

In brief

Cllr self-isolating after virus worry

Parish councillor Daniel Brett is self-isolating as he believes he may have contracted coronavirus.

Although he has not been tested, the Labour member said that before isolating he came into contact with someone who had had the virus and someone who knew a person with Covid-19.

"The most difficult thing for me is being dependent on others," he said. "I feel like a burden, but it's something that has to be done in order to protect the vulnerable."

Lunch and candles light up surgery

The Bombay Butler Indian restaurant in Station Road delivered free lunches to staff at Stansted's doctors surgery.

Practice manager Teresa Buglass said: "It was absolutely delicious!"

Loyal Candles owner Adam Stoneham also dropped off scented gifts for all staff.

"We cannot put into words what a lift these kind gestures give to us at this time," said Mrs Buglass. "We are so very grateful. Thank you!"

Parish events have to be put on pause

All parish events have been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak, including the village's VE Day celebrations.

Stansted Parish Council said the crisis had "made it impossible" to go ahead with the official opening of the Mountfitchet Exchange, the parish reception, village spring clean and VE Day garden party.

It has also confirmed on its website that no parish council meetings will be held until the emergency measures are relaxed.

Kid birth provides some joy in crisis

Despite being closed to visitors, Daisy May's Farm in Elsenham welcomed a new arrival on Monday morning – it's first baby goat born this year.

The kid arrived safe and well to the delight of staff. Mum Tinkerbell is the first of the herd to give birth. Her youngster has been named Gertrude.

Owner Rachel Berry said all animals at the Hall Road attraction were continuing to be cared for by staff observing strict social distancing rules, but money had now run out.

She urged people to donate at www.daisymaysfarm.org.

Teacher determined to keep running for St Clare Hospice



Stansted secondary teacher Paul Conlon is determined to complete 20 marathons in 2020 despite the coronavirus lockdown affecting his challenge.

The head of Year 11 at Forest Hall School has already run four marathons, with the remainder to be spread across the year.

While many events have been cancelled as a result of the outbreak, he hopes to keep up the momentum by running local routes.

Before the schools were shut down, Paul completed 60 laps of his own school's field with four

Year 11 students supporting him by running half marathons.

"Towards the end of last year I was looking for a challenge and, in my head, 20 marathons in 2020 sounded great, so I set myself the goal!" he said.

"It's all up in the air a bit at the moment, but I'm going to continue with the challenge, just running the distance on local routes.

"I have every intention of finishing and should be helped by rearranging marathons for later in the year."

The money Paul raises will go to St Clare Hospice. Visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-conlon8 to sponsor him.

Florist plants hidden gifts as thank you for village support

Hollie Ryder

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A Stansted florist says she has been overwhelmed and touched by the community's response after she left bouquets of flowers and plants hidden around the village for people to find.

Paris Legore, 31, who has run the Lower Street business of the same name for almost eight years, decided to place 15 floral gifts as a thank you to everyone who had supported her – particularly for Mother's Day – and to brighten someone's day during the coronavirus lockdown.

It prompted a flood of thank yous on social media from the lucky recipients, who included Mountfitchet Care Home, a woman who had just lost a friend to cancer and a mother and her children.

"I thought we would be able to keep the business going until Boris said otherwise, but then he said 'otherwise' and I thought 'what are we going to do?' I had these plants left over and thought they would be nice for people to find during their daily exercise," said Paris.

"So we dropped them all round the village in spots where people would go, like benches and footpaths and the church, and then people started posting that they had found them. It was really lovely and really touching.

"I've had so much support from so many people so I wanted to give something back because we know it's going to be a hard time. And it was really lovely to get this response."

Each gift had the note: "Where flowers bloom, so does hope. These are gifted to whoever finds them first!"

Villager Jennifer Bone found one and posted on Facebook: "Thank you so much Paris Legore. After feeling



Paris Legore, owner of the Lower Street florist, and some of the bouquets she put out for people to find



cooped up inside, this gift certainly brightened up my day."

"These have made mine and the kids' day," said Nikki Gorton-Kenworthy.

"Oh you guys are the best. Was feeling really lonely all day on my own and this brightened my day," said Felicity Sutton.

"The cutest idea! Bringing smiles to everyone – thank you," said Alyssa Walker.

And Nicola Fleet left a moving message: "Last night a very dear friend passed away after a long battle with cancer. Today was difficult enough... my son threw my daughter's netball over the fence so

she had to go and retrieve it, and just as I was about to lose the plot she came back with these. So thank you."

Paris, who lives in Stansted with her 18-month old daughter Savannah, said: "I have worked so hard and I was so emotional at having to close the doors so all those messages meant so much."