

# PS News

September 2020

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

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## **Play Your Part to protect your community**

Organisations across Hertfordshire are appealing to local residents to play their part in preventing outbreaks of COVID-19 in the county as part of a countywide 'Stay Safe Hertfordshire: Play Your Part' campaign.

The most important things you can do to help reduce the spread of coronavirus are to:

1. Keep washing your hands as often as possible, for 20 seconds with warm water and soap or use a hand sanitiser
2. Keep your distance from others, particularly in indoor spaces (2m if possible or 1m plus other measures such as wearing a face covering)
3. Wear a face covering in the places you are required to and when it is difficult to stay socially distanced (you must wear a face covering on public transport, in shops and in hospitals unless you are exempt)
4. Self-isolate and book a test immediately if you get symptoms or call 119

## **Braughing Society**

Owing to the uncertainties and necessary social restrictions caused by the Covid-19 crisis, with great reluctance the Braughing Society's committee has decided to postpone all its activities until further notice. We know that those members who had signed up to visit Ely and/or the Royal Courts of Justice, as well as attend previously advertised future talks, will

be disappointed, but we trust that under the circumstances they understand. This deferment also applies to the Len Howett Memorial Talk that we had planned to host jointly with the East Herts Aviation Society.

We shall keep members advised of when we are able to reinstate all our proposed events. And sincerely hope that this will be sooner than later. Meanwhile if any reader who is not yet a member of the society would like advance notice of our future activities when the diary is settled, please get in touch with our secretary, Marion Saunders (01920 821530).

## **Standon May Day 2021 - Can you help?**

To enable Standon May Day 2021 to go ahead on Monday 3 May we really need more people to volunteer to help us.

I have three vacancies on the Committee which entails a few meetings in the pub through the winter and helping to organise and supervise on the day.

We also need people to just help on the day 7am till 11am and/or 4pm till 7pm.

Help selling programmes on the gate is always welcome, this is organised in 1 hour shifts so it is possible to help us for one hour and then enjoy the day.

We are determined to see May Day thrive but it's a heavy load on a few people so please come and help us we look forward to welcoming you.

Sue Spalding

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



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## **Can you help an Australian?**

I'm writing to you in regards to a James Rider (1844-1929) and Mary Barron (1844-1918) of Braughing who ran The Brown Bear Pub.

I hope to find out more about this family as I believe through Ancestry Dna test results that my Grandfather's biological Grandfather was Horace Herbert Rider (Born 1869) son of James and Mary.

My Grandfather's father Herbert England was an illegitimate child and was born to Sarah England in 1905 in Fenny Stratford. Sarah was a servant in Royston in 1901 and Hitchin in 1911. She had another illegitimate child in 1906 Hubert England but he might of had a different father to Herbert.

So to confirm that Horace Rider is Herbert England's biological father I needed to trace what happened to Horace and if he ever had any descendants. Maybe even find a photo of Horace and the family one day. This is where I'm hoping you or your readers can help, I've managed to trace Horace through WW1 records (where he is listed as single with his father as his next of kin but after he returns from war I cannot trace him at all. I can't find a death record for him and like his parents he is not listed as being buried in the St Mary the Virgin Churchyard.

Perhaps one of you readers is related or might know what direction I should be heading?

Please email me at  
[shannon\\_2579@yahoo.com](mailto:shannon_2579@yahoo.com)

Kindest regards  
Shannon White  
Melbourne, Australia

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

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## **Standon Churchyard – Change is in the Air**

The early stages of the Covid 19 lockdown meant that the usual volunteers were unable to work in the churchyard and, for quite a while, everything grew untended and wild. This excited the occasional adverse comment but many more people expressed pleasure at the wild flowers and the grasses rippling in the spring breezes. And it has led the Friends of Standon Churchyard to re-think their maintenance regime quite radically. This article is intended to explain how we intend to manage the churchyard in the future and, since we want to reflect the wishes of the community we serve, to give readers an opportunity to express their own views for us to take into account.

### **Our Aim.**

A churchyard should be a place of dignified repose for the deceased and of consolation for those who mourn them, and it needs to accommodate the requirements of the church it surrounds. But it should also reflect the bounty of God's creation. That does not mean that it should be allowed to run completely wild. Ready access to all tended graves and space for people to congregate after major services is plainly essential. Where necessary the churchyard should be neat and tidy. Over-frequent grass mowing, however, prevents the growth and spread of wild flowers and is unfriendly to wildlife and insects. So a

balance needs to be struck. Here's how we would like to strike it.

### **Our Plan.**

At the top of the churchyard where most of the current

burials take place, in the Ashton plot where ashes are currently buried and on the pathways the grass will be kept short and the edges kept trim. In those parts where just a few of the older graves are tended mown pathways will be provided to ensure ready access. But most of those parts of the churchyard which do not contain tended graves will be mown only twice a year – once in the early spring and again after the wild flowers have seeded. Readers who passed along the High Street at the height of the lockdown will have noticed the ox-eye daisies which made the front of the Churchyard such a picture. But few will have seen the pyramidal and bee orchids hiding in the high grass. Infrequent mowing will encourage the growth of



*Summer grasses and wild flowers border the upper churchyard*

these and many other wild flowers. Of course the wild bits do not look so pleasant while they are dying back and, partly to offset that, but also to demonstrate that the Friends are caring for God's Acre we intend to keep a narrow strip neatly mown all the way round the churchyard. This should provide a frame for the more natural areas.

### **Trees.**

The Lime trees lining the avenue to the South porch of the church have put on a lot of growth recently which takes much light away from the areas to their East and West. This is particularly unfortunate on the East side where there are many tended graves. The Friends

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hope to reduce their height significantly over the next autumn and winter. This will however require professional assistance.

### **Surveys.**

There is already a great wealth of all forms of wild-life in the churchyard. We are in the process of identifying as many as possible of the wild flowers. We have recently had a butterfly count. Some time ago a brief survey by members of the British Lichen Society described Standon Churchyard as one of the richest (for lichens) in Hertfordshire with 128 lichen taxa recorded - an increase of 50% on a count made some 17 years earlier. Slow-worms abound, especially around the compost areas. Recently we even discovered a nest of chicken eggs in the hedge at the East end of the churchyard. Any reader who would like to assist with our recording of the biodiversity of the churchyard would be hugely welcome.

### **We can help you and you can help us.**

The Friends would like to help people who, for good reason, experience difficulty in tending the graves of loved ones. We can, on request, straighten wonky headstones and fill in sunken graves or perform other tasks which may have got beyond the ability of relatives. For our part we would ask all who tend graves to observe the new and more rigorous Diocesan Regulations 2020. Among other things these prohibit kerbs round graves (which make mowing

difficult), vases that are not fixed into the memorial (which are a safety hazard to mowers), plain or coloured chippings and mementoes on graves. Regrettably, even the old (2004) Regulations have been widely disregarded in recent times – a cause of considerable upset. A copy of the new Regulations is displayed in the church porch.

The Friends of Standon Churchyard have provided voluntary labour to maintain the churchyard for over thirty years. We very much welcome newcomers to our band regardless of age and skill. We meet on the first Saturday of every month at 0930 and work through the morning with a sociable break for elevenses.

### **Your thoughts please.**

The plans outlined in this article are, as described above, in some ways quite radical. Be assured however, that we do not intend to create a wildlife park. A churchyard must always be, first and foremost, a churchyard. Its dignity and serenity are paramount and we do not intend to change that. But we would very much like your feed-back, whether you approve or disapprove of what we are trying to do and especially if you have any suggestions for improvement or wish to help either with our surveys or by assisting us in our work as a Friend.

Contact us by e-mail or telephone or in person – [mfbakerqc@gmail.com](mailto:mfbakerqc@gmail.com) or 01920 822144

Michael Baker

### **Tea Time Talks**

The Tea Time Talks which we have arranged in Standon Village Hall for the last six years (talks on local subjects followed by tea and homemade cakes) have proved very popular and we look forward to resuming them. However as things stand we feel we cannot make any positive plans for the coming winter. When we do start again, we have “The Buntingford Line” by David Dent, which we had to cancel in March. Other topics we would like to cover are the local Four Acres Vineyard, the New Town Movement in Hertfordshire and Bellringing.

We will keep you informed via PS and our email list. If you would like to be added to this list please send me your email address.

Meantime, we continue to maintain the phone box plant display in Standon High Street, with the help of volunteer waterers. We are also renewing the Village Map on the High Street noticeboard, and putting up two permanent posters about the phone box and about the silver birch trees in Burrs Meadow which were planted to commemorate the fallen of the parish in the two World Wars.

Best wishes to all.  
Trish Street  
The T3 Team  
[tricia@streets1.uk](mailto:tricia@streets1.uk)

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## ***It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good***

I can understand that many people have been really devastated by the pandemic, especially those who have lost family members to the virus and those people who have been shut indoors with children for many weeks now, they really do have my sympathy and of course all those people who won't have a job to go back to when it is over, this is life changing.

Overall there will be good to come out of this situation I think. We have all become more aware of our vulnerability and the fact that our lives depend on the way we live. This pandemic is actually a lot less threatening than the far greater threat of climate change which will wreak havoc on our present lifestyles if we don't adapt to a new normal.

Our energy use has to fall, everything we buy uses energy so we have to only buy that which is necessary, every mile we drive takes energy, unless you are running on electric from renewables, every flight we fly uses energy, every one click on Amazon uses energy.

Using less affects the economy negatively, so we need lots of new businesses in the green economy to balance out the system.

There will be many opportunities for new industries, we have to reduce our reliance on China, we need to bring our manufacturing back home

We need a greatly improved education system to support this, we have to have young people coming out of education with new exciting ideas, new scientific approaches to our many environmental problems. We can't expect to get educated people from classrooms with thirty students in them, we know it doesn't work, the increase in funding required will be massive and an opportunity for excited teachers.

Our democratic system is not fit for purpose, we have to have proportional representation, not a system based on the Old Etonians boys club, where we have decisions such as Brexit made by a minority, where we have Johnson/Cummings partnership ruling the country another minority decision.

We should be modernising our feudal system of royalty and out dated parliamentary traditions. Even a new modern energy efficient building for the country to be governed from, the existing one is obviously falling apart not designed for the twenty first century, probably cheaper to build new than refurbish the old one anyway.

The many royal estates around the country are an anachronism and cost the taxpayers a fortune for what benefit, tradition? When the worth of the royals runs into trillions (according to Google) that could fund no end of national improvements? Tradition is holding us back we have to have a positive view of our future and stop looking back.

We have many challenges facing us due to the climate emergency all of which require scientific intelligent people and businesses to find new solutions, in fact in the new normal new businesses will be the backbone of the new economy growing out of the ashes of the old. The opportunities are only limited by our imagination, our educated population and a government committed to acting fully on the climate emergency.



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## **Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre**

As with many buildings/facilities, the Community Centre closed its doors in March. We hope to reopen to regular users only at the beginning of September and all Government guidelines will be adhered to. Unfortunately, we will not be taking party, or one-off event bookings at the moment. During the shutdown, we have taken advantage of it being empty and have had a new CCTV system fitted for the safety of our users and public and have also redecorated the Fordham Hall.

The Community Centre is the facility it is today because of a very small number of volunteers who turned it around when it had to be shut down due to a very bad reputation and was in a very sad state of repair. This small group was headed by Denise Acford, who sadly passed away recently. It was Denise's enthusiasm and determination that spurred the rest to work tirelessly every weekend during the summer of 2006 whilst their children all played in the park. The Centre reopened in October 2006, and before lockdown, was in constant use and home to many groups and remains such a great asset to our villages. Denise will be severely missed.

This is the article that appeared in the Hertfordshire Mercury in October 2006:

# **It's hats off to volunteers as centre reopens**

**STANDON & PUCKERIDGE:** Applause rang out for the people responsible for reviving the community centre, at an open meeting to herald a new era for the venue on Tuesday.

Dozens of residents filled the hall in Station Road to hear about the new management team's plans for the building, which had been closed since March.

The evening began with a multimedia presentation outlining volunteers' work to restore the centre to a hireable standard.

Denise Acford, chairman of the management committee, told the audience: "Tonight is about the future of the community centre, not the past. We are going to move forward in a positive way."

"We have not paid a penny for labour. Everybody who has

**By GORDON RICHARDSON**

[richardsong@hertsessexnews.co.uk](mailto:richardsong@hertsessexnews.co.uk)

worked here over the past few months has given their time free of charge."

"The result you see tonight has come about because of the hard work and enthusiasm of a small group of people. We know with our strong committee and your support, our centre will thrive."

One resident was concerned about a possible rise in anti-social behaviour, which had declined since the centre closed. Mrs Acford said the absence of a members' bar would mean no under-age drinkers were attracted.

The committee also plans to lock the gates at night to stop youths hanging out in the car park. It is working closely with the police and has put a stop to

youngsters riding bikes on the roof.

Activities already taking place include table tennis, short mat bowls, a toddler group and Morris dancing, while a spooky disco for children is coming up.

In response to an appeal for people to run events, some in the audience said they hoped to hold bingo nights, regular auctions and antique sales.

The centre's large hall, small hall and lounge are also available for private hire.

The committee's marketing plan includes setting up a website to promote forthcoming events.

Parish councillor and former committee chairman Julian Robarts, who recommended closing the centre earlier this year, said: "I'm 100 per cent convinced that if anyone can make this place work, this lot can."

## **Village Lunches - Update**

We have very much missed seeing everyone at the Village Lunches and wanted to up-date all our guests and also helpers on our plans for the future of the lunches for the rest of this year and the start of 2021.

Although the Village Hall is now open for bookings again, with the requirements of social distancing, it can only accommodate a very few people, and not enough for us to hold our most enjoyable lunches. As social distancing seems likely to be with us at least throughout the winter, very sadly we do not expect to be able to welcome you all back for a lunch until Spring next year. So we will aim for March 2021 and keep you informed as best we can.

We do hope you are all well and keeping in touch with your friends from the lunch by other means.

Helena (822177) and Brenda (822293)

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## **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. 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. 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+, Men's and Mixed teams in local leagues and are always looking for new players.

Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430.

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

## **Hertford Museum events**

### **High Streets & Hedgerows: Bayford & Little Berkhamsted**

Until 5 September

Discover the fascinating history of these two delightful villages and the stories of the people who lived and worked there in this new exhibition at Hertford Museum.

### **DANAD: Mavericks of Marden Hill**

At Hertford Museum 19 September – 9 January

Discover DANAD, a ground-breaking group of artists and architects centred round a creative community at Marden Hill. Find out how these pioneers of pop art brought fine art into the domestic realm and went on to become giants in their respective fields. Featuring original works by Tom Adams, Sir Peter Blake, Bernard Cohen, Barry Daniels, Robyn Denny and Edward Wright, this exhibition is not to be missed!

## **Buntingford Town Twinning Update**

Since our last article that was published locally in July little has changed because of Corona Virus. Our committee members remain shielding or distancing.

We have however asked our French and Spanish twin towns, Luynes and Olvega, what their thoughts for the future are at the moment. Olvega have replied that they would like to re-start next year with a visit to Buntingford, which is thus putting everything back a year. As this goes to press we are awaiting to hear from Luynes what their plans might be.

Our next planned meeting is our AGM towards the end of November and hopefully by that time all our lives will have returned to something resembling normal.

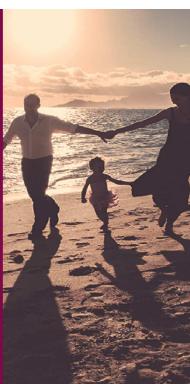
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## **Standon and Puckeridge Bowls Club**

It's been a strange period – an empty green for many months and then a slow return to playing, but no competitions with our friends in clubs around Hertfordshire.

We are soldiering on, and have used the time and improved the grounds of the club – new fencing and improvements to the fabric of the Clubhouse. By the time you see this article there will be a new gate providing wider access for green keeping machinery and we will be looking to over winter a professionally treated green.

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

Which is where you come in – the Club is a great part of the two villages; we offer exercise; friendship and competition – So why not watch out for our Open Day announcement in the P&S news in the first part of 2021 and come down and give us a try

If you want to talk to anyone before then, we would be really pleased to let you know more about the club – all our contact details are at the end of this article – so here's to a better year for Bowls in 2021.

### **Why do we play Bowls?**

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

"It's a great way to be competitive AND enjoy a good social occasion at the same time".

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

"I keep coming back to Standon & Puckeridge" because it's a small and very friendly club, I feel that I am part of the club and not just making up the numbers"

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

Don't worry if you haven't got any equipment or don't know what to do – we will show you the ropes and lend you equipment until you know if you like the game or not

### **All about us:**

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

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

### **Our competitive side is focussed around participation in the East Herts Bowls League:**

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



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

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

If you are interested in playing bowls, we would love to hear from you – and we can always set up a taster session – just contact us through our website

<https://standonpuckeridgebowlsclub.wordpress.com/> Facebook Page - Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club or email [standonandpuckeridgebowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:standonandpuckeridgebowlsclub@gmail.com) or why not write to us at Standon and Puckeridge Bowls Club, Station Road, Standon SG11 1TF

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## **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.

## **Starlight Stars News -**



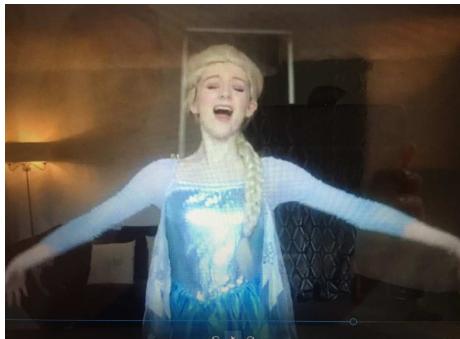
### **The Show must go on!**

This is the phrase we have been repeating at Starlight Stars since we were forced to freeze our lessons in March, and we can proudly say that the show did go on.

Despite the restrictions on having face-to-face classes throughout lockdown, we continued to offer online classes, children's parties and story-telling sessions. We raised £500 for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust NHS Nurses through our online parties lead by our teaching assistant, Ella Markey who created characters and activities to keep children entertained at home. But it wasn't all about the kids! We also raised money for Potential Kids Charity by hosting a Mamma Mia Online Party where partygoers of all ages dressed up, learnt an Abba Dance Medley, participated in online karaoke and joined in the fun of a scavenger hunt. It was

brilliant! Starlight's Got Talent was another popular event where students of different ages performed their own act to a panel of judges who gave great feedback and had the difficult job of choosing winners. So, as you can see, we have certainly tried to keep the Starlight spirit alive during this tough time and we are very grateful for everyone who has supported our events. We are still here to offer Online Parties for birthdays and groups, to help everyone continue to celebrate special events without the worry of hosting a social gathering. Let us know if we can help you in any way.

We are thrilled to be restarting our classes again at Puckeridge & Standon Community Centre from Monday 8th September where we will be delivering our new Covid-Friendly timetable. We are committed to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all our students, parents, staff and other members of the Starlight Stars family. As such, we are ensuring a concerted effort is made to help minimise the spread of COVID-19. To take a look at our new timetable please visit our website [www.starlightstars.co.uk/registration/timetable/](http://www.starlightstars.co.uk/registration/timetable/). If you would like to enquire about any of our sessions please call 01763 287691 or email



[starlightstars@mail.com](mailto:starlightstars@mail.com). Online private lessons are also available for Acting, Singing and Musical Theatre.

Finally, we cannot finish this article without mentioning the wonderful Denise Acford who sadly passed away in August. Denise was a kind and incredibly generous lady. She was always very supportive of our classes and believed in our philosophy of providing fun and friendly classes to local people. Everyone at Starlight Stars will be eternally grateful to her and she will never be forgotten...she truly was the brightest star in Standon.

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

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## **Spins Nursery and Toddler Group**

We have enjoyed both receiving and sharing our little peoples lockdown experiences and fun filled learning journeys whilst at home.

It has been particularly strange to not have had our official leaving event, where we would usually have a presentation gift for parents, from the children, in the form of a leaving song.

At the same event, The Spins Team present the children With a leaving certificate, a laminated poetry keepsake and personalised handmade ring key/ book bag tag to be used on their onward educational journey.

Mrs Christie (The Manager ) had to rely on our brilliant Royal Mail Service to do the job safely in true Covid 19 style, delivering all these items to our little leavers.

It was very underwhelming for all the Spins Team not to exchange fond farewells and wishes of Good Luck to all their little people. However, for Mummies, Daddies and Carers reading this article, please upload your first day at school Photographs to our Facebook page, so we can see how smart the children look in their prospective schools uniform.

The Spins Team have continued to build strategies, policies & procedures

to ensure our existing and new families are keep safe during these uncertain times.

We are also developing new activities to endeavour to keep children as safe as we are possibly able to do so, whilst being mindful that this should be delivered in a natural and organic way to ensure children's learning is not restricted and unaffected.

We will be inviting our new families into the setting by appointment only and times will be designated to meet social distancing guidelines, where we can discuss plans and play moving forward.

For our existing parents we will of course be in contact shortly to discuss our changes prior to the new term commencing.

Although these are uncertain times we have to also embrace that these changes are the new normal and our little people are the best lateral thinkers that will probably teach us all a thing or two about our ever changing world and indeed our environment.

Should you wish to visit the Nursery simply call 07881 533339 or email [spins.nursery@outlook.com](mailto:spins.nursery@outlook.com)

We look forward in welcoming you all back on Monday 7 September

## **Ware & District Photographic Society**

The Photographic Society has had to suspend its meetings at Thundridge Village Hall due to the virus. In the meantime it has been holding Zoom presentations for its members and it has been decided to continue with those evenings from September to December. The annual exhibition in November has been cancelled but it is hoped to hold one in the Spring. New members are always very welcome and anyone who is interested in joining the Society please email the [secretary@wareps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wareps.org.uk) for further information or visit the website [www.wareps.org.uk](http://www.wareps.org.uk)

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## **Standon Parish Council News**

Standon Parish Council Web Site: Please do look on this comprehensive web site for the most up to date information on what is happening in the parish. It is regularly updated with news items by Parish Councillors and information and links to services provided by the Parish, District and County Councils. The agenda and minutes of the meetings are uploaded along with the Parish Council policy documents.

### **Meeting Dates:**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings will be held virtually – links to the meetings will be posted to the website and on the agendas.

New Parish Councillor: Standon Parish Council is delighted to welcome Acland Bryant as our new Parish Councillor. Acland is a resident of Barwick, and has a very welcome legal background. He is an accomplished sportsman who has invested his time and energy in teaching the youngsters (and the not so young!) of the parish the art of Fencing. It is hoped that Acland enjoys his new role as Councillor. Welcome, Acland!

### **Standon High Street: roadworks:**

It is hoped that the road works will be nearing completion by the time you get this issue of PS News. The Parish Council is keen to obtain your views as to whether the changes have improved the situation relating to parking and obstruction, whether it has stayed the same, or if you feel it has made the situation worse. The Parish Council is keen to hear from the shops and whether there has been impact – positive or negative – on finances and footfall.

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

### **Covid-19 pandemic:**

The Village Hall and the Community Centre are working to ensure the safety of facility users once the lockdown is lifted.

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

This weblink takes you straight through to the page where you can simply put in an address or if you have it, the planning application number. The next page shows the application. There is a tab which says ‘documents’ and if you click on this, you will be able to see plans and other documentation.

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

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

### **Dog Fouling:**

Dog fouling is a perennial issue. Whilst many dog owners pick up, some don't and is this minority that give all dog owners a bad name. If you see someone, please do report it directly to EHDC enforcement.

### **Dog bins:**

Whilst dog waste can go into litter bins, the opposite is not the case. If you have

litter, please do not put it dog bins. The Parish Council pays more for dog bins to empty than litter bins, so if they are used inappropriately, residents pay more through their Council Tax bill.

### **Allotments:**

Standon Parish Council is pleased to welcome Doris Windsor as the volunteer allotment manager. Doris has been doing a sterling job dealing with all the new allotment applications which are a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you Doris!

### **Highways reporting:**

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

It is more efficient if faults are reported directly to Herts Direct. There is no benefit to report faults to the clerk unless a fault has been reported and no action has been taken to rectify the problem. It is helpful to forward any updates received from Herts Direct to the clerk advising of action to be taken. These can then be monitored, and escalated as appropriate.

Ditches, drains and hedges: A quick reminder that the maintenance of ditches, drains and hedges is the responsibility of the landowner.

Hertfordshire County Council will not cut hedges, or carry out remedial works to ditches, which border a highway. No hedge cutting should be carried out now so nesting birds are not disturbed.

### **Do you have something you want to raise?**

If you do, please contact me and I will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

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## ***A brief guide to Planning and the Parish Council response***

Parish Councils are statutory consultees in the planning process.

The District Council is the Planning Authority, and takes a decision based on Planning Legislation. That decision must be in accord with the National Planning Policy Framework and the District Council's Local Plan.

The Parish Council feeds into that process and can recommend permission is granted, refused, or it has no comment. These recommendations must likewise be in accord with the NPPF and the Local Plan. If the Parish Council has produced a Neighbourhood Plan, any recommendation must also be in accord with it as it is the only document voted on by parishioners as something they support.

The Parish Council must consider, as part of its deliberations, the following:

- Impact on the street scene: will the proposed development adversely impact, or improve, the street scene.
- Impact on neighbouring properties, particularly if these are considered to have special merit such as being listed, or if the development is in or adjacent

to, a Conservation Area or other area of high built or environmental value.

- Impact of the development on the wider environment: whilst the Planning Officers frequently advise there is no such thing as precedent, developers often include applications of a similar nature which have been granted within the District in the submission, and use these to demonstrate why their proposed development is in accord with the District Council's decision making process.
- The style, design, bulk and footprint of the building in relation to the size of the site, and cohesion with neighbouring properties and its setting in the street scene need to be assessed.
- The environment impact of the development needs to be assessed, and particularly the impact on protected species, or landscapes. Some developments can increase biodiversity through the introduction of specific plants or breeding habitats. Care must be taken with brownfield sites, as some which have been left undisturbed for many years have developed valuable ecosystems and can have rare species present.
- By-products of development also need to be considered, including but not restricted to water run-off (rainwater) and SUDs; potential increase in flooding; impact on watercourses; impact on wildlife; effluent disposal; refuse storage, recycling and disposal; parking both on site and on-street impacts; availability of public transport; cycling and walking routes; size of dwelling (both too small and too large); whether the proposal provides housing for local people and is in line with any housing needs survey; distance to services and facilities such as schools, doctors, hospital, dentist, shops and leisure facilities.
- The rural villages also need to ensure that development takes place within the development boundary which is set by the District Council. Some development is allowed to take place adjacent to the development boundary, and these are known as exception sites and are usually reserved for low-cost, affordable housing. Development outside the boundary would ordinarily be recommended for refusal.
- Development in the rural area beyond the Green Belt covers the rural landscape, and again would usually be refused, unless it was an exceptional development or if it needed to take place. A usual need would be for agriculture, horticulture or forestry accommodation.
- There are also important spaces in the landscape of villages – gaps between houses, houses set in large gardens, views between houses of the wider landscape beyond the built environment.
- Some street scenes set the tone of

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development. There are very beautiful High Streets – Standon has a picturesque High Street with greens and listed houses set within the Conservation Area. Hadham Road which leads from the High Street has starred in ‘Foyles War’. The Square in Braughing has the Listed Church as its backdrop. A walk through the church yard takes you into the Conservation Area of Church End and Fleece Lane. The view of the Old Boys’ School and Church End from the Church has also starred in ‘Foyles War’. Langley Upper Green is set around the Cricket green. Likewise Datchworth has the Cricket green as a central focal point. Bengeo has a different style of development, with narrow streets and Victorian houses. Wind Hill in Bishops Stortford has a different style again, but no less important.

Parish Councils can benefit financially from some development through Section 106 Agreements or CIL Agreements. These payments are applied to developments of 10 or more dwellings and are paid to ensure the community provides facilities which benefit the specific development such as a larger play or sporting area, or increased leisure facilities. Smaller developments do not attract S106 or CIL. The majority of S106 or CIL go to bigger towns to provide facilities such as libraries or sports halls.

Climate Change mitigation is something that needs to be considered for the

benefit of future generations. Energy saving through increased insulation; energy generation through photovoltaic arrays, wind or hydrological systems; alternative heating sources such as ground or air source heat pumps with mechanical heat recover systems; rainwater harvesting; grey water recycling and other measures can all contribute to ‘sustainable development’. The inclusion of trees for shading and increased wildlife habitat can help reduce atmospheric carbon.

It can be seen that obtaining a balance is not an easy task, and whichever decision is taken, someone will disagree or be impacted. It can be seen that the Parish Council has to take a balanced view of all aspects and impacts of a development when taking a decision.

It is thus important the Parish Council remains impartial when taking a decision, and must take that decision ‘without fear or favour’. Whilst the Parish Council is always willing to listen to reasoned argument, it will not bow to pressure from any quarter.

Councillors must declare an interest if they or a member of their family own land which is the subject of an application. They must also declare an interest if a friend or business associate submits an application. Making a declaration of interest means the Councillor cannot take part in the discussion. If a Councillor has a pecuniary interest, they must leave the

meeting whilst the Parish Council takes a decision. The Councillor must then abide by the decision of the Council, even if the decision goes against the application.

The Parish Council must take a fair and reasoned approach to the decision-making process, using the information it has, and using the Planning legislation contained in the NPPF, Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, and Conservation Area Appraisal, where appropriate. The Parish Council can take professional advice such as a Planning Consultant, a Conservation specialist, an Ecology specialist, and also seek assistance from the other statutory consultees such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

This is a very broad approach to the planning system, and is designed to provide a flavour of the difficulties the Parish Council may encounter when assessing all planning applications.

[www.standonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.standonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Belinda Irons, Clerk email: [clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## **Friends of the Rib and Quin**

Despite not holding our Spring or Summer meetings, because of the lockdown, things have been busy behind the scenes within FORQ.

The opportunity to record the wildlife of the Rib and Quin catchments has continued, within the limitations of local walks for exercise. Details can be seen on the project map on the iNaturalist website. At the time of writing there had been 520 observations, with 286 species identified.

A new way to record memories of the rivers, and living in the Rib and Quin valleys, has been launched on the Friends of the Rib and Quin website.

Named 'Voices of the Rib and Quin', (find it from the main menu under History > Social History) this project aims to collect memories and, if possible, record interviews that document what it was, and is, like to live in the valleys. It has been inspired by the oral histories collected by East Anglian historian George Ewart Evans, from the farm and country workers around Blaxhill in Suffolk. It will develop into an archive that can provide a living history that connects those living here with those that lived here in the past.

FORQ were delighted to be able to participate in the Buntingford Walking Market in August. Our stall, on the banks the Rib at Chapel End, in conjunction with Buntingford Plants and Gardens, was very well attended and through the tremendous efforts of Gilly and Joanna, we raised an amazing £90! Thanks everyone.

The popularity of the plant sale provided a terrific opportunity for members of the FORQ Exec to talk to Buntingford residents about the current plight of the Rivers Rib and Quin. The flow of both has been severely depleted through the years to the trickle that now runs in the summer months.

We were also able to discuss specific efforts to improve the Rib and advise on the plan prepared by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust for Buntingford Town Council in 2019.

Unfortunately our planned River Tidy in Buntingford had to be postponed.

We have joined with several other Chalk Stream groups. It has been great to learn from their experiences and together we feel we can have a larger voice. This has resulted in the formation of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance, see <https://chalkaquiferalliance.wordpress.com/>

and the reduction of abstraction to sustainable levels.

These unique freshwater ecosystems are suffering from over-abstraction and pollution and as they all share the same 60 million year old chalk bedrock it's time that there was a single entity to defend them.

The Chalk Aquifer Alliance are mindful that the challenges faced in the East and South East may not be the same as elsewhere but we are keen that any and all independent chalk stream groups, friends and supporters join us if they wish. The Chalk Aquifer Alliance feel there is plenty of common ground and that there are benefits to being able to share knowledge and understanding across river groups.

The Environment Agency issue a Water Situation Report for Hertfordshire and North London each month, which make interesting reading. Hertfordshire and North London received 114% of long-term average rainfall for the month of June, but the downpours on 17 June contributed to half the month's total precipitation. Some effective rainfall occurred in the chalk catchments, however the month-end soil moisture deficit remained significantly above the long-term average.

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ

To keep up to date with what's happening to our Rivers Rib and Quinn and local Wildlife then go to [friendsoftherib.wordpress.com](http://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com).



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The Chalk Aquifer Alliance supports the restoration and protection of water quality and flows in our chalk streams



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## **Hertfordshire libraries re-opening plans**

St Albans, Stevenage Central, Watford Central and Welwyn Garden City libraries are open, with plans also to re-open a further nine libraries in the coming weeks (Bishops Stortford, Borehamwood, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Rickmansworth, Royston).

Visitors will be able enter the library for up to 15 minutes to browse the bookshelves and to use the self-service kiosks for borrowing and returning items – please remember to bring your library card. Public computers will also be available for pre-booked 1-hour sessions.

Things will be different when you visit - Social distancing measures will be in place including queue management, screens on enquiry desks, hand sanitiser stations and quarantine areas for returned books. Customers will also be encouraged to wear face coverings during their visit. We have also changed our layouts and some services will not be available to begin with. We've also adjusted our opening hours to enable additional cleaning and to ensure our staff are able to safely restock the shelves.

These are exciting steps towards resuming our full library offer and we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

## **Up to £300 available for start-up projects in East Herts**

East Herts Council's new Small Grants Programme is open for applications from individuals and informal groups. We are keen to help you start up projects that create stronger more resilient communities. If you have an idea that you want to get off the ground, come talk to us! To find out more about our priorities at this time visit <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations-and-individuals>

### **East Herts Council's crowdfunding scheme opening soon**

East Herts Council is pleased to announce a new match funding scheme for organisations that are thinking of creating a crowdfunding campaign later in the year. There is potential to receive a "pledge" of up to 50% of your fund raising target (maximum £2000) from the Council. Eligible projects include: building improvement works, delivery costs, training. Information on the Council's fund will appear shortly on the CrowdFund Hertfordshire <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/programmes/crowdfund-hertfordshire>. As well as raising funds, this is a good opportunity to test out a new idea and see if the crowd will get behind it. The campaign itself generates awareness of your work and many groups find new volunteers this way.

## **Recruitment of good causes for the East Herts Lottery**

You may be aware that East Herts Council provides a community benefit lottery as alternative way to raise funds. Many good causes in the community have registered and are successfully raising vital funds for their cause but we know there are many out there who may not have heard of the East Herts Community Benefit Lottery. We are asking for your help to raise awareness about this fun, effective and free way for voluntary and community groups to raise much needed funds.

Maybe you have children in a school or club? Perhaps you are part of a club or association yourself? Or do you know a friend or relative that has been supported by a local good cause? If so please consider telling them about the East Herts Lottery to help them in their fundraising quest!

### **It is quick and easy for local good causes to sign up.**

The Lottery is a win-win for both supporters and the local community. 50% from every £1 ticket sale goes to support the local community and supporters are in with a chance of winning up to £25,000 every week.

## **Friends of St Mary's Standon**

Sadly we have had to postpone all our plans for this year including the October concerts as singing in church is not allowed. Hopefully we will be making plans for next year as soon possible, so please continue to support us when this awful situation improves. Stay safe everyone.



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## Dance JAM Academy & Youth Theatre Company

These past months, the children at Dance JAM Academy and Youth Theatre Company have adjusted to the new normal and very quickly adapted to LIFE ON ZOOM! All our teachers were quick to learn how to deliver our classes successfully on this platform. No-one had heard of ZOOM prior to this Covid19 pandemic!

It has been wonderful to see the students still able to progress in their classes and it has meant that we have seen them weekly (even if on a screen) and they have remained connected with their friends. We even had the opportunity to meet their family pets, who all seemed to appear whilst dancing and singing. I will leave the “dad dancing in the background” tales to your imagination! We have held family quizzes, name that tune, dance competitions, tik tok challenges and much more and want to thank all the parents for their support in keeping us together during these difficult times

Our younger students also had a visit from Elsa from Frozen and they were mesmerised. This was so much fun and all engaged brilliantly with so many questions as well as singing and dancing.

Next up... Rapunzel and Anna are making visits on our Summer ZOOM Programme too and we can't wait!

Our senior students have worked so hard to retain their fitness and dance skills in their classes during lockdown, with many needing this for their mental health and well-being and for those commencing full time Dance College or Theatre School this has been really important.

Congratulations to Olivia Sanders who begins her full-time training at Stage Right College, Liv Kerner who started her full-time education at Sylvia Young Theatre School at Easter and Charlotte Hurry who has now completed her 2 year training at Stage Right College and will commence further training at ADDICT in Leicester. We are very proud of you!

All of our classes continue to be popular, so if you are interested in DANCE or THEATRE classes and would like a place, be sure to contact us with your enquiry. We can always add you to a waiting list if we don't have an immediate space.



Anyone wishing to find out more about classes can view the website at [www.dancejamacademy.co.uk](http://www.dancejamacademy.co.uk) and send us a message or visit our FACEBOOK pages Dance JAM Academy or Youth Theatre Company – There are many courses running in August to view! We also launched our very own APP recently, which will mean that our current students, parents and prospective clients have all the information and news at their finger tips.

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### **Class time details**

Monday 7.30 , Standon Village Hall,  
Adult Tap (all levels)  
Wednesday 4pm Baby Ballet (3+ Years)  
4.30pm Prep/Primary Ballet (5-8 years)  
5pm Grade 1 Ballet (8+ years)  
5pm Prep/Primary Tap (5-8 years)  
6pm Prep/Primary Freestyle (5-8 years)  
Saturday Ralph Sadlier School  
8.45am Grade 3 Tap  
9.15am Grade 4 Freestyle  
10.00am Grade 2 Tap  
10.30am Grade 2 Freestyle  
11.00am Choreography  
11.30am Musical Theatre

[julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk](mailto:julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk)  
Julie 07971 699615

PLEASE NOTE – our return in September will mean slight time changes to ensure we are fully compliant with Government Guidelines.

I would like to thank Denis at Standon Village Hall for working so hard with me to ensure we can safely return mid-September, but of course we will follow all Government guidelines for updates as we approach.

Julie McPartland AIDTA  
Principal – Dance JAM Academy

### **Callous, Cynical and Pointless**

#### **MAG to appeal council's refusal of Stansted expansion proposals**

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE)  
Chairman, Peter Sanders, has described yesterday's announcement from the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) of its intention to appeal against refusal of its Stansted Airport expansion proposals as

"callous, cynical and pointless".

#### **Background**

MAG was seeking an increase in the permitted throughput at Stansted from the present limit of 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 43mppa. Stansted's actual throughput in 2019 was 28 million passengers and will be very significantly lower this year due to the impact of Covid-19.

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) first received MAG's expansion proposals for Stansted in 2017 and spent more than two and a half years considering the issues until January 2020 when its (cross-party) Planning Committee voted by ten votes to zero to refuse the application.

MAG had insisted from the outset that its planning application should be determined locally rather than nationally, and that UDC was the "competent and appropriate authority" to deal with its application – a view that was endorsed by the Secretary of State, over-ruling SSE's view that the scale of the application meant that it should be determined.

#### **Reaction from SSE**

Mr Sanders commented: "It is the height of cynicism for MAG to insist all along that its planning application should be determined locally and then, when it does not obtain the result it wants, to appeal to the Secretary of State to set up a Public Inquiry, aimed at overturning the local decision. MAG chose the playing field and it should therefore respect the democratic verdict of our local council."

Mr Sanders added: "Following the UDC refusal in January, MAG had (in law) six months to appeal and stated yesterday that it will submit its appeal "later this month". In other words, MAG is leaving this to the last possible moment. A Public Inquiry would mean that the final outcome might not be known for another 18 months and could cost our local council up to £1.7 million. In the current circumstances, clearly there are far more important priorities."

SSE is currently considering legal options which might yet thwart a Public Inquiry. However, if an Inquiry cannot be avoided, SSE will offer every assistance to UDC in defending its position. This will include extensive expert evidence highlighting the unacceptable impacts of the proposed expansion in relation to climate change, noise, air pollution and health impacts on the local community and the inadequate capacity of the local road and rail infrastructure.

Finally, the impact of Covid-19 raises fundamental questions about the need to approve further airport expansion at this time. Stansted will handle about half of its permitted 35mppa throughput this year and so there is no urgency whatsoever to raise this cap to 43mppa.

Even at this late hour, SSE urges MAG to think again and agree to respect the UDC decision.

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Matthew Peirce will be working all day on a Wednesday. Here is a bit more information about him:

Matthew graduated from the University of Brighton. He currently works in the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore and private clinics across London and Hertfordshire. He is a member of the College of Podiatry and is registered with the Health Care Professions Council.

Each of these roles has allowed him to work both as part of a team and independently. He is proficient in verruca needling and highly experienced in nail surgery. His professional and

considerate manner makes him popular with patients. He has a keen interest paediatric podiatry especially since he has 2 small children of his own.

Bookings are being taken now, just call 01763 878087. As well as being able to perform nail surgery he can help with hard skin, corns and verrucas.

## East Herts Aviation Society

The society traditionally ceases its activities during July/August and this year was no exception.

Unfortunately, the society was unable to meet during "the Lock-Down" from March to July. However such was the enthusiasm of several of its members that weekly during that period a Tit Bits Bulletin of aviation related snippets from newspapers, magazines, social media, and especially YouTube videos and photographs, was circulated to members to provide a hotchpotch of interesting matter. The result each week provoked numerous email conversations and triggered some wonderful memorable historic anecdotes. It was a good way to keep in touch and keep "active".

The committee is now considering how to continue this aviation related banter amongst the membership until we meet

again. And we are open to suggestions. Sadly our previously announced schedule of talks, including the inaugural Len Howett Memorial Lecture that we were to hold jointly with the Braughing Society, has had to be postponed until we have a clearer picture of when Covid-19 related restrictions are lifted. We shall advise you of any change in this as soon as we can. Meanwhile if anyone is interested in becoming a member for when we do resume our activities, please contact me. I should be pleased to hear from you. (Tel 07785 245400).

Roger Stainton  
East Herts Aviation Society

## Standon Embroidery Group is due to restart in September.

Following discussions with our Tutor, Julie Walsby, the monthly Standon Embroidery Group will be recommencing on Tuesday 8 September in the Main Hall at Standon Village Hall from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. New members are always welcome and if anyone is interested in joining this group of enthusiasts, please telephone Barbara Norris 01920 -822104 for further information.



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## The New Normal

We have difficult times ahead, at least for many of you young people out there, my generation of oldies have created so many problems which we are now passing on to the younger generation and I personally feel guilty and would like to at least try to help. Many of us have full pensions, own our own houses and have exploited the system for all we could get. We now have a different world situation, for so many people the result of the pandemic will be unemployment, trying to live on benefit, no way of paying a mortgage or rent, and on top of that the far worse threat from Brexit and climate change.

### **Somehow we have to take a positive view.**

The younger generation will need to rise to this massive challenge, social media I would think is the obvious starting point, a lobby group of thousands can have a positive influence on Government if they can work together to come up with positive solutions.

The first of which in my view should be a universal living wage so that every single person has enough to buy the basics, proportional representation would also be a step forward.

In our new normal there are so many opportunities for hard working people to earn a living and to benefit the climate emergency at the same time if they can get the funding, a big if.

We have twenty million substandard houses in this country all of which need to be refurbished this will require a skilled, dedicated work force, who know their subject in detail and all the technical theories behind them. If I was young now I would be out there swatting up on the subject reading, reading, reading, on the internet developing skills required ready to use the funds which Johnson says will be available.

Energy efficiency has to be applied to all existing buildings and businesses, lots of companies are currently saying they will be carbon neutral in the next few years, they will need trained people to carry out this work.

Farming will need to adapt too, 70% of our food is imported we cannot rely on these countries exporting to us if they suffer drought or storms, which they undoubtedly will, so we need to grow more here, not just square miles of grains to feed to animals, an unnatural diet for ruminants anyway. More vegetables, fruit etc. there are companies

growing soya beans, lentils, in this country now these new crops need trained workers, get learning.

We need manufacturing of goods to be brought back here too, we need engineers to come up with new ideas and techniques. Our infrastructure all needs to be made more efficient with the use of new i.t. and electrification of transport.

The opportunities are many and varied, and if we are to have any sort of future these have to be taken on. Funding will be difficult; this is where pressure on the Government comes in from the lobbying group.

This country is still bedevilled with our anachronistic class system, where we have royalty, lords, the Eton elite having a great time and then the rest of us floundering about trying to make a living. No I am not a red lefty I believe in capitalism it works well if controlled. We need politicians who have genuine empathy, altruism and honesty not the lying crowd we have now.

Education is so important and must be one of the key elements of any lobbying to Government right from primary to vocational level, engineers are turned on in their childhoods.

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## **Butterflies in St Mary's churchyard Photos with Toby's email**

One of the definite beneficiaries of this torrid pandemic has been nature. With less pollution, the wonderful spring weather and more eyes out and about, it seems that we're in the lucky position of being surrounded by wildlife.

As part of the post-lockdown strategy for the churchyard, a group of volunteers have undertaken a wild flower survey and discovered, so far, 85 species. Buoyed by the success of that survey, Nic Barltrop and I have been butterfly hunting. This has been a steep learning curve for me as I am not a butterfly expert. In the three weeks up to 10th August we are delighted to say that we have found 15 species, and I am particularly excited that four of them were first time sightings for me.

What has been especially pleasing is that the butterflies we have found are usually seen in a variety of different habitats. Speckled Woods are usually found in deciduous woodland, Gatekeepers are common in hedgerows, Common Blues and Marbled Whites love downland and Meadow Browns (unsurprisingly) thrive in meadows.

Amazingly, the Painted Lady will have flown all the way from North Africa where it spends the winter. We even have a rarity, the Small Heath, which is on the red list of those species at



greatest risk of extinction in Britain.

There are several common species missing and we hope that by this time next year we will have increased the list to 20.

So not only is St Mary's a beautiful Grade I listed building but its churchyard is a haven for wildlife. Long may that continue.

If you're ever up in the churchyard and see a species that we haven't, please take a photo (if you can) and let us know.

The butterflies that we have seen so far are:

- Large White
- Small White
- Green-veined White
- Small Copper
- Brown Argus
- Common Blue
- Red Admiral
- Painted Lady
- Peacock
- Comma
- Speckled Wood
- Marbled White
- Gatekeeper
- Meadow Brown
- Small Heath

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## **From the Vicar of Standon**

Dear Friends,

It feels like it has been a long summer! We have endured our global crisis with good weather and glorious scenery: the contrast has been immense. I know that many have struggled, being isolated, or losing work, or in great worry over the future.

Church life, like every other avenue of life, has been profoundly affected. I thank God that we have had few funerals (and none due to COVID). This must be a credit to our community keeping the lockdown but also because we have had our great outdoors. However, all but one of our summer weddings have cancelled and the same is true for our baptisms. Singing is not allowed and now everyone has to mask in church.

Nevertheless, we have restarted Sunday morning services (with a booking system for the 10.30 service due to reduced space) whilst continuing our live streaming. You may have heard the bells again; not a full peal, but one bubble of two ringers have been in the tower (thank you Nick and Sue!). On Sunday afternoons we have been meeting on Zoom and recording items as the Community Centre is still closed.

But how do we make sense of all this? We are all beginning to realise that this is going to be a long haul, and perhaps even a vaccine will not be the complete solution. Our life has changed greatly in the short term and even in the medium/long term new patterns of behaviour will have been established. It is worth mentioning that other parts of the world have suffered far more in the past and are doing so now. I have been thinking a great deal of friends in Lebanon where the horrific blast took place, fairly near

to the church where I was minister. They have also been suffering from political corruption and incompetence, economic breakdown caused in part by western policies, the possibility of a return to civil unrest and outside invasion, as well as COVID. In some ways we need to be grateful that things in the UK are not worse.

Nevertheless, the loss of something like 60,000 extra deaths is appalling, and to this must be added many other sufferings. Why? The answer is that we do not know, but as a Christian I know that Jesus, God come to earth, suffered just as much and even more in his death. God is not unaware of our pain. He understands pain and discomfort and promises to be alongside us in it. His overall purposes are sometimes opaque (and other times in our lives very clear). But he calls us to trust him and depend on him above all else because only he has the final life-saving vaccine. Perhaps this is a time to look once more into the God-story?

With all best wishes

John Chitham

## **Labour Party**

### **East Herts Rural Branch**

Since my last report in March, the local Labour Party has been restricted from most activities. We did hold our annual dinner – so important for raising enough money to fight local elections – not very long before the lockdown began. Once again, we had an excellent evening at the Axe and Compasses in Braughing, with Kelley Green, our parliamentary candidate, as the after dinner speaker.

Since then, we have not been allowed to hold meetings or to campaign because of

the pandemic. There were no District Council elections due in May 2020 in East Herts, but there would have been district council elections in Letchworth and Baldock for the North Herts District Council. These were postponed until May 2021. We were due to have the election for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hertfordshire, but that also was postponed until 2021.

So these elections will take place at the same time as the County Council elections, due in May 2021. So, in East Herts, we shall have elections then for all the county divisions and also for the Hertfordshire PCC.

We have just had an informal branch meeting, using Zoom, which was a welcome return for us to our first discussion of political problems since February. The Labour Party will soon be providing us with a way of holding virtual formal meetings, using a system based on Microsoft Teams. An early task will be to arrange the selection of County Council candidates for the elections next May, which ideally should have begun a couple of months ago.

It may be that there will be more interest than usual, at least in Standon and Puckeridge, in the county council elections, because the Conservative-led County Council has caused huge disruption to traffic and businesses in making changes to the roads and pavements. Residents of all political views to whom I have talked feel that only a small proportion of the work will actually benefit the local community. Yet, this has cost us around £1 million, with little or no effect on the major problem affecting Standon – the excessive speed of traffic on the A120.

David Bell

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## The Hundred Parishes Society

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

Our website has been expanded to include a new walking routes. The website already has 20 walks that start and finish at railway stations. Now the Walks area of the website has two sections: Station Walks and Other Walks.

The new walks are all circular, starting and finishing at a location where there is normally space to park. The routes have been chosen for their attractiveness and level of interest, something which is not too difficult within the Hundred Parishes. In due course we hope that each of the hundred parishes will feature in at least one walk.

Walk descriptions can be downloaded and printed. Each includes clear instructions to help you find the way and there is also an outline map of the route. Within the description there is a short introduction to some of the places you will pass. The new walks range in distance from 1 mile to 10 miles.

We hope you will be able to try them out and we would be pleased to receive any feedback. Please bear in mind that the usual pubs and tea rooms may not yet be open or may offer only a limited service. Walking boots or stout shoes are

generally encouraged.

Now that most of us can get out, take the opportunity to explore new parts of our countryside, villages and small towns. There is so much to appreciate in the Hundred Parishes.

Ken McDonald,  
Secretary.

## Braughing Women's Institute.

Like all societies Braughing W.I. has not met since February. Lockdown had happened by the March meeting. Members have kept in touch via Email and phone calls but have missed the personal contact at meetings. The Hertfordshire Newsletter has kept us informed of happenings in the County. One of our members has had two of her Photos chosen for the Hertfordshire 2021 Calendar. Braughing hopes to be able to start up again sometime this year but it all depends on the go ahead from the government. Speakers are still

booked but refreshment may have to be curtailed owing to a small kitchen in the hall.

- 17 September Bodyguard to the Princes.
- 15 October Exploring Rural Hertfordshire
- 15 November Life Experiences.

All meetings held in The Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Secretary Kate Fish 01920 822 397.



*Another photo from Philip Greswell: Any ideas of where and when this might have been taken?*



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## **Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe**

I am sorry to say that, with the current regulations and restrictions (at the time of going to print), it will not be feasible to hold the Community Cafe even if the Community Centre does open up in the near future.

I do hope that everyone understands why I have taken this decision and that everyone has been able to keep well and safe.

## **WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

The October Cafe would have been in support of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning - with all refreshment takings being donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you feel that you could help contribute to the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, why not have a socially distancing coffee morning with a friend, or call a friend to have your own virtual coffee morning.

You can donate online by using the following link <https://thyg.uk/>

BUU004056449.

I look forward to a time when we can safely resume the Community Cafe, but until then, please stay safe and well and keep an eye on local notice boards and the Community Centre website: <http://standonandpuckeridgecc.co.uk> for any updates.

### **Equal and included**

Equality and inclusion are two words frequently heard in today's culture. Multiple people groups argue and push to be recognised and acknowledged, clamouring for justice, for the rights they believe are due to them. And many are absolutely right to do so.

However, the one place where everyone can find a totally level playing field is at the foot of the cross of Jesus. At the cross, everyone and anyone can bring their failures, their sinfulness, their brokenness and every need, including the desperate need for a saviour, a deliverer, a healer, a restorer. All of us are undeserving with nothing and no one to recommend us. We all stand there as equals.

No one has ever been rejected at the cross. The apostle Peter declared that God does not show favouritism towards certain types of people (Acts 10:34), that He does not discriminate but instead He respects and regards each and every person equally. Jesus demonstrated that truth throughout His earthly ministry.

Jesus touched and

healed lepers who were outcasts from society as compassionately as he spoke to a man called Nicodemus - a wealthy and powerful religious leader. Doctors and business people were to be found among His followers – along with uneducated fishermen, tax collectors (that worked for the occupying Roman forces and defrauded their own countrymen), and radical political activists. No one was excluded because of who they were or where they came from.

He included children, women, the poor, the diseased, and those from antagonistic cultural backgrounds. The cross of Calvary is all access to all people and off-limits to no one. "Whoever" calls on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved and made whole - body, soul and spirit. No exceptions.

Anyone that has ever felt unseen, unheard, discounted or discarded, can know that they are welcome and recognised at the cross. Jesus waits with open arms to lovingly embrace you, to call you His very own and to make you a vital member of His family. God the Father guarantees that you are totally accepted in His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. For God so loved all the people of this world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, that whoever believes on and puts their trust in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Revs Colin & Teresa Marks  
Pastors, A10 Christian Mission

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## **Slimming World is Back!! ❤**

Group is re-opening on **TUESDAY 8 SEPT**

The Community Centre welcomes back our virtual members, our returning members from March, and new members or those wishing to re-start their journey. ❤

### **Please be aware of New Guidelines; ❤ You are required to;**

- Call to book your place
- Wear a mask/gloves if you wish
- Use the hand sanitiser provided
- Stand 2m apart when queueing
- Keep your shoes on to weigh
- Bring your own pen to write in your weight

Booking is essential.

Call Sophie on 07855 079070 for details and to secure your space.

Please avoid hugs and kisses!

We want to but we can't.

However, it's lovely to see you.

Welcome back ❤

Welcome home ❤



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## **Top ten Covid-19 scams the public should be aware off.**

### **Covid-19 financial support scams**

1. Criminals have sent fake government emails designed to look like they are from government departments offering grants of up to £7,500. The emails contain links which steal personal and financial information from victims.
2. Fraudsters have also been sending scam emails which offer access to 'Covid-19 relief funds' encouraging victims to fill in a form with their personal information.
3. Criminals have been targeting people with official-looking emails offering a 'council tax reduction'. These emails, which use government branding, contain links which lead to a fake government website which is used to access personal and financial information.

4. Fraudsters are also preying on benefit recipients, offering to help apply for Universal Credit, while taking some of the payment as an advance for their "services".

### **Health scams**

5. One of the most shocking scams that has appeared during the pandemic has involved using the NHS Test and Trace service. Criminals are preying on an anxious public by sending phishing emails and links claiming that the recipient has been in contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19. These lead to fake websites that are used

to steal personal and financial information or infect devices with malware.

6. Victims are also being targeted by fake adverts for Covid-related products such as hand sanitizer and face masks which do not exist.

### **Lockdown scams**

7. Criminals are sending fake emails and texts claiming to be from TV Licensing, telling people they are eligible for six months of free TV license because of the coronavirus pandemic. Victims are told there has been a problem with their direct debit and are asked to click on a link that takes them to a fake website used to steal personal and financial information.
8. Amid a rise in the use of online TV subscription services during the lockdown, customers have been targeted by criminals sending convincing emails asking them to update their payment details by clicking on a link which is then used to steal credit card information.
9. Fraudsters are also exploiting those using online dating websites by creating fake profiles on social media sites used to manipulate victims into handing over their money. Often criminals will use the identities of real people to strike up relationships with their targets.
10. Criminals are using social media websites to advertise fake investment opportunities, encouraging victims to

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"take advantage of the financial downturn". Bitcoin platforms are using emails and adverts on social media platforms to encourage unsuspecting victims to put money into fake investment companies using fake websites.

### **What to do if you think someone is being scammed**

Scammers often target the most vulnerable people and victims can be unaware they are caught in a scam because they trust the scammer. In this situation the victim can have money or valuables taken from them many times over.

It can be very difficult to deal with this, as the victim may not want to talk to family or friends about financial matters – especially if they think that their family or friends may disapprove of the decisions they are making. Sometimes the scammer isolates the victim from the people they would usually talk to by telling the victim that other people wouldn't understand or would interfere unnecessarily or that the victim shouldn't worry their family with problems and should trust the scammer to help them.

The signs that someone is being scammed include an increased amount of post or phone calls, suddenly receiving parcels, becoming secretive about finances, signs of someone having been in the house with no explanation, a sudden lack of money or unnecessary

work being done around their property. Scammers often encourage vulnerable people to make decisions quickly and this may be out of character.

If you recognise any of the signs you should attempt to explore the issue with the victim but they may be unwilling to talk about it or become very defensive, especially if they trust the scammer. It is very important not to be judgemental or bombard the victim with questions about financial decisions they are making – instead try to offer help and reassurance – after all anyone can be scammed.

It can be useful to talk about scams in a general, conversational manner and talk about other people who have been scammed or highlight relevant information from trusted organisations such as the local police, Citizens Advice, Age UK or Action Fraud. The victim may recognise their situation in the experiences of others and re-examine their relationship with the scammer. This can take time and patience while the victim re-evaluates their situation.

If the victim discloses they are being scammed you can help them by redirecting post, setting up call barring, changing bank details and putting in security measures around the property.

However if the victim remains in a vulnerable situation and continues to trust a scammer you may have to consider a more

formal route and report your concerns to the neighbourhood policing team or adult social services. This can be a difficult step to take especially if the victim is independent and is capable of making their own decisions.

Further information at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/get-help-dealing-with-the-effects-of-scams/>

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/worried-about-someone/>

### **Combat Sextortion – Webcam Blackmail**

Herts Police continue to receive numerous reports of Hertfordshire residents receiving threatening emails. The sender claims to have recorded the recipient accessing adult or pornographic websites.

The National Crime Agency has published an updated self-help guideline relating to Sextortion Webcam blackmails.

More than 9,000 reports of this type of phishing email have been received by phishing.gov in April 2020.

### **What is sextortion?**

When someone you have met online



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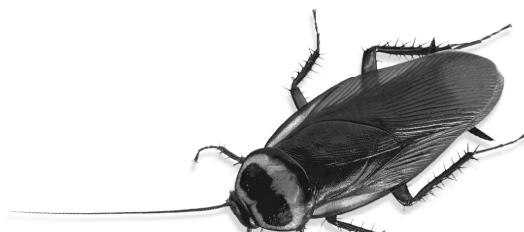


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encourages you to carry out a sexual act in front of your Webcam and then threatens to post a recording of you online or send a copy to friends or family unless you pay them money. This is a form of blackmail known as sextortion

Please follow these top cyber tips: Create separate, strong passwords for your email account and each website you use, using three random words; turn on two-factor authentication (2FA); update your devices; turn on backup; never open an attachment or click on links in unexpected emails.

Our cyber security experts suggest you visit <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> to test your email address.

This site tells you which websites have been compromised that hold your personal data.

You can then change the password for any websites using that password. Pwned is slang for being defeated by an

opponent.

Please note this is not a Police website.

If you have received a phishing email (of any kind) please forward to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

If you are victim of any fraud please report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or phone 0800 123 2040.

### **Tips to Prevent Burglary:**

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

- Consider using a doorbell camera, interior camera or a monitored burglar alarm.

- Securely lock rear gates, sheds and garages.

- Keep tools and ladders locked away, as they could be used to break into your home.

### **Increase in catalytic converter thefts**

Hertfordshire Constabulary is advising drivers and businesses to protect their vehicles after thieves recently stole several catalytic converters.

Catalytic converters, which are fitted to vehicle exhaust systems, are targeted by thieves because of the precious metals they contain. Due to where these units are located on the vehicle they are difficult to access and removal causes costly damage.

Thieves are continuing to target specific



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models such as the pre 2008 Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius (2004 to 2016 inclusive) and Toyota Arius (2012 to 2018 inclusive). They are also breaking in to steal valuable items.

- Lock your car whenever it is left unattended and keep it in a garage when parked at night if possible.
- When using a garage is not possible, park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make theft difficult.
- Consider fitting CCTV on your home or driveway, to help deter thieves.
- Use PIR or LED security lighting to make your vehicle more visible and this can also act as a deterrent.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, consider having the bolts welded to make removal difficult.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters, such as the Toyota manufactured CATLOC device, (these are made for Toyota Prius made between 2004 and 2009) as these can make it much more difficult for thieves.
- Have your catalytic converter etched or forensically marked, and put stickers

in the windscreen to say this has been done.

- Look for car parks with a Secured Car Park sign which have recognised levels of security. If you have a garage at home, ensure you use it and lock it properly.
- Noisy gravel on your drive can help deter a would-be thief, as they don't want to alert you to their approach.
- Never leave valuable items or tools on display in your vehicle as this may encourage a thief to break in.

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Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion ( <i>live streamed</i> )	9.30am Café Church
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Worship, Harvest Thanksgiving ( <i>Live streamed</i> )
Every Weds	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
OCTOBER		
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am All Age Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Worship
Every Weds	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
NOVEMBER		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.15am All Age Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Worship
Every Weds	9.30am Holy Communion (said)	
NOVEMBER		
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at the.....  
**Standon & Puckeridge  
Community Centre**

Sadly, I am unsure as to when we will be able to resume the Community Café comfortably.

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

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



Take Care All

For more details contact Alison on 01920 822 872

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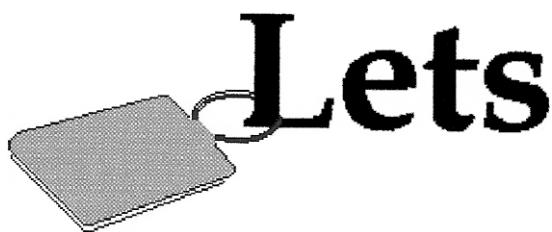
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## **Handyman Services & The Other Room Building / Landscaping**

Now is the time to be sure you prepare for a winter tight home.

We have had some very wet winters recently .This seriously affects mortar / paint-work and of course roof systems/ guttering.

Replace Soffits /Fascia's with plastic cladding .Its lasts for years and looks clean and fresh so makes the house look like it has had a make-over

Sept/Oct is the deadline to get that Conservatory/ Wooden windows /Doors and frames rubbed down, undercoated, filled and painted and any re-glazing issues resolved.

Also now is good to repair Roof tiles / Patio/Paving and even reface damaged bricks. Repairs now will be cost effective in reducing frost impact. If this damage is left it could potentially ruin a whole section or worse, let in water. The more you put it off the worse the repair bill will likely be.

If you think there may be more serious problems we can commission a Drone Survey which will give you a clear understanding of what is needed.

Also if you have found that you are spending more time outside then it is an ideal pre Planning time for design and if seeking Permission Patio/ Extension or even E-Decking , a resin decking which is non slip .Resin decking looks just like wood but non-slip and doesn't rot and no maintenance.

We can Design and quote for that special Garden Room /Orangery, or even a separate Studio.

Studios, well built, can really enhance the use of a home. Giving Office space, study space and somewhere for guests to stay over independent from the main house. Since the pandemic we now know to value our home space indoors and out. That all- important Home Office needs to be carefully planned if you seek electricity/WC.

Also lighting well thought out as a scheme, can really enhance your garden, not only in summer but through the winter too.

Start by asking yourself how you want to live, rather what you want to buy. This will help you make better decisions. Look at the potential of what you already have. We can help you 'have vision'.

Lots of low-profile lighting can really make for overall warmth in a garden and home and doesn't cause 'light pollution' or disturbance to others

We can offer you further advice. Just give a call or email.

Kate Hooper  
01279 842874 / 07930285126  
[www.the-otherroom.co.uk](http://www.the-otherroom.co.uk)

**'Oh Rats.. we've got company !'**  
Rat and Mouse problems have leapt by 42% in Call-outs from April to June re-

port researchers for a large Pest Control company (The Times Aug 9 2020).

Bird Feeders have been a 'must have' since lock-down. The discards and untidy feeding by bird's means all rodent are having an open restaurant every day.

Try to catch any seed/nuts/fat-balls etc by including a tray beneath the feeders to catch ALL the dropdown. In times of wet weather wipe clean regularly.

Make sure there is no access to very skilled climbing rodents.

# **The Ultimate Services**

## **Are you, like so many others tired of trying to find a good tradesman or service provider?**

With ten years experience in contract management for groundwork and housing maintenance we have a proud portfolio of experienced tradesmen and service providers that have been tried, tested and fully approved by ourselves and our clients.



I find the team to be extremely competent and professional in all the work they have done and continue to do for me and I feel confident in the knowledge that I can leave everything in their capable hands.

Leslie Morgan,  
DURBAN PLC

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### **The Ultimate Services**

If you require assistance with any of these services please contact our team who are waiting to help

**07930 285126      01279842874**

**Email :**

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

## **Ever thought of Volunteering?**

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

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

**You don't need specific qualifications or experience.**

**We are currently looking for:**

- \* Receptionists
- \* Advisers
- \* Advice Assistants
- \* Adviceline Assessors
- \* Fundraising Assistant
- \* Research and Campaigns Worker
- \* Digital Media Assistant
- \* Design and Publicity Assistant
- \* IT Coordinator

For further information, visit our website

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

For an informal chat, call Karen

on **01920 505510** or email

[training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](mailto:training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)



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**East Herts**



St Elizabeth's provides positive living and learning to children and adults with severe epilepsy and other complex needs.

## **Urgent Fundraising Appeal**

In these unprecedented times, St Elizabeth's estimates that the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic could cost us over £1.2million both from lost fundraising revenue and increased expenditure on staffing and protective equipment.

We are working hard to provide the best possible care and protection but to do this we need your help. St Elizabeth's has always relied on the generosity of the wonderful people in our community, and we need it now more than ever.

There are many ways you can still fundraise for us, many of which you can do from the comfort of your own home.

**Donate to us directly**

Donate to us at [www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk)



**Shop on our ebay page**

Search for St Elizabeth's at [charity.ebay.co.uk](http://charity.ebay.co.uk) and have a browse for some of our bargains

**Donate to us while you shop**

Register to support the centre on [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and The Giving Machine to raise money for us at no extra cost to you while you are shopping online



**Play the East Herts Lottery**

Sign up to play from £1 a week, with a chance to win £25,000: St Elizabeth's receives 50% from our ticket sales

[www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk) Reg Charity No. 1176777

## **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**

## **Do you enjoy walking the local footpaths?**

**But get stuck in a rut doing the same old walks?**

Exploring Standon Parish is a book of 13 walks round the area with local history notes.

Available price £5 from John Harris 01920 822887

**Can you spare a few hours a week?**



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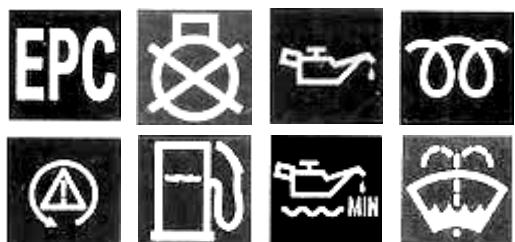
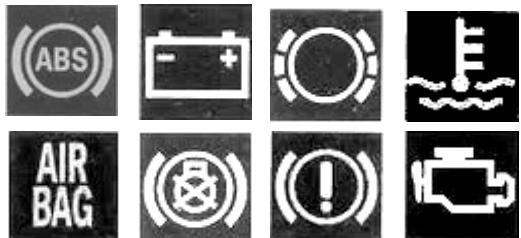
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