

## ***Sadleir or Sadler?***

How should we spell the surname of Standon's most famous resident? Locally it is either 'Sadleir', as in Ralph Sadleir School and the Sadleir Drama Club, or 'Sadlier', as in Sadlier Road. In her Wolf Hall trilogy, Dame Hilary Mantel spells it 'Sadler' as well as, to complicate matters further, giving him the forename 'Rafe'. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography agrees with Dame Hilary's spelling of the surname as does The History of Parliament Online.

In fact, in our research for the Sadleir Tombs Refurbishment Project we have discovered that Sir Ralph's surname was spelt in 13 different ways in Tudor Court Documents: Sadeler, Sadler, Sadleyr, Sadleyer, Sadleir, Sadlier, Sadliar, Sadlair, Sadlare, Sadlar, Sadller, Sadiller and Saidleir.

Surnames were introduced by the Normans after the Conquest in 1066. Before that communities were small enough for anyone to be identifiable by a single name but with the increase in population it became necessary to identify people further. This led to people being known by names such as Jeffrey the archer, David from Beckham, Brian the red head, Boris son of John etc. Over the years variations of these names appeared. In a time of great illiteracy many people would not have known how to spell their name and anyone writing it down would have had to do so phonetically, guessing at the correct spelling. However we know that neither Sir Ralph nor the Court scribes were illiterate, so it does beg the question 'Why so many spellings?'

Like, I imagine, most people, I had assumed that Sir Ralph had an ancestor who made saddles. However there is a theory that the surname has nothing to do with saddlery and is, in fact, a corruption of a Norman name. If anyone has any knowledge of this I would love to hear about it.

In the last edition of PS I wrote about Sir Ralph's wife Helen's absence from his side in St Mary's church as well as announcing the launch of an appeal to

raise money for the refurbishment of the two Sadleir tombs in the church's chancel. We are delighted to say that since then, thanks to some very generous donations, we have now raised over £10,000. At a time when we have been unable to hold any events we are very pleased with this figure but there is still a way to go before we hit our target. For further information on the project please see our website [www.sadleirtombs.org](http://www.sadleirtombs.org) or e-mail me at [sadleirtombs@gmail.com](mailto:sadleirtombs@gmail.com). As you can see, we have nailed our colours firmly to the mast by spelling the name 'Sadleir'.

Toby Spencer

## ***The Silent Pandemic***

Domestic abuse can affect anyone and it's on the rise. In fact it's now being called the Silent Pandemic. The need to stay home or self-isolate has meant more victims are stuck in lockdown with their abusers, unable to escape. What's worse is that more children are witnessing the abuse.

It's not just about physical violence, abuse can be about controlling behaviour, financial control, threats, sexual violence or combinations of all of these and many other things.

We welcome calls from anyone – victim-survivors, men as well as women, those in same sex relationships, BAME, the elderly and those with disabilities, concerned friends, family members and work colleagues and also professionals.

Domestic abuse is everybody's problem. It's time to make it stop.

If you would like more information about domestic abuse please go to [www.hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org](http://www.hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org).

Call us free on 08 088 088 088 to talk to us confidentially – we won't ask your name and contact details. You can talk through the issues that concern you and we'll give you some phone numbers to call when you are ready. If you prefer you can send us a confidential email at [Kim@mailpurple.org](mailto:Kim@mailpurple.org)

## ***Making friends, making a difference.***

Are you new to the village? Do you have more time now you are working from home? After the mess that was 2020, do you want to help make a difference within Standon and Puckeridge?

So much goes on within our wonderful village which you can get involved in. From Standon Mayday which involves a handful of volunteers organising the whole excellent day, to the local Community Centre, which is home to many user groups. 15 years ago, a group of volunteers saved the building that was derelict and being shut down and turned it into the community hub that it is today.

Mark Acford, Chairman of Standon Charities said: "Over the years, I have been involved in numerous things in the village and it has made me appreciate the fantastic community that I moved into."

Standon Village Hall, The Standon Charities, U3A, Scouts and Guides, Standon Parish Council, St Mary's Church, PS News distributor and the Parish Paths Partnership are a few of the amazing groups you can volunteer for. These are just a few of the amazing organisations you can get involved with to help make friends, make a difference. The full list of other volunteering opportunities is in the back this newsletter.

If you know what you would like to do, contact the relevant group yourself by finding their contact details in the back of PS News Local Directory.

Alternatively, if you have a vague idea that you would like to help and would like to chat to someone about it contact [markacford@gmail.com](mailto:markacford@gmail.com).

## ***Do you have difficulty reading PS News?***

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

## **Braughing Society**

Whilst the society is unable to hold meetings in public at the moment, we continue to plan to undertake outings in the summer. Members, and other PS News readers who would like to join the society, will be pleased to know that we have confirmed a visit on 29 June to Tom Stuart-Smith's gardens at Serge Hill, Abbots Langley. Those interested in going to the gardens should contact Cynthia Matthews ([cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com)) who is organizing this outing. In the next issue of PS News we hope to announce further summer outings.

In the meantime and thanks to painstaking research by long term member and ex-Chairman Don Ruggiero (now our president) the society will shortly be publishing "The Braughing Society - The First Fifty Years". This is a record, with some illustrations, of the society's activities since its establishment in 1972.

A copy will be held for future reference lodged alongside Braughing's historic photographic archives at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (H.A.L.S) at County Hall, Hertford. We plan also for a digital version to be accessible through the society's page on the Braughing community website. A limited number of copies for members or others to consult will also be available from mid-March from the society secretary, Marion Saunders ([marionjsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:marionjsaunders@gmail.com)).

## **Standon Village Hall**

The lovely Standon Village Hall has availability for any local clubs, organisations, associations or individual members of the public, who wish to hire a nice clean and well cared for Hall in a very central location, for exercise classes, meetings or similar activities on a regular basis

For new groups we offer a free one- hour taster session.

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Why not find out more by checking our website or contacting Denis Olliver on 01279-842625.

## **Warning after COVID vaccine scam reports**

Scammers are contacting elderly people claiming they can arrange COVID vaccines for a fee. The NHS is the only organisation that has access to the vaccine and will never ask for payment.

If you are contacted, please do not engage with the fraudsters, the NHS is currently only contacting eligible people by phone. If you are asked for money it is not a genuine call.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud please report to 0300 123 2040 or online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

## **East Herts Aviation Society**

The society has continued with its monthly programme of virtual meetings via Zoom. Nearly 40 members responded to log onto Steve Morgan's excellent illustrated talk about the history of Salisbury Hall and the De Havilland Mosquito WWII multi-role fighter/bomber.

By the time this edition is distributed we shall also have logged in via Zoom to February's virtual meeting for Peter Davison's "R-101 Airship 90th anniversary lecture".

Thereafter for the next 2 months we look forward to the following presentations. The first of which will almost certainly be via Zoom:-

- 29 March at 8pm – Michael Hallett – "The extraordinary flying career of Wing Commander Harold Blackman MC AFC (1879 – 1959) by his Grandson".
- 26 April at 8pm - Peter Griffiths - "A Lifetime in Aviation - from Sextant to Satellite Navigation"

If anyone is interested in becoming a member (no fee) merely by logging into our next event or two and thereafter hopefully coming along to the Sword Inn Hand, Westmill, once we are allowed safely to resume our activities there, please contact me. My email ([Rogerstainton@icloud.com](mailto:Rogerstainton@icloud.com)). Further details about the society are described on the society's webpage on [www.braughing.org.uk](http://www.braughing.org.uk)

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## Labour Party

### East Herts Rural Branch

Last year the elections scheduled for May 2020 were postponed, but this year the government's intention is that elections should be held 6 May 2021.

These elections will include those postponed from 2020, along with those due in 2021. As it happened, there were no elections due in East Herts in 2020, although elsewhere in our constituency elections in Letchworth were postponed.

However, in 2020 the County Council elections are due as is the county-wide election for the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Labour candidate for PCC is Philip Ross, who lives in Buntingford and was the constituency Labour Party secretary a few years ago.

The candidate for the County Council for the Buntingford division, which includes Puckeridge and Braughing, is Steven Stone, who lives in Braughing and has stood several times before. The selection meeting for the Ware North division, which includes Standon and Thundridge, has yet to take place.

Campaigning for the elections is necessarily at present being conducted solely by telephone. The constituency party is naturally concentrating this effort on the wards in the North Herts District Council area where we have existing Labour & Co-operative

councillors standing for re-election or where we have a strong chance of gaining the seat. Currently, the North Herts District Council is run by a joint Labour & Co-operative and Liberal Democrat administration.

Also, the Letchworth North county division, which has been held by Labour, is the highest priority target after those divisions that are currently held by Labour.

It does not look very likely that the usual door-knocking campaign will be possible for these elections, but it may become possible, if the Covid restrictions are eased, to deliver leaflets. Other than that, we shall have to continue with telephone canvassing, which allows contact only with those people who use a landline and who do not opt to have their number ex-directory.

We are finding that more and more people use only their mobile phones, for which there currently is no directory. So, this is going to be a very strange election.

David Bell

### Interesting!

The monetary term 'quid' was first used in the 17th Century. It is derived from 'quid pro quo' which is the Latin term meaning 'a favour or advantage granted in return for something'.

## Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club

Now is the time to find your tennis racket and come down to the Community Centre for a game of tennis (subject to Government restrictions). We have 3 excellent all weather courts that have recently been refurbished.

PAY TO PLAY is available to all, if you just want to use a court, £5 ph or £2.50 for juniors. We even have availability at weekends. Contact Keith Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

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+, Mens and Mixed teams in local leagues and are always looking for new players. Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430.

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### Braughing Cricket Club

At Braughing Cricket Club it was a strange but enjoyable season. Despite the great early summer weather we weren't initially allowed to have any cricket due to lock down. Thankfully rules were relaxed in mid May where we were able to run 1-1 training sessions with Junior age groups. As the summer moved on, we were able to introduce group training sessions. (under strict social distancing and cleanliness regulations), and eventually in July the long awaited senior and junior competitive cricket games started.

Initially these games proved challenging with the new rules of how we could shine the ball, on and off field distancing, and what to do at times of celebrations.. however as time went on it became the new norm.

Our senior team, competing in the Herts and Essex Border league 1, completed half the scheduled games in the end, finishing 2nd in the league. Many thanks to our newly formed "Braughing Barmy Army" supporters, who with their wheelbarrow full of wine supported us at home games throughout the summer.

Our new Sunday team, made up of 70% teenagers/ 30% adults, had a full

schedule from June. It was great to see as we haven't had a regular Sunday/ 2nd team for 18 years. This format being offered to bridge the older juniors into playing adult cricket.

The U15s team were able to play three matches in the COVID shortened (and rain affected!) season. All three games, including 2 wins were played in a great spirit with everyone grateful to be able to play safely. One of the highlights being the final game where our team, including a club record of 6 ladies, with a convincing win over a strong Broxbourne team.

Despite the U12 cricket coaching starting late we still managed to run 17 training sessions before the weather turned colder in mid-September. The sessions were quite different in format as we had to restrict these to one-on-one or only small groups of 3 or 4 players, this meant we could not run practise games or have competitive matches, so a lot more time and focus was placed on enhancing our players' skills and techniques.

When restrictions eased later in the summer we were able to play games against other larger clubs and where our U12s could display the new and improved skills they had worked hard on

during the weeks prior. The U12 coaches were extremely pleased with the levels of improvement the Individuals displayed - they are a credit to our club with the hard work they had put in during a difficult year.

Despite the many challenges, Braughing U9s were able to have a very enjoyable summer of cricket. The team were able to play 9 matches, some at home, some away. All were very competitive. Most importantly, 17 players represented Braughing U9s during the summer, with nearly as many girls as boys, each of them developed hugely and all had a fantastic time.

This summer Braughing Cricket Club were very pleased to be able to provide junior cricket sessions for ages 5 to 8 based on ECB's All Stars initiative. Over the course of the 8 week programme we had 15 children take part, and many parents helped in these sessions too. This programme aims to introduce children to cricket through a fun based set activities while also including various cricketing skills. Throughout the 8 sessions the children and parents (plus coaches!) all had a great time with plenty of laughs.

In August we even managed to hold a sports summer camp that was attended



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by the local youth. During the week they had the opportunity to participate and try multiple sports like Rugby, hockey, golf, tennis, cricket, athletics and even crab football

We are looking forward to the junior programme for 5 years and above and age group teams again in 2021 and hope to see the children and parents again next year. Winter indoor training will start in January, and our outside sessions will start in Late April

Please contact us if you are interested in playing cricket, we welcome new members, more information can be found at <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/braughingcricketclub/>

Many thanks to all the coaches and team managers for organising and providing a covid safe environment to train and play cricket this year. The ground staff and committee members, as well as our main sponsor "The Golden Fleece" that help this club operate so well, and finally the BPFAT committee that supported us to get cricket going this summer.

Pete Hobson  
[braughingcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:braughingcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk)  
07874 868691 / 01920 438186

## Standon May Day Committee

With May Day 2020 cancelled, many groups and organisations couldn't fundraise as they normally would. In light of the current very difficult circumstances, the Standon May Day Committee have made donations to the following organisations:

- The First Responders
- Buntingford Food Bank
- Colliers End Village Hall
- Roger de Clare School

We are very sorry to say that we will be unable to run May Day again this year due to the circumstances you are all very much aware of.

Please keep an eye on our Social Media pages (Facebook and Twitter) as well as our website for more information as the year progresses and things change.

We do hope to be able to go ahead on May Day 2022 with all the usual participants and attractions.

Sue Spalding  
[info@standonmayday.co.uk](mailto:info@standonmayday.co.uk)

## Do you or someone you know need funding to help with a community project?

Up to £300 is available from East Herts Council to individuals or informal groups alongside registered charities. Applicants do not need to have a bank account at time of applying. Individuals and informal groups can apply any time and will receive a decision in 3 to 4 weeks. For more details of this grant pot and others go to <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations-and-individuals> In the past, we have funded such things as an arts trail, croquet equipment, PPE equipment, batteries for community defibrillators, and information materials such as a winter wellness pack, a VE exhibit and residents newsletter. Be sure to contact Claire on [claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk) to discuss your idea and ensure it meets our criteria.

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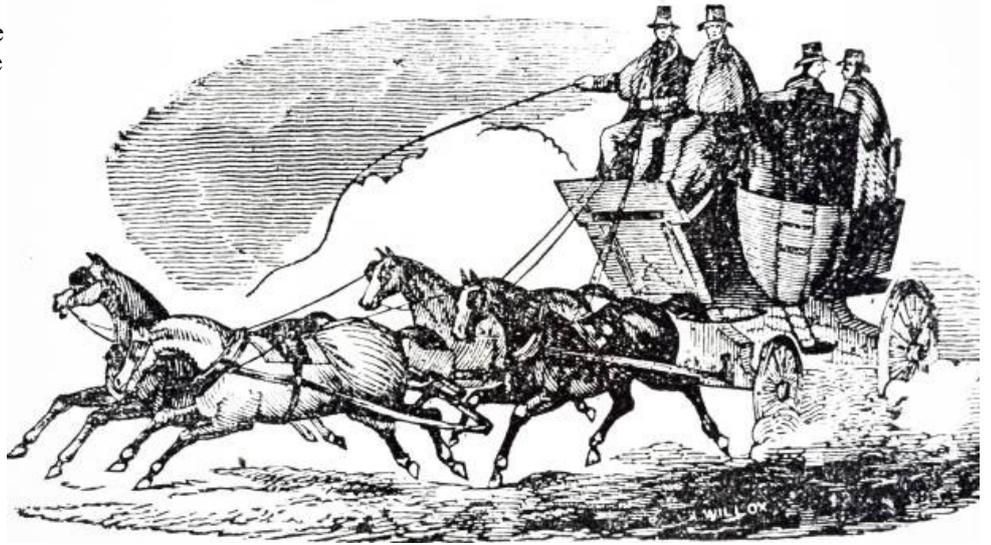
## Puckeridge Post

Call me old-fashioned (you can) (and we do - editor!), but I can still remember the thrill of receiving a hand-written letter especially if it had a commemorative stamp.

The introduction of the first public post service in 1635 carried letters from one 'post' to the next 'post' on foot or horseback. Puckeridge was between the Ware 'post' and the Royston 'post'

You could also employ a private letter carrier. In 1661 a letter carrier, Christopher Greene, was robbed in Standon Parish by two men who took the vast sum in those days of £80.00, goods to the value of £10.00 and killed his horse, value £10.00. Even by the latter half of the eighteenth century the post boys who carried the letters were often attacked and robbed by highwaymen. A slightly safer and quicker way to carry the post came in 1786 when some of it was delivered by mail coach complete with guards armed with blunderbusses.

Puckeridge was on the Old North Road, the main road between London, York and onto Edinburgh and by 1812 four mail coaches a day passed through



Puckeridge, but without stopping. In 1806, 132 residents of the area sent a petition to the Postmaster General requesting that Puckeridge become a 'post' town. The petition was rejected on the ground that Puckeridge only generated around £144.00 per year in business.

A solution was found however. Letters from London destined for Wadesmill and Puckeridge were put in the Ware

bag. The mail coach arrived about 2am at Ware, and the Wadesmill and Puckeridge post was then sorted, taxed and placed in separate bags. The bags were then thrown off the mail coach as it sped through the villages. The system also worked in reverse. Letters to London were thrown onto the mail coach at Puckeridge in the very early morning, taken to Ware, taxed and added to the London bag. The arrangement was expensive, time-



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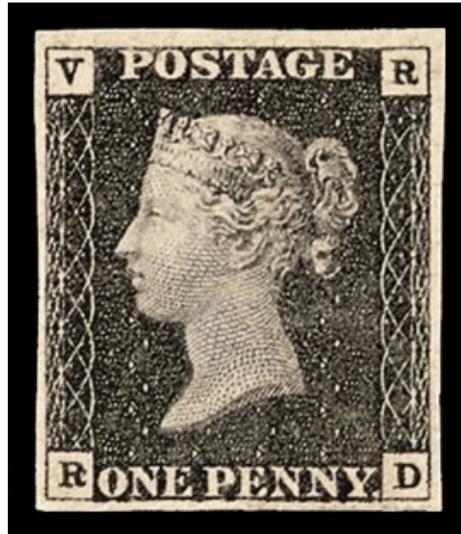
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consuming and frustrating for the passengers. Imagine travelling the best part of 400 miles from Edinburgh then having to stop on a cold February night at 2am for 15 minutes so the post could be sorted!

Something had to be done. Therefore it was agreed in 1808 that a foot messenger should leave Puckeridge with the letters at 8pm every night, arrive in Ware by 10pm which would allow for the letters to be sorted and taxed before the mail coach arrived at 2am. The messenger would stay the night in Ware and return to Puckeridge by 8am dropping off the letters to Wadesmill. With all the nasty jobs around at this time I think I would have fancied this one.

Before the arrival of the Penny Post, the receiver of the letter had to pay a lot of money for it. Say the vicar of Standon received a letter from London the standard charge was 5d, plus 1d for the Ware postman to sort the letter and dispatch to Puckeridge, 1/2d for the Puckeridge post person to receive it and 1d for him to deliver it from Puckeridge to Standon. This amounted to about a third of the average daily wage, so it



was only people like the vicar who had that thrill of opening a letter.

Don't know what happened if the postman knocked at your door, you recognised the sender's handwriting and said no thank you and shut the door!

On 1st July, 1813 a local Penny Post was approved from Ware to Wadesmill, Old Hall Green, and Puckeridge but it wasn't until 1840 that there was a uniform rate of postage throughout the

country with Rowland Hill's Penny Black stamp.

The post was still taken and collected from Ware and it wasn't until 1843 that the postman was given a horse. That lasted about 20 years until the postman lost his horse and his job to the new railway and the post went from Standon station to St Margaret's then to Ware. By this time Puckeridge had become a Money Order Office with a saving bank and a Telegraph Office, and two deliveries a day.

By 1973 Stevenage became the main sorting office and by 1981 Puckeridge ceased to be a delivery office. On the 7th October, 2000 Puckeridge lost its post office leaving the post office in Standon, but we still have a very good postal system today compared with other European countries.

So will I ever receive again another hand written letter? Perhaps I should write one if I could find paper and a pen.....

Rob Street

All the above information is taken from the archive of Alistair Kennedy who used to live in Puckeridge.



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## Starlight Stars News



What a year it has been for everyone! However, it hasn't stopped our students and staff doing what they enjoy and that is 'performing'.

Starlight Stars has continued to provide lessons throughout the entire lockdown periods, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and students for their dedication and support. So many small businesses like ours have struggled to survive during these difficult times but we consider ourselves very lucky to have such amazing families who realise how important it is and that 'the show must go on'.

In May, 18 talented young performers, aged 5-18yrs, took part in our live online Starlight's Got Talent shows. Our guest judges gave great feedback and praise to the performers and the decision to choose the winners was incredibly difficult. It was such a great

way to share acts on the screen that the children had worked on independently at home. There were lots of smiles and a few emotional tears too! Thank you to everyone who took part in this wonderful.



*Daisy – Winner of Starlight's Got Talent*

### Online Parties

From April, one of our ex-students and teaching assistants Ella Markey, created free online children's parties to keep young ones entertained. Her amazingly fun and interactive themed parties included songs, dances, challenges and games. Over 3 weeks, Ella delivered over a dozen free parties to approximately 150 children. And if that's not enough, we raised over £400

for NHS workers on a Just Giving donation page for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.

Since then, we have delivered birthday parties for children of all ages and themes so that the party boy or girl can still have fun with their families and friends. If you have a child with a birthday coming up and they would like us to provide an online party then please email us [starlightstars@mail.com](mailto:starlightstars@mail.com). Partying at home has never been so fun...and there's no mess to clear up at the end!

### Let's Move It!

After Christmas, we realised that so many children and their families were perhaps not feeling motivated to move! So, we started to provide live 10 minute videos each day at 10:30am on Facebook so that everyone could stop and move it! Alex enjoyed doing her crazy dance warm-up followed by a disco party dance classic that everyone could join in with. Superman by Black Lace was a complete winner...the parents already knew the moves to this one!!! Thank you for everyone that stopped working for just 10 minutes to join in and we hope it made you feel more energised for the rest of your day.

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### Exam Stars

Our Performance & Communication lessons have continued to take place in the majority of the schools where we provide tuition during the school day. With the magic of Zoom, our students have also had the opportunity to take their exams in Acting, Public Speaking and Verse & Prose online so that their hard work hasn't been wasted. We are very lucky to have a brilliant team of LAMDA tutors that have coached our students throughout this unusual time.

Starlight Stars classes continue to be fun, engaging and most importantly, safe. We know how important it is to adhere to the 'New Normal' way of life after the Covid-19 lockdowns and once we return to face-to-face sessions our new class structure and timetables will hopefully help give parents the confidence they may need when making the decision to return to us.

As always, thank you to all the staff, students, parents, Community Centre Committee, WASPS after school club and schools for supporting us.

For more information about our classes please visit [www.starlightstars.co.uk](http://www.starlightstars.co.uk).

Stay safe and healthy!

## Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe

It has now been a year since our last Community Cafe and, sadly, we are still not in a position for us to plan for any future dates.

I do hope that everyone has been able to keep well and safe since then. And hopefully, a number of you have now been able to have your vaccines.

Our March Cafe in previous years has supported Cancer Research UK, with all takings going to the Charity. If anyone feels that they would like to make a donation and help boost much needed funds, you can make an online payment to

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/unite/cancer-research-uk-ware>

Or, if you fancy organising some online / virtual fundraising for Cancer Research UK you can find a lot of ideas and inspiration on the Cancer Research UK website.

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/get-involved/do-your-own-fundraising>

I look forward to a time when we can safely resume the Community Cafe, but until then, please stay safe and well.

### Could you recycle old currency, jewellery etc?

We have included an envelope with this edition of PS News, please recycle any old currency, jewellery, watches to raise money for this exceptional cause.

Best wishes

Alison

## Attend2Health



We are pleased to announce Attend2Health has moved to the old Barclays Bank at 27 High Street Buntingford.

This building gives us so much more space which is great especially in the current climate.

We have 6 treatment rooms downstairs for chiropractors, osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists, massage and coming soon acupuncture and hypnotherapy. We also have a private GP doing health checks and Botox.

Upstairs is a studio where we hope to soon be able to hold classes such as Pilates and yoga.

We want to thank the local community for all their support at this time.

If you would like to book an appointment or free chat to see if we can help call 01763 878087. Full PPE will be worn.

Louise Hampton

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## **Tales from Brockholds Manor**

### **Opening Our Garden**

I received a call "Hello Juliet how are you getting on with your garden, have you thought of opening it for the NGS?" a long silence on my part and then I cautiously replied, "maybe you should come and see what you think Kate". For those of you who don't know, The NGS or National Garden Scheme, has been in existence for nearly 100 years, they raise money for wonderful charities with the simple idea of having garden open days. You may have seen yellow open garden posters up in the spring and summer, well they are NGS gardens.

I have known Kate for fifteen years and not only does she open her garden for the NGS but she also helps on the Hertfordshire committee too and they always need more people to open their gardens to help raise funds. She knows how much I love gardening, not least because when we moved the Brockholds Manor we used her barn as a temporary store for about 1,000 potted plants we had been raising in readiness for our move to a house without an established garden.

Knowing how the cost of just a few plants can mount up we had been busy with a combination of cuttings, divisions and potting up a box knot garden our purchasers did not want to be left with and we were only too happy to dig up and take away with us when we moved, having started all the box plants off as cuttings taken from one plant back in the 1990s.

In due time during May 2019 Kate arrived, having felt slightly reluctant I was already feeling pangs of insecurity about whether the garden would make the grade! I spent time weeding and tidying and my father who lives here too made sure all the grass was freshly mown, ready for Kate's little visit. I remember it well as the beautiful cow parsley in the wooded area had just past

it's best and the May stars like forget-me-nots and Aquilegia and iris had not got into their stride, but amazingly she thought the garden would be a useful addition to the list. We agreed we would do teas, in NGS speak tea is just tea and coffee but teas means cake too!

I carried on working on the garden during the summer and autumn of 2019 planting yet more roses, I think we are up to about 70 varieties now, my husband, Richard, built obelisks for the roses to climb over and my father carried on turning what had been grass into lawns. In the autumn we planted about 2,000 bulbs including around 800 tulip bulbs. The winter saw me rummaging in Charity shops for bone china crockery for the 'teas'. Then covid hit everything changed, open gardens were cancelled. I packed the china away in bubble wrap and boxes and wondered when I would be able to get it out and make chocolate cake.

We started new garden projects, Richard put up a green house we had been given in the autumn, I made a new flower bed, which involved digging out an old tree stump and about two bath loads of broken glass and china. The first lockdown went on so long Richard was able to build a new terrace next to the house. Slowly things opened up and in August, not a month I would usually choose to show off the garden, we were able to open. But would it be good enough? We spread wood chippings to make paths in the wooded area, my father spent even more time than usual mowing the lawns, Richard was on edging duty, and I spent the whole week tidying and deadheading. To keep numbers manageable and Covid safe, the NGS now have an online booking system with timed slots, it worked brilliantly. About 15 minutes before our first slot the visitors began to arrive, some were local others had come from as far afield as Norfolk. Everyone was unanimous in enjoying being out and about but feeling safe. People were very kind in their appreciation of the garden and it was

lovely to spend time talking plants and gardens all afternoon with the visitors.

We had one more open day at the end of September, it was one of those glorious late summer days when it's warm and the sun shines all day, you can't believe it will soon be autumn and we will be getting up when it's still dark in the morning.

In 2020 the National Garden Scheme donated £2.88 million from funds raised in their gardens. These donations provided critical support to nursing and health charities in a year of crisis, and supported charities doing amazing work in gardens and health.

If you want an enjoyable afternoon walking round a garden and eating delicious cake, do look at the NGS website, [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). Soon it will be spring and I for one am certainly looking forward to going garden visiting again.

Juliet Penn-Clark

## **Standon & Puckeridge Village Lunch**

How up-lifting to see signs of Spring in our gardens and our beautiful countryside, and to realise how many of us have had our Covid-19 vaccinations and can feel more confident – our thanks to the Surgery for all their great work.

In last September's PS Magazine, you'll remember we wrote we were hoping to organise a lunch for the end of March this year – how sadly over-optimistic that timing turned out to be. For now, all we can tell you is our lovely spotty tablecloths, pots and pans and recipe files are safely stored away and we hope to be able to get them out and invite you to a lunch before too long.

Meantime stay safe and well.

Helena 822177 and Brenda 822293

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**SPINS**

Spins Nursery would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We were fortunate to be given the go ahead to re-open our Pre-School, to our families by the Government in January. Our doors opened on the 5th January and we were delighted to welcome back our little learners, so in need of familiar routine and of course rekindle friendships; an important skill in Prime Development.

Spins Staff evaluated Autumn Terms risk assessments, related to COVID 19 and implemented subtle changes to ensure we continue to control prevention as best we can. Changes so minor, but imperative to keep our little people and their families as safe as is possible. Once more, we would like to thank those families who have given us such valuable positive feedback, we are most grateful.

The Children have demonstrated the need to be with their peers through both speech and gestures. It is a delight to observe and often makes us feel blessed to do our job. We always endeavour to lay the foundations in terms of social and educational values.

This term, the children focused on Physical Development, related to independent self care. Children are

mostly stimulated by finding ways to solve problems and or finding new ways to do things. Many children can now change into their wellies and put their own coats and safety tabard on. We have observed older children eagerly wanting to support their younger peers with this skill, in a warm and supportive manner.

The Children embraced the crisp winter weather exploring natural features like moss on a wall, wet leaves and crunchy frost carpeted grass. This provoked some descriptive dialogue amongst the children.

Outdoor mark making proved to be popular and if you wonder about the parkland you may often find evidence of this.

With the Car Park at the Community Centre a little emptier these days, it lends itself as just the right setting to practise road safety with the children, encouraging them to really listen and differentiate between noises.

The Children also enjoyed the simplicity of Winter walks and fresh air around their environment.

Should you wish to apply for a place at Spins Nursery, places are limited, however you may email for availability

which will be discussed on application or call Sam Christie or Paula Smith on Tel: 07881 533339 email address:

[spins.nursery@outlook.com](mailto:spins.nursery@outlook.com)

**Standon Open Gardens**  
Saturday 12 June from 11am - 6pm

We are hoping that once again this hugely successful local venture will take place allowing visitors to wander around some of the most beautiful gardens in Standon so please put the date in your diaries.

If it does take place FOSM will be laying on entertainment and refreshments in various locations on the route so we will need help on Open Gardens day. Tasks might include selling tickets in the High Street, helping with the teas in the village hall, selling plants on the plant stall etc. If you could spare an hour or two please could you contact Diana Dale on 01920 821691.

We would also be very grateful for any donations of plants for the plant stall so please think of us when you are growing your bedding plants.

Thanks everyone.

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## Slim at Home

Hey! Wow, what a year, and starting 2021 still in lockdown, juggling homeschooling, meal planning, working from home and so much more... but you know what? No matter what life threw at you in 2020, you survived! So be proud of that!

I just wanted to drop you a line to see where you are with your slimming journey? I know its tempting to put things on hold with everything else happening...but remember how important your weightloss is to you, and where you want to be, ready for when the world wakes up again!!

Why not make this lockdown project - YOU? You deserve it and you know what... your fabulous group is right here to help you! Are you in?

Groups for now will still be run virtually, from the comfort of your home, until it's safe to return to the community centre, but don't let that stop you from chasing your dream. I've been handing out awards just the same from 1/2 stone to 6.5stone to Target!

You'll need to call or text me to find out more, so what's stopping you?? Only you.

Make that change to a happier, healthier, slimmer you.

Sophie 07855079070.

## Mike Varney Physiotherapy Puckeridge

### Headache and Migraine Treatment

You may have heard of Mike Varney Physiotherapy, through Mikes time at Tottenham Hotspur during the 70's and 80's, or from his Physiotherapy clinics in Puckeridge, Enfield, Harlow, and Hertford over the past 40 years. Either way, Mike has an amazing history working with elite athletes and serving his local community for decades.



Mike with the UEFA Cup in Tottenham Hotspur glory days

Headache and Migraine treatment has been something we have treated with Physiotherapy for

years but following a training course in Belfast with a world-renowned headache specialist, we have become a centre of excellence for our ground-breaking treatment.

Headaches and migraines are still mostly treated by your GP or neurologist with medication, but research in headache and migraine treatment in the past few years is moving towards a more holistic approach. The treatment we provide works in tandem with medication and very often leads to weaning off and not needing medication at all! Something our patients are very relieved about.

### Why come to us?

The nerves that supply the head and often cause headache and migraine are the ones that comes from the upper most section of the neck.

Stiffness in the neck joints and tightness in the surrounding muscles can cause these nerves to become "hypersensitive" sending messages up the nerves into the head causing headache and migraine.

Patients often do link the discomfort in their neck, shoulders and upper back to their headache and migraine. Sometimes it is obvious with the pain starting there and then radiating upwards, however sometimes they do not suffer any neck pain at all. This does not mean there is not a problem there though and it often surprises them during physiotherapy

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assessment as to how restricted their movement is.

There are generally triggers for patients' headache/migraine such as stress/hormones/caffeine/alcohol etc but the idea is to stop the attacks at their source, in their neck.

We have seen a huge increase in headache and migraine patients in the past year with more desk-based working with poor ergonomic set up at home versus working in offices, with good desk set up and chairs.

With a combination of hands-on treatment in-clinic with exercise-based approach involving making small changes in day-to-day life we can make a real difference to your life. Our treatment involves manual therapy – mobilisation of joints and muscles and acupuncture.

The NHS actually uses acupuncture as a treatment for headache and migraine as evidence is so positive.

### **Aaron – case study**

Little did I know that that visit was about to change my son Aaron's life in more ways than one!

Whilst Tom was treating Aaron's lower back, we got talking about how Aaron was a severe migraine sufferer, being under the care of Great Ormond Street Hospital since he was 9 years old and before that Whipps Cross Hospital.

Over the years Aaron had been prescribed every form of medication going to try and help him with these attacks. Both licensed and unlicensed drugs in every shape and form had been tried to no avail.

Tom informed us of the headache and migraine physiotherapy programme utilised at the practice. As I felt all other avenues had been explored, we had nothing to lose by giving it a try.

Aaron liked and trusted Tom from the start which helped a lot as he had lost faith in doctors at the hospital. He made him feel relaxed talking about anything from football to TV programmes whilst

keeping him and me informed of what he was doing and why he was doing it.

Within a few weeks the change started to happen. Aaron previously was having a migraine every 4-5 days, also lasting 4-5 days at a time, just getting over one before the next attack started. These had begun to take their toll after many years, and he was a very unwell boy.

After a few sessions with Tom, the attacks became fewer lasting only a day or two. We continued with treatment until April and I am pleased to say that Aaron hasn't had an attack or even a bad headache since then.

He is now a strapping, almost 17-year-old, 'normal' teenager. He does not walk around looking weak and tired anymore.

Julie

### **How to find us**

We have two Physiotherapy Clinics. One in Puckeridge and one in Harlow Essex. Our website is [www.mikevarneyphysio.co.uk](http://www.mikevarneyphysio.co.uk) but you can call us TODAY on 01279 414959 or 01920 821452 and we'll be there to help you.



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## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

It is now over a year since COVID 19 was first detected in China, at the end of 2019. It over a year since we started to realise that it might be serious. It will not be long before it is the first anniversary of the beginning of the first lockdown. And yet here we are, in the middle of another lockdown, with no pubs, foreign holidays, many off work, most children at home, the NHS at the limit, quite possibly a serious bereavement and, to add to the misery, it is winter as well. What is there to cheer us day by day?

I have found that it has become a time of small things. The walking Advent calendar brought people together in a new way. People always seem ready for a chat outside the shops, whereas before we might have been too busy. Just before this present lockdown, when restaurants were closed, we went to the service station just off the M11 at Bishop's Stortford and found that not only were the takeaways operating, but you could sit and eat your food. It may have been illegal (I honestly do not know) but that lunchtime KFC and Burger King felt like a gourmet meal out!

There are other small things that make a difference to me. It might be my imagination, but the snowdrops seem brighter and bolder this year. The Red Kites seem to shine in the air with black, white and orange. The snow was joyous when it came, and the days are

noticeably longer. There is light after 5 o'clock! In the midst of the gloomy weather and newscasts there are these shafts of light.

However, there is something more that these small things do for me, and that is to make me want to give thanks. Right now we are often critical of authority (perhaps with reason), getting tired and tetchy and also depressed. Yet when I start noticing these small things that brighten everything, I want to give thanks. It seems a strange thing. Why would I want to give thanks? I guess that this is a common emotion, the sense that there is a need to be grateful. But at root I think it is something God put in us as human beings; as far as we can see it is not in other animals.

Giving thanks to God for these small mercies is very liberating. We have been so used to getting what we want much of the time that we often used to miss these blessings. And blessings are what they are, an indefinable sense of something wonderful creeping up on us unawares. So as you see a beautiful sunset, a child laughing, a robin on the bird table, a friendly greeting, a snowflake floating down, take a moment, look more closely and thank God. There are enough bad things around us right now without us missing the blessings God gives.

And finally it gives us practice: as the vaccine rolls out, there is a time coming when it will be good to thank God for a big thing: bells ringing, glasses clinking,

people laughing together. We pray for that time to be soon!

John Chitham

01920 739483 [rector@ubsms.org.uk](mailto:rector@ubsms.org.uk)

## Interesting facts

When next planning your holiday pause for thought and think of the more Eco Friendly service providers.

Cruise Ships > In a typical week (before the pandemic) a liner carrying 3,000 passengers will produce more than 200,000 gallons of foul waste (including sewage) which is legally pumped into the sea.

The Operator Carnival's Fleet of ships alone in 2019 produced more emissions of sulphur dioxide than all of Europe's 260million cars.

Sunday Times - Dec 2019

## Sing Together

Sing Together meets online each week for conversation, for company and to sing a few songs together. No singing experience is needed - nobody hears you!

- If you are missing your usual social groups
- If you would enjoy some company
- If music might help jog your memory

Then why not try SING TOGETHER?

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## ***Wiping the slate clean***

Some years ago now, a young man we know who had been living in a university city had a bank overdraft of a few hundred pounds that he wanted to pay off. The only problem was that he didn't know exactly how much it was and didn't think he would have enough money anyway. So, we prayed with him about it and then we all went to his local bank branch to see if they could sort it out. While we were there the bank looked up his account file but couldn't find anything. So, they contacted the head office to check further, but the same result came back: the bank had no record of any outstanding debt. His account was clear. You can probably imagine the relief – it wasn't just that his debt had been paid, there was absolutely no record of there ever having been a debt. And of course, he was very happy to accept the bank's written note to confirm that fact. We all really thanked God for that!

Since it will soon be Easter, there's an interesting parallel in the bible to this story. When Jesus went to the cross of Calvary, he died to pay for the sins of every person. He took away our sin and the guilt of it so that we don't have to

carry the burden of that anymore. He also paid the price for our healing and well-being, all because he loves us. Jesus had no sin of his own and yet he went to the cross in our place so that we could be right with God. It's called the great exchange. It cost him his lifeblood. The one who had no sin was made sin for us and in exchange gave us his own right standing with God.

But Jesus didn't just cover up and pay the price for our sin that we might be forgiven. The bible says that Jesus' blood actually blotted out the record of it. The record of our guilt no longer exists. God has given us his written word on that (Colossians 2v14), but we do have to accept that fact by faith. We have to trust him and believe that he has done exactly as he has promised.

And that's at the heart of the Easter message. A truly new start with a completely clean slate, free from the debt of sin and guilt, that we receive when we put our faith and trust in Jesus and make him Lord of our lives.

Happy Easter to you all.

Revs Colin and Teresa Marks, A10 Christian Trust.

## ***HMRC and The Royal Courts of Justice scams***

In one week we have had 18 HMRC reports, equating to a loss of £21,934. In some of these the offenders claimed to be from the CPS or the Royal Courts of Justice rather than HMRC.

We also had 3 reports of people receiving texts from the courts telling them that they were being summonsed for jury service. The text contained a link which takes you to a fake HM Gov website where you can confirm your attendance or pay £35 for 6 months to defer.

"Received a call from an unknown number claiming that I owed £999 due to miscalculated tax from 2018-2019. They were able to call me from a number registering to the Royal Court of Justice. They explained that I could pay the balance fee now, and when found innocent I could get the money refunded to me".

As you can imagine this an example scam, HMRC or the Royal Courts of Justice will never call you, if you receive these calls, politely close the call and do not provide any details, and report to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

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## The Hundred Parishes Society

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

The local pub has long been a focal point of the community. Samuel Pepys in his diary described the pub as “the heart of England”. Beer was once much safer to drink than contaminated water.

Many of our local pubs are centuries old, built when most of the population were illiterate. They had distinctive names and simple signs to identify them. As early as 1393 Richard II required landlords to erect signs so that ale houses were clearly visible to his inspectors, who judged the



quality of the ale. Nowadays, not all have signs but there are many interesting names.

The Saracen’s Head in Great Dunmow, opposite the market place, is a 16th-century coaching inn. A Saracen was an Arab Muslim who in the Middle Ages fought against Christians for control of The Holy Land.

The Blind Fiddler in Anstey takes its name from a tale of George the blind fiddler who for a bet entered a tunnel said to run from a pit to the castle mound a mile away. He was accompanied by his dog. A scream was heard, the dog reappeared singed from head to tail, but George was never seen again!

In Bartlow, The Three Hills dates from around 1800 AD and is named after the parish’s giant Roman burial mounds which also feature on the village sign.

The Sword Inn Hand in Westmill takes its name from the coat of arms of the Greg family who once lived in the parish and were generous benefactors. It has an unusual and distinctive new sign.

Let’s hope that we can soon all return to fully enjoying the hospitality of our local hostleries. Each of those mentioned here can be found on one of the walks described on the Society’s website.

### Hertfordshire Puddingstones

Our area has a good number of so-called “Hertfordshire puddingstones”. I am not convinced that Hertfordshire has any real justification for claiming the



puddingstone because examples can be found on both sides of the Essex / Hertfordshire county boundary. I recently acquired a copy of “Puddingstone Walks in Essex”, a neat little book that describes walking routes which in total pass more than twenty puddingstones or groups of puddingstones in the Essex part of the Hundred Parishes.

A puddingstone is a conglomerate of many small, rounded and colourful pebbles that appear to have been cemented together. Geologists explain that they were formed around 50 million years ago and were deposited in this area by a retreating glacier, possibly only

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10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.

Some puddingstones lay where they were deposited, whilst others have been moved to more convenient locations and sometimes put to good use. Brent Pelham and Arkesden have incorporated them into their war memorials. Others are visible in Arkesden in the stream of Wicken Water beside the bridge.

Stones have been used as building material within walls in Much Hadham and Wendens Ambo, in Great Hallingbury's church tower and in St Helen's Chapel at Wicken Bonhunt.

One in Standon is proudly displayed, whilst a large puddingstone in Newport seems to have been unceremoniously abandoned beside the approach road to the station. Others stand in Tilty churchyard, by the pump at Ugley Green, in Saffron Walden Museum's grounds, by the Shell House in Hatfield Forest and beside the Yew Tree pub in Manuden.

No doubt there are many more – I would be pleased to hear of any that I have missed – please email me at [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com), if possible with a photo. Will we find more in Hertfordshire or Essex?

### Thatch - and Straw Finials



At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever.

I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.

You may see a hare on Dick Turpin's Cottage at Hempstead or a galloping horse at Great Bardfield. High Roding has a delightful cat stretching up the chimney stack and a fox chases a hare in Brent Pelham. An eagle has landed in

Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London.

Do keep looking up!

Ken McDonald, Secretary.

### Covid-19 > in 2021

So as we have all now deduced there is no certainty as to when we will finally be released from our 'safety shackles' that are the present way of life.

This means the present 'new normal' needs to be embraced rather than debated and resented.

Each of us can make small changes in managing expectations that form the chink of light in the sometimes seemingly constant gloom.

For those of us more fortunate, who have an income, then I strongly suggest if you are working from home, to create a designated work-space (Not your bed or sofa). Having a proper seat (for back and shoulder and eye-level) creates a much healthier working day. Not only that but a designated workspace has a purposeful layout so easier to utilise and have files/paperwork to hand.

It doesn't need to be a big space. Stacking boxes for files, folding table,

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power extension towers (multi plugs/ USB) and a decent chair can all be packed into a relatively small. I was fortunate enough to go on a well-known second-hand goods website and bought a Burr-Walnut folding table which is just so lovely to use. Look around these sites and 'make offers' rather than accepting the price.

I have decluttered some cupboards (so therapeutic) and now this is where my files go, along with some shallow file boxes under my bed. Set yourself a plan and a reasonable timespan Lots of small changes make the difference.

'Experience has taught me this, that we undo ourselves by impatience' ~ Michel de Montaigne

### **Four Acres Estate** *First vineyard in Little Hadham since the Romans*

#### **History**

My wife Sharron and I bought Four Acres, a small bungalow with almost four acres of land, in October 2010. It was always a dream of mine to own some land to cultivate and with our three sons having flown the nest we thought this was the right time to try this.

The views from the Ash Valley are spectacular and the interesting thing is the sun (when it shines) is on the land from dawn to dusk.

We had a brilliant architect design the house with Sharron's help while all my

efforts focused on the land and deciding what I wanted to do with it. Our main arguments focused on where the vineyard and orchard would stop and the garden begin. Sharron told me that if I had my way we would have the apple trees right up to the back door and lose all the views from the house!

#### **The Vineyard and Winery**

Having decided, more on a whim than anything else, to plant a vineyard I attended a course at Plumpton Agricultural College which taught me the fundamentals of planting. In 2012 we planted 2,300 vines. These were a mixture of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay - the classic varieties for making sparkling wine.

In 2013 we built a winery and bought the press and tanks to make the wine at Four Acres. Most small vineyards send the grapes away and have the wine made for them and now we know why they do that - this is hard work!

#### **The Apple Orchard and Cidery**

Being gluttons for punishment we also decided to make cider at Four Acres and we bought 200 apple trees from Hereford. These consisted of nine old English varieties and were delivered in March of 2012 as small bare root trees. I was initially told they were of M40 root



stock and would grow to around five feet. Eight years later some are twenty feet high but that's another story. We also purchased the equipment for pressing the apples and created a cidery.

#### **Volume and Production**

Since 2016 we have been producing a Sparkling Rose and sparkling Blanc de Blancs wine. We average around 2,000 bottles per year depending on weather conditions. Making sparkling wine is complicated and takes over two years from harvest to final product. The apple harvest is more consistent and we average about 1,000 bottles of sparkling cider which we make champagne style.

We do all the work ourselves in the vineyard and orchard, with the help of friends and family and volunteers at harvest time but have expert help to actually blend and make our wine. Our winemaker runs a vineyard which has over 120,000 vines and his expertise is essential.

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*I was told the trees would grow to Five Feet high!*

### **Tastings**

As we write this article in January we are in a Covid lockdown. However being an eternal optimist I am already planning some wine tastings and vineyard tours in July and August. Our tours are free and limited to a maximum of ten people.

If you are interested in attending you are welcome to email us and we will put you on our list and advise you of the dates once the Covid situation enables us to go ahead with tastings,

Platon and Sharron Loizou

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## **Stansted Airport Public Enquiry**

### **A Fight for our Future**

After more than three years of fierce resistance by the local community, the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport will be decided by a Public Inquiry which opened in January. The outcome will determine whether Uttlesford, East Herts, and other surrounding districts will continue to consist of largely rural communities or will, in time, become further blighted and urbanised in the same way as large areas around Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

SSE considers it entirely irrational, and potentially dangerous, for the Government's Planning Inspectorate to insist that the Public Inquiry must start at the height of a pandemic. Stansted already has permission for 35 million passengers and its passenger throughput peaked at 28 million in 2018, with passenger numbers in decline since mid-2019, long before the pandemic. In 2020, Stansted handled just 7 million passengers and has forecast that it will take years to return to pre-pandemic levels. Plainly, there is no urgency to increase the current planning cap.

If approved, Stansted would be permitted to expand to a similar size and scale to Gatwick, which is why Stop Stansted Expansion ('SSE') has fought these expansion proposals, tooth and nail, since they were first announced in June 2017 by the owners

of Stansted Airport, the Manchester Airports Group (MAG). At that time MAG fully expected Uttlesford District Council ('UDC') to approve its proposals within three months.

However, UDC officials and MAG underestimated the strength of local opposition, spearheaded by SSE. Three months has become three years and there is now, finally, an opportunity for the local community to make a stand. We all have a moral obligation to call a halt to ever-increasing aviation emissions, for the sake of future generations as well as for the sake of all other species with whom we share this planet, and SSE will do its utmost to fight for these local and wider environmental principles at the forthcoming Inquiry.

SSE cannot however hide its disappointment that UDC officials have now, behind the scenes, withdrawn most of their objections to MAG's expansion plans for Stansted, subject to a few hollow conditions.

SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "In view of the timing of this Public Inquiry, at the height of a pandemic, SSE is participating under duress, but we have powerful, well-researched evidence to put before the Inquiry and we will do just that, regardless of UDC's position and regardless of the difficulties."

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### Romance Fraud on the increase across the County

#### Spot the signs

You've struck up a relationship with someone online and they declare their love for you quite quickly. They may even talk of marriage or other relationship milestones such as buying a house together. Many romance fraudsters say they are based abroad so will claim a big step in your relationship will be them returning to the UK to be with you. They will claim to be overseas because they work in the military or medical profession, or they're carrying out important charity work. This helps them paint a picture of themselves as being heroic, trustworthy and reliable, and also gives them an excuse for the use of international dialling codes or poor internet connection.

They constantly make up excuses why they can't video chat or meet in person and they try and move your conversation off the platform that you met on.

When they ask for your financial help, it will be for a time critical emergency. The reason will be something emotive, which pulls at your heartstrings. They'll open up to you about a problem, or something that is worrying them to appear vulnerable and make you feel sorry for them. They may get defensive if you decline to help or make you feel guilty and responsible for the urgent emergency they claim you could have averted.

They tell you to keep your relationship private and insist that you don't discuss anything you talk about with your friends and family. This also includes the crisis they find themselves in that requires money. They will convince you this is

part of the normal privacy that forms a healthy relationship.

#### Protect yourself

Avoid giving away too many personal details when speaking online to someone you've never met in person, as it can lead to your identity being stolen. This includes revealing your full name, date of birth and home address - even if you're doing it for what seems to be harmless reasons, such as your partner wants to send you flowers or a gift.

Stay on the site's messaging service until you meet in person. Criminals want to quickly switch to other platforms that are less regulated and have better encryption, so there's no evidence of them asking you for money. Whatever reason you're given to move away from the site where you met, if the other person is genuine, they will accept your decision to stay on the platform until you see each other in person.

Most online platforms have a reporting tool which you can use if you suspect someone online is using pictures that don't belong to them, you are suspicious of their behaviour, or they have asked you for money. Reporting their user profile means it can be blocked, which helps protect others.

No matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you trust them, if you haven't met them in person do not:

- send them any money
- allow them access to your bank account
- transfer money on their behalf
- take a loan out for them
- provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses

- invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice
- purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (laptops, mobile phones etc.)

### How to protect yourself from 'clone firms'

Did you know that more than £9m was stolen in Hertfordshire during 2020 involving 'clone firm' investment scams?

Clone firms are fake companies set up by scammers using the name, address and 'Firm Reference Number' (FRN) of real firms authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Once set up, these fraudsters will then send sales literature linking to websites of legitimate firms to dupe potential investors into thinking they are the real company.

The FCA is advising anyone considering an investment opportunity to check the Warning List of firms, which is updated daily, and not to deal with a firm that is not authorised by the FCA.

The specific details of a firm, such as the telephone number and website address can be verified on the FCA Register.

The FCA also warns consumers to use the phone number on the FCA Register to make contact with an authorised firm, so as to be sure they are dealing with the real company.

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Just checking the company's Firm Reference Number (FRN), isn't enough, as scammers will often copy FRN numbers and even encourage victims to check the FCA Register to prove their legitimacy.

**How to protect yourself from clone investment firms:**

Reject unsolicited investment offers whether made online, on social media or over the phone. Be wary even if you initiated contact.

Always check the FCA Register to make sure you're dealing with an authorised firm and check the FCA Warning List of firms to avoid.

Only use the telephone number and email address on the FCA Register, not the contact details the firm gives you and look out for subtle differences.

Consider seeking impartial advice before investing.

Investors can test if they can spot an investment scam from a smart investment by taking the Scam or Smart quiz, visit [www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart) to find out more.

**Friends of the Rib and Quin**

The FORQ executive team were disappointed that we had to postpone the public meeting we had planned for January. We have however been able to fix a new date, so hope that as many people as possible will join us, on Zoom, on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Full details and a link to register for the meeting will be sent out, to all those on our mailing list, and posted on our website shortly.

FORQ's executive committee are very grateful to Braughing Parish Council for the award of a grant, at the Parish Council meeting in January 2021. We will use the grant is to help organise some "Balsam Bashing" events during the summer, to try and reduce the amount of Himalayan Balsam clogging up the River Quin in the Braughing area.

With all the rain in the last few weeks it has been interesting to see the levels of the Rib and the Quin going up and down in response. The depth of both the Rib and the Quin are monitored by the Environment Agency, the Rib at Buntingford and Wadesmill, and the Quin at Braughing. The data generated is published in graph form, which can be found at <https://www.gaugemap.co.uk/>. For the vast majority of the time the depths barely register. Of course, the

levels rise in times of storms and heavy rainfall when road and field run-off increase the river flow.

We were very disappointed to see that the debate on the Private Member's Bill (Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill) put forward by Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, (head of Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee) was postponed. There is a chance that it will be rescheduled when the House returns to normal business, but it is unlikely that there will be sufficient parliamentary time to allow it to clear both Houses before the current parliamentary session ends.

We were pleased however to see the DEFRA announcement, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, that the Storm Overflow Taskforce has agreed to set a long-term goal to eliminate harm from storm overflows. Following recommendations from the Taskforce, water companies will also increase transparency around when and how storm overflows are used.

**Useful links:-**

<https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/blog/>

<https://chalkaquiferalliance.wordpress.com/events/>

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ



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## Register your 'White Goods'

Hertfordshire Trading Standards and Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service have teamed up to remind residents of the importance of registering domestic appliances to help lower the risk of accidental fires.

Since the beginning of 2015, a total of 385 fires involving appliances in dwellings have been reported to Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service; 34% of which were attributable to washing machines and/or tumble dryers and 10% of which were caused by dishwashers.

Occasionally, faults with appliances are identified that require a product recall or a modification. However, it can be very difficult for producers to trace affected products when customers have not provided their contact details at the time of purchasing, or soon afterwards by registering the product. This is a particular problem if appliances are purchased second-hand or go through multiple users in their lifetime, such as those provided in rented accommodation. By registering appliances, affected owners ensure that they will be notified of the action required, helping to protect them from the risk of accidental fires.

Registering appliances is a quick and simple process. Most brands have teamed up with The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances

(AMDEA) to provide a convenient portal for registration. Both new and second-hand appliances can be registered at [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk).

If there's a problem with a model you own, you'll receive an email alert telling you what you need to do, whether it's a safety repair a complete recall of the product.

Top tips for avoiding white goods fires:

- Don't leave appliances running overnight or when you're out of the house unless they're designed to be left on all the time (such as fridges)
- Register your appliance at [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk) so that the manufacturer can notify you about any recalls or safety concerns
- Look after your appliance – build ups of dust, fluff or grease increase the likelihood of fire
- Don't use damaged appliances – if they start to make odd noises or aren't working properly stop using them and get them checked
- Check if an appliance you've bought, or are intending to buy second hand, has been recalled with [Electrical Safety First](#) where you can get further advice
- Always have a working smoke alarm on each level of your property and ensure you and your family have an escape plan in the event of a fire.

## HMRC and The Royal Courts of Justice scams

In one week we have had 18 HMRC reports, equating to a loss of £21,934 although 15K of that was lost by one person. In some of these the offenders claimed to be from the CPS or the Royal Courts of Justice rather than HMRC.

We also had 3 reports of people receiving texts from the courts telling them that they were being summonsed for jury service. The text contained a link which takes you to a fake HM Gov website where you can confirm your attendance or pay £35 for 6 months to defer.

Typical examples:

Voicemail saying "I had to phone back HMRC on a London number. It was time sensitive and there would be legal consequences if I didn't phone back. I phoned back and very harsh man said there was a tax miscalculation and a warrant for my arrest. I asked if I could pay to avoid any further proceedings and he put me through to his boss, who was very convincing."

"A phone call claiming to be from the Crown Prosecution Service, claiming that they had a warrant for my arrest had been issued on behalf of the HRMC for tax invasion."

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## Catalytic Converter thefts across the District

We continue to receive reports across the District of catalytic converter thefts.

Operation Feline aims to help drivers protect their catalytic converters and provide practical crime prevention advice to help deter thieves.

Inspector Nicki Dean, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Reduction Unit, said: "Over the past year we have seen a big rise in thieves targeting catalytic converters. They are particularly targeting specific hybrid models such as the pre-2008 Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius (2004-2016) and Toyota Arius (2012-2018).

"We have teamed up with garages around the county to offer free catalytic converter security marking"

### For further information:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/news-and-appeals/operation-feline-launches-to-tackle-catalytic-converter-crime-414>

Details of the security marking scheme: [www.herts.police.uk/operationfeline](http://www.herts.police.uk/operationfeline).

List of participating garages :

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Advice/Crime-prevention/Protect-your-property/Operation-Feline-garages>

More advice on how to make your vehicle safe is available at: [www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention).

If you have information about thefts from vehicles you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their untraceable online form.

## Braughing Cricket Club



Braughing Cricket Club is at the heart of our village's community. The Saturday first team plays in the Herts and Essex Border League, whilst we field at least 5 junior teams in the Herts Junior League. In between we have the Braughing Bangers, our new development team that gives juniors a good challenge playing at a senior level.

All Stars colts training sessions run on Saturday mornings, which have been very popular with both boys and girls from the age of 4, with an emphasis on fun, sportsmanship and inclusivity. Training dates will be confirmed soon following ECB covid guidance, but colts training begins on 24 April.

### Braughing Bangers Sunday Development Team

Following a great start in 2020, teenagers can improve their ability by playing senior cricket safely under the stewardship of four adults who run the team. Matches begin in May with fixtures to follow. Following Paul Jocelyn's excellent leadership in 2020, we are now looking for a new player-manager to take over.

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/Braughingcricketclub](https://www.facebook.com/Braughingcricketclub)

### Twitter

@BraughingCC

### Club Website

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/braughingcricketclub>

### Contact Pete Hobson

[braughingcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:braughingcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk)  
07874 868691



We would love to involve more people from Braughing and the surrounding villages!

Whatever your level or amount of time you have, please let us know if you're interested to play cricket or support the club. Failing that, come to watch us play sometime on a sunny day!

### Saturday Team - May Fixtures

- 1 May - Thaxted (H)
- 8 May - Abridge (A)
- 15 May - High Beach (H)
- 22 May - Stansted I (A)
- 29 May - Woodford Wells IV (A)



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## Increase in Shed thefts

We continue to see an increase in shed thefts across the District and Hertfordshire Constabulary is advising residents to make sure their gardens, sheds and garages are secure.

With warmer weather coming, people are spending a lot of time in their gardens using gardening tools and leisure equipment, which are often left out or stored in outbuildings. Burglars tend to target sheds, garages and outbuildings, looking for valuable power tools, bikes and other expensive items.

These are some of the ways you can make your garden and outbuildings more secure:

- Always lock your shed, preferably with two 'hasp and staple' locks (one near the top and one near the bottom of the door) or use an alarmed padlock
- Secure your rear garden by locking entry gates with a padlock

- Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use
- Ensure boundary fences are secure and in good condition. Spiky plants along garden boundaries are good additional deterrents
- Tools and gardening equipment should be visibly marked with your postcode and house number - this can deter thieves and help police identify the rightful owner
- Make access to the rear of your property difficult, keep rear/side gates closed and locked ensure boundary walls/fences are in good repair
- Wheelie bins secured so they cannot be moved or used as climbing aid
- Planting of defensive spiky plants under windows such as berberis, roses, pyracantha

For more detailed security advice, please visit <https://www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention>

## Police warn motorists not to use mobile phones while driving

The dangers of using a mobile phone while driving will be highlighted this month as part of a national road safety campaign.

Using a mobile phone while driving is a leading cause of collisions and many of those result in serious injury or death. Last year, over a quarter of all collisions in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire that involved a motorist who was using their mobile phone, ended in fatality or serious injury.

For this reason, Hertfordshire Constabulary is urging all motorists to put their mobile phones away and avoid unnecessary distractions.

It is recommended that drivers put their phones on silent or better still, turn them off, and place them in the glove box.

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**ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE**

**Puckeridge** : Doris Windsor 01920 822525

**Braughing**: Cllr Ruth Fleetwood  
01920 822889 [rfleetwood@braughing.org.uk](mailto:rfleetwood@braughing.org.uk)



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

 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



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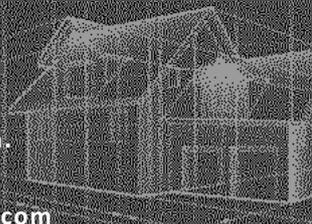
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### Our Top Tips to Stay Safe

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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.

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[www.westmillnursery.co.uk](http://www.westmillnursery.co.uk)

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Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship (Mothering Sunday)	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> March	11.15am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Benefice Palm Sunday procession and Morning worship (Meet at water pump, Braughing)		
Every Weds	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)		
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>				
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm Compline on Zoom			
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm Compline on Zoom			
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30am Holy Communion at Braughing			
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	8.00pm Maundy Thursday – Benefice Holy Communion on Zoom			
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	2.00pm Good Friday – Benefice Stations of the Cross service on Zoom			
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Easter Day Family Communion Celebration	9.30am	Easter Day Family Communion Celebration
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	Holy Communion	11.15am	Family Morning Worship
Every Weds (except 7Apr)	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)		
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.30am	Holy Communion	11.15am	Family Morning Worship
Every Weds	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)		
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> June Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> June Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> June Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11.15am 10.00am 11.15am 9.30am	All Age Holy Communion All Age Morning Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion	9.30am 11.15am 9.30am 11.15am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Café Church Family Morning Worship
<b>St Mary's, Stocking Pelham</b>				
Sun 30 May	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	(tbc)	

Contact Rev'd Julie Gawthrop for details on 01920 823531

\*\*The churches are currently not open for public worship. However, the church meets on Zoom at 10.30 every Sunday morning. Please contact the Parish office for Zoom details [churchoffice@braughing.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@braughing.org.uk) and see our webpages for up-to-date service information.

**A Church Near You** webpages:

St Mary's, Braughing <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7816/>

St Mary's, Furneux Pelham <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7817/>

St Mary's, Stocking Pelham <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7826/>

## Local Charity Shops

Please phone to check opening times during the pandemic as they might well change.

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01992 537908  
33 Potter Street, Bishops Stortford, CM23 3UH  
01279 461875  
Both open Mon-Sat 09:30-17:00, Sun 10:00-16:00

### Cancer Research UK

8 Potter Street, Bishops Stortford, CM23 3UL  
01279 656613  
Mon-Tue 09:00-17:00  
Wed-Sat 09:30-17:30, Sun 10:00-16:00

### Emmaus Hertfordshire

Foxholes Farm, London Road, Hertford, SG13 7NT  
01992 504 485  
Mon-sat 9.30 -17.00, Sun 10.00 -16.00

### Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

18 high Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AQ  
01763 274509  
3 Ware High Street, SG12 9BP  
01920 463365  
Both open Mon- Sat: 9.30 am – 4.20 pm

### Isabel Hospice

34a High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AQ  
01763 274904  
44 High Street, Ware, SG12 9BY  
6 Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2JY  
01279 659551  
All open Mon-Sat 09:30-16:30

### Keech Hospice Care

11 Maidenhead Street, Hertford, SG14 1DW  
01992 503670  
Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00

### Mind

42 High Street, Ware, SG12 9BY  
01920 318615  
Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-16:00

### Oxfam Bookshop

2b Maidenhead Street, Hertford, SG14 1DR  
01992 583221  
Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00  
3-5a North Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2LD  
01279 504627

### St Clare Hospice Music and Bookshop

10 Devoils Lane, Bishop's Stortford, CM23  
01279 755990  
Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-16:00  
Outlet Shop, Links Business Centre  
Units 9-10 Raynham Rd, Hastingwood Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5NZ  
01279 639760  
Mon-Sat 08:00-16:00

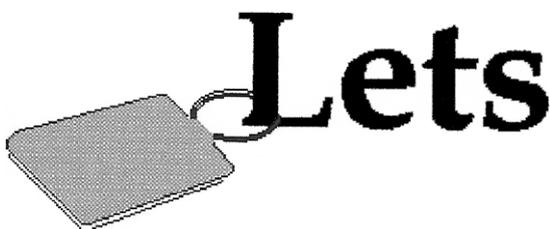
### St Elizabeth's Centre

69 High Street, Ware, SG12 9AD  
01920 466855  
7 Florence Walk, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2NZ  
01279 466892  
Both open Mon-Sat 09:30-16:30

### Scope

15 Railway Street, Hertford, SG14 1BG  
01992 550902  
Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 10:30-16:00  
Jackson Square Shopping Centre, 1 Devoils Lane, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3XH  
01279 504 463  
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St Edmund's College & Prep School, Old Hall Green, Nr Ware, Herts, SG11 1DS  
Tel: 01920 824335 or [hr@stedmundscollege.org](mailto:hr@stedmundscollege.org)  
*The College is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. Therefore, all candidates will be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check.*



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M: 07545 696819  
Email: [swood@swlocums.com](mailto:swood@swlocums.com)

## LOCAL POP-UP VENDORS

### CROWN & FALCON CAR PARK, PUCKERIDGE.

Wednesday: Barberbus 10 - 6pm  
07804 504776 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 GOLDEN FLEECE, BRAUGHING

Thursday: Fresh Fish Van 9-10am

Missed vendor? Email me at  
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



## Vehicle Repair Recovery

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# TEL: 01920 330610

### Easter Plant Sale



Last year we raised over £1000 for the Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon by having plants for sale at the end of our driveway. (Omega, Hadham Road, opposite the Alms Houses)

This year, provided Covid rules allow, we will be doing the same for the 4 days of Easter weekend, starting Friday 2nd April. If you have plants that you could donate, I would love to hear from you. Many thanks to all who have been supportive so far.

Helena Spencer

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### Gardens /Garden Rooms

These will now be yet again fully embraced as the much needed safe outdoor space.

With Children being home schooled, I would seriously consider having a Studio if you have the space and funds. It creates a mind-set but equally on a lovely day you can have the doors wide open .Then if you continue to work from home, this can eventually be your office. Some tubs/planters outside to create a real haven.

### Pond Ambition ~ Why we need water in the garden.

Whether man-made or natural, a pond adds a whole different dimension to your garden.

The attract all forms of wildlife .This can be from the visiting Pied-Wagtail to the actual resident pond life community that will soon take up residence in a new pond.

Ideally a semi-shade area of the garden which adds diversity to those inclined to visit, and where a semi natural theme can be included in the design.

Believe it or not even the smallest oasis will in turn help with a natural control of slugs/snails and even caterpillars. Dragon flies are voracious feeders on caterpillars and some larger garden pests. Frogs and toads have a real appetite for slugs and newly hatched snails and don't need large or deep water features.

Including a shallow area also encourages hedgehogs (as well as ensuring they don't drown) ~ who actually enjoy a swim and also feast on snails/caterpillars.

Water features in a garden (which can be solar powered, which ideally include a small fountain for aeration, create a real harmonious sound to our place of solace.

Wildlife attracted to Ponds include ~ Frogs, Toads, Newts, Dragonflies, Damselflies, Fairy shrimps, Water beetles, Pond snails

A well designed pond, mindfully landscaped can be a real treasure and asset.

We can design and install and if need be even maintain your pond

For smaller self-contained ones go onto the internet and look for solar powered ones , but keep water

levels topped up daily. Surround them with pots/planters and they will attract so much wildlife to your garden.

For all Landscaping and Building enquiries please contact:

For free quotes 'The Other Room ' > [kate.hooper1@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.hooper1@btinternet.com)

[www.the-otherroom.co.uk](http://www.the-otherroom.co.uk)

### Health find!

Having slippers on for a good part of the day I have noticed my feet have dry skin in abundance. But, I have discovered a great treatment. These are also great for people

with potential in-growing or very hard toe nails.

Scholl Dry Skin Foot Mask > like a foot glove

Add extra moisturiser inside, socks over the top for more softening and they are just amazing!

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Contact Kate Hooper 01279 842874

[www.ticklecottageorganickitchen.com](http://www.ticklecottageorganickitchen.com)

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**T: 01279 842874**

**M: 07930 285126**

email: [kate.hooper1@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.hooper1@btinternet.com)

[www.the-otherroom.co.uk](http://www.the-otherroom.co.uk)

Cut Out And Keep

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- Hedge Cutting
- House Painting
- Fence install + repair
- Exterior Painting
- Tree Works
- Patio Clean/Repair
- Garden/ Lawn Work
- Render Repairs
- All Roofing Repairs
- Garden Makeover

Cut Out And Keep

## **Bulky Waste, Unwanted / abandoned cars & Flytipping**

Contact East Herts Council on [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://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/](http://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](http://www.computeraid.org)  
Tel: 020 7281 0091

Another site worth checking is [www.donatepc.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/)

#### **Telephone Preference Service**

0845 070 0707  
[www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/number\\_type.html](http://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

## 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**

Community Centre. Playing Fields, **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**



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[enquiries@mandmm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mandmm.co.uk)

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[www.mandmm.co.uk](http://www.mandmm.co.uk)

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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, at The Golden Fleece.*  
Wednesday and Saturday mornings.  
*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](mailto:phil.firmin@outlook.com)
- Braughing Playing Field Association  
Community Hall - Contact Sue Fox -  
[suefox1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:dane-endhallbookings@Outlook.com)
- Standon & Puckeridge Community  
Centre - Contact Sally Sperring 07854  
916404 [communitycentre@tesco.net](mailto: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
- 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](mailto:pastorbill@puckeridgecc.co.uk)  
[www.puckeridgecc.co.uk/index.html](http://www.puckeridgecc.co.uk/index.html)
- St Mary's Church Standon: Michael  
Smith 01920 821281 or email  
[benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk)  
[www.ubsms.org.uk/](http://www.ubsms.org.uk/)
- St Mary's Church, Braughing: Rev.  
Julie Gawthrope 01920 823531  
[vicar@braughing.org.uk](mailto:vicar@braughing.org.uk)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/braughing-st-mary-the-virgin/](http://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](mailto: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 438186
- Braughing Cricket Club Colts: 438361 07774 961829
- Braughing Local History Society:  
Mary Cockburn  
[mary.cockburn@btopenworld.com](mailto:mary.cockburn@btopenworld.com)
- Braughing Playing Field Association Trust: Graham Frary 07855 834862  
[grahamfrary@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) - general enquiries to: (Roger de Clare lunch club): Louise 07971 800443. (evening unit): [firstsandpbrownies@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk)) or Vic Flintham ([vf@flintham.org](mailto: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: [nedailly@btinternet.com](mailto:nedailly@btinternet.com)
- Golf Club (East Herts):  
Secretary 821978
- Guides: Register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://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](mailto:rachelaw79@yahoo.co.uk)
- Mercury Correspondent: Braughing: Clive Marshall 822167
- Pantomime Group, Braughing: Peter Walsingham 823265
- Parish Paths Partnership: Braughing - Sue Dailly [nedailly@btinternet.com](mailto:nedailly@btinternet.com)  
Standon - John Harris 822887
- Pet Care: Mrs Harvey 822814
- Petanque: Brown Bear, Braughing - Steve Banfield [landlord@brownbearbraughing.co.uk](mailto:landlord@brownbearbraughing.co.uk)
- Pets TLC: 822705
- Photographic Society (Ware): Barbara Norris 822104
- Puckeridge WI: Louise 07971 800 443  
[info@puckeridgewi.org](mailto: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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) - enquiries to [sandprainbows1@outlook.com](mailto: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:  
David Goldstraw, Clerk to Standon Charities,  
40 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH.  
[www.standoncharities.org.uk](http://www.standoncharities.org.uk)

### **Braughing Housing Association**

The Braughing Housing Association was established in 1965 for elderly Braughing residents finding themselves in need of a home. There are six flatlets consisting of bed/sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, suitable for single tenancy.

Enquiries can be made by emailing  
[braughinghousingassociation@gmail.com](mailto:braughinghousingassociation@gmail.com)

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  
Rogers 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

### Historic Walk along Puckeridge High Street

A new walk leaflet has been put together by Standon Parish Paths Partnership and is now available at

- TG's shop,
- Something Lovely Café,
- The White Hart,
- Crown and Falcon and
- outside No.52 Puckeridge High Street.

Thanks to Kathryn Shreeve for the text and Penny Wheadon for the map.

The walk, which lasts about half an hour highlights the historic buildings in the High Street.

Do you know where the Chequers Inn or the Anchor Inn used to be? Take a walk and find out.

## 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](http://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 £160 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](mailto: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](mailto:psnews@walkinginherts.co.uk)

**Visit our website for the latest issue and advertising details: [www.psnews.org.uk](http://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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