

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

# newsletter

Issue No 4 - March 19, 2021

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With Census Day landing on Sunday, March 21 this week's newsletter focuses on what completion of the survey involves, why it is important, and how to get help and advice to complete it.

## CENSUS 2021

The census is a survey, run by the Office of National Statistics, that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on.

At a national level, information you give informs where billions of pounds of funding is spent on things like transport, education and health. At the local level, knowing what our community's needs are helps councils like ours plan and fund public services in the area.

Charities and voluntary organisations often use information in the Census as evidence to get funding. It also helps businesses shape expansion plans. It is also a rich resource for those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history.



The Census will shape service provision over the next decade



The ONS only ever publishes anonymous statistics from the census. It doesn't publish anyone's name.

## NEW QUESTIONS

Following discussions with the public, testing and research, and after careful consideration, Census 2021 will ask questions on three new topics.

### Service in the UK Armed Forces

UK Armed Forces question will gather information on past service in the UK Armed Forces. This is to help organisations support veterans.

### Gender identity & sexual orientation

Questions on sexual orientation and gender identity will give us better information on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations. This'll help organisations to combat any inequalities these groups may face and show where services are needed. People aged 16+ will only be asked these questions, and completion is voluntary.



## WAYS TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

### Census 2021 will be digital first

This means it will be mainly online. Each person asked to participate will be issued with a 16 digit access code to complete the survey. You can request a new access code if you have lost or not received an access code. This can be sent to you by text or post. The survey can be filled out using a mobile, tablet, laptop, or desktop device.

### Completion is mandatory

By law, you must complete or be accounted for in the census. You should submit the survey by March 21 or soon after. You can be fined up to £1,000 if you do not fill it in, or give false information. Census officials will chase up missing surveys while providing help and advice for those struggling to fill out the Census.

### Help for those not online

You can request a paper version of Census 2021 [online](#), or over the phone (0800 328 2021, calls are free). A prepaid envelope is provided to return your paper survey.

There is a contact centre to give help over the phone, in a webchat, webform,

email and SMS. The nearest support centre for Stansted residents is at the Harlow ACL, Partridge Road, CM18 6TE Tel 034 5603 7638.

### Virtual Census Support

The Office for National Statistics is hosting a series of virtual workshops to help residents unsure how to complete online or paper forms:

- Thursday, 18 March 2021, 15:30
- Tuesday, 23 March 2021, 09:30
- Wednesday, 24 March 2021, 15:00

Please register for your free place via the link and you will be sent log-in details 24 hours before [the event](#)

### CENSUS 2021 INFORMATION EVENT

There's a **virtual event** for you to learn more about the census, get help with the questionnaire and have your questions answered on **Wednesday 24th March 7:00pm to 9:00pm.**

Join the [Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: **883 7379 0282**  
Passcode: **978521**