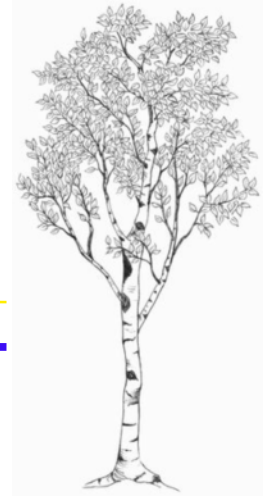




# Birchanger Village Magazine

May 2018

Issue 184



## Unwanted Cycle Track Cost an Estimated £444,000!

### You couldn't make this up.....

The planning of those who are supposed to be responsible for our road systems, in this case the Highways Agency, simply beggars belief. Acting on a very old airport approval condition, the Highways agency decided to install a cycle way between Bishops Stortford and the airport through Birchanger so that cyclists could avoid using the Junction 8 roundabout on the M11. Birchanger Parish Council were consulted but rejected the planned route using the bridleway opposite Churton and proposed a more suitable route through Duck End which also linked up with the bridge over the M11. The Highways Agency decided to ignore the Parish Council and proceed with their original plan, using their inability to contact the landowner as their excuse.

### Highways Agency planning a farce?

Despite the Parish Council warning, what has happened since is something of a farce, especially as so much other work is needed elsewhere in Birchanger. After nearly four months work and at an estimated cost of £444,014, a surface dressing has been applied to the bridleway, converting it into a shared pedestrian and cycle way. The junction with Birchanger Lane has been extensively widened, resurfaced, fitted with new kerbing and foot lights. Now, when approaching from the M11 roundabout, Birchanger Lane has a plethora of totally misleading and unnecessary signs reported to have cost around £16,000, blighting residents' gardens and totally confusing unsuspecting motorists who believe the signs to Stansted Airport apply to motor vehicles as well as cyclists.



### Taxi tries a short cut

It didn't take long for the chaos to start. At first it was just a trickle of cars that amused the neighbours with their attempts to reverse out of the bridleway. Again the Parish Council complained to the Highways Agency who simply said if you have a problem, "prove it"! Well it certainly was proved. One night when resurfacing closed the road to the M11 junction, thirty or more motorists followed the cycle way signs in the hope of reaching the airport, only realising their error when they got stuck on the bridleway.

With nowhere to go, they all had to reverse back onto Birchanger Lane, except for one unfortunate taxi, who got stuck at the top of the bridleway at 4.30 am and wasn't towed out until the highways operatives arrived at 8.30 am. Luckily, the events were all captured



on CCTV, so now it's over to you Highways Agency! Get out of this one. And why make good the damage done to the Churton bend, when it is about to be dug up anyway for a new footpath? How can that possibly make any sense?

### Traffic lights could replace roundabout

The story doesn't end there. Just to make the farce complete, the Highways Agency has submitted plans to remove the roundabout at the end of Birchanger Lane (M11/Bishops Stortford A120 bypass). If the Highways Agency proposal goes ahead it would

mean in order to get into Bishops Stortford or onto the bypass, Birchanger residents (road users, including cyclists), would have to turn left from Birchanger Lane and negotiate Junction 8 roundabout over the M11. But wait a minute, wasn't the whole idea of the new cycle track to enable cyclists to avoid the J8 roundabout? - And we pay for this!

### More chaos when J8 service station gets a back door?

Last month Uttlesford District Council approved a new exit from the back of the service station onto the A120 Dunmow Road, taking out yet more of the green belt and bringing an additional set of traffic lights to cause yet more problems and delay for anyone trying to access Bishops Stortford. This application was also opposed by the Parish Council but as ever, the voice of local people is ignored. It is argued that this will not encourage more lorries to clog up the road into Bishops Stortford. However, it is hard to see just how this can be right. It will certainly mean that our roundabout at the end of Birchanger Lane will come under a lot of pressure, assuming of course that the roundabout is allowed to remain. As mentioned above, there are further plans to remove the roundabout altogether and to control the junction by traffic lights. If you think this would make it easier, think again, because under the present proposals we will only be allowed to turn left from Birchanger Lane towards M11 and therefore, to get into Bishops Stortford, we would have to go all the way round the J8 roundabout. This also makes a complete nonsense of installing the brand new and expensive cycle way, which was put in place to take cyclists away from the M11/J8 roundabout. Ridiculous!



# A letter from the Editor

*Dear Readers,*

Here's something hot off the press. This magazine received a copy of the 'Freedom of Information' request to Highways England regarding the cost of the recently installed cycle path on the old bridle path situated opposite the junction of Birchanger Lane and Churton which links up the cycle route from Bishops Stortford to Stansted Airport (see page one). Apart from the reported chaos caused to motor vehicles trying to access the cycle track to get to the Airport, there's been a lot of speculation as to the cost of the new cycle path and some wild figures have been thrown around. Well now we know, it has cost the enormous sum of £444,014, of which £16,425 was for road signs.

Yes, you heard correct, not far off a half million pounds. Admittedly these figures are the estimated costs but we doubt they will be far wrong. I'll leave it up to you, the reader, to decide if you think it was money well spent. By all means, write to me with your comments and thoughts but please leave out any four letter words or other expletives!

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST A120 – BIRCHANGER TO STANSTED CYCLE ROUTE**

Temporary stores, offices & buildings	189,959.85
Temporary signs	504.40
Traffic management	21,593.40
Site clearance	14,612.00
Fencing, gates and stiles	16,574.33
Drainage	28,595.04
Geotechnics	6,997.82
Surfacing	111,204.52
Road markings, studs and lighting	35,816.89
Road signs	16,424.72
Sundries	1,731.20
Total	444,014.17

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Ed,*

### **Airport development impact**

Having read the SSE article 'Airport cash for council favours' last month, I must ask the question; should the village be campaigning for traffic calming measures, speed humps or the like as traffic continues to travel in excess of clearly signed speed limits along Birchanger Lane? This issue and the volume of traffic will undoubtedly increase as the airport grows. When the airport went through its first stage of development under its former owner BAA, the company was forced to provide sound proofing to properties affected by aircraft noise. Shouldn't the parish and district councils be looking into the effects and impact on residents from the proposed increased number of flights, long haul night flights and dawn arrivals, given that Stansted night flight restrictions under MAG are possibly different than they were under BAA. *Derek Barker, Birchanger.*

### **Social Club back on track?**

If you're looking for reasonably priced, well cooked food, look no further than our very own Birchanger Sports and Social Club. We went on a Saturday evening in April with two friends to enjoy the entertainment of 'Main Offender' who were brilliant, (ok I'm biased as the rock legend drummer is my husband). Luckily we had reserved a table because the club was exceptionally busy. Even so, our food was served in good time by friendly, courteous staff. We enjoyed a selection of dishes from the menu; double burger, scampi, gammon steak and our veggie friend had egg & chips with mushrooms. All cooked beautifully, extremely tasty and the crispy chips with their fluffy middles were an absolute triumph! So after all the negative reports earlier in the year I am happy to report that the club is definitely back on track! *A very happy (and full) Cheryl Sampson, Harrisons, Birchanger.*

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



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger



# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## The Three Willows has a new menu & wine list

Best Sunday lunch in the village? Well apart from yours and mine perhaps. Why not try the Three Willows for a Sunday lunch? You will find a Sunday roast just the way you like it or alternatively try the new standard menu, you won't be disappointed. On the day we visited it was very busy, you could choose from roast beef, lamb, chicken and much more. There is a good selection of vegetables with crispy roast potatoes and a selection of desserts and ice creams. We had the roast beef, which was sourced from Suffolk and very good indeed. Family parties are catered for and well behaved children are very welcome.

Apart from food, the Willows offer a good range of beers and lagers which grows steadily and changes regularly; there is also a new and comprehensive wine list.



One wine which was particularly liked by the ladies was a sparkling pink which actually tasted very different to the pink sugar water on offer in some other establishments.

There is also wonderful range of unusual white wines and really superb reds which is a great accompaniment to the new and extending menu. Dogs are also welcome in the public bar. The word is clearly out there so it is advisable to book, especially at weekends.

## Mobile Library visit changed to every third Saturday

Essex County Council has been planning to rationalize its mobile library services. Library use overall has been declining but the service is a lifeline for many and nobody wants to lose it entirely. An investigation into the declining use of the mobile libraries found that they were calling on villages at times when a large sector of the population was either at school or at work and therefore were rarely able to visit the library van. The obvious answer was to try to visit at times when people were more likely to be at home. Consequently Birchanger will now be visited by the mobile library on every 3rd Saturday between 1.55 and 2.25 pm. We have lost the stop at Highview but the van will continue to park outside the social club. Maybe not the best place for parking on a busy Saturday but at least it is visiting us, even if it is only every three weeks! The service will start on April 21st, then on May 12th, June 2nd, and 23rd, July 7th, and August 8th. Remember, 'use it or lose it'. Don't forget, there are talking books available and everything can be ordered for collection at the library van.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30 for 8.00 pm

An evening of food tasting to see what brands come out on top

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

## Help yourself to fitness at work.

There are things you can do to maintain your fitness at work without anyone else noticing. Try standing during phone calls and give yourself a break from your computer every 30 minutes. Use the stairs instead of the lift, although climbing up twenty floors might be too much of a challenge for some. Never eat lunch at your desk, get away from it for just a few minutes and take a walk, it will make a difference. Instead of phoning or emailing your colleagues why not go and visit, you will get to know them better as well as keeping more active and fitter.

## Need a home of your own?

Perhaps you are living with family or are paying a high rent in the private sector which you can't really afford and you are unable to find suitable affordable accommodation. You may have rejected the idea of applying for a council property but the above reasons are exactly why you should consider contacting the council. There are no guarantees that the council may be able to rehouse you but for many people it has proved worthwhile. You will not know if it is possible unless you ask. Calling the Council on 01799 510510 is a good way to start. With a lot more affordable housing being built there are possibilities out there.

## Wheelchair woes

Most of us are fortunate to live our lives outside the confines of a wheelchair. We may also push prams or buggies but this is just for a few short years. However, those of us who are fit and able often unthinkingly make it very difficult for those in wheelchairs and for those pushing a pram or buggy to get about in Birchanger.

Our pavements these days are littered with inconsiderate drivers who park half on and half off the pavement, leaving no room for legitimate pavement users to pass. Birchanger Lane is narrow

and you may think you are being considerate to other motorists but you are putting at risk vulnerable groups of people and in some cases, making it impossible for them to get about. So think! Did you really mean to do that? Surely there is a better way.



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## Forest Hall School May Fayre

The Forest Hall School PTA would like to invite you to join them for an afternoon of fun and frolics on the School sports fields on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 12.00 to 4.00pm. The 'May Fayre' will have lots of fun with traditional stalls such as hoopla, tombola, coconut shy, stocks, some challenging inflatables, a rodeo bull, a fantastic raffle and lots more. We will also have a bar, hot dog stall, teas and delicious homemade cakes. There will be something for everyone including games and stalls for younger members of the family such as; hook-a-duck, sweet tombola and lucky dip to name just a few.

There will be a performance by the Forest Hall School Band as well as the school choir. During the afternoon there will be various tug-of-war competitions, as well as 'welly throwing' and 'beat the goalie'.

All profits from the event will be going towards projects at the Forest Hall School. Currently we are fundraising for new equipment for the Design & Technology Department and we aim to raise £7,000 to be able to buy a laser cutter and CNC router for students wishing to take Engineering GCSE's. Entry is £1 per person and free for under 18's. There will be a 'lucky programme draw' with the chance of winning a bottle of Champagne and a fantastic raffle. We hope you are able to join us for a fun afternoon. Parking will be available at the School and at Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre. (If the weather is inclement the event will take place inside the School).

If you would like a stall at the fayre please email Tanya Ingram on: [tanyagingram@outlook.com](mailto:tanyagingram@outlook.com)



### Moorswood Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning will be held at Moorswood on Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup>. From 10.30 am until noon. All are welcome.

## Funding for Your Project

Funding can be difficult to find because most of us simply don't know what is available nor have any idea how or where to access possible sources of a grant for a particular project. Both the District Council and the CVS have resource packs which give details of available funding. It is worth contacting either or both sources. The CVS contact number is 01371 878400. Uttlesford District Council also has funds available in the form of 'community grants' which have helped various projects in Birchanger over the years.



### Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273  
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,  
Birchanger,  
Herts.  
CM23 5QF

## The Great Easter Egg Hunt



Once again the club arranged for the Easter Bunny (aka Katie Martin, the new Bar Manager from BSSC), to visit Birchanger. The kids had a whale of a time hunting for Easter eggs that were spread all over the club grounds and for those that couldn't find any eggs, the Easter bunny egged them on if you will excuse the yoke. Roll on next Easter.



## St. Elizabeth's Summer Fayre

Saturday 30th June 2018  
12 noon - 4pm

Family Fun & Live Music  
BBQ & Afternoon Tea

For more information, please contact the Fundraising Team at [fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk) or 01279 844355

Charity No. 1068661

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[taylorpropertysvcs.com](http://taylorpropertysvcs.com)  
07941 357934

# Health Matters

## Beating age related Macular Degeneration

Most of us experience some loss of sight as we get older. Quite often this is caused by a cataract, usually easy to repair, but less commonly and often due to hereditary factors, some of us may lose or have a reduction of their sight through macular degeneration. Up until now there has been no possible cure for most sufferers. Months, sometimes years of injections into the eye will normally hold back the degeneration but will not cure the problem. Now there is a new treatment involving the use of stem cells. Patients who have had the two hour long operation can now read 60 to 80 minutes without glasses. Their sight has been totally restored. There is now hope for all the sufferers in this breakthrough procedure and the sooner it is freely available the better.

## Lifeline Alarms

These are available to everyone on a free 12 week trial and in most cases have lived up to their name. People who have difficulty finding help, particularly those living on their own, would be able to contact someone at the touch of a button. It is really worthwhile contemplating having one installed either for yourself or for someone who lives alone and who may not be in the best of health. With a free 12 week trial there is nothing to lose.



## Dispelling a few myths

Do you think you are eating healthier by using margarine? Probably not as many spreadable margarines are manufactured using the unhealthy fats, harmful additives, colouring and are generally filling you up with the wrong kind of chemicals while masquerading under the label, 'healthy option'. Natural butter, used wisely is much better for everyone unless you use pure virgin olive oil.

A bar of chocolate is better for you than so called cereal bars which are full of syrup and sugar in most cases. Dark chocolate has half the sugar of milk chocolate and can boost your memory, energy levels and improve your mood as well as help ward off old age.

Most diet drinks are seriously bad for you, they are full of artificial sweeteners which may be harmful in the long term (the jury is still out on that one) and they effectively increase your appetite. If you fancy a fizzy drink remember many of them are full of sugar (a can of Coke has almost 10 teaspoons), instead, try diluting pure fruit juice with sparkling mineral water, it's both refreshing and healthier for you.

## Better prospects for childhood arthritis

Most of us know someone who has suffered from arthritic conditions in childhood and now face a painful and difficult situation as the disease continues into adulthood. At last it has been recognized that proper treatment and management of this condition in childhood can lead to an adult able to lead a normal life. To invest

in this childhood condition seems to be a no brainer for most of us as it will save great deal of pain and expense later on. Every condition manifesting itself in childhood is different and it is finally understood that one size does not fit all. Hopefully the toddler developing the condition today will now be able to expect a normal future.

## Enjoy a takeaway without getting fat

Not all food from takeaway outlets will necessarily pile on the pounds. Used judiciously takeaway food enhances many an evening and day out and is largely to be enjoyed for relaxation as well as those that can't be bothered to cook nights. It is what you choose which does the damage. If it's the Chinese option you fancy, choose chicken, cashew nuts and vegetables instead of sweet and sour and other batter covered tempting dishes. One slice of stuffed crust meat pizza is worth 520 calories, while a thin crust vegetable one is a mere 160 calories. Alternatively you might fancy a double cheeseburger with all the trimmings. Fine if you are ok with over half your daily calorie consumption in just one meal. A modest burger with small fries is less than half of this. Doner-kebab is way up there along with fish and chips calorie wise, but who really wants the boring alternatives all the time? Sometimes there are occasions when a small bag of fries and ketchup or plain baked falafel will just not do.

## Beans, beans are good for your heart....

After being the butt of so many food jokes, baked beans have finally made it on to the healthy foods list. They are full of iron and the B vitamin range, they are obviously full of fibre and as such they help reduce cholesterol. Tomatoes are pretty good for you too. A study by Bristol University indicates that eating 10 portions of tomatoes per week can reduce your chance of prostate cancer by up to 18%.

## An Onion a day helps keeps the doctor away

It seems granny was right all along! Onions are one of the richest sources of flavonoids in the human diet and flavonoid consumption has been associated with a reduced risk of cancer, heart disease and diabetes. Flavonoids are not only anti-cancer but also are known to be anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-allergenic and anti-inflammatory. The only problem is they could be a little anti-social.





# What's on in the village...



May 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> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	2 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	3 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's for beginners 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	4 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	5 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Winnie - Live	6 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Mattins
7 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	8 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	9 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	10 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's for beginners 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	11 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw	12 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Eurovision Party on the big screen & Fancy Dress <b>Mobile Library:</b> 13.55 outside the Club	13 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion with Archdeacon Robin King
14 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	15 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	16 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	17 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's for beginners 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	18 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	19 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Royal Wedding Party on the big screen	20 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service Pentecost
21 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	22 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	23 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	24 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's for beginners 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	25 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Wheel of Fortune	26 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Faulty Towers Dining Experience	27 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Mattins Service Trinity
28 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	29 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	30 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	31 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's for beginners 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio			

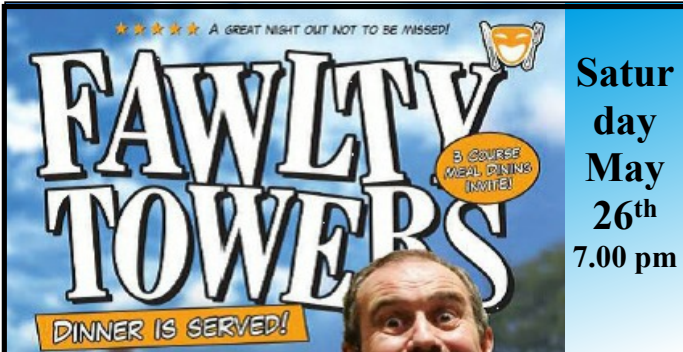


**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

# Sports & Social Club News



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



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

# FAWLTY TOWERS

3 COURSE MEAL DINING INVITE!

**Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm**

DINNER IS SERVED!

Don't miss out on this event of the year which combines a sumptuous three course meal and classic comedy action as Basil, Sybil and Manuel do their very best to look after you in their typical crazy style. Chaos and mayhem are served in large portions and very likely to interrupt proceedings, but all should be well, as the stars of hotel and catering management do everything they can to keep the evening on course

**Tickets:** Members £30.00 pp, non-members £35.00 pp  
Includes three course meal

**Booking is essential, phone 01279 813 441 or at the bar**



## Wheel of Fortune

Spin it and win it  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

## Treasure Chest

Pick the winning key & win ££££!  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May**




*Juanta Diaz*

Vocalist performing here;  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May**



KEEP CALM AND PARTY

Harry & Meghan

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> - May Royal Wedding Party  
Harry & Meghan - Live on the BIG Screen**

### May Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Chest
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Winnie - Live
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Bottle Draw
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Eurovision Party- Live on the big screen
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Chest
Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Royal Wedding Party - Live on the screen
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Retrovox - Live
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	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

# EUROVISION SONG CONTEST



**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Come and join our Fancy Dress Party and watch the Eurovision Song Contest on the big screen.

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 your local School

Badger Class have had a great term leading up to Easter with their topic 'Waste Not Want Not'. The children began the term by finding out all about different types of waste, and were particularly intrigued by hazardous waste and oil pollution (mainly due to their concern for the animals). They were interested to learn about how much waste the average household throws away in a year and about the forthcoming shortage of landfill sites in the UK.



## Bring your own Waste

In order to deepen their understanding the children were asked to bring in some waste and we have created a mini 'landfill site' in the Wildlife Garden. The children have buried a range of waste, including biodegradable, and have predicted whether the waste will rot or not when we check the landfill in two weeks and then a month's time.



## Eco Warriors

It has also been a time for Science! The school ran a Science Week at the beginning of March and each class carried out an investigation into an Energy topic. Badgers decided they would monitor and then reduce the amount of electricity in the school. In the first week they assessed the 'problems' (mainly the teachers!) and read the meter reading daily. They then gave 'suggestions' to the children and staff as to how to save electricity (e.g. turn off lights and projectors when not in the room) and then rigorously monitored the results (beware those who had left their lights on!). The results were phenomenal and the school used a great deal less electricity in the second week. This has sparked an enthusiasm for 'reduce, reuse and recycle' with the children who are now keen to launch their own 'Eco-Warrior Programme' – watch this space!



See you next month  
*Claire Berry - Headteacher*





## Stansted Airport press for more night flights

Stansted Airport is seeking to overturn legal conditions which for the last 15 years have prevented it from lobbying Government for more night flights.

The discovery has been made by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) within the airport's current planning application seeking permission for an annual throughput of 43 million passengers, an increase of 66% compared to the 25.9 million passengers handled in 2017.

The change being sought by Stansted's owners, Manchester Airport Group (MAG) is buried deep within the planning application in Appendix D of the Planning Statement. This sets out proposed conditions that would accompany any approval of the application. MAG wants to remove the present restriction which prevents Stansted Airport lobbying Government for more night flights. The restriction is enshrined in a Section 106 agreement dating back to 2003 when Stansted was given permission to grow from 15 million passengers a year (mppa) to 25mppa.

The discovery by SSE of this hidden bombshell would not have been possible had SSE not insisted that more time was needed to study the 2,930-page planning application, which is being rushed through under a 'fast track' agreement between MAG and Uttlesford District Council (UDC). In all their summaries and press releases explaining what this planning application is all about, neither UDC nor MAG has ever made any mention of this hidden proposal aimed at increasing night flights.

The move has been branded by SSE as a clandestine attempt to betray the community given that thousands of local residents already suffer from the misery of sleep disturbance and adverse health impacts caused by night flights.

"For years SSE has been calling for tougher controls to bear down on the impacts night flights have on sleep disturbance and the quality of life and wellbeing of people across the region," said the campaign group's noise adviser Martin Peachey. "Stansted is already allowed more than twice as many night flights as Heathrow, and night flights are set to be completely banned at Heathrow within the next ten years as a condition of expansion."

The long haul and freight aircraft which MAG is hoping to attract to Stansted, typically larger and noisier than most aircraft types currently based there, would also exacerbate the present disturbance suffered. If MAG succeeded in having the present restrictions on night flights relaxed, the floodgates could rapidly open to a noise nightmare with the community suffering even more if the planning application were to be approved.

SSE is advising those concerned about the proposed overturning of the night flights restriction to make representations by email (including full name and address) to;

Uttlesford District Council at  
[stanstedairportplanningapplication@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:stanstedairportplanningapplication@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
before 30 April, quoting reference UTT/18/0460/FUL.



There is a poem by Thomas Dekker (1572-1632), called 'The Merry Month of May'. The second or third verse has the line: "But O, I spy the cuckoo, the cuckoo, the cuckoo".

Now, when did you last hear a cuckoo? Sadly these very interesting birds with their evocative call have all but disappeared from this part of England.

Have the buzzards nested in Birchanger Wood yet?

When will my 40 year regular April swallow visitation arrive? Very debatable considering inclement and variable weather we have experienced of late.

And my last question. Are you reading this article? Do you have any photographs of Birchanger Wood, trees, the animals, birds, flowers? Please, I would love to have them to put on our website.

Birchanger Wood in April should see the usual magnificent display of white wood anemones and in May, the bluebells ought to be in full flower. Elsewhere in local woodland, particularly in the Ash Valley the ransom will be flowering - 'wild garlic'! This is very beautiful to look at and yes they do smell of, and can be used as garlic. Now, don't say you haven't learned bits and pieces from this article.

OK, now begin to think of June, not in Birchanger Wood but elsewhere in the hedgerows. Think about collecting the Elderberry flowers to make your favourite tippie. Elderflower wine is slightly effervescent (fizzy) or you could make elderflower cordial. Beautiful - and just the thing for a summer drink in the garden.

We are so lucky having Birchanger Wood on our doorstep. Not everyone has such a wonderful area of nature where they can take a stroll in local woodland with their family and friends and get home still looking spick and span. Please do enjoy our lovely ancient woods, it is free to you all, of all abilities, for exercise and solace.

On a sad note, I am very sorry to report that Fred Strong died recently. Fred supported Birchanger Wood when he was on the Bishop's Stortford Town Council; he was a trustee and representative for Parsonage Ward.

*Daphne Wallace-Jarvis*

[secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)

[www.birchangerwoodtrust.org](http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org)

## Duton Hill Fun Day Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> in aid of SSE

By kind invitation of Derek Connell, landlord of the popular Three Horseshoes public house in Duton Hill, SSE will be taking part in their annual 'Fun Day' on Sunday 6th May where half of the profit raised on the day will go to SSE.

The fun starts at 11:30am, finishing around 4:00pm. Please do join us at The Three Horseshoes, Duton Hill, Gt Dunmow, Essex CM6 2DX.

We would be very appreciative of any donations of cakes, plants, bottles, prizes and games as well as volunteers to help on the day. For further details, or if you would like to help in some way please contact Maggie Sutton by email: [maggisutton@gmail.com](mailto:maggisutton@gmail.com).



## The Hundred Parishes Society

The Church Monuments Society, a registered charity founded in 1979, encourages the study, care and conservation of funerary monuments. Many of our own local churches have elaborate memorials, usually to the rich and famous, erected over the centuries to honour and remember the deceased. I will mention just a few of my own personal favourites.



**St Mary the Virgin in Arkesden** has an elaborate and colourful Elizabethan monument to Richard Cutte who died in 1592 and his wife Marye.

At Little Easton, the church contains a great variety of interesting memorials including a charming 20th-century bust of the Countess of Warwick and two windows dedicated to the American air crews who flew from Little Easton and lost their lives during WWII.



**Little Dunmow church** has a memorial that is not named but is believed to depict Matilda, the daughter of Robert FitzWalter, one of the Magna Carta barons. Legend has it that she inspired the character of Maid Marian in the stories of Robin Hood.

**Great Waltham's** Norman church houses a memorial to Sir Anthony Everard and his wife who died early in the 17th century. They are depicted in elaborate costumes with gold braid.



Joan in black mourning dress.

**The parish church of Great St Mary in Sawbridgeworth** is Grade I listed and the listing narrative states it has "an outstanding collection of memorials of the highest artistic quality". One such is the painted alabaster tomb of Sir John Leventhorpe and his wife

If you can't get to these particular churches, photos of most of the monuments mentioned here will appear in the forthcoming book to be published by the Hundred Parishes Society. In the meantime, I encourage you to explore our many wonderful churches where more fascinating and varied monuments are waiting to be found.

Ken McDonald, Secretary. [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

In May the gardens should be lush, with wild flowers in the long grass and banks of foxgloves at the bottom of the glade. We were thrilled to welcome new recruits on our volunteers' day in March and with their help, we have quickly caught up on the gardening jobs we missed during the poor weather and slow start to the spring.

At our open day on May 20<sup>th</sup> we will have our first fun day for dogs. We will also welcome back the Rock Choir with their catchy take on a range of all-time greatest songs and we will have a fun trail and crafts for children.



The Countess of Warwick loved her dogs and at the time of her death she had thirteen, so we always welcome well-behaved dogs on a lead and they really enjoy a stroll around the gardens. For our May open day we invite dogs to show off and test their agility! We will have a number of classes, including prettiest bitch, handsomest dog and best puppy and in addition, we will have an agility ring. There will also be displays by a husky team, a demonstration of heelwork to music and a variety of stalls. For details on timings please log onto our website below.

Why not join us and see for yourself on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The gardens will be open at the usual time, from 11.30am to 5.00pm and we will be serving bacon & cheese rolls and homemade cakes. If you missed the volunteering day but want to help, please contact us through our website <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/> or leave a message on 01371 876979 or email; [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) and we will get back to you. *Jill Goldsmith*

### This may surprise you

Remember all those old photos? Well keep on taking snaps of all your happy times. We tend to focus far too much on the bad times as it seems to be easier than remembering happier times. Just recalling the good times with the aid of photographs boosts your mood and lightens stress.

It has been found that stress for short periods is not so bad after all and it may even boost immunity. It is the longer periods which cause the harm. Apparently a good cry does no harm either as it really does seem to make us feel a little better afterwards.

If you are in the older age group, surfing the Internet does boost your brain power and off-set memory loss. Perhaps it is the ability to cope with a string of endless passwords and all the other IT pitfalls which helps keep our grey cells going.



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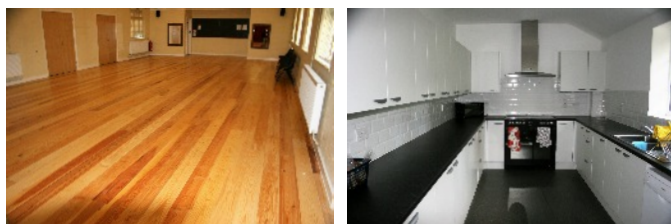
## Village Services and Activities

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
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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
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
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Men/Boys Hair	Emma Marks	01279 814273
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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

## Birchanger 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

May 6 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 am	Mattins service (Ascension)
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 am	Holy Communion (with Archdeacon)
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 am	Family service Pentecost
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 am	Mattins Service Trinity

### Church News

#### Church News

Whilst Paul, our Rector, is away on Study leave, some of our services will be taken by our Archdeacon, Robin King and Area Dean, Reverend Cilla Hawkes. We welcome them and look forward to their presence within our church.

#### Did you know?

Ascension Day each year is held on a Thursday 39 days after Easter Sunday. This day commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. This year it is observed on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Pentecost is a Christian observance commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples, according to the Christian Bible. Many Christians celebrate Pentecost, which is also known as Pentecost Sunday, Whitsunday, or Whit Sunday. The word Pentecost means 'the 50th day' because the Pentecost celebration occurs seven weeks, or fifty days, after Easter Sunday. According to the ancient Israel calendar, Pentecost is the Greek name given for the Feast of Weeks, a major feast celebrating the giving of the 10 Commandments from God to Moses on top of Mount Sinai. Some Christians refer to Pentecost as the 'Birthday of the Church'. We may have tea and cake on this day so come along and celebrate with us!

Did you know that The Holy Spirit is represented within the church as a white dove? The dove signifies the purity and peace the Holy Spirit brings. Can you find the dove in St Mary's church? Here's a clue: it's high up on the east wall.

Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May:** Coffee Morning at Moorswood from 10:30am to 12.00pm, all are welcome. There will be a raffle, Bric-a-Brac and good company. If you need transport please let us know.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Afternoon Tea Dance, from 3.00pm to - 6.00pm, more details to follow.

### A prayer for May

Lord, inspire me to live in such a way that my choices each day and my commitment to live in a positive way may transform the negative into something positive and the ordinariness of daily life into something extraordinary. Amen.

If you would like to know more about St Mary's church and the services we hold or want to get more involved then email us at [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com) or look us up on our Facebook page.

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