



# Birchanger Village Magazine

March 2018

Issue 182



## The Three Willows Has A New Landlord

The Three Willows pub and restaurant re-opened its doors in February under new management with landlord and chef, Mark Boden. Together with the help of his father, David Boden, they have taken over the tenancy from John and Dan Thompson who left the Greene King Pub at the end of January. This is Mark's first position as pub landlord but he has accumulated many years' experience both as a chef and in 'front of house' management.

After qualifying as chef at Hertford Regional College more than 15 years ago Mark has worked in a number of pubs and restaurants such as the four star Tewin Bury Farm Hotel in Hertford, The Jolly Waggoners and The Bull in Much Hadham, The Three Horseshoes in Hazel End and was also a chef at The Three Willows some years ago, so he is no stranger to the restaurant industry.

His father and business associate, David Boden said "This is a great opportunity for us to create a new business in the area but also we will be keeping a traditional part of the village alive. I lived in Birchanger for 16 years and Mark grew up here so I know how important the local pub is to the community. Initially I will help with the financial and business side of the pub but Mark will certainly take care of the daily business and will also take on the role of head chef. We have just employed well-known chef, Derek Clarke, or 'Del' as he is affectionately known locally and 15 other part time kitchen and bar staff, some of whom live in the village".



Left to right: David Boden, Claire and Mark Boden

David Boden owned Bacchus in Bishops Stortford and sold the club a year ago. Previously he was CEO of Park Resorts and an executive for Rank's gaming division. He currently owns a digital marketing company.

Mark Boden continued. "We will keep most of the current menu for the time being but we are already planning a complete new menu for the near future. This will be based on pub classics but with a twist and we will of course keep the fresh fish options which are

very popular. We will also offer three kinds of steaks a good selection of desserts, a cheese board and of course coffee. Claire will be helping with the bar and taking care of administration. Children are welcome in the restaurant and the public bar has been re-opened for those that just want a drink. Dogs are also welcome in the public bar. For the time being we will be closed on Mondays but the bar will be open on all the other days until 11.00pm. Our normal opening times are Tuesday to Sunday 12.00 to 3.00pm (last orders for food 2.30pm) and 6.00 to 11.00pm (last orders for food 09.30pm). We look forward to welcoming the residents of Birchanger to our pub".

## Chloe Monk Is On Her Way!



Chloe Monk, aged just 17 is on her way to Woe, a small village in Ghana, for two weeks in June. Arranged and coordinated by Harlow College, she will be joining a number of other students who will help teach underprivileged children various subjects including: songs, nursery rhymes, maths, English and English culture. Adult teachers will accompany the students who will be

staying in a homeless shelter during the fortnight.

Chloe was first introduced to the idea in November 2017 by Harlow College where she is taking her A-levels, reading law, psychology and sociology. She needed around £1,800 for the trip, which includes the air fares, passport, visa and vaccinations and has spent the last few months raising funds and preparing for the trip. She arranged a Race-Night at the social club in December which raised an amazing £600 and then in February she topped this by raising a further £700 from a Quiz-Night, also held at the club. A number of patrons supported her with donations, including Birchanger Sports & Social Club and Birchanger Art Festival who both donated a generous £100 each. Chloe would like to give special thanks to everyone who helped her reach her goal and made such a worthwhile trip possible.

She will be keeping a diary of her experience in Ghana and no doubt will be taking loads of photos which we will publish in August. In the meantime, I think the whole village would like to join this magazine in wishing her a safe journey and wonderful experience teaching the African children.



# A letter from the Editor

*Dear Readers,*

## The Spirit of Birchanger

I announced last month that we are holding a **photographic competition with a prize of £60** to the winner. So far we have received quite a few images of Birchanger's favourite sites and locations including buildings, nature and animals from all seasons. We still have room for more, so if you have any nice photos or have the mind to go out and take some new pictures, please email them to me at [magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com).

The competition is for amateurs only and for people living in Birchanger, so no cheating. A maximum of three photos per person can be entered but must be received by the magazine no later than the 16<sup>th</sup> March. The winning photo will be published in April's edition, so brush the cobwebs off the camera or simply use your smart phone and start clicking!

Below is a selection of some of the photos received so far.



Paul Ferret



John Napier



Laura Chapman

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Ed,*

### Jean & Brian Pallett - Diamond Jubilee

I am writing to ask you if you would be so kind to announce our forthcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in the magazine. Brian was born in the village and we got married in 1958. We have lived together in Birchanger for over 56 years and know most people in the village. We celebrate our diamond jubilee on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Thank you, *Jean & Brian Pallett, Birchwood.*

*Editor's note!* I think it goes for everyone in Birchanger that we send Jean and Brian our best wishes and hearty congratulations and may they have many more years together.

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)



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger

# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## Dog bins for dog walkers only

Complaints have been made that certain individuals are clearing dog waste from their gardens and stuffing it into the Parish Council dog bins! This has resulted in dog walkers being unable to use the bins so dog poo bags have been piled up at the side. This falls into the same category as chucking waste anywhere and as such is an offence, even though the nuisance has been created by someone else.

If the bin is full, you must take your dog's mess home.



Uttlesford District Council has a policy that permits all dog and pet owners to put their animal waste in their black bins. The answer is obvious. When you clear your gardens put the dog waste in the black bin. The dog poo bins around the village are for dog walkers only. Why walk up the road to the nearest dog bin anyway? This is plain daft when the receptacle is on your own doorstep!

## Sorry Birchanger, we have been let down again

When the Churton Estate was built on one of the worst bends in Birchanger, the original plans showed a footpath around the perimeter going down to just in front of the Three Willows Pub.

Somehow the developers managed to remove it from their schedule and it was never built. Since then, Birchanger Parish Council has been fighting to get this outstanding work done. The Parish Council has had numerous meetings with Essex County Council Highways over this down the years since the site was constructed without the planned path and suitable lighting. We were promised it would be done by the end of this financial year. However, we have now discovered that it has only just gone out to tender but work, if it ever starts, will not be in this financial year.

This leaves this stretch of the lane even more dangerous than ever with the construction of the cycle way by the Highways Agency, which most of Birchanger never wanted anyway. The only people to benefit from this are the cyclists who swoop round the bend from outside the village with no regard for anyone walking on that stretch of road. To date pedestrians and horse riders have had accidents caused by these cyclists who have no care for anyone in their path. Until the footpath on the Churton side of the Lane is completed this section of the Lane will be a very dangerous place. Please take care.

## 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:

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Telephone for details:  
Angie-817376 Rosemary-814678 Barbara-813007



**Mark Boden**

found a warm welcome, good food and beer and a great atmosphere. If you have not been there recently, try it soon. I have been there twice now, with excellent fresh fish served on each occasion. Steaks and chops were proclaimed delicious and cooked the way diners wanted, while there are vegetarian options such as baked aubergine available on the menu. Special diets are also catered for, you just need to tell the pub when you book or order your food. Enjoy!

## All change at The Three Willows

Familiar faces have taken over at the Willows after the previous landlord resigned due to ill health ahead of his expected tenancy term. Mark, Claire and David Boden have taken over the pub and those who have already visited the Willows under its new regime have

## Planning on buying or renting your own home?

Buying or renting a home is never easy in these days of tight budgets and constantly rising costs but it may not always be an unrealistic dream. There is a new government initiative scheme which helps would be purchasers or those wishing to rent their own homes. Called unsurprisingly 'Help to Buy', this website has details of schemes both for purchasing your home and saving for the deposit. There are also special rental schemes for those not yet ready to buy their own property but who would like a home of their own. The scheme is operating in our own vicinity and neighbouring areas. When you need to move on, this site can also help you with your sale. To find out if this could benefit you log onto: <https://www.helptobuyese.org.uk/>

## Fancy a run on Saturdays

Maybe not for the faint hearted but for anyone of school age and upwards there is a 5k run which takes place every Saturday starting at the bandstand at Castle Park on a circuit which goes round Grange Paddocks and back. It starts at 9 am and really is for everyone, whatever their ability. No pre-booking is necessary; all you need to do is turn up. There are no costs but you will be asked to register the first time you participate. There are volunteers on hand to explain the route and it is open to all. The enterprise is run by a group of volunteers who would welcome others to come and join them. Many of the runners would say the best part of it all is the coffee at the Port Jackson afterwards. Try the run sometime, its great fun and you will get a bit of fresh air to boot.



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### Volunteering with Essex Libraries

Seems there are a lot of volunteering opportunities about. After the long winter is over many people want to get about again and volunteering to do something is a way of getting out and meeting different people. The volunteering jobs are many and varied. They include working with children from toddler age upwards. You could work delivering books to the home bound, or help others learn about computing. There are also code clubs, work clubs, as well as working with customer services. To find out more contact your local library. Expenses will be paid and training given.

### Could you foster a child?

Not for everyone, but certainly those who do, find it very rewarding in more ways than one. Many people feel they might be too old to do this but there are many successful foster carers that are retired. You need only to be over 21 and healthy enough to be able to look after a child.



There are many different types of children out there needing care, some just for a short time while others for whom foster care is a long term proposition. If you have the space, there are siblings who want to stay together and many who have differing degrees of special needs.

You will not be without help as there is training given and a 24/7 helpline when problems arise and support is needed.

There is also paid annual leave of 28 days and experienced careers can earn up to £670 per week. Details can be found on line, but you can also attend information days. There is one in Chelmsford on March 17 between 11 am and 2 pm. Further details are to be found on Essex County Council website.

### Small grants available all year round

Most councils have grants available for all manner of causes but some are little known in the community. There are two smaller grants available for most of the year as well as the larger community project grants which can only be applied for between March and April. The grants are match funded, some have limits of £500 and if they are for equipment for a talented individual, details of applications to other sources must be provided. Some equipment is extremely expensive to buy and can cost many thousands. Voluntary groups and organisations can apply for such diverse items as resurfacing a car park, recreation ground, leisure facilities, in short anything which benefits the community at large. They are little known, but you can find out which type of grant might benefit you or your organisation by calling Sue Hayden on 01799 510510, or email her at [s.hayden@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:s.hayden@uttlesford.gov.uk). Alternatively visit the council's website.

### Do you have any spare time?

Generally not something we seem to have much of these days but if you do have even a little time to spare, you could make it work for you by joining the Time Bank which is run from the council offices in Saffron Walden.

It works this way. You spend a few hours doing unpaid work for someone else using one of your skills: by doing this work you acquire credits for the number of hours you put in to the job. You can use these hours to get some work done for yourself for the equivalent amount of time which you spent on the work which you did. The skills bank is wide. It ranges from basic housework or gardening to skills such as painting and decorating, to some financial services. To find out more, call 01799 510525/4. You might be able to ditch the chores you hate for something which you really enjoy doing.

### The Internet trolls are back



The trolls get to know your name and phone number, there is a slight pause on the line, and they call you by name. They can be male or female and often have overseas accents. They tell you that you have trouble with your computer, Windows software, broadband, or some other plausible issue.

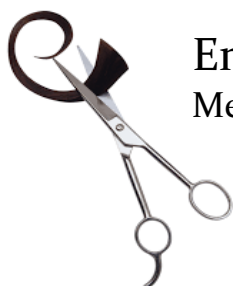
They then ask you to turn on the device or program and tell you that they will fix the problem for you. Whatever you do, don't give them access to your computer, they are simply trying to steal your identity. Put the receiver down fast. Strangely you will find the caller's number has been withheld and if you try to call them back, you will never get an answer!

### Keep Warm in Uttlesford Drop in Session

It has been a colder winter than some we have suffered recently and now is the time when the big bills start dropping onto the mat. Despite the size of the bills, you might have felt that your home could have been warmer. A 'drop in' session at the Grafton Green Centre in Stansted may be of help. A team there will be able to answer your questions about all forms of heating, insulation, bills and everything you need to know about keeping warmer in winter without breaking the bank.



The drop in session is on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, between 10.30 and 12.30am. It is free for everyone.



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# Health Matters

## Can alcohol cause cancer?

Scientists have discovered that the body's natural defence systems against alcohol are like all things human, subject to fault. There is a natural chemical in the body which counteracts the effects of alcohol but it may not always work. If the cells are damaged, it can make the cell cancerous. Unfortunately the damaged cell can invade neighbouring cells and the whole pile becomes cancerous.

In most humans the defence process is effective, but under constant barrages of attack from the chemical, the DNA in the cells starts to break down, causing mutations which in time become cancerous tumours. This link was suspected for many years but new research has discovered the destructive pathway. Some genetic types are more susceptible to others and their cells are more likely to suffer damage from alcohol. Those who adopted dry January just might be tempted to drink a great deal less throughout 2018? I wonder.

## Can you ditch the diet and lose weight – well possibly

With the weight loss from 'Dry January' starting to disappear some are thinking they will have to cut the calories when the warmer weather comes and spring clothes are the order of the day. However, this may not be necessarily so. There are things you can do without having to cut out all the sweets for Lent. Getting more sleep helps, apparently lack of sleep produces chemicals in the brain which make you feel hungry. Always eat a good healthy breakfast, as it is the best meal of the day if you want to stop the pounds building up. Eat slowly but not at your desk and ditch the inevitably fattening sauces. You can graze a bit during the day if you need to but keep to low fat, low sugar snacks and definitely avoid junk food. Try to go for a walk every day and never shop when you are feeling hungry as you will be tempted to buy all the wrong things. Remember, Easter is just round the corner with all those chocolate eggs you will want to enjoy.

## Now the flu season has passed

Hopefully with the promise of better weather the very nasty viruses which have plagued the village this winter will be departing for good. So many people have actually suffered, most on their own and feeling very miserable and lonely. What could the rest of us have done to make things easier for the sufferers? Understandably nobody wants to catch the virus, so by and large everyone stayed away from the source of infection leaving sufferers to battle away on their own. Many could actually have done with ordinary shopping items and over the counter medication at least, but the overriding factor for them all was the loneliness as people feared to pick up the infection and stayed away. Matters might have been made easier by phone calls or more emails. People do need human contact, particularly the elderly as this is the group which is most vulnerable to secondary infection. The infectious stage does not normally last long after the onset of the symptoms; in fact people are more likely to spread the illness just before they notice anything wrong and the 48 hours after that. You are far more likely to catch the virus

simply by going about your daily life. Next winter the chances are the virus will be back, having mutated slightly. Flu jabs will once again be vital for everyone. So also is a better plan to look after the sick, and particularly the elderly and those who live alone. There are good Samaritans out there. We just need there to be one for everybody.

## Is any food safe these days?

We shall have nothing to eat soon! Various reports infer that rapeseed oil can be toxic and may give you respiratory problems. Rice and chillies contain small amounts of arsenic which can cause cancer, so that means the curry is out. Apparently salmon from some Scottish farms contain chemicals which can also cause cancer and you can forget the chips, as potatoes contain compounds known as glycoalkaloids! Well you can take all this with a pinch of salt (pun intended). Just off to get the fish and chips and a curry while leaving a lovely rice pudding in the oven. I am sure I will survive!



## Is social media causing childhood depression?

A 2017 study by The Royal Society of Public Health asked 1,500 young people aged 11-25 to track their moods while using the five most popular social media sites. It suggested Snapchat and Instagram were the most likely to inspire feelings of inadequacy and anxiety. YouTube had the most positive influence. Seven in 10 said Instagram made them feel worse about body image and half of 14-24-year-olds reported Instagram and Facebook exacerbated feelings of anxiety. Two-thirds said Facebook made cyber-bullying worse. A study led Shirley Cramer, chief executive of RSPH, to call for three specific changes:

A pop-up notification when a young person has spent a certain amount of time online.

A watermark on photos that have been digitally manipulated. School lessons on how to use social media in a healthy way.

## On a personal note - for the ladies

If you are one of the many ladies who suffer from very heavy periods, the end of your problems may well be in sight. Your difficulty may well be that you suffer from a lower level of a certain protein which ensures a normal menstrual loss. Scientists are working on a scheme to supplement low levels of this particular protein with a simple pill. It will be goodbye to all those nasty hospital visits for many of us then.

# what's on in the village...

<div>  <div>March 2018</div>  </div>						
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 #						
<b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for beginners	<b>1 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	<b>2</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest Tote Draw	<b>3</b> <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Francisco Sommers - Live Kenny & Katie welcome party Bingo Lottery	<b>4</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins
<b>5</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>6</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>7</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	<b>8 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	<b>9</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw Tote Draw	<b>10</b> <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 16.45 6 Nations Bingo Lottery	<b>11</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
<b>12</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>13</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	<b>14</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	<b>15 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	<b>16</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest Tote Draw	<b>17</b> <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 14.45 6 Nations 21.00 NobleOx - Live Bingo Lottery	<b>18</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service
<b>19</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>20</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>21</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners 20.00 Parish Meeting	<b>22 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	<b>23</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Wheel of Fortune Tote Draw	<b>24</b> <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Bingo Lottery	<b>25</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
<b>26</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>27</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>28</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	<b>29 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	<b>30</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows <b>BSSC:</b> Poker Tote Draw <b>St Mary's Church</b> 14.00 Holy Com.	<b>31</b> <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Boxing - Live (Joshua v Parker)	<b>Church Hall</b> Latino Dance Night  Starting Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> April

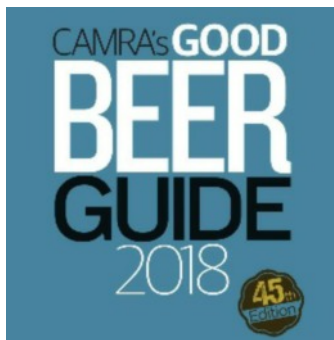


**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News



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



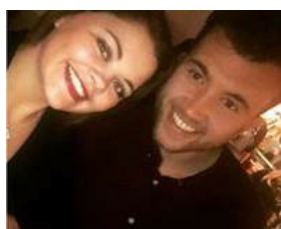
### Wheel of Fortune

Spin the wheel  
It could be your lucky day  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

### Treasure Chest

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

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March**



### Welcome to Kenny & Katie

The club is delighted to announce the appointment of their new Front of House Manager, Kenny Gould, and new Front of House

Supervisor, Katie Martin. They both started their duties at the club on the 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Please join us in welcoming Kenny and Katie to the team at BSSC. Both have experience of the club and day to day operation. The Officers, Committee and membership wish them the best of luck for the future in their new venture.



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### Club Calendar at a Glance - March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Treasure Chest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kenny & Katie welcome party
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Francisco Sommers - Live 9.00pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> Bottle Draw
- 10<sup>th</sup> 6 Nations France v England 4.45pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Treasure chest
- 17<sup>th</sup> 6 Nations England v Ireland 2.45pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> NobleOx - Live 9.00pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Wheel of Fortune
- 30<sup>th</sup> Poker (Good Friday)
- 31<sup>st</sup> Boxing live on the big screen (Joshua v Parker)

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00pm
Thursdays	Bingo Night	8.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Weekly	Bonus Ball	Ask bar staff

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

# Birchanger Primary School



## Hello from Birchanger C of E Primary School.

An energetic and active start to 2018 for Hedgehog Class! The children have been busy, busy, busy this half term and have taken a trip learning about Mexico. They have been learning about where Mexico is; continents; oceans; Mexican poetry; traditions and even Mexican art work of the sun and moon.

In Science we have been learning about Animals and Humans and the basic needs for survival. The children have carried out investigations and made their own homes for animals so that they are able to have their basic needs met.



Our 'Talk 4 Writing' has encouraged drama; speaking and listening and some fantastic writing. We have used the imitation and innovation stages of Talk 4 Writing to write our own versions of 'The Magic Porridge Pot', 'Mexican Poetry' and 'The Polar Express'. The children have loved the innovation stage to use their own ideas and apply these to a familiar style of writing.

In RE, we have been learning about special places such as school and Christian Churches. The children have also created their own stain glass windows and understand that stain glass windows tell stories from the bible.

Physical Education is one of our favourite times of the week and this term, all children in Badgers have been lucky enough to take part in Forest School with Mrs Miles, Mrs Russell and Mrs Austin. The children made some great snowmen made out of materials from the woods and these made great Christmas decorations.

Our new topic will be "Village Life - Our Village" where we will be looking at our local environment and taking some trips to see some of the features in the local area. As well as a trip to Hyde Hall to discover different plants and trees. Let's hope the weather stays mild for us as we head into Spring Term 2.



*Claire Berry, Headteacher*

## Birchanger Sports & Social Club special meeting

At a special meeting held for members on February 4th the committee announced, amongst other agenda items, their intention to finalise a franchise agreement for the kitchen and catering service.

In the week following the meeting, the potential franchisee withdrew from negotiations. However, we are pleased to confirm that the club kitchen successfully re-opened on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue to run a temporary service on Friday and Saturday evenings for members and their guests.

The committee will continue to examine all options for establishing a long term solution for the kitchen and will keep members informed as these enquiries progress. In the meantime, the club are recruiting a part-time cook, job description details can be found at:

[www.birchangerclub.com/birchanger-kitchen](http://www.birchangerclub.com/birchanger-kitchen).

The club would like to thank all the members for their continued support and patience during this time.

*John McArthur*



The weather has been extremely variable, one moment bright sunshine and blue skies, then the next heavy bouts of rain and strong wind. Temperatures have also been up and down like a yo-yo.

In March, some bulbs should be nicely flowering, since they have

been 'popping' up throughout February despite our transitory weather. Catkins have also been appearing on bushes in sheltered corners.

Whatever the weather, look at it, venture out in it, enjoy it, use it or it will be gone. We have a wonderful variety of weathers, and spring may arrive 'full out' in March. Weather in Birchanger Wood has its own microclimate brought about from the abundance and height of the trees in the wood. Where trees have been brought down by the winds, (mostly silver birch owing to their shallow roots) they are left to decay thereby creating micro havens for wood-dependent species of insects and habitats for fungi. This in turn breaks down the wood thereby creating nutrients which are returned to and enrich the woodland floor.

Although Birchanger Wood is a descendant from ancient woodland, it is now almost completely surrounded by an urban 'landscape', so its small and medium bird population is almost identical with those appearing in surrounding gardens. Even the green and great spotted woodpeckers (length 22-23cm) are seen frequently in local gardens, but look out for the small lesser spotted woodpecker (length 14-15cm); this is a less frequent garden visitor. Buzzards also nest in Birchanger Wood. They will be difficult to find but in spring if they nest nearby, you will hear them calling one another whilst flying and you will get excellent views of them out over the local fields winging in sweeping circles following the thermals to gain height, and then gliding along looking for prey. There is an excellent You Tube video which clearly shows the difference between the great spotted and lesser spotted woodpecker. If anyone has taken any photographs of the wood please send them on to me so that I may add them to my monthly article. Thank you. *Daphne Wallace-Jarvis*

secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org  
www.birchangerwoodtrust.org



What a busy half term the children have had at Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school.

We started off welcoming some more new children and their families at the pre-school.



We have been looking at 'People Who Help Us' this half term. The children have enjoyed writing letters to their families and a visit from a Postman.

They have also looked at how the Police can help keep them safe and

had an interesting visit from both a Police Lady and Man. They finished the last half-term by looking at how they can be healthy with a Paramedic visiting them taking their heart beats and bandaging them up.

We will also be holding an Open Day on Saturday 28th April from 10am until 12pm. We look forward to welcoming and showing all prospective parents and their children our nursery. You will have an opportunity to meet the staff and find out how we can ensure your child has the best start to their Early Education.

If you are interested in a place at our setting please contact us via our website or give us a call. We currently have spaces available now and for September 2018 for children from 2.5 years.

*Karen Reilly (Manager)* Tel: 01279 810 800  
www.birchangerbutterflies.org



## "WIDE OPEN SPACES" Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7pm St John's Church, Stansted CM24 8JP

The Harmonaires Choir, with Musical Director Josie Cowley (MEd Cantab) is returning to Stansted. Enjoy the stunning harmonies of one of the regions most engaging choirs in a choral concert entitled Wide Open Spaces, which includes outstanding and uplifting music featuring Rutter, Chilcott, Gjeilo, Snowpatrol, Sting, and Enya. This is a fundraising concert for St John's Church Hall. There will be a bar and raffle. Tickets cost £10 (£6 students) and are available from The Church Office (Mon, Wed and Fri mornings) Tel: 01279 815243, from [www.theharmonaireschoir.com](http://www.theharmonaireschoir.com) Tel: 07916 153898. Parking is available.



The Harmonaires Choir was formed in 2014 and is an auditioned SATB choir. With no requirement to read music, we have an inclusive atmosphere with the aim of producing stunning, quality performances throughout the year. A choir for people who enjoy singing a vast breadth of work from sacred to secular pieces, well known classics to new living composers' works. Singing rock, pop, musical theatre, soul, gospel and more, our vision has always been that if you lead the audience on a musical journey, there is no reason why 'Elgar' and 'Take That' cannot feature in the same concert. We perform at least four concerts a year, supporting local charities as we go. Last year we were thrilled to help Isabel Hospice raise over £8000 through our 'Voices for Hospices' concert at Haileybury College, Hertford. At our next event, in May, we will be performing in the International Choral Festival at the 'Musicians' Church' in London. *Elizabeth Jennings*



## The Hundred Parishes Society

### Windmills of your mind

Probably the earliest European windmill was a post mill. This had one large upright post on which the main body of the mill balanced. The whole mill rotated on this post to face the wind. Next came the tower mill with a masonry body on which only the cap rotated. This allowed the main structure to be larger and taller. The smock mill came later and here the brick tower was replaced by a sloping, weather-boarded tower or “smock”. Again, only the cap rotated. We have some fine examples of windmills in the Hundred Parishes, most of which are carefully looked after by dedicated volunteers.

Great Chishill’s windmill is an open trestle post mill; it was built in 1819 using timbers from an earlier mill. A very successful “sponsor a board” campaign by the Great Chishill Windmill Trust has raised much money to help conserve the mill. Ashdon has a post mill built in 1757 by a carpenter, William Haylock. The mill ceased working in 1912. The mill was gifted to the village in 2000 and registered in the name of Ashdon Windmill Trust Ltd, a registered charity. Another post mill can be seen in Finchingfield. This has a single storey round house and was built in the mid-18th century.

In my village of Stansted Mountfitchet stands a Grade II five-storey tower mill built in 1787 by Joseph Lindsell (Pictured below). It is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.



I have mentioned only a few of the windmills that can be seen in The Hundred Parishes. There are others at Thaxted, Great Bardfield and Aythorpe Roding, plus more that no longer have sails. Several mills open to the public from Easter. Open days can be found on the ‘What’s On’ page of the Society’s website at [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).

*Ken McDonald,  
Secretary The Hundred  
Parishes Society*

### Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone is very welcome. It is your opportunity to find out what is going on in Birchanger, to raise issues on matters which concern you and to tell the Parish Council what you would like to see happen in the future for Birchanger. You will be able to meet more informally with fellow residents and councillors over a cup of tea or coffee at the end of the meeting. This is your meeting and time to have your say.

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

March is a time to enjoy daffodils! We are open for pre-arranged group visits in March, but mostly we have the joy of the daffodils to ourselves as we prepare for the first main season Open Day, on Sunday April 22.



This year, though, we have designated **Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> as a special open day for potential new volunteers** to come and see what volunteering with us involves. If you are interested in how you might help, come along and meet some of our loyal group of volunteers, who between them have a wealth and variety of skills from their home life and wide-ranging jobs, such as train driving, healthcare, the pharmaceutical industry, public services, the hospitality industry and of course, gardening!

Your enthusiasm is what we are looking for, as we know you will be able to bring your skills and learn new ones that will help with the gardening, restoration projects, and maintenance of the structures in the gardens, archive work, baking cakes and welcoming visitors on open days.

The volunteer open day will run from 10.30am to 2.30pm and involve a tour of the Gardens and illustrative demonstrations of the tasks of the day. Come prepared for all weathers and a little light work. And bring your own lunch – we will provide hot drinks and homemade cake!

To register for the volunteer open day, leave us a message on 01371 876979 – we will not hold you to attending, but letting us know will tell us how much cake will be needed! For the latest news, more information about volunteering and visiting the gardens go to our website <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>; or find us on Facebook. *Jill Goldsmith*



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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	Rosemary Whealley	01279 814678
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	Karen Reilly	01279 810 800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders	Another Level	01279 814273
BSSC Club	Kenny Gould	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
Essex Tai Chi	Mary Dann	01376 342416
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Garden & Household	Jeremy Chuchla	07903 191988
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Launderette	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
Property Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Public Safety	Alex Stewart	07846 467575
St. Mary's Church	Elaine Wright	01279 813474
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815913
Village/Church Hall	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Zumba Gold	Tam Coxall	07783 421311

## Village Church Hall



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### 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.

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

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

4 <sup>th</sup> March	11:15 am	Matins service - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent
11 <sup>th</sup> March	11:15 am	Holy Communion-Mothering Sunday
18 <sup>th</sup> March	11:15 am	Family service - 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
25 <sup>th</sup> March	11:15 am	Holy Communion - Palm Sunday
30 <sup>th</sup> March	2:00 am	Good Friday Service - Easter Liturgy
1 <sup>st</sup> April	11:15 am	Holy Communion - Easter Sunday

### Church News

The coffee morning on the 15<sup>th</sup> February at Moorswood in aid of the church, raised £180. Our thanks go to hosts Elizabeth and Pim Godwin and for those who gave generously on the day. If you would like to get more involved in fund raising money for our wonderful church, please contact us at the email below.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March the Parochial Church Council will hold its annual general meeting after the morning service. All are welcome to attend this important meeting to hear about the work that we are doing with the school and to keep this wonderful church flourishing. We would love more volunteers to help with this work, if you could spare some time, for an hour or so on a Sunday morning or if you want to just get involved in other ways email us at the address below.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March the church will be open for coffee, tea and companionship or just a natter from 10:30 -12md, come along and have a break, all are welcome and we would love to see you.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April Courtyard Quartet will fill the Church Hall with their wonderful voices and an array of songs from west end shows to some classical treats. A fish or chicken and chip supper will be included (veg option available) tickets £15 please contact us on 01279-813474 or email [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

Did you know, Mothering Sunday in Britain has its origins centuries ago from the celebration of the third Sunday of Lent which was the day to visit the mother church or cathedral, it also included making a Simnel cake and taking it to mother. It was also a day in which those in service were allowed a day's leave to visit their mothers. At St Mary's, as in many churches, Mothering Sunday is celebrated by handing out posies of spring flowers to the mothers (and grandmothers) in the congregation by the children at the service.

**Palm Sunday**, is the time when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. Its significance is due to the people of Jerusalem confirming that Jesus is the messiah, they lay down their cloaks and palm branches on the ground in honour of his presence. It is the start of what is called the Passion week. At Easter, eggs are given as they are associated with the story of Jesus, the crucifixion and resurrection, they are a symbol of new life and rebirth. **Good Friday** or in some cases God Friday commemorates the time when Jesus was crucified on the cross at Calvary. Jesus was sentenced to death because he claimed to be God's son.

**Easter Sunday** also called Pascha (Greek, Latin) or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. For millions of Christians, it is the honouring and recognizing Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in Him

### An Easter prayer;

May the risen Christ fill your heart with joy, bring you new hope, and bless you with peace. Amen. Happy Easter!

*Elaine and Peter (Churchwardens)*

[stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

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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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