



Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2018

Issue 183



And the Winner is.....



'The Pathway' by Paul Ferret winner of 'The Spirit of Birchanger'



Sadie Smart



Laura Chapman



Rosemary Wheatley

Over 40 photographs of Birchanger and its surrounding countryside were entered into the competition, '*The Spirit of Birchanger*'. Choosing a winner wasn't by any means an easy task but first prize and £60 goes to Paul Ferret of Harrisons for his simple yet tranquil picture of the pathway through Birchanger Wood. The smaller pictures shown above are the runners up. Well done everyone for a fantastic effort.



A letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I would like to thank all the amateur photographers of Birchanger for submitting their wonderful pictures covering the subject 'The Spirit of Birchanger'. Finding a winner out of all the memorable entries was really a tough call as there were so many great images to choose from. Our choice was finally based on the subject matter and its perspective, the quality, contrast and definition. In the end we found a winner and would like to congratulate **Paul Ferret** from Harrisons who will receive the prize of £60. For those that did not win the prize, all is not lost, as all the photographs we received will be saved in the Birchanger Village Archive for future generations to look at.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

Man with a barrow

Dear Ed, on Friday 2nd March, during the so called 'Beast from the East' snowy weather, a nice gentleman appeared at about 4.00 pm outside my home in Birchwood armed with a wheel barrow and scattered salt in both cul-de-sacs outside the homes of the senior citizens. A Good Samaritan in disguise! I would just like to say a big thank you to whoever you are for being so thoughtful. *Kind regards, Muriel, 62 Birchwood.*

Misplaced bins

Dear Ed, during the recent cold snap, when we suffered a severe bout of snow and ice, refuse collectors failed to return bins to their original 'left out position' leaving residents the task of finding their own bins.

Unfortunately this happened to a number of elderly people who had to brave the dangerous and sometimes treacherous pathways in order to retrieve their bins. This is not an isolated event, as I have often seen refuse bins left haphazardly along the pathways and nowhere near the house they belong to. I have raised this situation with Uttlesford council but nothing seems to be done about it. Perhaps we must wait for one of our senior citizens to have a nasty fall before anything is done, or perhaps the parish council could raise this issue? *Name and address supplied,*

Sharen Horne sadly passed away on 26th February

Sharen was an active member of the social club and could regularly be seen helping with entertainments and events. She also spent time calling the Bingo on a Thursday night. She will be deeply missed by her husband John, her children and her 10 grandchildren.

Sharen was a popular character in the village and club and was always happy to help people in need and step in at a time of crisis. On several occasions she used her skills as a nurse to help people requiring medical attention. She had a passion for sewing and her home was a show case for her talent. She enjoyed upcycling furniture and had a make do and mend attitude and would always be on hand to help with a project.

She was a really caring person who would be first to offer her hand in help if you needed it. This is what made her a popular member of the community and she will dearly be missed by all who knew and loved her.



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 16th 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/

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Brace yourself Birchanger

More noise, more pollution, more traffic chaos, more disturbed nights, more airport related parking. This could be in store for us as the Manchester Airport Group sneaked in an application to increase the numbers from the existing permission of 35 million passengers per annum to 43 million. Had the amount of passenger increase been higher the application would have been referred to the government. Keeping the increase well below the 10 million mark means that Uttlesford District Council can deal with this application themselves. The Manchester Airport Group clearly believes that the council are a soft touch and are reported to have offered hollow benefits to soften the blow.

For Birchanger, the impacts will be severe. Nobody has really effectively mitigated noise levels for this village. The difficulties of actually getting out of Birchanger Lane grow each year and the area has become urbanised with one characterless development after another. Any mitigation always follows too late, if at all, after protest. The Airport has not yet fulfilled their obligations from the last application and they will doubtless worm their way out of any further conditions on any new permission as well.

The question has to be asked if the current team who are in charge or control at Uttlesford are actually strong enough and qualified for the task. Last time there was a very experienced team at the helm. Since then a great many of those who worked on previous applications have left for varying reasons. It is worrying that SSE is having difficulty in arranging a meeting with those concerned currently with the planning process. It is concerning as there are a lot of tempting inducements including

promises of road improvements and the like which we thought we were already having under previous applications and promises from the Highways Agency. Surely these should already be in the pipeline?

So that leaves a lot down to us. We have to make our views known and fight for any mitigation we can possibly have. It will take more than the efforts of the Parish and Town Councils. It does need everyone out there who has concerns to make their views known. Otherwise the consequences will be only too obvious. You have until April 3rd to make your views known to Uttlesford District Council whatever they are. (For further details see SSE article on page 9)

Watch out for the Lycra brigade

Nobody in Birchanger could have escaped the varying degrees of chaos which we have suffered in the past few months, courtesy of gas, electricity, water services and the National Cycling Network.

Birchanger is now on a fast track National Cycling Network which among other connections, is supposed to take cyclists by a less hazardous route to the airport and other places. Fine for the cyclists, not so fine for the rest of us.

The route is a Mecca for the fast moving Lycra brigade, who streak through the village at high speed and onto the track to the danger of horse riders and pedestrians alike. They swoop past, you don't hear them as they never use a bell and have already knocked over pedestrians and injured horse riders. There is no way apparently that this can be stopped. Multi use of bridleway is never going to work for everyone. Cycling may be healthy for some but it is potentially lethal for the rest of us. If you use this route, whoever you are, please do so with care and respect for others.

Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every month at the village church hall. Newcomers are welcome.

Next Meeting:

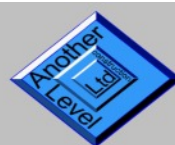
St Mary's Church, Birchanger

Wednesday 25th April 7.30 for 8.00 pm start

An interesting tour and talk about the history of our village church and viewing archives

Telephone for details: Angie - 817376

Rosemary - 814678



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Dog bin madness

You would think common sense would prevail! But it seems that it doesn't! The dog bin emptying service has been subject to the recent bad weather just like the rest of us and there have been problems emptying them but that's no excuse for overfilling the bins! The District Council has always advocated the placing of dog

mess in your own black bins at home. If the public dog bin is full, you must take your bag home and put your dog's poop in your own black bin. Leaving litter on the ground outside a bin is unacceptable and is a fineable offence.

Parking in the park may soon cost more

Essex County Council is consulting on their car parking charges in the various parks under their direct control. This is to pay for so called "Improvement" to the parks. Many felt the parking charges which fell hardest on parents with young children were already too high for these open spaces. They should be free for all to enjoy. In some of the parks there are already additional charges to access special play areas. It is often those living in high rise or inadequate accommodations that need the parks most. It can only mean that once again those who need these facilities most are penalised. Surely the County Council can find some more imaginative ways to pay for the shortfall? Better entertainments and catering for a start? More special play areas for those who want to pay for them?

New airport college gets ready for business

The first of the open evenings for the new college has taken place and subsequently 73 new students have enrolled on a course, one even flying in from Alicante in Spain.

There is still room on the varied courses which include Aviation, Business Studies, Engineering, Airport Maintenance, Hospitality, Events Management and Retail Management to name a view. Some pre apprenticeship schemes are also available. To help you decide whether this might be for you, several more Open Evenings are planned, on March 29th, May 10th, and June 20th. You can also find out more on the Stansted Airport College Website. The college is a branch of Harlow College.

Saffron Walden Market finds recognition at last

Many people in Birchanger have made a point of visiting Saffron Walden on market days. The town has a wealth of small independent shops, a wide variety of places to eat and several good pubs, all of which make for a good day out. The jewel in the crown has to be the market, which is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays. It is particularly noted for its good food stalls, which include bread and cheese stalls. Now the market has received well deserved national recognition. It was awarded the 'Best Small Market in the UK' award at a national award ceremony recently. If you have yet to visit it, you are in for a treat when you do., So take a big bag.

Can you go the extra mile?

The club has had its problems this winter. Although it has been a focal point in Birchanger for over 120 years, perhaps the very permanency is generates has made the bulk of Birchanger largely take it for granted. In fact the club is run by dedicated people from the village and employs people to work in the club on the members behalf. The committee are largely unpaid volunteers who have collectively tried to keep the club going at the busiest time of the year, where paid staff were conspicuous by their absence. Employing a steward and trying to get someone to work in the kitchen has been a major problem. Nobody it seemed wanted to stay. However, the committee have worked overtime and volunteers have managed to provide food at the weekends. The members are very lucky to have such people able to volunteer to do this. Not an easy task as cooking in someone else's kitchen is not an easy job at the best of times. Those who were fortunate enough to sample the cooking appreciated the huge effort they made. There are other unsung heroes in Birchanger too. Those include people who clear up dogs mess from selfish owners in the recreation ground. People who run small events for Birchanger residents, who offer a lift when the bus fails to arrive and many other small acts of kindness. We could do with many more of them. Could you go that extra mile for someone somewhere? It would be very much appreciated.

Calling a taxi for the airport

Just make sure the taxi has not already just done a run to the airport, otherwise you could be in trouble if you are running late for a plane. Taxis operating out of Bishop's Stortford, who are not an official airport licensed taxi, face a £23 penalty if they return within half an hour. Fortunately we were not in a hurry when our driver had to do the circuit twice. Talk about penalising local people.

Note! If you want the cheaper drop off fee at the airport and have had a locals discount card in the past, you will have to reapply for one all over again. The parking operator has changed and no longer accepts the existing cards. They don't make it easy for us do they?



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Health Matters

Could you be a Health Advisor?

The search is on for kind, understanding and responsible individuals who know all about the importance of confidentiality for a front of house role in an adult weight management scheme.

Your role would be to greet people, put them at their ease, explain the program, listen to their concerns and much more. You would be working with professionals and supporting people throughout their individual weight loss programs. You will need to be a good listener, have a positive outlook and an understanding of what the individuals are going through. Maybe you will have been through a similar program yourself. If you are interested you can call the Uttlesford CVS on 01799510524/525

Not too late to get in shape for summer

Booked a holiday or thinking of a warm faraway beach, but worried that the body will let you down? Apparently it is never too late to get into shape. Maybe sunburn or the worry of last year's blisters and lasting wrinkles is a turn off. It needn't be.



The trick is to use after sun treatments even if you don't go outside everyday all year round and sun cream protection whenever you are outside. Also eating lots of strawberries, avocados, salmon, cucumber and spinach daily helps. Avoid all processed meats, fried foods and sugar. Apparently simple abstinence can cancel the effects of binge drinking, as some of the dry January participants discovered, when their weight, wrinkles and other nasties disappeared while their energy levels increased. Starting a stoop? This can happen at any age. Yoga has exercises which will fix this. If you are a smoker and finally decide to kick the habit, after a short abstinence you will feel much better for it. If you do all that you will need a good holiday! All in all a big ask but for some it could be worth it and you would most likely live longer.

Holidays ahead

Some of us will be planning a holiday in warmer temperatures than we are likely to see here this summer. The down side is heading for the beach and getting into the dreaded swimsuit. You may be relatively slim but you still have all that cellulite hanging about in places which are not normally on view, but poolside or beach are different matters.



There are relatively pleasant ways to get rid of this, which involve foods most of us find we actually like and without dieting. Asparagus boosts circulation which in turn helps banish cellulite and will be in season soon. Bananas cut down water retention and berries of all kinds boost the lymph system which in turn helps get rid of the toxins we have in our bodies.

Drinking cranberry juice will help to emulsify those harmful fats and also benefits the lymph system. Dark vegetables such as spinach are further antioxidants while ginger should be used to both destroy those toxins and boost blood supply. Old recommendations such as oily fish help to keep the skin supple, while whole grains keep a healthy digestion and promote cardiovascular health.



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☎ 01279 507019 ☎ 07429 013088

What's on in the village...

<div>  <div>April 2018</div>  </div>						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #						
30 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night			BSSC: 20.30 Every Thursday is Bingo Night			1 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: 13.00 Easter egg hunt & kids disco. 20.00 Disco
2 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	3 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	4 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	5 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	6 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest Food available	7 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Food available	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
9 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	10 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	11 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	12 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	13 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Bottle Draw Food available	14 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Main Offender - Live Food available	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service with Tara Russell
16 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night St Marys 10.30am Open day Coffee	17 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	18 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	19 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	20 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest Food available	21 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Retrovox - Live Food available St Mary's 19.00 Courtyard Quartet	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
23 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	24 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	25 Church Hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	26 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	27 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Wheel of Fortune Food available	28 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Charity Race Night Food available	29 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Mattins Service Church Hall: 10.30 am Family Litter Pick



BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

Sports & Social Club News



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

★★★★★ A GREAT NIGHT OUT NOT TO BE MISSED!

FAULTY TOWERS

3 COURSE MEAL DINING INVITE!

DINNER IS SERVED!

Saturday May 26th



Wheel of Fortune

Friday 27th April

Treasure Chest

Try your luck and pick the right key, you could win £ thousands!

Friday 6th & 20th April



EASTER EGG HUNT

come experience the fun & fellowship



Sunday April 1st 1.00pm
Followed by afternoon Disco

If your child wishes to take part, please add their name to the sign-up sheet on the notice board

Birchanger Sports & Social Club

Saturday 14th April @ 9pm

MAIN OFFENDER

CLASSIC ROCK & POP COVERS

AG/DG | Thin Lizzy | Bryan Adams
Cream | Deep Purple | ZZ Top
Dr Feelgood | Queen | Hendrix
The Who | T-Rex | Black Sabbath
Free | Santana | Lynyrd Skynyrd



Professional 5 piece Band

<u>April Club Calendar at a Glance</u>		
Sunday	1 st	Easter Egg Hunt & Kids Disco. 13.00
Sunday	1 st	Evening Disco. From 20.00
Friday	6 th	Treasure Chest
Friday	13 th	Bottle draw
Saturday	14 th	Main Offender - Live
Friday	20 th	Treasure Chest
Saturday	21 st	Retrovox - Live
Friday	27 th	Wheel of Fortune

<u>Weekly Events</u>		
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

RETROVOX

THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES SOUND

Saturday 21st April 9.0 pm

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

Birchanger Primary School



School days are full of interaction and experiences for all of our children. This term, our youngest children in Dragonfly Class have learnt about The Magic Porridge Pot and other innovative stories using wonderful ideas from their imagination. This includes finding rubbish in the woods which could be cleared with some magic and looking after animals in the woods using a spell.

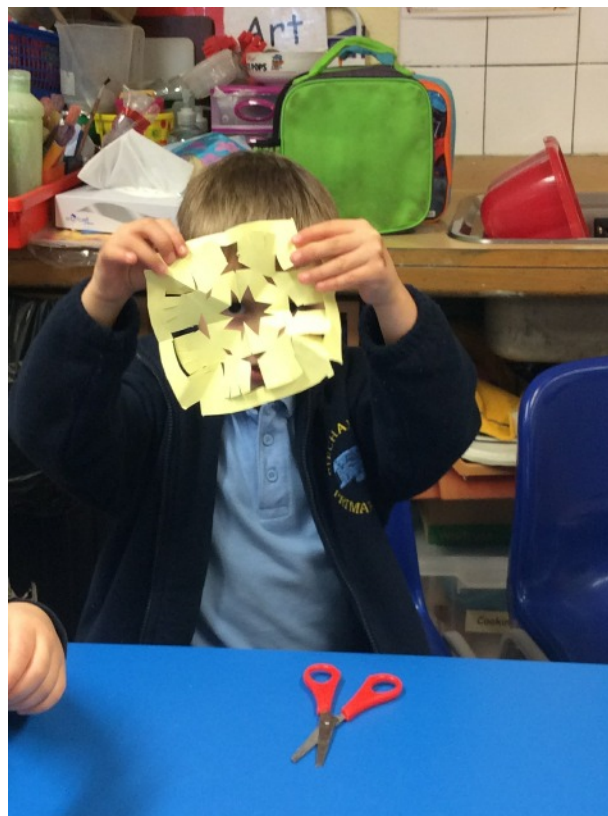


We have 'Forest School' every week and have built shelters to try to keep out a very heavy downpour...not quite successful enough to remain completely dry! However a magical fire started by the children (which of course included all the safety rules) and a lot of practice with the fire steels, cotton

wool and Vaseline. We sing the 'Round the Outside' song for staying outside the log circle which each week ensures the children are aware of the hazards. The children then toast marshmallows or crumpets. The ginormous fallen tree (which is in fact a flying dinosaur you know) allows for adventures across the World.



A coach trip to Bishops Stortford College was another magical experience with Margaret Bateson-Hill taking us to Dragon Mountain and meeting Lao Lao who made beautiful paper cuts and Margaret taught us how to do this. The classroom is now regularly filled with paper cuts and paper flowers.



Our science experiments have focused on health and what our bodies need, shelters for humans and designing shelters for animals. We made comparisons on what we needed and what animals needed. The culmination was 'germs' – what do germs look like? Well we have some delightful ideas and designs after our hand washing experiments.

Wednesday 21st February was our Reflection Day. We had a team of ladies who kindly gave up their time and invited each year group to enter a calm and revitalising hall space. Each child could choose an activity to complete. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the Dragonfly Class children and the rest of the school. We would like to send a huge thank you to all of the members of our community who contributed buttons for our new school cross. We were very lucky with the number of buttons that were donated and have made a number of crosses for our school. We shall put one on our school notice board which will shortly go on display in St Mary's church along with some photos of the day. *Claire Berry - Headteacher*



Airport cash for council favours!

SSE has condemned a "cash for favours" secret agreement between the owners

of Stansted Airport and Uttlesford District Council (UDC).

A planning application was submitted on 22 February seeking permission for an airport throughput of 43 million passengers per annum (mppa). By comparison, Stansted handled 25.9 mppa last year. If the application is approved, it would mean a 66% increase in passengers and a 44% increase in flights, compared to last year. The deal between Stansted's owners, Manchester Airports Group (MAG) and UDC, calls into question the impartiality of the council which is currently handling the airport planning application seeking significant expansion of passenger numbers. While it's not unheard of for a developer to contribute to the costs of handling a planning application, this particular agreement has strings attached. The money is conditional upon UDC meeting target dates to speed up the progress of MAG's planning application. The chief executive of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has sent an email to all UDC councillors defending the Council's agreement with Manchester Airports Group (MAG), which was described by SSE yesterday as a 'cash for favours' arrangement. SSE stands by that description and now provides the following additional information:

1) Last week, SSE made an urgent request to the UDC Director of Public Services, as follows:

"I hope you will agree that in the interests of public trust and transparency, the level of financial contribution that has been agreed between UDC and MAG should be disclosed and I hope you will be able to provide this by return, and without requiring recourse to the FoI/EIR process. The fact that UDC has also agreed interim milestones with MAG for processing this application raises the question of whether this has influenced the setting of your deadline date of 3 April for public comments, bearing in mind that there is no statutory basis for this particular date. Again, in the interests of public trust and transparency, I hope you will agree to publish the agreement between UDC and MAG on this matter, and to do so without undue delay."

2) There was no response to this request but SSE welcomes the fact that the Council's Planning Policy Agreement (PPA) with MAG has now been published on the UDC website. (Note 1) Transparency would however be improved if this agreement was not redacted and if it was given more prominence rather than being placed in a planning file amongst 387 other documents (as at today's date).

3) All the monetary sums have been blocked out in the redacted version of the agreement which UDC has published whereas Government guidelines emphasise the importance of transparency in PPA agreements, and the importance of maintaining public trust.

4) The report presented to the UDC Cabinet on 30 March 2017, seeking endorsement of PPAs, states:

"Appropriate publicity and marketing of PPAs will be undertaken. The concept will be explained to communities to help it to be understood." (Note 2)

However, prior to SSE's press release yesterday, what communication had there been from UDC to Parish & Town Councils and the general public and how many UDC councillors were even aware of this agreement with MAG?

5) The chief executive's email makes no reference to the 36 meetings during 2017 and 2018 between UDC planning officers and MAG, 28 of which were said by officers to be informal and so, apparently, there was no requirement to take minutes, nor is there any reference to UDC's refusal to disclose such minutes as may exist for the remaining eight meetings.

6) The chief executive challenges SSE's statement about the increase in the number of flights – which was clearly stated to be

against last year's numbers – and claims that the application is not seeking to uplift the flight numbers currently approved. In fact, MAG's own figures show that with a 35mppa cap, the maximum number of flights at Stansted would be 246,568, whereas with a 43mppa cap, the figure would be 273,966.

7) Finally, SSE is profoundly concerned that this planning application is being rushed through. The PPA confirms that the financial contribution from MAG is contingent upon a UDC commitment to meet target dates. MAG may be providing the means for the UDC planning department to move into overdrive but Parish and Town Councils, members of the public and local community organisations may not be able to keep pace. The price for an accelerated timetable is less public scrutiny and less community engagement.

You can object to and/or comment on the planning application by email. You must include the planning application reference (UTT/18/0460/FUL) and your name and address (which will not be published). The email address to send your comments to is: stanstedairportplanningapplication@uttlesford.gov.uk



At Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school we have been celebrating, with the children, Chinese New Year. The children really enjoyed dressing up in the Chinese Lion and dancing with ribbons. They also had some noodles and prawn crackers for snack and even had a go at eating them with chopsticks! We have also continued this half term with looking at people who help us. The children have completed activities around Vets, Firefighters and Librarians. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone that has kindly visited the Pre-school to talk about their professions to the children.

Forest School this last half term enabled the children to experience many different weathers, wrapping up warm we were able to see the environment change with the snow, snow drops and the buds starting to form. We did have a few fires down in the forest to keep us warm and enjoyed as a treat toasted marshmallows.

Also, a reminder that our Open Day takes place on **Saturday 28th April from 10am until 12pm**. We look forward to welcoming all new prospective parents and their children to the Preschool.

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), 01279 810 800

www.birchangerbutterflies.org



Ha-ha-ha, te-he-he, well-well-well, lots of snow then!

However, our bulbs in Birchanger Wood are coming through nicely and will be well out in April.

Following the snow-melt' in March, almost every local public footpath across surrounding fields was extremely muddy and very slippery. Indeed, even in Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve near Stansted, the woodland paths had spread to a ten foot wide deeply muddy, claggy quagmire. Eugh! But, thanks to the purpose built woodland paths and regular maintenance in Birchanger Woods, walkers suffered no such problems and the paths remain clear today even after several days of rain.

Has anyone any photographs of the wood? If so, please send them to me so that I may add them to my monthly articles.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org
www.birchangerwoodtrust.org



The Hundred Parishes Society

Hedgerows are a significant feature of our agricultural landscape and were planted in the past as boundaries. Thorny blackthorn and hawthorn made a stock-proof barrier, with hazel, holly and spindle colonising later. Ash, elm, field maple, hornbeam and oak trees were integrated into such hedges and these nurtured specimens were managed as pollards, being cut off at head height on a regular cycle. In 1778 it was recorded that 85 percent of the hedgerow trees in Barwick in the parish of Standon were pollards, so these would have stuck up at regular intervals above the hedges.



Old pollarded elms in a hedge in Tilty; they are wonderful scarce survivors within the Hundred Parishes.

Some of the cut material was used as leafy hay for winter feed for livestock. Once the nutritious leafy branches of ash or elm had been eaten, the twiggy leftovers became excellent dry kindling. Larger poles were used for fencing, building repairs, handles or fuel. Timber trees in hedges were usually felled after about 50 year's growth. Oaks provided structural material; elms became floorboards, coffins and especially weatherboarding (where it can be identified by its distinctive wavy grain).

Today, the situation is very different with the significant loss of hedgerows and the trees within them. Most surviving trees are old oaks or ash, growing as uncut pollards with spreading crowns. Any mature elms are extremely rare, but there is a small group in Tilty and another is recorded in Bartlow. Do you know of any other surviving elms? If so we would like to hear about them. *Tricia Moxey, Trustee*
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Gardens of Easton Lodge

Memory of the 'Beast from the East' is fading now and we have returned to spring gardening jobs (planting new trees and shrubs) and keeping our fingers crossed for seasonal weather through the rest of the year.

April 22nd is the first full season open day at the Gardens and we are thrilled that we will be joined by children from St



Mary's Great Dunmow. The Countess of Warwick established and funded a secondary school for girls and boys at Bigods Hall in Great Dunmow to help them improve their lot. It was revolutionary for being co-educational and with a practical curriculum – horticulture for the girls and agriculture for the boys. St Mary's Year 6 students have been doing project work based on the history of the Gardens. They will be leading their own guided tours of the Gardens and singing Edwardian songs.

As usual the Gardens will be open from 11.30am to 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm) and we will have the usual excellent fayre, including bacon rolls and homemade cakes. We are hoping our daffodils may still be with us – we have a huge range in the lime walk by the Italian garden and also a swathe in the Glade leading down to the renewed platform looking out over the fishing lake at the bottom. The fruit trees in the walled garden may also be in blossom.

Our Facebook page and website provide our latest news and dates of open days so why not follow us? Our website is at: <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/> Or you can contact us about volunteering or visiting the gardens on 01371 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk *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 Whealthey	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
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
Men/Boys Hair	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Nail & Pedicure	Hien's Nails	01279 507019
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



Modern hall, superb kitchen and additional meeting room available for hire 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.



Family Litter Pick
Sunday 29th April 10.30am
Meet outside the church hall.
Please come and Join us and help pick up the litter around your village.

Be Proud of Birchanger

St. Mary's Church News



Church services

1st April 11:15 am Holy Communion Easter Sunday
8th April 11:15 am Holy Communion
15th April 1:15 am Family service with Tara Russell
22nd April 11:15 am Holy Communion
29th April 11:15 am Mattins Service
Note! The church is open every Sunday before the service at 11:15 am.

Church News

On the 15 April Tara Russell, Missioner for the Connect 120 project will be taking the family service. Tara's role is to work alongside schools, communities, church ministers and church councils, to complement and enhance existing activities provided by the churches and pioneer and encourage new initiatives. Certainly Tara has been busy working with us improving our links with the school and last month we were involved in the reflection day at the school which was both enlightening and rewarding, not only for the pupils but also for those who supported the day. For more information on the Connect 120 project, go to: www.connect120.org.uk

St Mary's Church and The Courtyard Quartet will be presenting a 'Courtyard Jukebox Supper' on Saturday 21st April in the Church hall, doors open at 7pm. The Quartet returns to entertain you with their usual eclectic mix of classical, pop, folk, jazz standards and other styles from different eras. But this time YOU get to choose the programme! Tickets are £15 per adult or £5 for children; this includes a fish/chicken/veg and chip supper. Wine and soft drinks will be available as well as the usual raffle. For more details about tickets call Sue on 01279 815427 or Elaine 01279 813474. More info on the Quartet from: www.courtyard-quartet.org. Last minute tickets will be available for £10 on the door, please note they do not include food.

Open church, tea, coffee and company on the 16th April. Come and join us for some light conversation between 10:30 am and 12.00 md.

Future date for your diary: Saturday 16th June, an afternoon tea dance 3.00-6.00 pm more details to follow

Did you know?

On the 9th April this year Christians celebrate the feast of the Annunciation, it marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is usually celebrated on 25th March each year.

More importantly, since it occurs 9 months before the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the Annunciation marks the actual incarnation of Jesus Christ - the moment that Jesus was conceived and that the Son of God became the son of the Virgin. The festival has been celebrated since the 5th century AD. The festival celebrates two things:

God's action in entering the human world as Jesus in order to save humanity. Humanity's willing acceptance of God's action in Mary's freely given acceptance of the task of being the Mother of God.

A prayer for April

Lord God, our Father, we thank you for all the light you give us and for all your loving help in outward things as well. We come into your presence and ask you to give us your light and your constant guidance for the path we must follow. Grant that what is of heaven may be revealed on earth, that we may rejoice in the good and beautiful things you give to all people.

Our Father, reveal what is of heaven, and free people from their sin and darkness so that at last they recognize your glory. Strengthen our hope for this goal. Rule and work in the hearts of many people, that through them your glory may be proclaimed to all. Amen.

If you would like to know more about the church and our services or want to get more involved in fund raising money or offering some time for our wonderful church, then look us up on Facebook or email us at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

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6th April - 6th July: 7.30-11pm
 7th Sept. - 9th Nov: 7.30-11pm

For more details
 Tel: 07887 877675 or
grahamemizen7@gmail.com

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Birchanger Village Church Hall



If you are looking for a modern, well equipped venue for your next function please call Pam Lee on 07702171744 between 9am and 4pm

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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