



# Birchanger Village Magazine

January 2018

Issue 180



## 'THE LIGHT FANTASTIC'



**Happy  
New  
Year!**

Well done  
Birchanger.  
Yet another  
wonderful  
display that  
brightened up  
dismal  
December





# A letter from the Editor

## Dear Readers,

Following Pam Lee's mention of bygone days in last month's magazine, I thought readers would be interested in some very old news clips that Ken Wheatley came across in the Sunday Times archives concerning Birchanger Village in the 1800's.

**21<sup>st</sup> August 1819**

**EXECUTION** – On Friday last, Edward Wright, for a highway robbery at Epping, John and Joseph Merrington, (brothers,) for a burglary at West Tilbury, and John Tubbs, for a burglary at Birchanger, were executed at Chelmsford. On ascending the fatal platform, the two brothers embraced in the most affectionate manner, supporting each other until the necessary proceedings obliged them to be separated. Wright and Tubbs, who showed least penance immediately after condemnation, became at the last more sensible of their situation. Tubbs, in particular, on the rope being placed round his neck, was much agitated, and earnestly exhorted those who witnessed his situation, by a contrary line of conduct to that which he had pursued, to avoid a similar fate. (*Hangings were held in public in those days*)

**5<sup>th</sup> December 1880**

At the Essex adjourned Quarter Sessions on Tuesday Benjamin Thurley, bricklayer, 61, was sentenced to five years penal servitude for stealing a fowl at Birchanger. It was stated that from 1850 to 1874 Thurley was rarely out of prison. He had served two terms of penal servitude, and in all there were forty convictions against him. (*Penal servitude meant hard labour*)

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Ed,

### Bygone days

In last month's magazine I read with interest Pam Lee's letter about our older generation, the Remembrance Service and what the village was like back in the 1930's. Together with my sons, I have been researching my late father, Bert Kadwill's war record and his time in Birchanger and the Far East.

Below is a photo of Blacklands Farm, now the Travel Lodge near the ambulance station, where he arrived in July 1941. He met my mother on New Year's Eve 1941 at a dance in the village hall and married her soon after on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1942 in St. Mary's Church. Due to the war, he left for Glasgow and then embarked to Bombay, India, returning in March 1946 to live in the village. This picture was taken at Catterick Barracks where mum was reunited with dad just before he was demobbed. My grandparents lived at 1 Digby View throughout

the war and billeted US air crew who flew Marauder bombers from the Airport and held weekly dances. The Americans arrived after my father had left for the Far East but carried on holding dances. I hope this adds a little to the knowledge of the village and its role.

*Compliments of the season to all, Chris Kadwill*



**Blacklands Farm, currently the Travel Lodge  
near the ambulance station.**



**Bert Kadwill and his wife circa 1946**

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/birchanger/](http://www.facebook.com/birchanger/)

*Peter Sampson*



[magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com)



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## Could you be Birchanger School's new handyman?

Birchanger School is looking for a new 'handyman/caretaker' to look after our village school. As with any property there are always a lot of jobs which could be tackled by someone with good practical skills. There are also light caretaking duties for which appropriate instruction would be given. It is a role which is not necessarily only taking place in term time. The school needs someone to look after it in the school holidays and there are certain jobs which are much better done when the children are not there. This means there is some flexibility in the role to suit everyone. It could be an ideal position for someone who would like some additional work, or who may be newly retired. If you would like to find out more about the post, please call the school on 01279 812763.

## Yet another great season from the club

Well done Birchanger Club and a very special thank you for giving everyone such a good Christmas despite some technical difficulties. The club hosted quite a few events, put on a good variety of themed Wednesday night special dinners and dealt with a large influx of members during the season. Yes, there were a few problems, but the club coped with them and contributed to yet another great Christmas for so many of the residents of Birchanger.

## We thought it could not get better

Congratulations to everyone who had a part, no matter how small, in making the 'Birchanger Big Light Up' even better than it was before. It was exciting to walk or drive through the village at night since the beginning of December and every display was something very special. It made everyone who took part a winner and Birchanger can be proud of the fact that it was by far the best display for miles around. Well done and thank you everyone for contributing to a really magical Christmas scene.

## Take care of the elderly

If January is getting you down, it might be having the same effect on the elderly. If you can, try and visit your elderly neighbours and see how are they coping. Are they warm enough? Are they getting all the right benefits, winter fuel payments or in fact even getting the best deal for their fuel? Elderly people are often computer shy and find it hard to search for deals on line. Could you do it or do you know someone who can?



## Switching energy supplier could save £££

Essex County Council will be holding another bulk switch by auction again in February. There is no obligation to switch, but the rates can be very good indeed.

Residents can save over £250 on their gas and electric bills by joining the Essex Energy Switch which harnesses people power to secure cheaper deals from energy suppliers. Registration is open now and closes on 13 February 2018, before the one-day auction. To register, visit; [www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch) or call 0800 0488285.

## Birchanger's first fashion show pulls in the crowds

Birchanger Hall was the venue for the first recorded Fashion Show in the village. Over 80 people came, mainly ladies, and the hall was packed for the occasion. Despite the numbers there were seats for everyone. The cat walk ran the length of the hall. Mothers brought their daughters, and it was good to see those who rarely have time to attend village events out for the evening.

Run by Elaine Wright and a small band of helpers, the show was put on with style. There was a welcome glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival. Everyone was given a small green disc to place in a box, Waitrose style, to select the charity which was to receive the highest donation from the proceeds of the evening, apart from Birchanger Church. There was an excellent raffle, where prizes included various dinners for two at local restaurants and pubs, lots of treats in the way of hairdos, manicures, gifts and much more.

The models were all Birchanger girls of various ages and sizes to suit the large range of clothes on show and for sale. The clothes were all well-known high street names, which it might be possible to guess from the introduction although nothing was ever named. The discounts were enormous. The audience could find something to suit their own particular taste and size from the huge array of clothes which covered three sides of the hall. There were also scarves, pyjamas, slippers and much more available from a table at the front.

Altogether £800 was raised that night. Half the money was given to the Church. Birchanger Church has an amazingly rare and very unique organ which is in urgent need of care and repair. It will be years before the money will be raised, but a start has been made. The other beneficiaries were, as voted by the audience, The Air Ambulance, St Clare's Hospice and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

This may have been the first fashion show to be held in Birchanger, but it very unlikely that it will be the last.

## Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' invite woman of all ages to join them on the last Wednesday of every month in the village church hall

### Forthcoming Meetings:

AGM Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 7.30 for 8.00 pm  
Drinks & nibbles provided

Liza-815444 Telephone for details  
Rosemary-814678  
Barbara-813007



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### Don't forget to ventilate your home

Damp in houses causes mould and apart from leaving damp patches and unhealthy spores, makes the house feel cold. Many people block their ventilation grills up, but this causes damp, therefore more mould patches. Although you might think it stops the draught, it is in fact not your best idea. Gutters should be kept as clear as possible, as when they overflow they are another source of damp, as are unventilated cookers, tumble dryers and unswept chimneys. Many people are entitled to free insulation for their homes but are totally unaware of this and other possible benefits. The CAB is the Agency best able to tell you what you could be missing out on. It is worth while trying to contact them or arranging for someone to find out just what your entitlement might be. Meanwhile, make sure your heating is working efficiently, close the curtains at dusk and hope that spring will be early this year!

### Planning a wedding?

Congratulations to anyone who might have taken the plunge and popped the question this Christmas. If you are planning a wedding, the hard work is about to start. There are many venues but for those wanting somewhere special, you could take a look at the three differing rooms on offer for weddings at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. It may also be possible to have the reception there if required as well. The council is holding an open Saturday on Saturday January 20th between 11am and 3.0 pm. You will be able to take a tour of all the rooms, see what could be on offer and enjoy a glass of bubbly as well.

### Will this footpath be an improvement?

Last month work started on the upgrading of the footpath which runs from the Churton bend to the airport. Essex County Highways chose to ignore the representations made by Birchanger Parish Council who had and still have huge concerns about the safety and need for the scheme. The fact is that the people other than residents of Birchanger who use this bridleway regularly are the 'out of the area cycling brigade'. This group have been responsible for more accidents and near misses involving horses and pedestrians than anyone else using any of the footpaths.

The plan is to chop down the vegetation, resurface and widen the path to provide a direct link from Bishop's Stortford through Birchanger to the airport. It has the Highways Agency blessing, although nobody bothered to inform the Parish Council that the plan was actually going to go through, until it was too late. The only thing the Parish Council managed to stop temporarily was the low level lighting also proposed.

It is hard to make a case that this route is necessary at all. Nobody is known to use this pathway to access the airport. It is a long walk, but quicker by bike, which is where the danger lies. The cyclists using it are recreational groups mainly, travelling at speed, oblivious to all other path users. Accidents have happened. There will be more of them now. Gates at the end will make little difference. Bicycles, horses and pedestrians simply don't mix on a pathway. Things we really need doing, such as the footpath at The Churton bend, pothole maintenance and much more, simply don't seem to happen. When this pathway is finished, please take care.

### New college for Stansted Airport

One of the new developments nearing completion locally is the new college which is being built at Stansted Airport. The eleven million pound college is due to open in September this year and will teach many skills ranging from engineering to hospitality, all useful for work at the Airport and elsewhere. The new college is a result of a partnership between Harlow College and the Airport. It is backed by both ECC and Uttlesford Councils.

Several Open Days are planned so that prospective students can discover just what courses are on offer and suitable for them to start in September this year. The open evenings are to be held between 5.30 and 8.30 pm on January 10th, February 2nd, March 29th, and June 6th. Interest is expected to be large and it is best to book your place at one of these evenings in advance.

### Charities preying on the elderly

We are all used to the advertisements on daytime television for all manner of heartrending causes on which pensioners and those at home by day tend to spend far too much already. Now some charities have taken to telephoning older people asking them to contribute to all manner of charitable causes. Those on the line are particularly persuasive but it does not stop there. It appears that these organizations are in a kind of a league and as soon as you say yes to help one charity, you seem to get a small avalanche of these calls. Such tactics have caused financial difficulties in a growing number of cases. People with elderly friends or relatives, particularly if they are showing early signs of dementia need to keep a check on this and monitor the person's use of their credit cards. In most cases the problem can be stopped by taking all their debit and credit cards away, while ensuring that they have a supply of cash for their everyday needs. I have cause to know about this, it has caused chaos in our family with an elderly relative already. Often the rest of us know nothing about it until a great deal of harm has been done. The irony is that some of the charities involved claim that they are caring for the elderly who are in need. If that is so, their client base must be expanding rapidly.

### Birchanger Art Show returns

There will be an Art Show in Birchanger again in 2018. On a very personal note, this magazine was one of the beneficiaries from last



year's show and as a member of the magazine's editorial team, I would like to say a very big thank you to the Art Show Group. Our magazine is free to every home in the village and we therefore rely on donations and advertising to exist. So thank you Art Show Group. There is still

more money available for other deserving groups in Birchanger who have projects of their own and which would benefit from funding. If you are one of those groups please call me on 812793, explaining the purpose of your group and the project you need help in funding.



**Emma Marks**  
Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273  
Mob: 07527227943

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Herts.  
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# Health Matters

## True or false?

You drop something on the floor and retrieve it less than five seconds later and it is still safe to eat or use? Wrong, bacteriological tests have proved that bacteria will still contaminate the item.

Chocolate gives you spots? No, a few squares of dark chocolate every day is actually good for you.

If you swallow a piece of bubble gum or chewing gum, it does not take 7 years to digest. It goes through just the same as everything else you eat. By the way, an apple a day doesn't help much if you are eating a lot of junk food as well.

## Join a gym and keep healthy

Well we do have a gym very near us at Mountfitchet School but somehow just one look at all the rows of gleaming equipment and the sweaty red faced users is a real put off. However, at this time of the year, when a brisk walk outdoors is not the most attractive prospect, when even the dog refuses to go, the question of going to the gym always raises its troublesome head. Once you have signed up and handed over a seemingly huge sum of money you feel obliged to go. After all, there are a lot of different activities, staff on hand to help, and you can meet new people. The problem starts when it's cold and raining outside and you are warm and cosy in your lounge and the resolution can start to fade when people are queuing up trying to use your favourite piece of apparatus. Is it all worth it for those first self-righteous few weeks? There are several good deals to be had at this time of year and some gyms offer a trial session, alternatively you can pay per session, albeit at a higher rate. Maybe it's just worth a try on a short term basis? Only you can decide.

## For those who want to shed the kilos

Some of us are still recovering from Christmas while others are starting to count the cost of it all, particularly on the body. Too much of the good things may not exactly have the best effect on our bodies. Even if you are not trying to shed the kilos, it is helpful to see just what kind of foods can do for you by way of healthy living. Most edible berries are very good for you. Full of flavour and colour, they attack stomach fat and are loaded with vitamins. A good food to eat in the middle of winter



An egg for breakfast can keep you going for a long time. Especially good if lunch time and the content of lunch are uncertain.

You could follow the egg with a low-fat, low-sugar

yoghurt which is rich in calcium and can be a useful source of protein on a weight-loss diet.

If you feel like a snack try dark chocolate, much better for you than milk. Alternatively you could eat some whole grains which will reduce bloating and help your digestion. As an alternative, almonds and other nuts also help midmorning cravings.

For lunch or dinner, oily fish such as mackerel, salmon and tuna are best (preferably line caught).

You might also try an avocado, which contains healthy fat which will help any enlarged stomachs get back into shape.

Green vegetables are also helpful in filling you up and reducing bloating. The saying; 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away' is still a sensible option. Whenever you feel hungry an apple helps digestion and is very good for you and if you want to be top of the class, eat fresh salmon with some spinach. Apparently this combination does wonders for your brain power as well as your waistline. Gently getting back to normal does not seem quite so bad now. This could be better than dry January?

## Over use of antibiotics

Antibiotics are becoming less effective against harmful bacteria and in some cases even immune to traditional antibiotics! Unfortunately, the next generation of drugs to replace today's over used antibiotics is taking longer than anticipated to produce and therefore we may be facing a period when many of the old faithful remedies cease to work. This month is a peak month for colds, viruses and flu. It is only too easy to try and get an appointment at the surgery only to find that there is no magic cure for these infections. The fact is antibiotics do not fight infections caused by viruses like colds, flu, most sore throats, and bronchitis. Most of these infections will eventually be removed through the body's own immune system. The only people who may have problems are those with chronic conditions which may require antibiotic or other alternative treatment. For the rest of us, the first plan of action is to visit the chemist and ask for the pharmacist's help. He can advise you of suitable remedies. Get out your DVD's and ride out the storm.

## Quitting smoking

Lots of people have already kicked the habit, many have turned to vaping, but with the jury still out on the benefits or otherwise of vaping, the safest thing is to try and quit altogether.



Apparently drinking a small glass of milk before lighting up makes smoking a less pleasurable experience and makes it easier to kick the habit altogether. Nobody knows quite why this is, but apparently it works for some.

## Don't cut your finger at night

As if we can control the time for this very common home accident! New scientific evidence advises that if you're going to get injured, it's better to do it during the day.

Wounds seem to heal twice as fast if sustained during daytime hours rather than at night. Nathaniel Hoyle of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK, and his team have been investigating how the time of day affects wound healing, after they discovered that genes in a type of skin cell switch on and off during day-night cycles. These cells, called fibroblasts, help close up a wound after the skin has been cut, and some of the genes whose activity varied throughout the day were ones that help control this process.



## Does reading this make you feel blue?

Why not try a little piece of chocolate to lighten the mood. Chocolate is rich in magnesium which can help you relax but it also contains Phenylethylamine, and Tryptophan which releases serotonin in the brain. These are mood enhancing substances which raise endorphin levels and help improve and regulate your mood. The same goes for a small bowl of porridge eaten just before going to bed. It has the ability to regulate your body clock as well as produce more melatonin, which is another stress hormone leveller. The quantities of chocolate and porridge however need to be small, otherwise the diet is totally blown!

# what's on in the village...



January 2018



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>Bin Collections:</b> Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #						
1 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	2 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	3 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for beginners	4 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	5 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw Treasure Chest	6 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	7 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins
8 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	9 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	10 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	11 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	12 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw	13 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	14 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
15 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	16 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	17 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	18 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	19 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw Treasure Chset	20 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	21 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service
22 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	23 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	24 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	25 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	26 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw Wheel of Fortune	27 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	28 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
29 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	30 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	31 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners				





**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News



**Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool - Football - Cricket - Bowls**

Well, despite one or two hiccups, we are proud to have delivered a fun packed, entertaining and rewarding Christmas season to our members. In fact the whole of December was a great success.

Evan Hill, our entertainments manager, provided us with some great new acts throughout the year, catering for both the young and not so young members of the club.

### Prize Winners

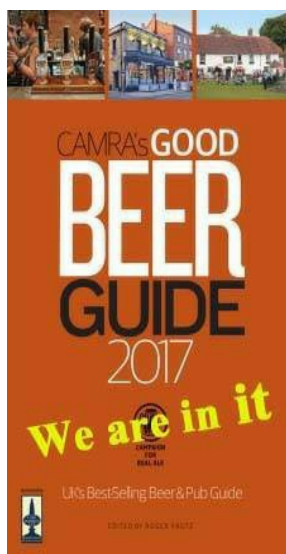
Despite being tempted to chance his luck for the 'Treasure Chest Game' jackpot prize of £2,500, **Alan Bell** played safe and instead accepted the guaranteed £1,000 prize. He could have played for the winning key of the two remaining keys but decided not to risk losing everything. A tough call!



**Ian Hudson** won the 'Grab a Grand Christmas Draw' also winning a staggering £1,000.



We also held a 'Christmas Jumper Competition' in the Club. The members voted on the night and decided the winner was **Chloe Monk** who won £50 and a bottle of wine. The £50 will go towards her fund raising for her volunteering trip the Ghana in 2018 where she



### Treasure Chest

Try your luck and pick the right key, you could win some serious cash ££££!

**5th & 19th January**

### Wheel of Fortune Friday 26th January



will be working with young children. Watch out for more charity nights in the club during 2018 which will help not only Chloe but also other great causes.



The Committee would like to thank the Staff and Members for their amazing support in helping make what was another great year for the club. Please see our website or facebook events page for 'what's on' at the club during the following months and lets have an even more fun filled entertaining successful year.

**A 'Happy New Year' to all our Members**

### Club Calendar at a Glance

5th January	Treasure Chest; £1,500 to play for, 12 keys available with 2 keys to be drawn
12th January	Bottle Draw
19th January	Treasure Chest
26th January	Wheel of Fortune

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	World Food Menu	Evening
Thursdays	Bingo Night	8.30pm
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, CM23 5QJ  
Tel: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com www.birchangerclub.com



# Birchanger Primary School



What a busy term we have had here at school! 7 new children have joined us along with 3 new members of staff. All of us are absolutely at home here now and we feel very lucky to be part of the Birchanger community. Our role in the community is very important to us and we are grateful for all of the support that we receive from Birchanger village as this helps the children to understand the importance of society which we reflect through our school values while we are here.



This term the school has strengthened our links with St Mary's church in a number of ways. We have held services in the church to mark Harvest and Christingle. During our Christingle service the children carried into the church a Christingle orange which had been made in school. The children were all extremely sensible as they carried their oranges with a lit candle along the main aisle of the church and up to the altar. Everyone who was there agreed that it was a very moving service which made a fitting point at which to reflect about advent and start our preparations for Christmas. We have held a range of activities to celebrate



this important time of the year including a Christmas lunch, trip to the pantomime, special assemblies and a carol concert. Our youngest children treated us to a wonderful performance called Whoops-a-Daisy Angel. The children clearly loved telling the story of the angel who kept getting things wrong until she was the one selected to fly to Bethlehem. Judging by their performance clearly our school is full of future stars of stage and screen. This was a wonderful way to fill us all with the true meaning of Christmas before the holidays began. Christmas is a busy time for lots of people and an exciting one for the children



at our school.

On behalf of all of the staff and children here may we send you season's greetings and wish you peace and happiness for the year ahead. *Claire Berry - Headteacher*

## Stansted Day & Community Centre

### Community Centre Manager

Stansted Day & Community Centre is looking for a Manager

**9 hours per week, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**

From 11.00am to 2.00 pm. £11 per hour.

Please phone 01279 813579 or email

[catherinemarydean@btinternet.com](mailto:catherinemarydean@btinternet.com) for details.

## Birchanger Sports and Social Club

### Full Time Front of House Manager Required

To fill immediate vacancy

Competitive salary

On-site accommodation available

*Additional full or part time bar work also available for a partner if required.*

Email [keithwrobin@hotmail.com](mailto:keithwrobin@hotmail.com) or call in at the club





## NEW GOVERNMENT FIGURES UNDERMINE AIRPORT EXPANSION BID

Claims by Stansted bosses that the airport's growth potential over the next decade is being severely limited by the present cap on numbers at 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) are being called into question by Stop Stansted Expansion following the publication of new Government figures.

While the airport's owners, Manchester Airports Group (MAG), predict that Stansted will be bursting at the seams by 2023 and needs to be able to accommodate 43mppa within 10 years, the Government's latest aviation forecasts, suggest that this is wild exaggeration on the part of MAG. The Government's forecasts show Stansted handling 31mppa in 2030, and 35mppa in 2033 – a far cry from the inflated figures currently being touted by MAG as it talks up the need for further expansion in anticipation of its intended planning application to Uttlesford District Council in early 2018.

The lower expectations of demand at Stansted take full account of the fact that the Government expects Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and London City Airports all to be 100% full by 2030, based on no additional runways and current planning caps remaining in place.

Furthermore, if, as planned, a third runway is built at Heathrow in the next 10 years, the Government projects that demand at Stansted would actually decline, from 24mppa in 2016 to 22mppa in 2030, and that even by 2040 the airport would still only be handling 32mppa, i.e. less than the

present cap, which would not be reached until 2043.

### New Forecast

According to the new forecasts, therefore, it is clear that needless damage would be inflicted on the local environment by the building of additional aircraft stands and new taxiways at Stansted in coming years when these won't be needed for at least another quarter of a century and, potentially, never needed. A second Gatwick runway, for example, would reduce the demand for more capacity at Stansted still further, while concerns about climate change, pressure from oil prices, and security concerns could also weaken demand.

The new Government forecasts also show that Ryanair's dominance at Stansted has further increased in recent years with the Irish airline carrying 82% of all Stansted's passengers in 2016 compared to 64% in 2011. Over the past five years all the other Stansted airlines have declined by a total of 1.4m passengers, shrinking from 5.8m in 2011 to 4.4m in 2016. *Brian Ross*

## *Family fun in Harrisons*



## *Happy New Year 2018*







## The Hundred Parishes Society

Almshouses were built to enable the poor, old or disabled who were no longer able to work and pay rent to remain in the community. The first recorded was in the 10th century, founded in York by King Athelstan. The oldest still in existence is at Winchester. They were often a result of a gift from a wealthy benefactor, consisting of a terrace of houses to accommodate a number of residents. The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples. In the High Street, Buntingford, the almshouses were founded by Bishop Seth Ward in 1684. He was a mathematician and astronomer who was born in Aspenden and educated in Cambridge. He became Bishop of Exeter in 1662 and Salisbury in 1667. The almshouses are now run by a charity to provide homes for the elderly of the town.



Lord Richard Rich, Lord Chancellor under Edward VI, founded Felsted School and nearby almshouses in 1565. They were rebuilt in 1878. Rich is buried at Felsted Church which has an elaborate memorial to him.

Radwinter's almshouses were designed by the Arts and Crafts architect William Eden Nesfield in 1887. His work included other buildings in Radwinter and London. From Thaxted's churchyard, the path to the windmill passes between two buildings. One with a thatched roof was built as a priest's house and later became a four-dwelling almshouse. The building opposite was constructed approximately 1714 and incorporates eight tenements. In 1830 it housed sixteen aged persons, thirteen widows, a man, a wife and a maid.



All the almshouses mentioned are protected through their listing on the Historic England register. You will find others as you explore and enjoy our rich and diverse area.

For more detailed information, please visit our website;  
[www.hundredparishes.org.uk/](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk/)  
Ken McDonald, Secretary,  
[hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com)

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

Winter came quite early to the Gardens this year and we are hoping for a nice crisp and cold January so that our snowdrops stay snug and safe, as hopefully you all are. The snowdrops will be at their best for our snowdrop open days on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February! Our marker for winter is the first snow at the Gardens and we worked in driving snow as we raked up the leaves at the end of November. Unfortunately we hadn't made a start on the walled garden closed season work, so that has had to wait until the ground softens! But we have completed the viewing platform at the bottom of the Glade, see for yourself by looking at the Garden News on our website. We are very much looking forward to our snowdrop open days in February. In 2017, the snowdrops (and aconites) were looking fabulous at the end of February, we had great weather and a record numbers of visitors. We are keeping our fingers crossed for beautiful sunny days and hope to see you all there. We will make lots of soup, pick up enormous amounts of bacon from our local supplier (Priors Hall Farm), and bake even more cakes than usual so that we minimise the risk of running short! Finally, don't forget us when making your new year's resolutions; we are always looking for extra volunteers to help us on our open days. So if you like baking or working in a busy café environment, doing craft activities with children, greeting visitors or car park assisting, amongst other things, please come and join us, we will not hold you to helping on all nine open days throughout the season! There is information about volunteering on our website [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) and you can call us on 01371 876979 to find out more. *Jill Goldsmith*

## Spectacular Birchanger

Snow and twinkling lights. Just the right ingredients to put you in a happy mood for the Christmas season!



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## Village Services and Activities

Alzheimers	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet	Wendy Mitchell	01992 812781
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
BAGS	Liza Clarke	01279 815444
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	The Manager	01279 810800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders	Another Level	01279 814273
BSSC Club	The Steward	01279 813441
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Car Service	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Dance	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dog Grooming	Lucy Creask	01279 799337
Dog Grooming	Fiona	07484 673179
Essex Tai Chi	Mary Dann	01376 342416
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
Men/Boys Hair	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Over 60's club	Jean Camp	07843 707249
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814773
Physiotherapy	Chris Lansdowne	07809 879868
Public Safety	Alex Stewart	07846 467575
St. Mary's Church	Elaine Wright	01279 813474
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	John	01279 815913
Village/Church Hall	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Zumba Gold	Tam Coxall	07783 421311

## Village Church Hall



### Wednesday Tearoom

The tearoom is open every Wednesday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm offering tea, coffee and lovely home-made cakes, including gluten free choices. All are welcome.

Please note that Labtots and Zumba for kids are no longer held at the church hall.

For further information and bookings please contact; Pam Lee on 07702171744.



Snowy December

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

7th January 11:15 am	Epithany, Mattins service
14th January 11:15 am	Baptism of Christ, Communion service
21st January 11:15 am	Family service
28th January 11:15 am	Presentation of Christ, Communion

### Church News

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November, over 80 ladies and 4 men attended the 'Church Hall Fashion Show', where £800 was raised for St. Mary's Church, Essex Air Ambulance, St Claire's Hospice and Home Farm Trust. The event wouldn't have been a success without the help of Rosemary, Sue and Ann and Travelling Trends. Also thanks to our friends who gave willingly the fantastic prizes for the raffle, so a big thank you to all. Will we do it again? Tell us what you think, email [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

The coffee morning on the 5th December was also successful and raised £160 towards church funds. Thanks to Elizabeth and Pim Godwin for their continued support and wonderful hospitality. The next one will be on the 13th February 2018 at 10:30 am.

We continue to 'Open the Church' on a monthly basis with free refreshments, tea, coffee and some company. Come along for a natter or just some quiet time, it is truly a beautiful place to sit and listen to some music or join in with a conversation. The next open church will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30 am.

During March we are hoping to entice the 'Court Yard Quartet' back to the village to entertain us with a jukebox of music with a fish/chicken and chip supper. The date is to be confirmed but let me know if you are interested.

**Did you know?** - The presentation of Christ or Candlemass is a service devoted to the first day Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem. It is also a time where all church candles for the year ahead are blessed, representing Jesus as the light of the world.

**Did you know?** - That the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>? This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah.

The word Epithany can mean many things such as the ah-ha moment when you finally realise the plot in the book you're reading, it could mean that you suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you, It could also mean a moment of sudden and great revelation. When the wise men saw baby Jesus they worshipped him and suddenly realised what they had seen; hope, love and peace.

### ~An Epithany prayer~

God our Father, we remember the visit of the Wise Men to your Son. They brought gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Their gifts showed what they believed and thought about Jesus. Every day we receive many gifts from you. Help us to remember, when we use your gifts that you give them to us because you love us and care for us. Amen.

If you would like more information about the church and the services we provide, or would like a special prayer said for someone who is ill or in need, please email us on; [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

*Elaine Wright, Church warden*

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**Birchanger Village Church Hall**



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The Birchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the magazine or any organisations or institutions represented. Material sent to the editor will generally be printed as received providing it is considered suitable by the magazine team. The editor reserves the right to edit content if considered unsuitable or where insufficient space is available. All material should be submitted by the 16th of the month to be published the following month.

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