



# Birchanger Village Magazine

June 2018

Issue 185



## Birchanger Lane road closure could cause chaos in July

Birchanger Lane could be closed for up to 6 weeks between the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August. It may not be closed every day during that period but whatever happens, we will be at the mercy of Essex County Highways.

The good news is that work is at last starting on the long awaited footpath at the Churton bend. New street lights will also be installed along Birchanger Lane and outside the Village Hall. Many years ago when the plans for the new houses at Churton first materialised, we were promised a proper footpath for the Churton bend. Years went by and somehow the plans, not shown to the Parish Council, changed. There was no footpath shown on the final plans. Years of wrangling followed and we were promised the footpath through a section 106 agreement but again nothing happened. Then we were told it would be in the last financial year which passed by and still no footpath. That is until now, when finally something is happening.

The road closure will also very likely cause problems with our bus services unless the bus company can be persuaded to turn the buses around at the club.

For those of you who drive, perhaps you would be able to offer a lift to stranded bus passengers so they can get to work, school, doctors, or the shops.

## Armed police and helicopter search Birchanger Woods

Armed police and a police helicopter were deployed to Birchanger Woods on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May after receiving reports of 'gunshots' in the area. Firearms officers from the Hertfordshire Constabulary and NPAS Boreham searched the area around the woods after residents contacted police at around 10pm.



Residents reported concerns about suspicious behaviour after seeing youths entering the forest and later hearing noises which sounded like gunfire.

A helicopter searched the fields around Birchanger Woods while firearms officers searched the grounds in and around the area. However, the officers found no evidence of gunfire but they did find the remains of a campfire and fireworks. Police believe that the sound of the fireworks was mistaken for gunfire. No one was found at the scene and the search was eventually called off.



**Birchanger really is a little treasure at the end of the Rainbow** (Photo by Brian Ross)



# A letter from the Editor

*Dear Readers,*

Well at last, after a cold, wet and windy spring we are finally getting some decent weather, which is just as well as there are a lot of open air events this month which can't be missed. At the club, there's the family day on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and the beer festival on the weekend from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, The Gardens of Easton Lodge at Little Easton are holding an open day with entertainment including bacon rolls and cakes. The St. Elizabeth's Centre at Perry Green is holding their summer charity fair on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Details of all these events can be found in this month's magazine. Enjoy the fun!

## Letters to the Editor

### Sad Loss of Ellis Brett Wilkins



Dear residents,

In June 1974, aged just 23, Ellis Brett Wilkins took his own life at an address in Bishops Stortford. He had previously lived with his parents, Fred and Eileen, at Lavender Cottage, Birchanger. Eileen ran tea rooms there for a time. There were two other siblings, Grahame and Andrea Brown. Grahame was a keen amateur photographer. Andrea sadly passed away in 1973 also in her early twenties. While living there, the thatch of the cottage caught fire and the building underwent substantial repairs.

There must at have been happier times for the Wilkins' family which may be remembered by people still living in the village today. I have found a couple of people from those times who remember my dad Brett, but I am looking for others who can help me to fill the gaps.

Anyone who lived in the village during the late 1960's and early 1970's and who recall my family, please email me with your memories of them. If you know someone who was there at the time but has since moved away, please pass on the message. Thank you.

*Adrian Brett Wilkins Email: [adywilkins@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adywilkins@yahoo.co.uk) (Currently living in Stansted Mountfitchet)*

### Are pot holes driving you potty?

Dear Ed,

First of all I would like to offer my sympathy, together with many other villagers I know, to Keith and Jean at Spider Cottage for the mess and intrusion that they and their neighbours have been going through (and continue to put up with), caused by the work on the new cycle path. What makes matters worse for them is that the Council intend closing the area near the cycle path for several weeks to lay a new footpath by the side of Churton. (You may remember the houses that were never meant to be built).

Meanwhile at the other end of the village on Birchanger Lane, from Harrisons down to the main Stansted road especially by the Church, we have a large number of huge pot holes in the road. I have rung the council a number of times (as have many others) only to be told that regular checks are made by the council and they don't think the holes are sufficiently deep or wide enough to warrant repairing. When somebody is injured or a vehicle is damaged, (and there have been such cases), the council rush down and fill that specific hole and leave the rest! I am sure that the 'small' amount of £444,000 spent on the cycle path that most residents of Birchanger didn't even want could have been sure on this big problem. As the brunt of the damage is in front of the church, is it not possible that the powers that be on the Church Committee, the Parish Council or any other committee contact Uttlesford Council and get them to sort this problem out before there is a serious accident to a pedestrian and/or driver.

On a positive note, it is great to see how nice the Village Church Hall car park is looking now that it's been refurbished. Well done to whoever organised that. Perhaps they could have a word in the ear of the powers that be at our wonderful council to come down and do a proper job and fill the holes in the road. Don't forget a lot of elderly people walk or drive in this area. *Michael Daw, Birchanger*

**Editors note!** When questioned, a member of the Parish Council stated that "all the concerns pointed out in Michael Daw's letter have been reported to Uttlesford District Council a number of times and the Parish Council is still waiting for answers."

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*

## Would you like to continue having a good night's sleep?

If you do, you need to send in your response to Stansted Airport's latest planning application by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June which attempts to increase flights in and out of Stansted to 42 million passengers per annum.

Tucked away in this application is a plan to increase night flights at Stansted from the current limit of 5,700 to 13,700, a staggering increase of 8000 flights each year. This is totally unreasonable for our quality of life, particularly when you consider that Heathrow have no night flights and that their night time period is from 11pm to 7am while at Stansted, aircraft fly until 11.30 pm and land at 6.30 am. Why should we have to put up with this when Heathrow doesn't?

Another very noisy nuisance, especially at night, is the back thrust of the planes on landing, for some aircraft, the back thrust is necessary; however, surely the loud revving of engines before take-off is not always necessary. This noise can be heard throughout the day and night.

## 'Uttlesford is the best rural place to Live in Britain'

Somehow I find this hard to accept. In the first place, it is hard to believe we are even in a rural area, what with the encroaching development, the constant traffic jams on the M11 and the difficulty of accessing neighbouring East Herts in the mornings.

We have a rat run of strangers through the Lane at peak times, a lot of unnecessary signs for a cycleway few wanted within Birchanger and we have one of the noisiest neighbours in the UK.

Sadly, this could be the last time that Uttlesford wins this title. Too much thoughtless development and shoddy housing have been approved, cheaply built but expensive to buy which are likely to deteriorate at an alarming rate and a transport system that is already inadequate not to mention the parking issue. We are not taking sufficient care of, nor do we appreciate what we have. This leads to failure to maintain our unique asset and to permit open season for all comers to do what they will. This must change before we lose what is left of our rural area forever.

## Numbers of affordable new homes insufficient

One thing that is needed to keep our younger residents in the district is a great deal more affordable housing for all sizes of family. This year has seen developers build 98 affordable homes for rent, 53 for Shared Ownership Schemes of all sizes but the total should be higher considering all the other houses which have been built. In some areas, where building on the expensive developments of so called executive homes is slowing down, you might think that developers would get the hint.

They are just not building enough of the homes which Uttlesford residents really need; we need local homes for local people, fewer of the so called executive homes which are cluttering up the countryside.

## New 'Litter Rapid Response Team'

Uttlesford District Council has invested a considerable amount of money to start a rapid response team to deal with the litter dumping hot spots in the District. While they will make regular visits to these sites, they are also able to visit areas on request. If you do spot a dump of rubbish and one of the most popular sites we have is Tot Lane, please report it to the Rapid Response Team on 01799 510510.

## Living without plastic

You may remember the pre-plastic days and readily embraced the plastic era with its convenience and the throw-away society, despite the fact that the Lane became littered with containers and the ditches became clogged with debris. It will be hard for some to return to the old ways as it will seem like yet another new inconvenience as well as extra cost in the days of water meters and high fuel bills. Yet this must be done, so that the devastating pictures of struggling wild life caught by plastic in many horrible ways will not be seen again. Back to cleaning recyclable bottles, reusable drink cartons and ditch the straws.

## Are Wet Wipes recyclable?

No. Wet wipes contain plastics that are not recyclable and so should be placed in your general waste. Better yet, don't use them at all and choose reusable alternatives instead. The government has announced that it hopes to eliminate wet wipes and will fight the war on 'single use plastics. Continued.....

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 7.30 Leaving 7.45 pm sharp

Get your walking shoes on we are going to ramble!

Walking across fields to Stansted and liquid refreshments

Telephone for details

Angie-817376

Rosemary-814678

Barbara-813007



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What will happen with big events like the London Marathon and other major events. They won't be able to just chuck glass bottles about as they are running. Hopefully science will solve the problem with reusable or biodegradable containers!

#### Would you like to spend more time outdoors?

You could do this and help someone not too far away from you as well. Many elderly and disabled people have found their gardens have somewhat run away from them this year and are finding it increasingly hard to cope. A project managed from Dunmow, puts volunteers in touch with people who have a garden they can no longer control. Disabled and elderly people would like to enjoy their own outdoor space, but simply cannot do the work involved in maintaining even a small garden any longer. For this section of our community, volunteers have already provided a lifeline. Not only have they put the garden to right, in many cases they have become firm friends as well, unwittingly providing yet another lifeline.



Being old and long term sick is a very isolating experience for even the most normally gregarious people. It comes as a shock as people simply do not think it will ever happen to them and everyone

is ill prepared to cope. At present there are more people in need than volunteers available for a scheme which brings the elderly and disabled in touch with those who might be able to help and which could be of benefit to both.

The project is run by Mark Ripkins. He will explain to anyone interested in joining the scheme as a volunteer or who is looking for help just clearing up their garden, exactly what is involved. He can provide training and the support necessary to become a volunteer and put you in touch with someone near you who needs your services. Mark can be contacted on 01371 878400 or 0784 163 2096

#### Would £30 tempt you to use cloth nappies?

Maybe you already use cloth nappies or a nappy service, in which case if you have paid over £30 for the nappies or a nappy laundering service in the past year, you are entitled to a £30 refund from Essex County Council. All you have to do is to produce a receipt for your purchase in your name and contact Essex County Council. You can do this on line at [www.recycleforessex.com/cloth-nappies](http://www.recycleforessex.com/cloth-nappies).



#### Fed up with junk mail?

You can opt out of a great deal of this by contacting the Mail Preference Service. They can help stop all the unwanted catalogues and other addressed items. Nothing is totally fool proof, but using this service should block 95% of this

type of mail. There are various options. To find out which is best for you, you can Google the Mailing Preference Service where you will find sites and options, or you can visit the main post office in Bishops Stortford.

#### Guided summer walks are back

Some of you may have tried the Stansted walk, which starts at 10.30 from outside the library on Fridays, lasts up to an hour and takes us through some perhaps unknown routes around the countryside which surrounds Stansted.



If you would like a longer walk, you could try the one in Hatfield Forest from the main entrance at 9.45 on Thursdays. This walk can be about 3-5 miles long and lasts about 2 hours. On both walks well behaved dogs are welcome. There is a short form to complete on site before you do your first walk. It is also advisable to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the walk. Try it sometime; it is a way to explore perhaps hitherto unknown paths and to meet new people.



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# Health Matters

## **An end to daily blood testing for diabetics in sight**

Being a diabetic is hard for the millions of sufferers in this country. Not only is the diet restricted but there are the endless blood tests, sometimes needed several times a day, before you take the medication, often through another needle. Now a new patch could put an end to some of that. Just wearing one of these new patches, which read sugar levels through skin secretions, means that blood tests are unnecessary even when they are required at ten minute intervals.

## **More health myths dispelled**

Eating late does not necessarily pile on the pounds, as long as you have not been eating full meals during the day. Most people need only a certain amount of calories each day but it does not matter when they have them unless they come from junk food. However the fatter you are the less likely you are to get pneumonia.

Washing everything down with 8 glasses of water a day does not apply to everyone. The less you weigh the less water you need.

Reading in a dim light at worst will only give you dry eyes or eye strain for a short time. No permanent damage.

Catching up on sleep at weekends does not work. Scientists found that even after a ten hour sleep, reaction times and general fatigue had not recovered.

Cold weather does not give you a cold. Volunteers were exposed to the common cold virus then half had the good fortune to have a warm bath and time in a warm room while the other half had to stand in the cold after a shower. It made no difference as to who caught the cold. The results for both groups were the same. Vitamin C also does not prevent a cold.

## **It's not all down to the ladies**

For many years now pregnancy and childbirth have been regarded as women's work. It's nothing to do with most men other than the occasional back massage and the odd ante-natal class. That is all changing and it may come as a shock to discover that men have a much greater role to play than they realized. The health of the baby is down to both parents, not just the mother alone. Schools are about to begin educating children about the benefits their future children might have when both parents have good health habits and have avoided excessive alcohol consumption throughout their adolescent years and onwards. Obesity and smoking can also have a detrimental effect to fertility. Recent research has shown that both parents with good diets and low alcohol consumption are less likely to have children with heart defects, immune deficiency disorders and neurological diseases to name just a few.

## **Summer clothes just a little too tight?**

Just a few easy tips if you mainly cook at home. You can replace butter in cakes by using purée apple instead. One cup should do the trick. Totally fat free sponge has been around for a while and is a healthy alternative. Forget the bottom layer when making a pie, pastry on top does just fine. Try using low

fat yoghurt where you might previously have used cream, and use half the eggs in a recipe, replacing the remainder with the whites only, nobody will notice. Alternatively try serving evaporated milk thickened with corn flour instead of cream. Make these little changes and you should soon lose weight without the restrictions and hunger of a diet regime.

## **Who needs the gym?**

Going to a gym is expensive for most people and apparently it is not necessarily the best, or the only place where you can lose weight and attain a degree of fitness. You can actually do a lot more than you think in your daily life. For instance three hours gardening burns off more than an hour in the gym, enough for most of us and normally less expensive. Rather walk the dog? A good average walk could lose you 200 calories and you are out and about meeting others as well. That hated word housework, which most of us intensely dislike is good exercise as well. All that bending and stretching works wonders for your joints and without realizing it you get a good workout into the bargain. Mind you, most ladies have known this for years.

You could of course forget the car wash and take on the job yourself. Cleaning it thoroughly inside and out is better than most workouts, with all that bending and stretching, another 500 calories gone.

Now for some fun; Dancing the night away energetically will say farewell to 500 calories an hour, well of course there is the booze factor, but even then a good night does mean you can skip the gym. As for shopping, that aching feeling after an exhausting day out is good, just the walk alone especially with increasingly heavy shopping bags takes care of the weight. Back home you can relax and watch a favourite show or an exciting game of football. The energy and excitement that this can produce takes care of that pint of beer and bag of chips.



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# What's on in the village...



June 2018



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

**Bin Collections:** Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #

				1 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	2 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	3 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins
4 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	5 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 10.00 Dementia 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	6 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	7 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance	8 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw	9 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Family day Trax - Live	10 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
11 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	12 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 10.00 Dementia 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	13 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	14 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance	15 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	16 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw <b>Church Hall:</b> 15.00 Tea Dance	17 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service  <b>Fathers day</b>
18 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night 19.00 World Cup	19 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 10.00 Dementia 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	20 <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	21 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance	22 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Beer Festival + Scorpio - Live Wheel of Fortune	23 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Beer Festival Darts Final Red Head Band - Live	24 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am H.C. <b>BSSC:</b> Beer Festival 13.00 World Cup The Great Choon Robbery - Live
25 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	26 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 10.00 Dementia 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	27 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.30 BAGS Meeting & Ramble	28 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance <b>BSSC:</b> 19.00 World Cup	29 <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Poker	30 <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	



**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News



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

### Family Fun Day

**Saturday**  
**9th June**  
**1.00pm**

Family Fun Day will be held in the garden with loads of activities including:

- Bouncy castle
- Face Painting
- Tombola
- BBQ
- Stalls



### Wheel of Fortune

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

### Treasure Chest

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

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June**



### The Trax



**Join The Trax on Saturday**  
**9th June for a night of Rock**  
**and Pop in the club**

### Beer and Cider Festival

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**



Starts 7pm Friday until 7pm Sunday.  
CAMRA NW Essex club of the year  
Live Music & BBQ



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

### THE GREAT CHOON ROBBERY

Join Kris Ambrose for some great 'Choons'

### June Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Treasure Chest
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Bottle Draw
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Trax - Live
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Chest
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	World Cup, Tunisia v England 19.00
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Beer Festival + Scorpio Rising - Live
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wheel of Fortune
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Beer Festival + The Red Head Band - Live
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Darts Final
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Beer Festival + The Great Choon Robbery
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	World Cup, England v Panama 13.00
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	World Cup, England v Belgium 19.00
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Poker

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	21.00
Wednesdays	Lunchtime Specials	12.00
Wednesdays	Ron's International Buffet	18.00 - 21.00
Thursdays	Bingo Night	20.30
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Raffle	13.00
Sundays	Brunch	11.30 - 16.00

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. At the school, our vision is that our children and staff pursue excellence. This includes the learning that takes place in our classrooms, our forest school and in our sporting activities. This pursuit of excellence also applies to the manner in which we embody our Christian values of love, care, courage and truth, which is demonstrated throughout our school. Visitors to our school frequently comment about the kindness and consideration which our children show to others and the way that our values are seen so clearly in each of our 155 children.

One of our recent visitors has been Roger, Bishop of Colchester who came to see us early in May. This was especially significant for us as the school building was officially opened by the then Bishop of Colchester way back in 1982! After the children sang beautifully, Bishop Roger led an assembly where he explained the importance of the different parts of his clothing that he wears as part of his office. He also amazed the children as he told the Bible story when Jesus turned water into wine.

The children had lots and lots of questions to ask him and they found out that the person who had inspired him most was his school caretaker. They also found out about his passion for Bristol Rovers FC and chemistry. In fact he gave our Year 6 children in Owls class an experiment to try at home. They are going to try it out as part of their learning in class, so we shall see how they get on.



Soon after Bishop Roger returned to Colchester he wrote the school a letter to thank us for inviting him to our school. He commended the children on their knowledge of the Bible and described the children's behaviour as amongst the best that he had seen. Other visitors have often made similar comments about how kind and considerate our children are.

Even when our children are on trips they take their strong values with them and behave with consideration to others. This year one theatre manager said that our children had made it worth coming to work that day.



Our children have been working incredibly hard as we come towards the end to this academic year. Soon some of our children will leave us for new and exciting experiences elsewhere and they will take their grounding in strong values with them as they progress through life. In September, new children will arrive to be part of our school community and we shall show them the importance of pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life.



## BATTLE'S OVER

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War**

Up and down the country there are events being held to commemorate this anniversary culminating with a series of beacons being lit up and down the nation. Birchanger will be commemorating the day jointly organised by the Parish Church, the Parish Council and Birchanger Sports and Social Club. As part of the day's events, we are hoping to show a display of memorabilia from the war.

We are asking if anyone has items such as medals, photos, letters or other items associated with the war that they would be happy to lend to the organising committee for use on the day. If you have anything that you would be happy for us to use on the day please contact ;

Evan Hill on 01279 813691





## Poll victory for local residents over airport computer

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) has no cause to celebrate over its claim that some 650 emails have been sent to Uttlesford District Council supporting its plans to expand Stansted Airport to an annual passenger throughput of 43 million – 66% above the 25.9 million passengers handled last year.

Unsurprisingly MAG's spin doctors do not bother to point out that 615 of the supportive responses were almost identical computer-generated emails, prompted by a letter from Stansted Chief Executive Ken O'Toole to all his employees and airport-based businesses urging them to "voice their support" for MAG's expansion proposals for Stansted, saying: "It is quick and easy to register your support for the application and will take two minutes. All you need to do is log onto [www.ourstansted.com](http://www.ourstansted.com) and complete the registration form. This will then send a letter automatically to the Council outlining why you support the plans for the airport."

Even though it was said to take just two minutes to send an automatic, computer-generated email to Uttlesford District Council supporting the airport's expansion plans only five per cent of those employed at the airport took the trouble to do that, which doesn't say much for airport staff morale or loyalty.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) Deputy Chairman Brian Ross said "Despite MAG's attempts to rig the system, local people have outscored the airport's computer 'voting' system with more than 700 objections to MAG's plans – all individually written. Aircraft noise, especially at night, is the biggest concern – followed by road traffic, with many respondents saying that local roads already can't cope." Those objecting to the planning application come from far and wide, although mostly from those parts of Essex and Herts most affected by the impacts of the airport. Some 50 local Parish and Town Councils are amongst those opposing the airport's expansion plans.

To add insult to injury, MAG's attempt to flood Uttlesford District Council with standard emails supporting its expansion plans may have spectacularly backfired because the computerised system which generated the standard emails failed to include the sender's postal address – a requirement which the Council has always insisted upon. As a result, it is understood these automatic emails are to be treated as a petition, which will carry minimal weight.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April, SSE sent Uttlesford District Council its own response to the MAG planning application. SSE's 175-page response setting out the detailed grounds for refusing the application is the result of two months' work by an expert SSE team and is now available on the SSE website.

For further information or comment, contact:

Brian Ross, SSE deputy chairman: 01279 814540 or 07850 937143 [brian.ross@lineone.net](mailto:brian.ross@lineone.net)  
SSE Campaign Office 01279 870558  
[info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com)

*Brian Ross, Birchanger*

**The last day of April** was a very cold 6 degrees, so what a surprise on the following afternoon, the 1st May, when the weather took a turn for the better resulting in a lovely warm and sunny day. Birchanger Wood was in its element and when the sun came out with a vengeance I had to remove my jacket. The trees actually sparkled with sun on their new bright pale green leaves, it was absolutely beautiful and there was a sense of calm all around. Several robins were moving about, green finches and blackbirds were singing. I didn't go over to the Birchanger side of the Wood and it was probably for this reason I heard no buzzards. The last of the English bluebells were still well in evidence particularly at both the south end of the Wood and the western end of Birchanger Wood. In the woodland that runs along the A120, sadly there is a lot of ash die-back caused by chalara.



My two Stansted swallows arrived on the 4th April and are probably wondering why they came over so early. It must be a real nightmare for them trying to find sufficient insects to eat. They are definitely not sitting on a nest yet so let's hope that we get a bit more 'full-on' summer shortly. Following my call last month for photographs of Birchanger Wood, this month

I received a number of photographs supplied by Peter Sherlock, our volunteer woodland worker. He supplied the above photo of the bluebells in the wood which I hope you enjoy as much as I do.

Many of you know or have met Derek Honour, a local Stansted Mountfitchet resident, who sadly died recently. It was his business, D. Honour and Son (Landscape) Ltd. which took a leap of faith in believing in The Birchanger Wood Trust's ability to obtain the necessary funding and as a result they constructed all the wonderful winding woodland paths that we have today in Birchanger Wood.

We are so lucky having Birchanger Wood on our doorstep, as not everyone can go and take a short, or long, stroll out in local woodland with the family and friends and come home still looking spick and span. Please do enjoy our lovely ancient woodland - free to you all, of all abilities and wheelchair friendly, for exercise and solace.

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

*Daphne Wallace-Jarvis* secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org



Following the Easter break at Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school, the children have been learning all about 'Growing'. They have sown seeds for herbs and flowers for the pre-school garden and then the children helped to plant them in the garden. They also sowed a seed each for a sunflower which they then took home to care for. We hope to see if their sunflower will grow as tall as them! We look forward to the photos on Tapestry (our online learning journal) showing us how tall their sunflower has grown.

Also last half term with the changing weather, the children at Forest School created two rain catchers. They placed one in pre-school's garden and one in the forest area we use for Forest School, this way they could see the difference the forest canopy made to the rain falling in the catchers.

Following our older children and their families in finding out which primary school they will be going to, we have started to prepare the children for this transition by reading stories, talking about uniforms and also our extended day has been offered to these children allowing them to experience being at pre-school from 9.00 to 2.45 (almost a school day). Working closely with the local primary schools we welcome all the reception class teachers in to pre-school.



If you are interested in a place at our pre-school please contact us via our website or give us a call on 01279 810 800. We currently have spaces available and for September 2018 for children from two and a half years. *Karen Reilly, Manager.* [www.birchangerbutterflies.org](http://www.birchangerbutterflies.org)

### Photos Needed for SSE's 2019 Calendar

We need your help! SSE have been producing an annual Community Calendar since 2003. This much loved calendar illustrates the beauty, diversity and heritage of the area which would be threatened by proposals to expand Stansted Airport.

The photographs are donated to SSE for no fee but the chosen photographers will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar. Please send us photos such as: landscapes, buildings, nature, people at work, and people at leisure. The landscape images inside the calendar are 29.6cm wide by 21.5cm high so we are looking for a width to height ratio of around 1.38. Please send your images to Peter Riding via [peter@riding.co.uk](mailto:peter@riding.co.uk) as .jpg files giving details of where and approximately when they were taken.

The deadline is the end of June but, where possible, please send in your images by 25 June so that we can start making our initial selection. We also need volunteers to sell the calendars to friends, family, or at local village Fetes and events. If you are able to help, please contact Sarah via [info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com).

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

### News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

What a difference a year makes. At this time last year, we were keeping our fingers crossed for rain to green up the new grass in the 'Walled Garden' and for the successful building of the treehouse!

**At our next open day on the 24<sup>th</sup> June** the Gardens should be looking beautiful as we celebrate the nature that we cherish alongside the formal planting. The Garden will be open from 11.30am until 5.00pm (last entry at 4.00pm. Entry fee £4.50, free entry to under 16's. There are many areas where wild flowers already thrive and we are introducing a new grass cutting regime this year to help the wild flowers set seed and multiply. This year the snowdrops were gorgeous as usual, we have had more cowslips than previous years and banks of pretty bluebells, particularly down at the end of the Glade.



By June, the viewing platform should give fine views of water lilies on the fishing lake. We will have bug hunting for children as well as a nature trail and craft activities. We will be joined by Uttlesford Beekeepers, the RSPB, plant and craft stalls, including willow-weaving. Local musician, Keef Jackman, will play his ukulele singing blues and other self-penned songs.

Of course no garden open day would be complete without our locally renowned bacon rolls and homemade cakes. For more details and the latest news, go to our Website at [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](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 Wheatley	01279 814678
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	Karen Reilly	01279 810 800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders-Another Level	Matt Marks	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
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 428994
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
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
Tai Chi	Mary Dann	07771 656063
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**



### Forthcoming Fundraising Events

- Tearoom:** Every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
**Tea Dance:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 3.00pm to 6.00pm  
**Family Bingo:** 18<sup>th</sup> August 7.00pm  
**Fashion Show:** 30<sup>th</sup> October  
 For further information and bookings please contact;  
 Pam Lee on 07702171744.

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church Services

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:15am Mattins service, 1st Sunday after Trinity  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> 11:15am Holy Communion + Reverend Cilla Hawkes  
 June 17<sup>th</sup> 11:15am Family service - Father's Day  
 June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:15am Holy Communion + Archdeacon Robin King

### Church News

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

On the 21st April the Courtyard Quartet once again astounded us with their repertoire of musical entertainment with a collection of songs from all genres. The entertainment was complemented with fish, chicken and chips supplied by a local shop and were delicious! Drinks and a raffle perfected the evening, and funds raised for St Mary's Church maintenance rose to £300. Thank you to all who attended and supported the evening and to those who made it happen. A great evening was had by all.

Can you help? We are looking for a volunteer to support the Parochial Church Council in the role of Treasurer. At least one or two days per month are required to add items to our finance and gift aid programme. IT and online banking skills are essential. To obtain a full description of the role and/or to discuss it further, please email your details to:

stmaryschurch.birchanger@googlemail.com or contact E. Wright (Churchwarden) on 01279-813474. Please note anyone can apply for this role, a requirement to attend church regularly is not essential.

### Did you know?

According to some accounts, the first Fathers Day was celebrated in Washington State on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1910. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd came up with the idea of honouring and celebrating her father while listening to a Mother's Day sermon at church in 1909. The celebration was held at the YMCA in Spokane, Washington by Sonora Smart Dodd. Her father, the civil war veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children there.

### Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 16 June:** An afternoon tea dance will take place between 3.00pm and 6.00pm in the Church Hall, this will be in aid of supporting St Marys Church. Tea, Cake and refreshments will be included within the ticket price of £5.00; however some dancing has to take place so get your dancing shoes on. For those who have two left feet it's an experience to watch some of the local dancers perform. Tickets are available from Elaine on 01279-813474, or Sue on 01279-815427, or send an email to the address below.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer lunch at Moors Wood Birchanger, details to follow.

### Prayer for Fathers day

God our Father, bless these men,  
 that they may find strength as fathers.  
 Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.  
 Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
 may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.  
 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@googlemail.com or look us up on our Facebook page.

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For more information, please contact the fund raising team at:  
[fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk) or  
 01279 844355  
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 7th Sept. - 9th Nov: 7.30-11pm  
 For more details  
 Tel: 07887 877675 or  
[grahamemizen7@gmail.com](mailto:grahamemizen7@gmail.com)

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**Birchanger Village Church Hall**



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

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**Treasurer:** Ken Wheatley.