eat. We have lots of friends at Ralph Sadleir and everyone is kind here, no one is strict.

The school dinners are one of the best dinners I have ever tasted. We only

move classes when we go to science and computing. When you put your hand up, unless it is a test, you get help.

There is a park so close to the school so we can play when we finish school. My mum and dad are busy so I have to go to the park so they can pick us up at the park.

We are in class bubbles to control the virus. I hope you enjoy!

Dear PS by year 4 pupil

When I came to Ralph Sadleir I felt quite nervous and excited. I was nervous about if I would make any friends and I was excited about the new scenery and school. I thought it would be fun to have a science lab and it has been.

Now it's November, I am no longer worried or nervous. I have made lots of friends and have found the teachers very nice, especially Dr Collins. If you have her you are extremely lucky!

Friends of St Mary's Church

Sadly, most of our planned programme of events for this year have been abandoned because of Covid 19. Those of you who are new to the village, may not be aware that the Friends of St Mary's Church raises funds for the upkeep of this beautiful Grade 1 Building.

We held the AGM via a Zoom call in November and the Officers and Committee were re-elected.

At the meeting we expressed hope that

next year we may again hold Open Gardens on June 13th and with that in mind, Helena Spencer is busy nurturing plants ready for the Plant Sale. In fact, this year she has raised over £1200 by selling them from her house near the Village Hall to passers-by. This has been a welcome boost to our funds. Well done Helena!

We are also grateful to Gill Bird who runs our 100 Club and there are a few spaces available so if you are interested and would like the chance to win £100, £50 or smaller amounts from your investment, do let me know.

Michael Baker is heading up a project to restore the monuments to Ralph Sadleir and his son in the Chancel. There are more details about this on the front page.

So life goes on. We are very grateful to our loyal supporters who give us donations and we look forward to seeing everyone at our future events.

Fundraising can be great fun and we need to keep our Church standing for future generations.

Diana Dale Chairman FOSM

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Spins Nursery and Toddler Group embrace return....

Spins Nursery finally re-opened its doors after The Governments restrictions were lifted to allow Early years of non key-worker families to resume education.

Like many, The Spins Team worked tirelessly to ensure continued Government Guidelines were implemented to ensure we played our part to safeguard the Spins community, which included Parents and Carers, the children and of course its amazing staff and that of their families too.

The return did not come without its challenges, in terms of managing the control of prevention. The families that we serve and our little people have been incredible to work with during these changes and to them we say Thank You!

Spins Nursery embraced its return by exploring the natural environment. The surrounding parkland with its abundance of green space, laced with trees, allowed the children to examine the transition of late summer to early Autumn. The children enjoyed foraging

for sticks, leaves, conkers and acorns, which then played an important role in arousing awareness of changes to their world and doubled up as counting resources. Children were also given opportunities to create their own version of what Autumn looks like to them.

We looked at life cycles, which included growth and decay. We were astonished at how many families posted their personal experiences of Autumn walks on our Facebook page. This demonstrates a wonderful sense of home learning, a super positive to come out of lockdown.

We were told that one little boy walked 4 miles with Mummy and Daddy distracted by the sounds of crunching leaves and sticks underfoot and continued to collect fallen leaves and feathers only to return home to create another masterpiece! Our return has really enriched our lives.

Late October brought the celebration of Halloween. The children enjoyed dressing up and engaged in lots of messy play. Many sensory activities were presented, giving us the golden opportunity to hear organic use of

expressive and descriptive language and sounds.

Finally, what was most apparent, is how the three year olds nurture and model play etiquette and language for our two year olds.

If you require details of how you can enrol your little one with us....simply email us spins.nursery@outlook.com or call 07881 533339 and ask for Sam Christie or Paula Smith.

Our sessions run from Monday - Friday between 9.15am -2.15 pm (Term time only)

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Extra sessions over the Christmas period.

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1st Standon and Puckeridge Guides

The Guides have carried on having Zoom meetings since March. Since our last report, we have awarded even more badges including some hard earned Bronze and Silver awards. This is an especially prestigious achievement during the current restrictions. We have continued to welcome new Guides to the unit, and they will be making their promises before Christmas. Members have participated in the Girlguiding Anglia Region Virtual Summer Camp, joined with the Brownies for a sign language lesson, made mug cakes, played Family Fortunes, eaten delicious armpit fudge, planned a route around the world, discussed the merits of Maltesers v Dairy Milk (Dairy Milk is the best obviously), had scavenger hunts and completed various other badge and fun activities.

The highlight of recent months was our Bake Off competition. The Brownies and Guides signed into a Zoom meeting with a handful of pre-prepared ingredients and no idea about what they were about to make. Just over an hour later, there were trays of butterfly cakes and profiteroles

that would have earned plenty of Paul Hollywood handshakes.

This Autumn term, we are working towards a fun Bonfire Night badge including crafting rockets, baking autumnal cakes and sweets, learning about bonfire safety, first aid, and bonfire traditions from around the UK.

We joined with the Brownies to hold a virtual sleepover, running alongside the Girlguiding Anglia Under the Stars virtual event. We made mug cakes, found out about toys in space with a professor from the USA, joined in with a campfire, made s'mores, crafted a constellation lamp, exercised like an astronaut and enjoyed other activities, some of which were run by the Royal Astronomical Society.

We held a Parliament Week badge night and learned about elections and how we can make a difference. The Guides have also been challenged to Act Your Age for Children in Need by doing something to raise money linked to their age, and to participate in Remembrance Sunday themed activities.

2nd Standon and Puckeridge (Roger de Clare) Brownies

The Brownies have been meeting on Zoom since March, and from September

we have joined together with the evening Brownies to have joint meetings.

This term, most of our Brownies have earned their Skills for my Future badges which involved them learning about road safety, shopping around for deals, DIY, banishing stereotypes in the workplace and making pizza. We have also played games and investigated vortexes by making an air cannon. We are also hoping to have hedgehogs from the Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital join us on Zoom, and earn a Christmas badge by doing crafts, games, baking and other activities.

We awarded our first Brownie Bronze Award to Megan, and the Brownies have carried on earning lots of badges. A number of Brownies are lined up to make their promises before Christmas.

Like the Guides, we joined together for the Bake Off and Under the Stars events, and hopefully we'll have Brownies working on their Remembrance and Children in Need activities.

For Parliament Week, we held a voting activity where we chose the best animal. It was a close run thing, but in the final, dolphins beat meerkats to win the title.

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The Potter of Puckeridge

My journey started nearly 5 years ago on a cold damp New Year's day, feeling slightly worse for wear after celebrating New Year with friends in Puckeridge.

That's when we our love affair with The Old George first began. We viewed the house from outside, and then my husband Simon said that's the house for me – I really like it.

And thus the odyssey began!!!

It's has been an interesting few years, we have embraced village life whilst still commuting in and out of London. Simon working in the City and I working as a window dresser in retail. But I fell off a ladder, hurt my back and it needed serious time to heal. This time meant I had time to rethink my life. I had studied ceramics at Art School and I was passionate about it; determined to make a start I bought a kiln and a potter's wheel from EBay and set it up in the conservatory. Little did I know, The Old George Studio had begun. My neighbour asked if I could teach her little boy how to make pots on the potter's wheel. Then another neighbour asked if I could teach her daughter how to make a sculpture of a dragon. Before I knew it I had out grown the conservatory and the next obvious step was the outhouse in the garden.

I recovered and got back to work in retail, but my heart wasn't in it... the scene was set.... I continued for a while balancing two careers, pottery and retail, but Covid came along and changed everything. I was made redundant from my job and my main source of income. But, with change comes opportunities, and I launched myself in. I love teaching others how to be creative from my studio and in the process, I have built a little

creative enterprise that so far has been incredibly successful and makes me, and my clients very happy.

I teach from my studio mostly on a one to one basis, covering all basic making methods, like coiling, slabbing and throwing on the potter's wheel, then we decorate in several ways. A one-off pottery experience seems to be the most popular lesson from my clients. I think with the rise in interest in the TV program The Great Pottery Throw Down. Furthermore, our experiences of lockdown have meant that lots more people for the first time in their lives had time to stop and be reflective, and with that comes creativity, which is an innate human desire. Being creative also has so many healing and therapeutic qualities. Its sociable as well, and shared creative experiences are so important to our sense of self-esteem. Overall, its an enriching experience for all – including myself.

I take inspiration from my garden, and the animals I see in the countryside whilst walking my dogs. I like to make things that are useful. Its important for me that not only is my work pretty to look at, but be practical as well.

I look forward to opening up again soon.

This time of year I would have been very busy dressing Christmas windows for London's most prestigious shops. My husband Simon refers to it as bauble mania, as it's would have been such a busy time of year for me. So Now I am putting my old window dressing skills to good use, I shall be decorating Christmas wreaths, garlands and table decorations that I hope to sell from my studio, alongside my pots and pottery vouchers.

I am taking part in the Buntingford walking market and Christmas walking



Advent Calendar in Puckeridge, our evening which is due to take place at The Old George on Friday 4th December, you must come and join us. During these challenging times, it is important that we all support each other as a community, but for me crucially as a creative person it's a time to reinvent oneself and find new opportunities. In January I shall start at Cambridge regional college as a part-time lecturer in ceramics.

My door is always open whether you want to learn the art of potting, or hope to hold a small gathering of friends or family to make pots and create memories of fun shared times. Or maybe you just need that special gift for that special someone in your life. Or maybe you just fancy a cuppa and a chat with The Potter of Puckeridge, you will always receive a warm welcome at The Old George Studio.

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Friends of the Rib & Quin

We may not have been able to meet in person since our winter event in Braughing but this doesn't mean things haven't been happening at FORQ.

We were delighted to hear that our Honorary President, Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald MP, had, with Sir Charles Walker MP, set up a new All-Party Parliamentary Group to fight for better river quality in chalk streams and less damaging abstraction. Sir Oliver Heald has campaigned on chalk streams for many years. The APPG's inaugural meeting elected Sir Charles Walker as its Chairman with Sir Oliver Heald as Vice Chairman. Other Hertfordshire MPs are also involved in the group.

The Chalk Streams APPG has meetings arranged with Charles Rangeley-Wilson of CRAG (Chalk Rivers Action Group) and Minister Rebecca Pow of DEFRA.

Also in Parliament Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP (Ludlow) published a Private Member's Bill designed to tackle river pollution from untreated sewage and improve water quality. The Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill places a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters. More details of this are on the FORQ website, see <https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/2020/10/14/philip-dunne-mp-launches-new-bill-to-tackle-river-pollution/>

We have also seen an increasing number of articles in the press on chalk streams in general. It is great that these valuable environments are finally getting some of the attention that they need and deserve.

FORQ has been, for some time now, working with the Chalk Aquafer Alliance (CAA). CAA have been holding a series of talks by Zoom throughout the summer

and autumn. There are links to recordings of all the talks on the FORQ and CAA websites. These include a presentation by Feargal Sharkey entitled "The Seven Deadly Sins of water companies and the Environment Agency" and one by Charles Rangeley-Wilson entitled "Chalk Streams First". In his talk Charles presented a new idea called Chalk Streams First, which he claims has the potential to re-naturalise the flows in all of the Chiltern's chalk streams with potentially only a small net loss to overall public water supply.

The talk in early November was by Robin Price of Water Resources East, who discussed "Safeguarding a sustainable supply of water for the East of England".

FORQ's technical officer, Dr Derrick Guy, attended the Chiltern Champions Conference, online of course, at the end of October. A report on this and a link to the YouTube recording are on the FORQ website.

The FORQ executive have missed not being able to meet our supporters in person, apart from at events such as the Buntingford and Puckeridge Walking Markets. It is clear that we won't be able to hold another public meeting for some time, so we are actively looking at ways of holding an online meeting in the near future. We will send out more details as soon as we have them and hope to see as many of you as possible online soon.

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ

Labour Party East Herts Rural Branch

We have continued to have virtual meetings, both at branch and constituency level, and have now had the go-ahead from Labour Party head office to hold our deferred Annual General Meetings virtually, using Zoom

together with a separate secret ballot system.

Although one might think that Zoom meetings were more convenient than having to go out in the cold or wet to a physical meetings, we are finding that attendances at our virtual meetings are lower than they used to be at our meetings before the pandemic. I suppose that many people have had their fill of Zoom meetings. Maybe they also like the possibility of chats with particular friends before and after the physical meetings that you do not get at virtual meetings.

The constituency Party linked up with the Hertford and Stortford Party to comment on the government's proposal to open up much more of the country to development and to allow the development to take place without local authority control.

The branch broadly welcomed the East Herts District Council's proposals on sustainability, but worried that it required stronger control of development than we have seen in the past, which incidentally runs counter to the government's proposal on the relaxation of planning controls.

There is another major issue which all district and borough councils are opposing, whatever party is in control – the government's proposal to move to unitary authorities, instead of the separate tiers of county councils and district/borough councils, coupled with the County Council's proposal that they should become the unitary authority for all of Hertfordshire. There are arguments on both sides for the unitary authority system, which is already in operation in some places, such as Bedfordshire, for example. However, outside the County Council, most people seem to take the view that, if we are to have unitary authorities, they should be smaller than the whole county.

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Ware & District Photographic Society

Our meetings at Thundridge Village Hall are still suspended due to the virus.

However, we have been holding weekly ZOOM meetings and these will continue in 2021 commencing on Wednesday 6 January. With so many people taking photographs during this difficult time, why not join your local Club where you will see a variety of work and lectures - new members are always welcome. The remainder of the programme is available on our new website www.wareps.org.uk Although we had to cancel our annual exhibition in November, we are planning a virtual exhibition details of which will appear on our website.

Happy Christmas & New Year.

Barbara Norris
Secretary to Ware & District PS

Roger de Clare C. of E. First School and Nursery

Life has returned to as close to normal as possible at Roger de Clare with the full reopening of the school. After a busy round of applications in Nursery and Reception (as well as welcoming in year

admissions across the school) we have more pupils than ever - 320! It has been wonderful to hear the laughter of staff and children from their various bubbles across the school and see the fabulous learning taking place with new topics and activities in place.

We turn our attention already to the next round of applications for Nursery and Reception in September 2021. We are unable to provide tours for prospective families at the present time but will be publishing a video shortly of the school in action to hopefully give you an insight into life at Roger de Clare. We very much hope to be able to resume tours and visits later in the academic year. Our Nursery application process is detailed on our website under the admissions page and applications are made directly to the school. For Reception or other year groups, please contact Hertfordshire County Council.

The resilience and positivity demonstrated by staff, parents and children has been inspirational. Making the school a safe place to learn in, is a priority in all that we do but the present situation has brought more challenges and aspects to consider. Whether from zoning the playground to arranging separate entrances and exits, the children

and our families have shown tremendous acceptance, trust and confidence in our approach. The news this week that we face wider restrictions outside of school may see many of us facing a tough few weeks ahead. However, we at Roger de Clare, stand ready to continue to support our community as best as we can and be responsive to any challenges that lie ahead. We hope that our community continue to stay well and safe in the coming weeks ahead. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

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The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

With Christmas just around the corner we are thinking of calling friends and family but not, I suspect, from a red telephone box.

In 1924 the Royal Fine Art Commission invited three architects to submit designs for new telephone kiosks. The winner was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who also designed Liverpool Cathedral where he is buried.

Scott was at the time a trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum and he topped his kiosk with a dome similar to that on the mausoleum Soane had designed for himself. It was produced in cast iron as GPO model K2, replacing the K1 concrete kiosk.

Later designs had a similar appearance. The most common, the somewhat smaller K6, was introduced for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935.

The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot, although Scott had suggested silver. These robust and iconic survivors of the 20th century, found in almost every town and village, are worth preserving. At the last count, 51 within the Hundred Parishes had been listed.

Most red phone boxes have now been decommissioned although a few, like the one in Anstey, still operate as a pay phone. Many villages have used the box

to house a defibrillator; others have inventively turned them into informal book exchanges and information points.

Some villages have been even more imaginative: the box in Standon has been transformed into a greenhouse full of colourful plants.

With Christmas in mind, the Society still has a limited supply of its book *The Hundred Parishes: an Introduction*. The 400-page hardback with a thousand photos is available for £25 from tourist information centres and good book shops, or by arrangement with me – 01279 813226.

The Society's trustees wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



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Stop Stansted Expansion

The Government's Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') have rejected all calls to delay the Public Inquiry to consider the Appeal by the Manchester Airports Group ('MAG') over the refusal of its 2018 planning application to expand Stansted Airport to 43 million passengers per annum (about the same size as Gatwick).

Despite the current pandemic – and the fact that Stansted will handle only about 8 million passengers this year – PINS are insisting that the Inquiry must start at 10am on 12 January 2021.

The venue will be the Radisson Blu Hotel at Stansted Airport and the Inquiry is expected to last for 10-12 weeks until about the end of March.

SSE will be involved throughout the Public Inquiry, presenting evidence on all the main topics and, with the help of our QCs, we will be cross-examining all MAG's witnesses. The SSE team, supported by external consultants, is currently hard at work preparing its evidence.

As well as the technical evidence, it is vital for the Planning Inspectors to hear the view of local residents. Anyone can

register to speak at the Public Inquiry and it is important that local voices are heard. Your statement need not be lengthy, technical or complicated. A heartfelt, personal, view from a local resident can be far more powerful than an 'expert' consultant's report.

You would not need to appear in person. Arrangements are being put in place for evidence to be given by video link, either from your own home or a designated safe venue.

Applications to make representations (i.e. to speak) at the Inquiry should be sent by email to info@programmeofficers.co.uk copied to elizabeth.humphrey@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. You should then be advised of further information about the arrangements.

SSE expects that there may be a word limit of about 1,000 words and a time limit of about 10 minutes. However, these are only 'guesstimates'. PINS have yet to advise.

Please make every effort to ensure that your voice, and the voice of our community, is heard!

East Hertfordshire Aviation Society

Zoom meetings:

30 November at 8pm "History of Aviation in Hertfordshire" Talk with slides by member Guy Thomas.

28 December at 8pm Quiz hosted by member Philip Howell. Details of how to participate will follow next month.

25 January at 8pm (apologises to the Scots as its Burns Night) "History of Salisbury Hall and the D.H.Mosquito" by member Steve Morgan. It is hoped that this might be linked afterwards as soon as allowably possible by members undertaking a guided visit to Salisbury Hall.

These events are currently in house to members via the Zoom app. However we always welcome new members (no fee!) and if anyone would like to "attend" any of the above events by contacting me to become a member, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Roger Stainton, Secretary. Mobile 07785 245400 or
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COACHING we have a new Head Coach, Cliff Devonshire, who is an LTA level 4 performance coach. Cliff has introduced new coaching programs for all types of player from juniors to experienced Club members.

For more information regarding coaching please contact Cliff on 07709 355655

ADULT TENNIS for all, Wednesday morning from 10am and Friday afternoon from 1.45pm. Contact Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152.

CLUB NIGHT Tuesday 6.30, we have Ladies, Ladies 50+, Ladies 60+, Men's and Mixed teams in local leagues and are always looking for new players. Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, special rates for parent/child/family membership, for details contact Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152.

Dogs Trust Freedom Project

Dogs Trust set up the Freedom Project in 2004 to provide a safe haven for dogs belonging to people fleeing domestic abuse in Greater London & the Home Counties, Scotland and Yorkshire & the North East and West.

This is a free, confidential service and the dogs are placed directly into volunteer foster homes for up to 6 months. Since 2004, we have fostered over 1600 pets and helped over 1400 people to flee domestic abuse. We are pleased to announce that we are now extending our service into East Anglia – Suffolk, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire. Research indicates a strong link between animal abuse and domestic abuse, with people who are violent to their partner often threatening or harming a pet to cause intimidation.

Families fleeing domestic abuse are usually unable to take their pets with them into a refuge so in many cases they are reluctant to leave their home until they know there is somewhere safe for their pets.

Could you foster a dog?

Due to the expected high demand for our service, we are now looking for volunteers in your area to help with this innovative scheme by fostering dogs.

All the dogs' expenses are covered by Dogs Trust, so this is a particularly rewarding volunteering opportunity for dog lovers who are not able to own a dog on a permanent basis. Fostering dogs can have many benefits such as providing comfort and company in the home.

If you would like further information on the Freedom Project, please do get in touch. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.moretodogstrust.org.uk/freedom-project/freedom-project> – Our website which includes information on our project and how to become involved in volunteering.

A few short video clips which explains the project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9BUuzBpPAM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2EoYDfqah0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9BUuzBpPAM>*

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Attend2Health



Attend2Health is excited to announce we will be moving to the old Barclays Bank in Buntingford. Before we can move there is a lot of work to be done inside the building, so I thought I'd give readers an update on the progress being made.

The first thing we had to do was to get in the professionals to get rid of all the asbestos in the building. Some of the asbestos was fairly harmless like the Artex ceilings but as we were doing a complete refurb it was the perfect opportunity to get rid of this. There were

however 3 boards of the more serious asbestos so this had to be removed very carefully over several days.

Once the asbestos had been removed next the safe doors had to come out! Luckily the guys made this look easy although I hate to think how much those doors actually weighed! Our electrician is now undertaking a complete new rewire of the building as most of the wires are 50 years old!

Next week the stud walls will start to go up and the electrician will be working on the first fix.

There will be 6 treatment rooms downstairs and upstairs will be a studio, waiting room and 3 other rooms which could be used as offices as well as a kitchen!



Ongoing Scam Awareness for Hertfordshire

- Please always treat all unsolicited Emails, Letters and Phone calls as Scams.
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- Do not follow any advice given. This way you will never become a victim.
- Always check the Emails thoroughly,
- If in doubt, ask another person for their opinion.
- Keep safe and vigilant, as they will try again, possibly using a different ploy.
- If you get a Phone Call and you think the Phone message might be genuine, put your phone down, then wait for several minutes, and then ring a number you definitely know to be correct, to check it out.
- Please spread the word to Family and Friends as this is an ongoing issue across Hertfordshire and the Country.

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Isabel Hospice Events

As you will know, Isabel Hospice has struggled with raising income due to the cancellation of so many of our events due to Covid-19.

As we look to the future we have put in place a number of events in the run up to Christmas and into 2021. We hope you find something you like the look of and are able to support Isabel so we can carry on caring for our community.

If you are fundraising for Isabel Hospice, please ensure you are following government covid-safe guidelines and adhere to social distancing.

Festive offerings: CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING:

Want your Christmas tree collected and recycled? This is a great scheme to help you tidy up after Christmas and raise vital funds for Isabel Hospice. Want to know more? then check out if the Isabel team are collecting in your area, details coming soon at www.isabelhospice.org.uk/tree

"DRESS YOURSELF AS AN ELF":

This Christmas Isabel Hospice are encouraging schools to sign up to this festive "mufti" day, and support Isabel

by dressing as an ELF over the festive period. You can find out more here, www.isabelhospice.org.uk/elf or email fundraising@isabelhospice.org.uk for more information about how your school can take part.

ISABEL'S TEA PARTY

After the success of Isabel's Two week tea party in August Isabel Hospice are bringing an all year round chance to join the party with tea and cake. "It's always the right time for Tea and cake"! To host your own tea party and for your fundraising pack and tea party goodies sign up for free at www.isabelhospice.org.uk/teaparty

Thrill-seeker Events for 2021: SKYDIVE for Isabel Hospice

14 March - Tick something off the wish list and join #TeamIsabel for the thrill of a lifetime. Taking place at North London Skydiving Centre. Go to www.isabelhospice.org.uk/skydive

WINGWALK for Isabel Hospice:

15 May - Enjoy the ultimate experience for hardened thrill seekers and raise vital funds for Isabel Hospice! Strapped to a 1940s Boeing Stearman biplane, flown by some of the best display pilots in the UK. All flights are approved by the UK Civil Aviation Authority. A spectator area for friends and family to watch. Taking place at Upminster in

Essex. Go to www.isabelhospice.org.uk/wingwalk

FIREWALK for Isabel Hospice:

Walk over hot coals this December for Isabel Hospice, as we bring back this classic "too hot to handle" challenge. Places are limited and date is to be confirmed so for more information email fundraising@isabelhospice.org.uk/fire

ULTRA CHALLENGES for 2021:

Apr - Sept: Are you a keen walker new to challenge events, or maybe an experienced hiker or runner seeking adventure?

Isabel Hospice have the challenge for you. Choose from the full challenge (100km), the half challenge (50km) or the quarter challenge (25km). 12 destinations to choose from, find out more at www.isabelhospice.org.uk/ultra

CYCLING: Étape d'Amwell

March 2021 - The Rotary Club of Amwell and "Your Town" present a cyclosporive "In Aid of" Isabel Hospice. Choose from 50, 100 or 150km of challenging and picturesque cycling, starting and finishing at Allenbury Sports Club, Ware. To sign up go to www.isabelhospice.org.uk/bike

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Do your own thing:

Want to raise funds for Isabel Hospice your way? No problem! We'd love to hear from you, email fundraising@isabelhospice.org.uk to see how we can support you in your own personal fundraiser.

Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

In these strange times we have seen people unable to attend their place of work. Many have been supported by a furlough scheme. Over the years, governments have taken various steps to care for the poor and those unable to work.

The Act for the Relief of the Poor of 1601 made parishes legally responsible for parishioners who could not work. Most assistance was given as "outdoor relief", meaning financial help but with people able to remain in their own homes.

The Workhouse Test Act of 1723 obliged anyone seeking relief to enter a workhouse operated by the parish. Several of these buildings have survived including those at Ashdon, Clavering, Finchingfield, Newport and Stanstead Abbots.

Under the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 individual parishes were grouped together in a Poor Law Union which was responsible for constructing and operating a central "Union" workhouse for the larger area. Many survive and have been re-purposed.

Great Dunmow's Union workhouse has changed very little in appearance since it was built in 1838 at a cost of £8,000 to house 350 inmates. One of the

architects, George Gilbert Scott was a prolific workhouse designer who later designed the Albert Memorial and St Pancras Station.

The Union workhouse at Buntingford was built in 1836 to house 160 people from 16 surrounding parishes. It closed in 1933 and was subsequently converted to private houses and apartments.

Linton built its workhouse in 1837 in Symonds Lane to accommodate 230 inmates. Today it is a retirement home.



Saffron Walden's workhouse, built in 1836 for 340 inmates, became a hospital and is now apartments.

Life in the workhouse was hard; families were split, husbands separated from wives and parents from their children - a stark contrast to today's benefits systems.

Ken McDonald,
Secretary.

Face masks: safe disposal or opt for reusables

Sadly, single-use facemasks and disposable gloves are still being seen littered around the country. Discarded PPE is **endangering wildlife** and poses a risk to others, including our street cleansing crews, if they are thrown on the floor.

Take used PPE home with you to dispose of safely in your bin. The RSPB is urging us to 'snip the strap' on face masks before disposal to stop animals getting tangled up.

To prevent the problem altogether, there are many options for reusable cloth masks to buy or make online see <https://email.hertfordshire.gov.uk/5ESZ-ACYJ-1M7RD0-772B2-1/c.aspx>

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Standon Parish Council News

Standon Parish Council Web Site: The website is the official Parish Council information distribution point. It has lots of useful information and you are urged to take a look. It is also where you will find Zoom access to the PC meetings so please join in! PC meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of the month except December and August. The January meeting will discuss the budget and precept.

Standon High Street: roadworks: Now the works are completed, the Parish Council is keen to obtain your views as to whether the changes have improved the situation relating to parking and obstruction, whether it has stayed the same, or if you feel it has made the situation worse. The Parish Council is keen to hear from the shops and whether there has been impact – positive or negative – on finances and footfall.

The Standon PC Highways Committee will continue to investigate potential resolutions to the parking issues starting with Standon High Street. If you have suggestions or recommendations, please do let us know.

Covid-19 pandemic: At the time of writing, we have started a second lockdown. Please do adhere to Government instruction and remember – Hands, Face, Space! The Village Hall and the Community Centre continue to ensure the safety of facility users and

will adhere to Central Government instructions regarding use and opening.

If you are supporting the community as part of a group or as an individual, we would be delighted to hear from you with any updates you are able to provide please. There are grant funding opportunities for groups available through EHDC which can help, and Meals on Wheels may also be available. Please contact Claire Pullen at EHDC for more information.

The playground will remain open, but you must adhere to Government instruction on spacing and ensure your children's hands are correctly cleaned before entering the playground, regularly whilst playing, and when you leave the playground, so that all users are protected.

Volunteers: We are always keen to hear from public-spirited individuals who want to make a difference in the community, and especially those with practical skills. If you want to volunteer to help maintain the village furniture or keep benches clear of vegetation, please do contact the Clerk.

Planning: All planning applications can be seen on the EHDC website <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Any parishioner has the opportunity to present their plans to the Parish Council at a Parish Council meeting.

Whilst the Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications, EHDC takes the final decision. The Parish Council has no opportunity to appeal against a decision taken by EHDC.

Highways reporting: You can report highways faults directly to Herts County Council by telephone on 0300 123 4047, or through the Herts Direct web site at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/hhonlineservices/hfr/>

Do you have something you want to raise? If you do, please contact me and I will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Denise Acford

Standon Parish Council would like to express its sorrow at the news of the passing of Denise and extend condolences to Denise's family and friends at this sad time.

Denise was instrumental in resurrecting the Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre with Tony Hall and Helen Surridge in March 2006 when it was in a dire state, and led the Management Committee as Chairman until her retirement from the committee, building a thriving community venue which has gone from strength to strength because of her drive and commitment.

Denise had great community spirit and helped the Parish Council whenever she could which is clearly demonstrated by the following tribute by the former

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Chairman of Standon Parish Council,
Richard Stacey:

During my time as Parish Council
Chairman I worked with Denise when
she was Community Centre Chair, she
was very passionate about the
community centre always ensuring it was
a great asset and open for all in the
village.

I also knew her on a personal level too
and worked with her on the May Day
Committee, again her passion and
enthusiasm came through and wanting to
do her best to ensure everyone had a safe
and enjoyable event.

One of my fondest memories was
playing along side her in the village
panto. I was Buttons and she was
Cinders, I will never forget the line "Oh
Cinders I do love you" and both of us
trying not to laugh and act
professionally. Especially when in one
of the performances I produced some
mistletoe which she didn't know I was
going to do, her face was a picture.

She will be a great loss to the village and
missed by so many. My thoughts are
with her friends and family at this
difficult time.

I will miss her but always remember the
legacy she has left that through her
volunteering, showing what can be
achieved when you put your heart and
soul into something.

I will miss you. RIP Denise.

Richard Stacey

www.standonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Belinda Irons, Clerk email:
clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07458 302863

Councillors: Chris Leage (chairman),
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Chalkley, Graham Cowell, Sally Crook,
Pat Foot, Tony Hall, Michael Marshall,
and Maureen Wren.

Herts County Councillors:
David Andrews: Standon Ward
Jeff Jones: Puckeridge Ward

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David Andrews: Standon Ward
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by keeping items empty and clean. Not
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Remember 'if in doubt, leave it out'.

Please put all recycling into your
containers loose, not in plastic bags.
Bagged recycling cannot currently be
opened by our 'picking line' staff due to
concerns about CoronaVirus, and it is
causing delays in the facility.

Find out more about the recycling
process in this video: [https://
email.hertfordshire.gov.uk/5ESZ-ACYJ-
1M7RD0-772B5-1/c.aspx](https://email.hertfordshire.gov.uk/5ESZ-ACYJ-1M7RD0-772B5-1/c.aspx)

East Herts Citizens Advice

If you are at risk of Redundancy
Citizens Advice East Herts has helped
over 770 people with employment issues
since lockdown. Benefits, Housing and
Employment are the top issues it has
dealt with during the pandemic.

Laura Hyde, Chief Officer of Citizens
Advice East Herts, writes as follows:

"We have helped people with a huge
range of issues since lockdown, but we
know that as the furlough scheme draws
to an end, lots of people may be feeling
worried and need advice.

"If you're at risk of redundancy, it's
important to know you do have rights to
help protect you from unfair dismissal
and to ensure you're paid what you're
owed.

"It's completely understandable that you
may find the rules and procedures
overwhelming, but you don't have to
face redundancy alone. We are here to
help."

Although we are currently not open for
face-to face interviews, our advisors are
working from home and can be contacted
for information and advice through the
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Standon and Puckeridge Bowls Club



During the summer we managed a small number of socially distanced singles matches between club players – following Government and Bowls England advice – but the club was quiet.

We did take the opportunity to treat the green and improve access for ground-keeping machinery by installing a larger access gate – we are looking ahead to the 2021 season with renewed hope that we can resume our competitions and start to fully meet again as a club

Our aim is to come back to what we hope is normality in the second quarter of 2021, looking smarter and with an improved playing surface

Which is where you come in – the Club is a great part of the two villages; we offer exercise; friendship and competition – **So why not watch out for**

our Open Day announcement in PS News in the first part of 2021 and come down and give us a try

If you want to talk to anyone before then, we would be really pleased to let you know more about the club – our contact details are at the end of this article.

Why do we play Bowls?

I asked a few club members what makes them play the sport and what keeps them coming back every year and this is what they said:

“It’s a great way to be competitive AND enjoy a good social ”

“ The world of Bowls is wide and varied – so if you just want a gentle afternoon playing bowls, there are many opportunities; or if you want to challenge yourself there is a wide range of great competitions to get involved in – you can play Bowls at a level that suits you”

“I keep coming back to Standon & Puckeridge” because it’s a small and very friendly club, I feel part of the club and not just making up the numbers”

We are always looking for new members – so if you fancy learning more, check out what we have been doing – sign up to our Facebook page **Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club** or visit our website at <https://standonpuckeridgebowlsclub.wordpress.com/> it is full of pictures of us winning (and losing) matches!!

Don’t worry if you haven’t got any equipment or don’t know what to do – we will show you the ropes and lend you equipment.

All about us:

We are a small and friendly club that encourages all ages and abilities to get involved in the sport of Lawn Bowls

We play friendly matches, usually at weekends and a whole range of club competitions throughout the season

Our competitive side is focussed around the East Herts Bowls League:

The Men’s team play in the 3rd Division, and we are looking for more lady members so that we can aspire towards a lady’s league team as well.

In addition, our Club Tournaments are a highlight of the season and our Finals Day is a great end to a very busy season.

Lawn Bowls is a sport which is open to everyone and it is one of the only sports where age is no barrier and anyone can contribute to the success of the team. Our club house and ground set in the Station Road Playing Fields, close to the Community Centre is a great place to play with 4 rinks that see a lot of healthy competition over the summer months.

We are always looking for new members and would encourage ANYONE (young or old) who enjoys competitive sport to think about trying Bowls. Like golf it is a game where hand and eye co-ordination play a vital part in ensuring that you can get the bowl close to the jack, and it’s just as addictive as golf!!

If you are interested in playing bowls, we would love to hear from you – and we can always set up a taster session – just contact us through our website <https://standonpuckeridgebowlsclub.wordpress.com/>

Facebook Page - Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club or email standonandpuckeridgebowlsclub@gmail.com or why not write to us at Standon and Puckeridge Bowls Club, The Playing Field, Station Road, Standon Herts SG11 1TF

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The piano player

It's every parent's hope to be able give the best start in life to their children. But what about when that hope is cruelly dashed almost before the dream has begun? Richard and Jean Burger were just such parents. When their son Anthony was just eight months old and learning to toddle about in his walker, one of the wheels got caught on the fire grate of their Tennessee home and the walker turned over, throwing him down on the heater. He sustained third degree burns throughout his legs, face, and hands. He had to be carried on a pillow for an entire year, during which time he received three medicated baths a day for the burns. Doctors who treated him said his injuries were so great that he would never be able to move his hands. But God had a different plan for Anthony's life - and for his hands!

Despite all the odds, at age 3, Anthony played his first song on the piano, The Old Rugged Cross, and was just five years old when he became the youngest student ever to be accepted by the Chattanooga Cadek Conservatory at the University of Tennessee Within a few years he was playing a classical piano repertoire. He released his first record when he was 14 and became a professional musician when he was

barely 16 years old, joining a Gospel Music quartet. By the age of 17 he was nominated as one of the Top Five pianists in Gospel music, an Award that he earned for 10 consecutive years, from 1980 through 1989, before the Award became known as the Anthony Burger Award.

But playing the piano was more than just a job for Anthony. It was a way of life and he readily acknowledged it as a blessing, a privilege, and a direct gift from God. He travelled nationally and internationally, performing over 250 concerts a year, sharing his unique musical gift in small country churches, sold-out arenas and concert halls night after night, and he was honoured to perform at the White House. In 2005, the Steinway piano company added Anthony to their exclusive roster of endorsing artists, making him the first Southern Gospel pianist to ever hold that honour.

But for all his talent, Anthony was quick to give God the glory and he was known throughout his career for telling how God healed his hands and that playing the piano was his way of thanking and praising God. He said, "I am a simple man, with a majestic instrument and the power of God behind me."

The power of God. Most of us may not lead such a prestigious life as Anthony Burger. But our value in Gods' eyes is not based on our talent. There is absolutely nothing we can do to impress him... well, almost nothing. The bible records that just a few people impressed Jesus. They impressed Jesus by simply having faith and trusting Him and His Word. That's all. And that's something that's within easy reach of us all. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the greatest gift God gave us is not the ability to play the piano - or anything that people receive awards and are honoured for - the greatest gift was that God gave Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ, to let us know that we are loved beyond measure - just for who we are.

In Psalm 103 there is an exhortation to bless God with all our soul, for He has forgiven all our iniquities, healed all our diseases, redeemed our life from destruction, crowned us with loving kindness and tender mercies, and filled our mouth with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. God has plans for all of us. In Jeremiah Chapter 29 he declares, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." A couple of chapters later God says, "I have loved you with an



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everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

What is the appropriate response for us to make to God's gift of love? In the words of the In the Bleak Midwinter carol: What can I give him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part; But what I can I give him, Give him my heart. Our favourite Christmas song this year is called "Fall on Your Knees". A simple thank you to God for his indescribable gift of love in Jesus.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and blessed New Year,

Revs Colin & Teresa Marks, Pastors,
A10 Christian Mission

Hoax email from PDS (Parcel Delivery Service)



Action Fraud is reminding everyone that a chain email circulating warning about a postal scam that could leave you £315 out of pocket - is a hoax.

The hoax email reads:

"Can you circulate this around especially as Xmas is fast approaching - it has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655."

If you receive this email just delete it and do not to forward it to anyone.

PhonepayPlus, is aware that a chain e-mail about an alleged postal scam is being circulated on the internet. The email refers to the Royal Mail, Trading Standards and ICSTIS (PhonepayPlus' former name).

PhonepayPlus appreciates that recipients of the email may want to find out more information about the alleged scam and has therefore issued the following statement:

The chain email refers to a service (operating on 0906 6611911) that was

shut down by PhonepayPlus (then ICSTIS) in December 2005.

PhonepayPlus subsequently fined the company that was operating the service, Studio Telecom (based in Belize), £10,000.

The service is NO LONGER running and has NOT been running since December 2005.

You do NOT need to contact PhonepayPlus, or the Royal Mail, about this service as it was stopped almost eight years ago.

If you receive a copy of the email warning you about the alleged scam, please do NOT forward it to others. Instead, please forward this statement from PhonepayPlus.

If you receive a delivery card through your letterbox which you do not believe is genuine and which asks you to dial a premium rate number, you can contact PhonepayPlus on 0800 500 212 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm) for further guidance.

For more detailed information about PhonepayPlus' work, please visit www.phonepayplus.org.uk.

Please note: Action Fraud is not responsible for the content on external websites.

To report a fraud, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use our online fraud reporting tool: <https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk/>.

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6 Easy Ways to Reduce Food Waste at Home

Write Good Lists and Snap Shelfies

Before you head to the shops, or start an online grocery order, check what's in your cupboards, fridge and freezer. Make lists of what you've got and what you need. And if you're not a list-maker, snap shelfies (yup, that's a thing) to refer to when you're out shopping!

Optimise your at-home storage

You'll probably know that storing your fresh produce in the fridge will keep things longer, and that storing leftovers in the freezer can be an easy way to get a pre-made meal on demand. But it turns out that only half of us know that our fridge temperature should always be set between 0 and 5°C. If it's too warm, things like milk will go off a lot quicker. Turn the temperature down to keep your food fresher for longer in the fridge.

Freezy Does It

Now that everything's on demand, it's easy to forget that the freezer was the original pause button. Not got around to eating that meal you were sure to gobble down this week? Pop it in the freezer! If your grand plans go awry, you can freeze raw (and cooked) meat and poultry right up until the Use By Date – just wrap it in a freezer bag or air-tight container.

Un-Fun fact: 20 million slices of bread go to waste every single day in UK homes, but your morning (or afternoon) toast can be just as good straight from the freezer. If you're in a rush in the morning before work, make your sandwiches with frozen bread in the morning and by lunch, they'll be

defrosted and ready to eat like your very own DIY supermarket meal deal. Freezing poultry is easy too - if you cut raw chicken breasts into strips and lay them out on a tray in the freezer, you can bag these frozen strips up and return to the freezer. Then you can defrost the perfect portion for your recipe. Our A-Z of Food Storage can help with all your freezing questions.

Save Cost with a Defrost

Once you know what's in the freezer, it's just about a little bit of forward planning to save money and a last-minute dash to the shops. For the least amount of hassle, pop the food you've previously frozen in the fridge overnight to defrost it. If you're defrosting chicken, check the on-pack guidance and make sure you've left enough time for it to defrost properly in the fridge. And if you're defrosting in the microwave, just make sure you've got no frozen or cold spots in the middle – using your microwave's defrost setting will make this easier. Once defrosted, cook it within 24 hours. And once cooked, you've got a couple of days for it to stay in the fridge, or you can freeze it again if you need to.

Possible Rogue Traders

We have had reports of traders who have been and about offering to do driveway cleaning, building repair works and gardening tasks at extortionate prices, please do not take up there offers.

If you're looking for a good trader ask for recommendations from family and friends or go to the Hertfordshire Trading Standards good trader scheme at <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/goodtrader> or call 01707 292429

Please watch out for vulnerable family and neighbours.

The United Benefice of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe

Advent Boxes of Hope

Each year, our benefice runs an Advent appeal, raising money to support local charities that work with people who are struggling with challenges in their lives.

This year, we plan to provide that support ourselves. We are all acutely aware that the pandemic of recent months, and the restrictions it has brought has caused devastating changes to many lives. Few of us don't know of anyone who is struggling in right now. As we seek to follow Jesus and to show his love and his care in our community, our benefice would like to help.

We launched the scheme in partnership with the Red Balloon Foundation, who have extensive experience in administering such schemes. We offer anyone who is struggling right now a 'Box of Hope'. The box will contain essential food and household supplies, as well as some Christian literature, and it will be available to anyone in our benefice who needs it. You can refer yourself, a relative or neighbour by logging into our dedicated website, or by ringing a freephone number.

As PS goes to print, we are in the process of setting up the infrastructure, including the referral website, but by the time it is delivered we will have the details available and will be advertising them as widely as we can. Please check our website www.ubsms.org.uk, the 'spotted in...' Facebook pages or look out for posters and fliers, or contact Caroline Franks at treasurer@ubsms.org.uk.

If you would like to support this initiative financially, please speak to Caroline or visit the benefice website for information about how to donate.

St Paul said 'Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.'

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When thinking of catering for your big event think The Tickle Cottage Kitchen.

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My team and I create really wholesome healthy tasty food. Chicken Satay kebabs with pure free range chicken, homemade burgers (beef/turkey) with shallots, sundried tomatoes and herbs and Deli Sausage kebabs are just a sample.

Our roast silverside is local organic beef and the ham is Old English breeds, cooked at home with peppercorns, organic root vegetables and stock, that just melts in your mouth We send you menus for you to 'cherry pick'.

We also have a vast menu of vegetarian food.

So far all our years of building the business has been 'word of mouth' but

we now wish to tell people of our unique food and professional, friendly service. We even have testimonials to prove our quality food and staff. Each menu is unique to you.

We have teak furniture for style and quality (These can be hired independently too). We have repeat clients with true recommendations for others and that speaks volumes.

We can even supply a list of venues and even a field to have a party with marquee and porta-loos, bar, bands etc. email: kate.hooper1@btinternet.com

Protect Your Home - Don't become a victim of a burglary

We continue to see an increase in Burglaries across our District. More and more of us, are likely to be leaving our homes unoccupied (as people return to work / going out etc), so it is important to

remember to double lock all external doors. Our advice is also to check, and lock side gates, which give access to rear gardens. Wheelie bins should be secured away from side entrances.

Our local Crime Prevention Officer and your local PCSO's can provide a home safety check if required

Tips to Prevent Burglary:

- Check downstairs windows and doors are securely locked before you leave, or go to bed.
- Use a "Fake TV" or timer switches on lamps to give the impression someone is at home.
- Don't leave keys, phones or other valuables on window sills or in any other visible place.
- Secure UPVC doors by lifting the handle and locking it to engage the security features.
- Consider using a doorbell camera, interior camera or a monitored burglar alarm.



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- Securely lock rear gates, sheds and garages.
- Keep tools and ladders locked away, as they could be used to break into your home.

For further advice on home security, please click on the following link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Advice/Crime-prevention/Protect-your-home>

Government Grant Scams Warning

The Government announced in June that grants for energy-saving home improvements including insulation and double glazing, would be available from September. A day later scammers had started making phone-calls to residents in Bishops Stortford, pretending to be a part of this scheme.

Hertfordshire County Council Trading Standards advises that if you receive a call referring to a grant for loft insulation, cavity wall insulation or double glazing it is a Scam. Just say 'No thank you' and terminate the call.

The genuine scheme will launch in September, with online applications being required for recommended energy efficiency measures, giving details of accredited local suppliers. Once one of these suppliers has provided a quote and the work is approved, the voucher is issued. There is no cold calling involved. It is up to the homeowner to make the

approach, so instantly you know it's a scam if you are contacted out of the blue.

Please warn family and friends who may be vulnerable to these types of scams. If you have fallen for a scam please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or on www.actionfraud.police.uk

Hotline to Report Covid Fraudsters

A new hotline has been launched to stop fraudsters illegally targeting Covid stimulus schemes. In an initiative between government and the independent charity Crimestoppers, the public can call a new Covid Fraud Hotline (0800 587 5030) anonymously and free of charge to report suspected fraudulent activity.

Over 150 Covid support schemes have been introduced by the government to help those struggling financially, but a minority of individuals have been abusing these schemes by claiming loans and grants illegally.

Speaking from the Crimestoppers' call centre, Cabinet office Minister, Julia Lopez said: "It's an affront both to hard working taxpayers and those in genuine need that some people have been exploiting pandemic support schemes to line their own pockets. Criminals must not be allowed to profit from this time of national crisis. "Every pound stolen is a pound that could be spent on vital public services in our country's hour of need. This is why we are urging the public to

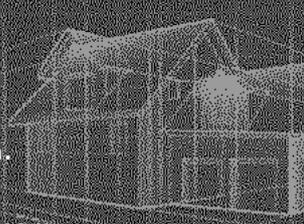
report any information about fraud of this kind to the Crimestoppers Covid Fraud Hotline."

Chief Executive of Crimestoppers, Mark Hallas OBE said: "Fraud against the public purse denies access to vital funds that benefit us all. "It's crucial that anyone who has information or knows of someone who has fraudulently claimed Government grants or loans to contact our charity completely anonymously and tell us what you know. "The Covid Fraud Hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year on 0800 587 5030 or fill in the simple and secure anonymous form at covidfraudhotline.org. You'll be doing the right thing to help ensure the public purse is protected from fraudsters."

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said: "We have worked incredibly hard to make sure our support schemes get to those that need it most, however we will not tolerate those that seek to defraud the taxpayer. "Every penny lost to fraud is a penny that cannot be spent on protecting jobs and businesses, which is why we will take whatever steps are necessary to hunt down those criminals found to be illegally profiting from this pandemic."

Although fraud is a hidden crime and can take a great deal of time to be discovered, the public can still look out for tell-tale signs. These can include unusual buying activity and cold calling by those falsely claiming they are from the Government offering money.

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It's Time To Ban Pavement Parking

It's clear that pavement parking is one of the major barriers to walking in residential areas and we believe it should be banned. It is dangerous and presents a risk to walkers, particularly those with mobility or sight problems or those who are walking with children.

Keeping pavements free from vehicles will create safer, more accessible streets and encourage everyone to walk more, increasing the benefits individuals and communities get from walking.

The Ramblers believe that the national prohibition should apply on all public roads, and on both pavements and verges. Ensuring the ban includes parking on verges is particularly important as they can often provide safer places than roads for people to walk.

As part of the consultation the UK Government are considering a proposal for a 20 minute parking exemption for deliveries. Pedestrian safety should be prioritised over convenience for motorists. An exemption would be widely open to abuse and would weaken any messaging to the public that pavement parking is against the law.

Ever thought of Volunteering?

All sorts of people volunteer for many reasons, but what unites them is that they all find it challenging, rewarding and interesting.

Would you like to volunteer and make an active difference to the lives of people in your community?

You don't need specific qualifications or experience.

We are currently looking for:

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For further information, visit our website

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

For an informal chat, call Karen

on **01920 505510** or email

training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk



East Herts



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<https://www.alburyandpullerschools.co.uk/albury-seedlings/>

Facebook @alburyherts or call the school on 01279 771253

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(Community Centre, Puckeridge, SG11 1TF)

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 www.barberbus.co.uk
 Thursday: Katsu Curry 5-8.15pm
 Friday: Vanpizza 5-9pm 07799 226515
 Saturday: Ronnies Kitchen 5-8.15pm

THE BELL CAR PARK, STANDON

Wednesday: Fresh meat, fruit & veg market 10-2pm
 Cheeky Pizza 4-8pm 07377 585896
 Thursday: Small Fry Fish & Chips 4.30-8pm
 07940 124841

THE COLDEN FLEECE, BRAUGHING

Thursday: Fresh Fish Van 9-10am

If you are aware of any which I have missed please email me at john@walkinginengland.co.uk and I will happily include them.

The Ash and Quin Valleys Group - Living God's Love

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
 FURNEUX PELHAM



St. Mary's Church
 Stocking Pelham

St Mary's, Braughing		ST MARY'S, FURNEUX PELHAM
DECEMBER		
Sun 6 th	11.15am All Age Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Sun 13 th	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sun 13 th	5.45pm Refresh (in Church Hall)	
Sun 20 th	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church Christingle
Sun 20 th	6.00pm Live-streamed only carol service	
Thurs 24 th	3.00pm Live streamed only Nativity	
Fri 25 th	10.30am Ticket only Christmas Day Celebration service*	
Sun 27 th		10.30am Christmas Morning Worship
Every Weds (except 30 th Dec)	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
JANUARY		
Sun 3 rd	11.15am All Age Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Sun 10 th	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sun 10 th	5.45pm Refresh (in Church Hall)	
Sun 17 th	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church
Sun 24 th	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Family Morning Worship
Every Weds	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
FEBRUARY		
Sun 7 th	11.15am All Age Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Sun 14 th	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sun 14 th	5.45pm Refresh (in Church Hall)	
Sun 21 st	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church
Sun 28 th	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Family Morning Worship
Every Weds	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
St Mary's, Stocking Pelham		
Sun 20 th Dec	12.30pm Ticket only Advent Morning Worship*	
	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sun 31 st Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	

Contact Rev'd Julie Gawthrop for more details on 01920 823531
 *Book your seat in advance



at the..... Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

I have been missing our monthly Wednesday morning gatherings.

I do hope that everyone is keeping well and safe and that we will all see each other soon.

With best wishes to you all for a happy and safe festive season.



Take Care Everyone

Please keep an eye on local notice boards for details of when we will be able to resume the Community Café.

For more details contact Alison on 01920 822 872

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Puckeridge : Doris Windsor 01920 822525
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Citizens Advice East Herts

can help if you are worried about scams

The Citizens Advice offers free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to anyone. We work in our local area and we are mainly staffed by volunteers. We give information and advice to people to help solve their problems. We also work to make life better by campaigning locally and nationally on the issues that keep causing problems

Our Top Tips to Stay Safe

Discuss any important or unusual purchases with someone you trust.

Don't pay in cash for any large or unusual purchases and don't buy anything from a door to door trader.

If you get a phone call from TV Licencing, HMRC (tax office), the Police or a court it is a scam. Don't pay any money or give them information- hang up the phone.

If something doesn't feel right trust your instincts.

It is ok to say No - only scammers try to panic or rush you.

Never give anyone your PIN number for your bank account - not even your bank will ask you for this information.

We can help you stay safe from scams with practical advice and information about protecting your money and your home. If you have been scammed we can help you report it and help you prevent it from happening again. You can also use our scam checker on our website or over the telephone with one of our advisers if you are worried that something could be a scam.



Adviceline (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)
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Christmas Fundraising Appeal



St Elizabeth's provides living and learning to children and adults with severe epilepsy and other complex needs. Here are some ways you can support us through the holiday season.

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Donate to us at www.stelizabeths.org.uk or by sending a cheque to us at South End, Much Hadham, Herts, SG10 6EW



Shop with St Elizabeth's

You can shop on our ebay pages, or in one of our 9 shops across Essex and Hertfordshire.

Donate and do your Christmas Shop

You can register to support us at smile.amazon.co.uk and thegivingmachine.co.uk, and when you do your Christmas shopping through them, a small percentage is donated to us!



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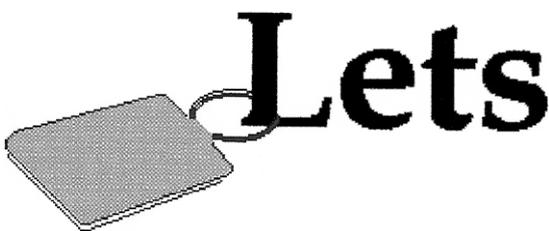
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GARDEN PLANTS

are happily growing ready for Standon Open Gardens 2021. Thank you to all gardeners who are creating or caring for these babies.

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Winter pondering...

Now, with all the 2020 experiences of lockdown, is a good time to look at how to really make the most of your home, now and next year.

Homeworking is increasingly becoming the new normal. But we don't want our workspace to impinge on our home life.

Workings from your sofa/kitchen table/bed are all not the ideal 'office'. It is far better to have a designated workspace where your working mind is focused allowing your place of solace/home-life to be separate.

Creating the 'office' can be anything from reconfiguring an under-stair store room to a loft conversion or outdoor studio.

Loft conversions and Garden Studio are much easier to put into motion due to a more relaxed Planning process. Even a two storey addition to a detached house can be undertaken through Permitted Development (on houses built 1948 to 2008)

Planning Authorities are starting to embrace the concept of multigenerational housing (dependents/graduates/divorcee's/elderly) living in extra converted homespace.

There will always still need a trusted builder to fully check the work and certified electricians to sign off all electrical work.

With studios the approach is very simple.

> Groundwork and plumbing for water and foul-waste fittings

> Insulated concrete base

> Ready-made Log Cabin style panels to join and bolt together

> French Doors and Windows and roof arrive after

It's so easy.

Contact me for further information.

kate.hooper1@btinternet.com / www.the-otherroom.co.uk

Garden Winter Work

- Keep on top of leaf clearing and even scarify the moss and thatch to give your grass the very best chance in spring.
- Deadwood any trees to help prevent disease.
- Prune Fruit trees. Rule of thumb is to allow air to move freely and no crossover branches.
- Add rotted manure to roses and clematis. It really makes a difference.

- Cut back rambling roses to prevent 'root rock', where wind rocks the base of the plant which stresses it.
- Jet wash patio and treat with algacide. (we can do this but it may need repointing of joints afterwards.)

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Cut Out And Keep

Bulky Waste, Unwanted / abandoned cars & Flytipping

Contact East Herts Council on www.eastherts.gov.uk or phone 01279 655261.

Bulky waste details: One household item - £23.50 (£10.00 per item thereafter (maximum 4.))

The Council will remove **flytipping**: use the on-line form.

Car batteries, engine oil, Fridges and Freezers

All are recycled at::

Bishops Stortford Household Waste Site, Woodside Road (off Dunmow Road).

Buntingford Household Waste Site, Aspenden Road.

Ware Household Waste Site, Westmill Road.

Cameras & Photography Books

The Disabled Photographers Society always welcome good serviceable cameras to adapt for disabled persons use, also photography books.

Disabled Photographers Society:
www.the-dps.co.uk/

Domestic Batteries

Standon Post Office & supermarkets

Foreign Coins

Isabel Hospice collects foreign coins (and notes!) drop them in to their Charity Shop in Buntingford or Ware High Street.

Ink & toner cartridges

- Puller Memorial School - drop them in to the School.
- Isabel Hospice collects toner cartridges, drop them in to their Charity Shop in Ware High Street.

Computers

Only fully working PCs. Please telephone first. www.computeraid.org
Tel: 020 7281 0091

Another site worth checking is www.donatepc.org.uk

Postcards

Please save your postcards and take the to St Mary's Church, Standon or All Saints Church, Little Munden. They are collected for Church work in Sudan.

Furniture

Furniture Recycling Scheme for Hertfordshire <http://www.fresch.org.uk/> or 01707 395635.

Knitting wool

Unused wool which will be turned into baby clothes etc., for children in Uganda can be left in the collection box at the back of St Mary's Church, Standon.

Stamps

- Gwen Duckett collects used stamps for the Leprosy Mission. Drop them in to 5 Vicarage Close, Standon.
- Puller Memorial School in High Cross collects used stamps to 'Save the Albatross'. Drop them into school or 32 Batchelors, Puckeridge.
- Standon Post Office collects stamps for Cancer Research UK.
- Isabel Hospice collects used stamps, drop them in to their Charity Shop in Ware High Street or post them to the Hospice at Great Barmingham Lane, Luton LU3 3NT.

Mobile phones

Loads of charities recycle old mobile phones. Just search 'donating mobile phones'.

Advertising in PS News works!

- 3,100 copies distributed quarterly
- Every house in Puckeridge, Standon, Braughing, Colliers End, The Mundens and Westmill get a copy.
- If you would like to advertise I accept anything from a Word, Publisher or jpg file to an existing advert or something jotted on the back of an envelope!
- If you have a logo, I can scan this for you.

Contact John Harris at 01920 822887 or john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Hospital Transport Scheme needs Volunteer Drivers

- ★ Do you drive your own car?
- ★ *Can you spare one morning/afternoon a month?*
- ★ Do you live in the area bounded by High Cross, Dane End, Dassels and Little Hadham?
- ★ Then please consider being a volunteer driver for the local Hospital Transport Scheme.
- ★ (You are paid a mileage allowance)

Details from 07922 519174

Can you spare a few hours a week?

You could make a big difference in the life of a disabled child and their family by helping to share the care.

please call us on
0800 917 0925
to find out more

Shared Care

Sunglasses & Spectacles

The large chains of opticians, e.g. Boots or Specsavers will recycle old glasses for the developing world. Drop them in to any branch.

Report a Water Leak

www.affinitywater.co.uk/report-a-leak.aspx

Environment Agency

For reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water: 0800 80 70 60.

Waste Disposal

For further information, call WasteAware on 0300 1234 051
All Household Waste sites are closed on 25 & 26 Dec and 1 Jan.

Aspenden Road, Buntingford.

Closed because of the virus. Check at hertfordshire.gov.uk for up to date information.

Westmill Road, Ware

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10am - 6pm
Closed: Thursday and Friday

Stop junk mail, phone calls and faxes

Register and junk mail and phone calls will miraculously reduce!

Mailing Preference Service

0207 291 3310
www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/

Telephone Preference Service

0845 070 0707
www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/number_type.html

These services are free (apart from the cost of the call). Do not respond to anyone asking for money for these services.

Defibrillators in the PS News area

Automated External Defibrillators are located at:

25 Furze Cottage, **Barwick.**

Phone box opp The Axe & Compasses, **Braughing**

The Golden Fleece, Green End, **Braughing**

KB Tyres, **Puckeridge,**

Standon Village Hall,

Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre

Soon at the former telephone box at **Colliers End**

The Ford, **Little Hadham**

In the former BT phone box just off the Village Green, **Westmill**



Oliver Minton
Village & Rural Homes



The **ONLY** estate agent actually based in Puckeridge and dedicated to the **sale & letting** of rural & village property in the A10/M11 corridor.

With further offices in Stanstead Abbots and Roydon and promotion of our properties through the London Office, we are perfectly placed to sell or let your property.

Call 01920 822999 for more information and a free market appraisal.

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- ☛ Offices in Puckeridge
- ☛ Whole of market with best rates available for all types of mortgage and insurance
- ☛ Flexible for appointments



Contact Simon Muir on
01920 821 333

email
enquiries@mandmm.co.uk

website
www.mandmm.co.uk

mortgage+money management

Mortgage & Money Management Ltd is directly authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority No. 452616.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it.

Police Contacts:

Number for NON 999 calls: 101

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111.

Please remember: ALWAYS DIAL 999
IN AN EMERGENCY.

www.herts.police.uk

Hertfordshire Police Authority, Freepost
ANG 6281, Hertford SG13 8YS.
Telephone: 01992 556600.

Puckeridge Health Centre

Drs. Partington, Foster and Nicolson.
The Surgery, Station Road, Puckeridge
SG11 1TF

Tel: 01920 823860 (*inc out of hours*).

Surgery is open:

Mon – Fri 8.30am – 6pm

Minor Injuries Unit

Herts and Essex Hospital, Haymeads
Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5JH

Staffed Mon - Fri, 9am - 4.30pm. Ring
01279 655191 ext. 4298 to ensure that
the unit can help.

**NHS Non-emergency
Number**

If it is not a 999 emergency but you need
medical help fast, Call 111.

**Domestic Violence/Abuse
Help Line**

08 088 088 088 (Freephone)

Confidential helpline open 9-9 Mon-Fri,
9-4 Sat & Sun.

Traveline

0871 200 2233

www.traveline.co.uk

Victim support

0300 303 0165

Abandoned Vehicles

01992 655261

**Herts Society for the Blind
Sight Line**

The Sight Line telephone number is:
01707 324680, Monday to Friday
between 9:00am and 4:00pm

**Age UK Hertfordshire
Information Line**

Offers you information on a wide range
of issues that are relevant to older
people. Our trained Information Workers
provide information you can trust that
will enable you to make the right choices
and decisions for you. We can also put
you in touch with other organisations
that can help you.

Information Line: 0300 345 3446

Trading Standards

03454 040506, 9am - 5pm Monday to
Friday.

Post Office Times**Braughing**

Mon - Fri 9.00 – 5.30

Thursday early closing 1.00pm.

Saturday closing 12.30pm

Standon

Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.30

Saturday 9.00 - 1.00

Aircraft noise

Stansted Airport Noise Unit.

0800 243 788 email:

stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com

Power cut helpline

Text POWER and your postcode to
80876

ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut

0800 31 63 105

0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a
mobile)

Local Library Times**Home Library Service:**

If you can't reach your local library
because you are housebound, have a
disability or care for someone at home
this service will deliver books free of
charge. Details 0300 123 4049

Bishop's Stortford Library:

Monday - Saturday 10 - 4pm

Buntingford Library:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 - 4pm

Friday 2 - 4pm, Saturday 10 - 1pm

Ware Library:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10 -
4pm, Wednesday 1 - 4pm.

East Herts District Council

The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford or
Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford. Both are
open 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.
Tel: 01279 655261.

www.eastherts.gov.uk.

Herts County Council**Contact details:**

Adult Care Services 0300 123 4042
Children, Schools & Families

0300 123 4043

Fire Safety 0300 123 4046

Highways Fault Reporting

0300 123 4047

www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

Trading Standards 0345 404 0506

Waste Aware 0300 123 4051

General Enquiries 0300 123 4040

Textphone Users: 0300 123 4041

Halls for hire

- Braughing Church Hall and Old Boys
School, (up to 120 with kitchen
facilities) – contact Phil Firmin 01920
823120, email
phil.firmin@outlook.com
- Braughing Playing Field Association
Community Hall - Contact Sue Fox -
suefox1@hotmail.co.uk
- Colliers End Village Hall (40 people
comfortably, with kitchen) - Contact
Sandra Chadwick 07976 254379
- Dane End Memorial Hall
David Hart 01920 438976
dane-endhallbookings@Outlook.com
- Standon & Puckeridge Community
Centre - Contact Sally Sperring 07854
916404 communitycentre@tesco.net
- Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road,
Standon – Contact Denis or Beverly
Olliver on 01279 842625

Local Churches:

- A10 Christian Mission: Contact Revs
Colin & Teresa Marks 01920 821684
- Methodist Church, Braughing:
Minister Reverend Gill Hulme 01279
504157
- Old Hall Green & Puckeridge Roman
Catholic Churches: Fr. John White
01763 271471
- Puckeridge Chapel, Century Hall,
Station Road. Pastor Bill Harrow
01920 821366 pastorbill@puckeridgecc.co.uk
www.puckeridgecc.co.uk/index.html
- St Mary's Church Standon: Michael
Smith 01920 821281 or email
benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk
www.ubsms.org.uk/
- St Mary's Church, Braughing: Rev.
Julie Gawthrop 01920 823531
vicar@braughing.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/braughing-st-mary-the-virgin/

Animal Warden

To report incidents re: dog faeces, stray
dogs and an identichipping service.
01279 655261

LOCAL DIRECTORY

All phone No's are 01920 and clubs in Puckeridge or Standon unless shown otherwise

- Albury Seedlings Preschool & Albury Primary School: 01279 771253
- Allotments:
Braughing:
Ruth Fleetwood
rfleetwood@braughing.org.uk
Puckeridge: Brian Durrant 822331
- Aviation Society:
Vic Flintham 01763 289636
- Baby-sitting Circle:
Sylvia Pinnington 822216
- Bat Helpline 01992 581442
- Beavers: 6-8 years old,
Angie Adamson 01763 849902
- Bell Ringing:
Braughing: Peter Glazebrook 821554, Standon: Stephen Coley 823886.
- Bishop's Stortford Railway Society:
Barry Bridges 438586
- Bowls Club: Jean Maslin, 01920 423273 or Fred Barnard, 01920 821214
- Braughing Cricket Club: Peter Hobson 01920 438361
- Braughing Cricket Club Colts: 438361 07774 961829
- Braughing Local History Society:
Mary Cockburn
mary.cockburn@btopenworld.com
- Braughing Playing Field Association
Trust: Graham Frary 07855 834862
grahamfrary@tiscali.co.uk
- Braughing Society:
Sandra Lynch 823500
- Braughing WI: Kate Fish 822397
- Bridge Clubs:
Sue Dailly 823692
- Brownies: Register your daughter's interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk - general enquiries to: (Roger de Clare lunch club): Louise 07971 800443. (evening unit): firstsandpbrownies@gmail.com
- Budding Babes: Tracy 01920 824041
- Buntingford Bird Club: Tim Robinson, 01763 243143
- Buntingford Choir:
Mandy or Gareth 0781 491 2595
- Buntingford Heritage Centre:
Jenny Dingley 01763 273002
Carols Round the Tree (Standon):
Caroline Franks 822723
- Carpet Bowls:
Mike Bennett
Mikebennett12@aol.com
- Church Choir Braughing: Church office 823832
- Church Choir, Standon with the Mundens and Sacombe: Michael Smith 821281
- Conservative Assn:
David Andrews 823836
- Cubs: Wednesday Cheetah pack Derek Goodall 01763 273149,
Tuesday Puma Pack: Jackie Andrews 01763 247675
- Dance Classes - Rhythm & Poise School of Dance: Ballet: Karen Howarth - 01279 651535 & Tap, Modern & Jazz: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224
- Dance JAM Academy:
Julie McPartland
01920 822488 or 07971699615
- Dog Training: Jan Mann 823475
- Dominoes: Axe & Compasses, Braughing - Graham Frary 821715
- East Herts Aviation Society: Ray Hankin (rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk) or Vic Flintham (vf@flintham.org)
- Folk Music Club:
Stortfolk 01279 656664
- Veterans Football Club (Braughing):
Keith Mardell 822133,
- Friends of Braughing Church:
Ned Dailly 01920 823692 or email: neddailly@btinternet.com
- Golf Club (East Herts):
Secretary 821978
- Guides: Register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk - general enquiries to Louise 07971 800443.
- Hares Football Club:
01763 848449
- Health Centre: 823860
- Hertford & Ware Railway Society: Stuart Moye 467132
- Hertfordshire Holly: Mixed Clog Morris:
Mary Deeks 822905
- Herts & Essex Architectural Research Society:
Kath Pollard 01708 473646
- Horticulture Society (Braughing): Marion Saunders 821700
- Hospital Transport for the Elderly:
Wendy Smith 07922 519174
- Jenyns First School & Nursery: 821461
- Karate Club: Clive 01763 231132
- Kettlebell Exercise Classes: Sue Prior 07854 316628
- Labour Party:
Frederick Perkins 822454
- Liberal Democrats:
David Albinson 822640
- Lipreading classes:
Louise Reed 821401
- Little Hadham Primary School: 01279 771285
- Mayday Committee:
Sue Spalding 821624 or Rachel Law
rachelaw79@yahoo.co.uk
- Mercury Correspondent: Braughing:
Clive Marshall 822167
- NSPCC: Alex Lang 822209
- Pantomime Group, Braughing: Peter Walsingham 823265
- Parish Paths Partnership: Braughing - Sue Dailly neddailly@btinternet.com
Standon - John Harris 822887
- Pet Care: Mrs Harvey 822814
- Petanque: Brown Bear, Braughing - Steve Banfield landlord@brownbearbraughing.co.uk
- Pets TLC: 822705
- Photographic Society (Ware): Barbara Norris 822104
- Puckeridge WI: Louise 07971 800 443
info@puckeridgewi.org
- Railway & Local History Society (Buntingford): Stephen Ruff 01763 289516, (Bishop's Stortford) Barry Bridges 438586, (Hertford & Ware) Stuart Moye 467132
- Rainbows: Register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk - enquiries to sandprainbows1@outlook.com

Low Cost, One Bedroomed, Centrally Heated Almshouses for Local People.

Almshouses become available from time to time for people with a connection to the Parishes of Standon and Thundridge. Each almshouse is a self contained one-bedroomed unit with it's own kitchen, bathroom and living room.

Write for details and an application form to:
John Harris, Clerk to Standon Charities,
4 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH.
www.standoncharities.org.uk

Braughing Housing Association

The Braughing Housing Association is responsible for seven flatlets at Orchard House, The Street, Braughing. Each property consists of kitchen, hallway, bathroom and bed/sitting room, suitable for singles tenancy only.

Enquiries concerning possible vacancies and tenancy should be directed, in writing, to The Chairman, Braughing Housing Association, East View, Hay Street, Braughing, Ware SG11 2RG

Should any become available, preference would be given to the elderly, most needy and those with a connection to Braughing.

- Ramblers (Royston & Dist):
David Allard 01763 242677
- Red Yoga: 07590 964016
- Royal British Legion:
Standon: Ron Edwards 464218
- Ralph Sadleir Assn:
sandie@sandibevents.co.uk
- Ranger Girl Guides (14+ years),
Wednesday, Rosanne Kenealy 01920 821304
- Rib Valley Trampoline Club: Andrea
Allen 07989 980038
- Roger de Clare School Association:
Sarah Gillingwater 823129 or Sam
Risley 823477
- Sadleir Drama Club:
Liz Pickup 01763 289446
- Explorer Scouts: 14-18 year olds,
Wednesday Buntingford Unit
Christine Pestle 07711 506381,
Friday Ware Unit: Jim Campbell
01920 461134
- Scout & Guide Band:
Garry Edwards 01920 823163
- Scout Troop: 10½-14 years old, Simon
Smith 07773 016567
- SPNDP (Standon and Puckeridge
Neighbourhood Development Plan)
Belinda Irons 01763 838732
- S.P.I.N.S. Pre-School: 07881 533339
- St. Thomas of Canterbury Primary
School PTA: C/o School 821450
- Standon Morris: Catherine Ward 07808
969379
- Standon & Puckeridge Health Centre:
823860
- Standon & Puckeridge Community
Centre:
Sally Sperring 07854 916404
- Swimming Club (Buntingford): David
Carr 07966 508156
- Tai Chi: Mrs A Manwaring 822041
- Tennis Club:
Braughing:
Karen Gore 07860 484878
Standon:
Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152
- Three Villages Eco Group:
Trish Street 01920 821069
- Trefoil Guild: Guiding for adults - Alex
Chapman 01920 465 726
- Twinning Assn (Buntingford):
Mary Deeks 822905
- University of the 3rd Age:
Barbara Norris 822104
- Veterans Football Club:
Paul Mayne 822615
Craig Gardner 823805
- Ware and District 41 Club:
Peter Warren 01920 824099
- Ware Swimming Club:
Chris Buck 07947 322808
- Ware U3A:
Chris Beeton, Membership Secretary
07952 066748
- Wasps Out of School Club:
Nicola Re 07904 391133
- Women's Institute:
Braughing: Louise 07971 800443
Puckeridge: info@puckeridgewi.org
- Yoga in Pregnancy, Baby massage and
Baby yoga: Penny Constantinou
07944 416572
- Young Countrysiders:
Linda Watts 821393

PS News - The idea

Everyone is welcome to write, there is no charge for articles on any subject of interest to our communities.

PS is written and delivered by volunteers, it is paid for by the advertisers.

3000+ copies are distributed to every house in:

Puckeridge	Standon	Braughing
Colliers End	Nasty	The Mundens
Old Hall Green	Wellpond Green	

and many of the houses in:

High Cross Little Hadham, etc.

Copies available from local Pubs, Vintage Service Station and Westwood's in Puckeridge, plus Standon Post Office.

Advertising in PS

The cost of advertising is:

- From £84 per year—details www.psnews.org.uk
- **You have to advertise for a year (4 issues) minimum and pay in advance. Cheques payable to PS News.**
- Advert design, logos and illustrations scanned, all free of charge.
- **Leaflet inserts** are £150 per leaflet. Contact me before getting them printed as we limit the number of inserts in each issue. Book early to ensure we can take your insert when you want it.

Copy dates

Copy dates are as shown below. If you want to advertise, contact John Harris: 01920 822887 or email john@walkinginengland.co.uk

By email

March Issue	10 Feb
June Issue	10 May
Sept Issue	10 Aug
Dec Issue	10 Nov

Please send your articles and photographs by these dates.

If you would like an email reminder a couple of weeks before you need to get the article to me, just email me the request and it will happen.

Emailed articles, deliveries & advertising:

John Harris, 4 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH. Tel: 01920 822887

E-mail: psnews@walkinginherts.co.uk

Visit our website for the latest issue and advertising details: www.psnews.org.uk

Delivery query?

If you would like to volunteer to deliver PS or for some reason you get missed please contact John as above.

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