



Birchanger Village Magazine

December 2018

Issue 191



Birchanger Remembers....



Birchanger church was packed for the 100 years commemoration of Armistice Day and the end of World War 1. All went well. Birchanger church clock was in complete synchrony with the mortar which signalled the beginning of the silence. The congregation filled the church and it was really nice to see the scouts in attendance and laying their wreath after an absence of several years. The head girl and boy from Birchanger school read the names on the war memorial. Five wreaths were laid, more than in previous years.

The next stop for many was Birchanger Sports & Social Club which laid on a whole day of special events. These included the welcome return of Sunday lunch, while one of the very best jazz bands played their music throughout the afternoon. In the billiard room there were pictures of poppies and poems written by Birchanger primary school children who expressed their thoughts and hopes for the future.

A slide presentation was given showing memorabilia from the Great War and included background material on some of the soldiers who's names are engraved on the war memorial. Pictures and other material from that time were also shown.

Thanks go to Eddie Gilbey and Geof Driscoll who compiled the material.



Later that evening the Birchanger Beacon was lit, everyone enjoyed the fireworks while the children could enjoy hotdogs provided by the club with yet more entertainment for those

who had not yet run out of stamina. Congratulations to the club and everyone in Birchanger who played a part in making the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1 so very special. The whole evening ended up with a sing song at the club led by Tim Carradine which included requests from the audience.

The Big Christmas Light Up



Don't forget the Birchanger big Christmas light up is on the 30th November. Time to get your lights up and get ready for this famous annual spectacle. Then walk over to the club for the main event.

**Live Music - Mince Pies
Mulled Wine - Christmas Fun
Birchanger Sports & Social Club
30th November at 7.30pm**



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Neighbourhood Watch & Speed Watch comes to Birchanger

I have received many letters complaining about petty crime, anti-social behaviour and traffic speeding through the village. As a newly appointed parish councillor, the parish council has given me the task to do something about it! Consequently, over the past month or so, I have been looking at ways of improving the safety and security of our village. This has resulted in the setting up of two new schemes in Birchanger backed by the parish council and Essex Police, namely Neighbourhood Watch (NhW) and Community Speed Watch (CSW). I have given a short explanation below on how these schemes could really help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the speeding traffic in Birchanger Lane. Neighbourhood Watch is already in place and NhW signs were recently erected at both ends of the lane by Uttlesford District Coordinator Derick Giffin. Speed Watch will start in April 2019.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a proven deterrent against crime and anti-social behaviour. It started in the UK in 1982 and has been quite successful in keeping crime down. Behind it lies a simple idea shared by millions whereby local people get together with their neighbours to keep an eye open in their own street or area for what's happening around them. They report any unusual or anti-social behaviour to the NhW coordinator (yours truly) who can advise and pass on all such incidents to Essex Police and the parish council. So why not get involved now and make Birchanger an even nicer place to live. For more information please visit: <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/neighbourhood-watch/>



Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch is a traffic monitoring scheme, coordinated by the Essex Police Casualty Reduction Section (EPCRS) and supported by the Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP), but managed and run by volunteers in the community. By increasing the existing methods of enforcement, and recruiting and involving local volunteers, CSW benefits the communities themselves by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour and the number of injuries from road traffic collisions. More than 85 Community Speed watch groups are now operating across the Essex Police area, providing regular monitoring of vehicle speeds within their own locations. Results are forwarded via log sheets to the Casualty Reduction Unit for processing, and warning letters sent to the registered keepers of the vehicles monitored travelling in excess of the posted speed limit. For more information, please visit: <https://saferessexroads.org/>



Together We're Stronger!

It is generally accepted that crime reduction and crime prevention are most successful when they involve everybody, not just the Police. Most of us lead busy lives and know that any spare time is at a premium. However, if you find that you have a few hours per month to spare and can use them as a volunteer to join NhW and/or CSW you will not only help reduce crime but will have the satisfaction of giving something back to your community.

If you wish to get involved, with either Birchanger Neighbourhood Watch or Community Speed Watch please contact: Peter Sampson on 01279 813193, or email peter.sampson@talktalk.net

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

Was First World War Centenary Firework Display Necessary?

I know this was probably nationwide but who was the bright spark that decided to commemorate millions of young men dying in a horrendous war, in conditions we cannot even imagine, by an explosive fire work display? Explosions? Really! I would have thought quiet reflection and the lighting of beacons would have sufficed, but in today's age I suppose it's any excuse for a party? It's what they fought for. *Birchwood resident - Name & address supplied*

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

Somewhere Different For Lunch

If you happen to be home at lunchtime and fancy somewhere different to eat, how about trying The Little Seafood Bar, just off the green at Hatfield Heath. If you don't like fish, prefer luxury style restaurants, and expect a wine waiter, this is not the place for you! What you will be getting is excellent home cooked seafood, plenty of it and a cheerful friendly service in simple basic surroundings. We ate outside on one of the last lovely autumn days. The fish was beautifully cooked, fresh crab and scallops are particularly recommended and the service friendly and efficient. The restaurant is owned and run by two mothers. It is open between 11am and 5pm from Wednesday to Saturday, from 11am to 4 pm on Sunday. It is closed all day on Monday and Tuesday. People travel miles to similar restaurants on the coast but we are fortunate enough to have one here on our own doorstep. The prices are good but payment is cash only. It is advised to phone before to check there is table availability as the restaurant is very small but well worth a visit. Call 07873 332774.

Good News for Busy Families

Birchanger Club has started offering a really delicious Sunday lunch. The first Sunday was appropriately Remembrance Sunday, which proved to be very popular. The lunch was delicious, plenty of roast chicken, pork and beef, all cooked the way you like it, accompanied by a wide choice of fresh vegetables and all the appropriate trimmings. If you could manage a dessert fine, but on our table everyone was more than just a little bit full. Prices are very reasonable and families are welcome, what's not to enjoy? Try it sometime.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Christmas Coffee Morning

There will be a special Christmas coffee morning at Moorswood on Tuesday 11th December at 11pm. Why not come along and celebrate the Christmas season with us. All are welcome.

Can't Get A Newspaper Delivered?

A free new app from Essex County Council Libraries allows you to download 'Press Reader' for free. This gives access to several papers and magazines which you can read on line. It is free and perhaps worth a look.

Birchanger All Girls Society

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

Forthcoming Meetings:

AGM - Wednesday 30th January 2019, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Telephone for details

Angie-817376

Rosemary-814678

Barbara-813007

Flu Reminder

It may be Christmas but flu has no respect for the season and Christmases could be ruined by flu again this year. There is still time to help prevent this. GPs may still run flu jab sessions, but if not an appointment with the practice nurse can be arranged at a time which might suit you better. Eligible people include the over 65s, anyone with a medical condition, those who are pregnant, all 2/3 year olds, as well as primary school children. Supplies tend to dwindle after Christmas so it would be a good idea to arrange a jab now before it is too late. Not sure if you are eligible? Call the surgery or pharmacy to find out. Jabs can be arranged privately and many firms and other organisations offer them for free.

New Approach Helps Children Who Find It Hard to Learn

It is better to have an acknowledged learning difficulty than be like so many of the rest of us who can remember struggling to keep up at school. Many strugglers simply give up, do their school time, and get out of education as quickly as possible, while those with a diagnosis of a particular difficulty are hopefully given the correct support and tend to fare better as a whole.

A new study in Cambridge suggests that a computer program could better analyse all children's learning and progress and pin point more accurately where the children are consistently having difficulties in a certain area and how this consistently impacts on all their subject work over time. It suggests that quick recognition and support when a child first shows slower progress than expected in any subject could stop children becoming disaffected with all learning in school. Pupils who had cognitive test results which were typical for their age might still be having learning problems elsewhere, so a good score in this test does not mean that the child is not experiencing difficulties in some other aspect of their learning. The reasons could be very diverse and complicated so it is important to find the right interventions. Input from parents is vitally important. For example, most of us have heard about phonics, the much heralded new way to teach children to read. The interesting thing is that the work in Cambridge showed that not all children can relate to sounds, yet a large proportion of these children still learn to read. We need to understand and recognise this and try to teach children in an appropriate way in order to restore their confidence. All learning is possible but it's not necessarily the same for everyone. This should apply to all core subjects taught in schools, after all, nobody learns in quite the same way. More work for the teachers of young children but it could bring big improvements in the long run.



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Try a Lifeline Device for Free

You may already know somebody who is using one of these, but they are of particular benefit to anyone who is vulnerable to falls, giddy spells or long term illness which requires help from someone else. A Lifeline alarm will assure the user that when they need it, help will be on the way.

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giving in,
it **IS**
KEEPING your
INDEPENDENCE



Uttlesford District Council is offering the alarms for people to try at home for 11 weeks free of charge so that potential users can find out for themselves the benefits and security these alarms can bring. To arrange a free trial call 01799 510577. They have been proven to save lives.

Uttlesford Support for Mental Health

By now most of us have been told one way or another that it is now ok to talk about mental health problems and that it is good to talk about difficulties which you or a close family member may be experiencing. The District Council has signed up for this along with other leading employers in Uttlesford. Line Managers across the council are being trained to spot potential problems and to find out how they can talk to their staff about this and let them know they have a willing ear when they need it most. If we can talk about mental illness in a positive and understanding way, it will lessen the burden of isolation on the sufferers and their families. Everyone will have a more accurate knowledge of just what a mental illness is and what it means to all those involved. This new enlightenment has been far too long in coming and it is something in which we can all play our part.

Are You Paying Too Much Rent?

The private rental agencies seem to be able to ask whatever they like for rentals these days and many people are paying well above the odds for their homes. Maybe it is time for you to leave home but cannot find anywhere affordable to live?

Council property rents are much lower and many might be surprised to find that they could be accepted onto Uttlesford District Council's waiting list for one of their properties. The council is always trying to house people in property which is right for them at an affordable rent.

It starts with first getting onto the council's property waiting list and eligibility criteria does apply. These are less forbidding than you might think. After registration, you will be sent a property availability list every two weeks and you can express your interest in any property that is sent to you.

Properties are offered first to those who are in the greatest need, who have been waiting longer and who are eligible for a particular property. You can find out more by calling 01799 510510 or by looking for Home Options on the council's website.



Nuisance Door to Door Salesman

The so called 'Nottingham Knockers', door to door salesmen, have been operating in the area recently. These are usually young men who knock on your door claiming to be in a rehabilitation program for ex-prisoners. They try to sell you cheap homeware at high prices and can be quite aggressive in selling their goods. They should have

Peddler's Licence issued by Nottingham Council with a crest on; if not, it's counterfeit and counterfeiting is worse than illegal peddling. Ring 101 to report any incident.

Suspicious White Vans in Birchanger!

There have been a number of 'white vans' seen around Birchanger in the last few weeks under suspicious circumstances. Residents have reported men searching gardens and have been seen taking away materials lying around. A car battery was taken from the forecourt of a house in Birchanger Lane opposite High View and two vans were broken into on the 13th November, one at High View and one in The Three Willows car park. All incidents have been reported to the police.

Burglary in Birchanger Lane

On the 16th November, a resident of Birchanger thought they got a visit from the water board and was asked to test the water flow by running the taps. Whilst distracted, the man from the bogus water board stole a purse with around £50 and made good his escape.

Cyber Criminals Use Victims' Passwords in Extortion Scam

Cyber criminals are attempting to blackmail unsuspecting victims by claiming to have used the victim's password to install spying malware on the victim's computer. The criminals claim they've recorded videos of the victim watching adult material by activating their webcam when they visit these websites. What makes this scam so convincing is that the email usually includes a genuine password the victim has used for one of their online accounts. It is believed that the criminals obtain the passwords from data breaches.

If you get one of these emails, don't reply to the email, or be pressured into paying. The police advise that you do not pay criminals. Try flagging the email as spam/junk if you receive it multiple times. Perform a password reset as soon as possible on any accounts where you've used the password mentioned in the email. Always use a strong, separate password for important accounts, such as your email. Where available, enable two-factor authentication (2FA). Always install the latest software and app updates. Install, or enable anti-virus software on your laptops and computers and keep it updated. If you receive one of these emails, report it to Action Fraud's phishing reporting tool on line at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or call 0300 123 2040

If you have received one of these emails and paid the ransom, report it to your local police force or call 101.



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Health Matters

You Can't Get Dementia From Your Mother

It seems that dementia is not hereditary after all. The latest thinking suggests that there can be an error in the DNA when cells divide, which of course cells are doing all the time. It seems it has nothing to do with grandpa's dodgy behaviour when he was eighty or granny's absentmindedness.

So if it is not hereditary are there any external factors which could cause this? The door is wide open on this one. There are many factors which could be involved. Likely subjects such as increased pollution levels and our own pressurised lifestyles are among the suspects. It is possible that the defects first manifest themselves in the womb but external factors could come into play after birth. This research with its worldwide implications is happening just up the road from us, in Cambridge.

Eat Your Way Out of Christmas Stress



Christmas can be a time of stress, especially for those who are the main organisers of any Christmas gathering. According to new research you can make it easier for yourself and perhaps head off family tensions by

choosing foods which are rich in the stress busting hormone, 'Serotonin'. If you are serving a starter, you could choose avocados which are full of stress busting good fats. Maybe you could have asparagus as one of your vegetable options instead of sprouts and swap potatoes for serotonin rich sweet potatoes cut as wedges and roasted. Beef contains the calming B vitamins so you might try offering this instead of Turkey. Finishing up with a blueberry dish of some sort with a high content of the calming vitamin C should see you at least comfortably dozing in front of the television while the rest of them do the washing up!

Time to Explode Some Myths

Many of us remember being told that we should drink 8 glasses of water each day. Well actually it seems we don't need that many. So many glasses of water may lower the concentration of vital salts and minerals in our body, which apparently is not good for us. A couple of pints a day however should be sufficient (Unless your doctor prescribes more for a medical condition)

You may think you are being extremely healthy going for that early morning run or exercises but the reverse maybe the case. Exercise outdoors in winter first thing in the morning can compromise your immune system which is lower in the cold and at this time of day in particular. Save those exercises for later but not too late at night.

Are you spending too much on unnecessary vitamin and mineral supplements?

Very few of us ever actually need them. With the right diet which includes fresh fruit and vegetables, additional vitamins are totally redundant.

Are you heading off for a Winter Break?

More and more people these days are swapping cold damp England for somewhere far away and a lot warmer. These days many of us pack a very high factor sun cream for their trip and apply it heavily once they are there.

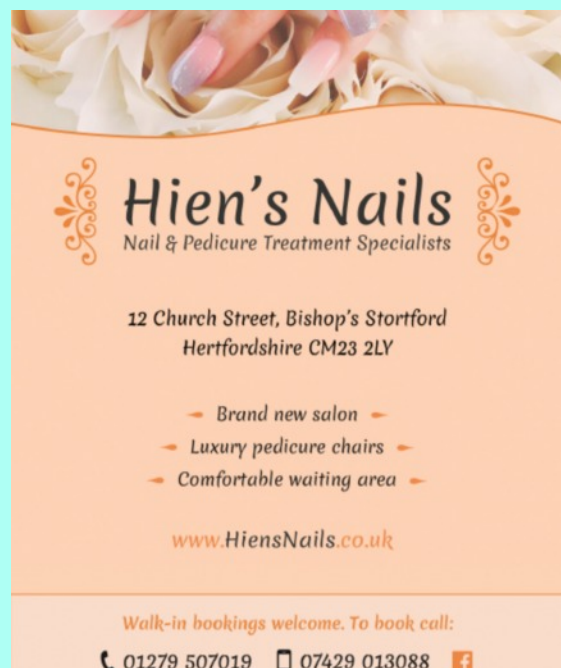
The harmful rays are blocked off but they should not all be blocked off for the duration of the holiday. Everyone's skin needs a little sunlight to some degree to restock supplies of vitamin D and other minerals to help alleviate the effects of arthritis and other aches and pains which we seem to succumb to more as we start to get older. Care is needed in the sun but for normal skin types a little sun is good for you.

Winter Starts to Bite

Some of us would prefer that winter just did not happen at all and it would be a very bad time if it was not for Christmas to look forward to in the next few weeks. Skin tends to suffer in the long hours without sunlight, but a few amendments to your diet may help.

Whole grains help to ward off the zits you never ever want, especially good in pasta. Skin needs collagen, and eggs are a good source of this. Salmon provides the Omega 3, which you need for eczema and acne and is a good moisturiser.

Dark greens such as kale, Romaine lettuce and spinach which may not be everyone's favourites, are rich in vital minerals and nutrients including iron, while nature's own moisturiser, avocado and kiwis, rich in vitamin C, could benefit everyone as colder weather sets in. And not a pill in sight!



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What's on in the village...



December 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 #						
Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.						
31 New Years Eve BSSC: New Years Eve Disco & Fireworks	1 st Jan 2019 New Years Day BSSC: Open 12.00-17.00 (Times at Stewards discretion)				1 BSSC: 13.00 Meat Draw 21.00 Pizazz - Live	2 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Mattins Service
3 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	4 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 20.00 Parish Council meeting. All are welcome	5 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	6 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	7 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest	8 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Soul Definition - Live	9 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion
10 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	11 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors. Coffee Morning Moorswood 11.00	12 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	13 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	14 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Winnie - Live	15 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Kids Christmas Party + Steve Sausage Christmas Draw Disco	16 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family service
17 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	18 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	19 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for beginners	20 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	21 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers St Mary's: 19.00 Christmas Carols BSSC: Treasure Chest Re-Mark - Live	22 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Re-Mark - Live	23 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion
24 Christmas Eve BSSC: 21.00 NobleOx - Live	25 Christmas Day St Mary's 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Open 12.00-14.00	26 Boxing Day BSSC: Whiskey Draw Open 12.00- 17.00 (Times at Stewards discretion)	27 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	28 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers	29 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	30 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Mattins service

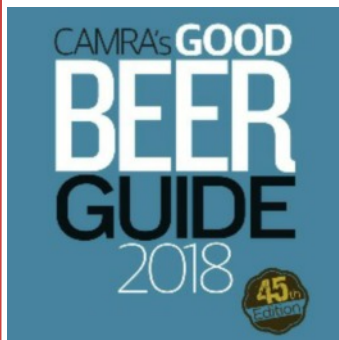


BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

Sports & Social Club News



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



Treasure Chest

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

Friday 7th & 21st Dec



Christmas Opening Times

24 th Dec.	Christmas Eve	3pm-12am
25 th Dec.	Christmas Day	12pm-2pm
26 th Dec.	Boxing Day	12pm-5pm at stewards discretion
31 st Dec.	New Year's Eve	3pm-1am
1 st Jan.	New Years Day	12pm-5pm at stewards discretion



Re-Mark 22nd
December



Club Calendar at a Glance

Fri 30 th Nov	The Big Christmas Light Up
Sat 1 st Dec	Pizazz - Live
Fri 7 th Dec	Treasure Chest
Sat 8 th Dec	Soul Definition - Live
Fri 14 th Dec	Winnie - Live
Sat 15 th Dec	Kids Christmas party + Steve Sausage
Sat 15 th Dec	Christmas Draw - 1st prize £250 2nd prize 32"TV 3rd prize 7" tablet 4th prize luxury drinks hamper
Sat 15 th Dec	Disco
Fri 21 st Dec	Treasure Chest
Fri 21 st Dec	Kenny & Katie's Cocktail Night
Sat 22 nd Dec	Re-Mark - Live
Mon 24 th Dec	Noble Ox - Live
Wed 26 th Dec	The Famous Whisky Draw
Mon 31 st Dec	New Years Disco and Fireworks



24th December

Weekly Events

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

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

Birchanger Primary School



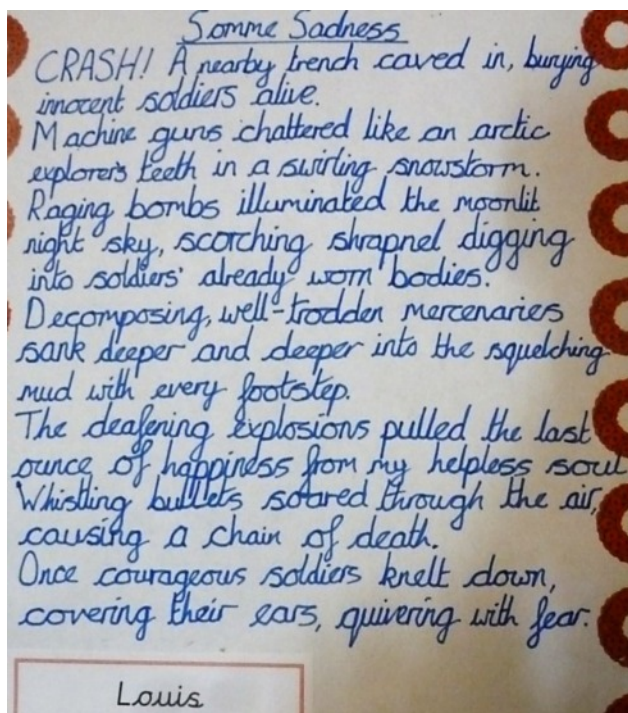
Your Country Needs YOU!

At Birchanger Primary School, the children have been immersed in our current topic of 'Your Country Needs YOU!' This topic is all about the First World War and the role the UK played in this historical moment. Each year group, from Reception up to Year Six have been learning about WW1.

Reception children have been finding out what food the soldiers would have eaten and making disgusting mixtures with water and other materials that would have been found in the trenches!

The children were also lucky enough to have a special visitor, Louis's granddad, who showed them a special silver box which was given to every soldier by Princess Mary and some of his medals.

Year 1 and 2 children have been taking part in many practical activities to help increase their understanding of the war, including building their own trench and creating trench cake using rationed ingredients that would only be available during the war. Children in Year 3 and 4 have been finding out about the causes of the war and have secured their knowledge in the events that led up to the war, including when each country got involved. They have shown this using timelines, maps and storyboards. Further up the school, Year 5s have also been using timelines to show the events leading up to the war, also the role of women and children and rationing.



Year 6 has been learning about specific fighting tactics used in the war including the use of the Zeppelin air ship and the air raids they carried out. They have also been finding out about the events in the battle of the Somme and have created some war poems. We have not only focused our topic to history lessons, we have used this learning across the school and across the curriculum.

The children created poppies for the Birchanger Art Show and then made art work for the 'Battles Over' WW1 commemoration event at the Sports and Social club on the 11th November. All of the children had the opportunity to 'meet a soldier' when a special visitor came to our school and they could ask him questions to further their knowledge.



On 9th November the children were able to spend some time in thought when we held a Reflection and Prayer Day which was supported by the church group Connect 120. This gave them time to think deeply about forgiveness and remembrance. This was followed by the Head Boy and Head Girl reading out the names of the fallen at the war memorial on 11th November.



Our thanks go to all of the people who have supported the children during the learning of such a special topic.

Claire Berry, Headteacher



Come up to Birchanger Wood, walk the wood, enjoy and exercise in it and you should also meet the people who voluntarily maintain this lovely wood. They work out of the compound almost every Saturday between 10 and 12 noon and then onward until about 3pm. If they are not there and you can hear a power-saw, follow the noise and that is where you will find them. Just to be perverse, however, there will be times when they are in the wood but without their noisy "man-tools". These are the people without whom Birchanger Wood would deteriorate into a jungle. They keep the undergrowth in check, the paths up to par, and cut and stack wood for sale, without which, we would not generate sufficient funds to operate at all.

Thank you, everyone of you for giving up your time and spending so many Saturdays working for the community - that is, the rest of us, in Birchanger Wood. You are really something! Birchanger Wood also has a Warden, Pat, who spends even more of his valuable free time looking after the wood and caring for the various animals in the compound. He also assesses the needs and condition of all those trees growing in the wood in all seasons and weathers. He is amazing and his knowledge superb. Thank you Pat for being you. Jono came down to Birchanger Wood the other Saturday and for those who turned up, we spent an enlightening couple of hours collecting evidence of moth mining in the leaves of the woodland trees.



Most of Birchanger Wood trees are hornbeam and there was plenty of evidence to find, but the moths were equally prolific laying eggs or hibernating in the leaves of the oak, ash, sweet chestnut, our one beech tree, field maples, and hazel, so much so, we didn't even get to explore the hawthorn! Our local environment can be helped by us all. Have a Lovely Christmas and a Good New Year.

Daphne Wallace-jarvissecretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org
www.birchangerwoodtrust.org



The children at Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school have had a busy half term which began with exploring colours with firework pictures and creations. We also looked at Diwali, making Rangoli patterns and discussing how this is celebrated.



This will lead us on to our Christmas activities soon. The committee at the Pre-school have organised a Christmas Fair to raise valuable funds for the pre-school which will be held on Saturday 1st December, 10am-12 noon In the Pre-school. All are invited.

Our qualified, experienced team are pleased to be able to take children from 2 years old and offer up to 30 hours per week. The sessions we offer are; 9am-12noon, 12noon-3pm, 9am-3pm. 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 only a few spaces available for the academic year 2018/2019. We are now taking registrations for September 2019. *Karen Reilly, Pre-school Manager*



Airport Expansion Approved!

Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee has approved the planning application that seeks to raise the current cap on the number of passengers at London Stansted Airport from 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 43mppa!

The committee voted to approve the application at an extraordinary meeting on the 14th November and will issue its decision following approval by the Secretary of State.

The planning committee vote was split, five councillors for and five against, whereby the vote in favour of the expansion was swung by the committee chairman in his casting vote.

This to some extent depends on the High Court challenge which SSE is already pursuing in relation to this application. If this legal challenge succeeds, the approval by UDC would be overturned without the need for further legal proceedings.

SSE Deputy Chairman Brian Ross commented: "Of course we are disappointed to lose the argument in such a shameful fashion, with the outcome ultimately resting on the Chairman's casting vote. It was especially galling when most of the councillors who voted in favour of approval made very little attempt to engage in the proceedings and showed little evidence of having done their homework. This was not Uttlesford District Council's finest hour. Fortunately this is not the end of the road so we would advise Stansted Airport not to start popping the champagne corks just yet."

Watch this space!



The Hundred Parishes Society

Mistletoe has become a symbol for the festive season

Large clusters of pale green mistletoe are revealed as the leaves fall in November from the branches of apple, hawthorn, lime and poplars. This semi-parasitic plant takes water and some nourishment from the host tree. Clumps producing the sticky white berries are often guarded by Mistle Thrushes as the berries attract other species eager to eat them. The seeds are spread from tree to tree as the birds try to remove the sticky flesh from their beaks and wipe them on a suitable branch. Germination is slow, but once established the clumps grow larger year on year and in some cases seem to overwhelm the host tree.

As a plant which is sensitive to the chill of winter, mistletoe is rapidly becoming well established in the eastern regions of England as our winters are tending to become warmer. Festoons of mistletoe on suitable trees can be seen in parts of our local area including Hatfield Forest, Saffron Walden, Quendon, Newport and other villages (See Photo of mistletoe taken in Newport).

There are many seasonal traditions associated with this intriguing plant which was thought to have magical powers especially if found growing on oaks. Within many European cultures its evergreen boughs were used to symbolise eternal life. Mistletoe and holly were used to decorate houses during the time of the winter solstice to remind people that the circle of life would continue. Mistletoe came to symbolise good luck and love in life.

If you need inspiration for a Christmas present, please consider the Society's book, "The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction". It can be purchased at local Tourist Information Centres and some local bookshops. The principal author, Ken McDonald, will be on hand to sign copies at Saffron Walden TIC on Saturday, December 1st between 10:30am and 12:30pm. Visit us at www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee.



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

This topsy-turvy year is finally coming to a close. Snow followed by the 'Beast from the East', the summer drought, one or two gales and then a pretty dry autumn with a few downpours! All have challenged the gardens. But despite the crazy weather, the snowdrops, cowslips, daffodils, dahlias and daisies have delighted thousands of visitors (and their dogs). The kitchen garden has been at its most productive since the 1950s, with Steve and the Saturday team producing huge quantities of summer vegetables, squashes and pumpkins.



Now the gardens have once again returned to their winter tranquillity, with planting underway for next year and honey being extracted from the comb.

Our dogged volunteers have made the gardens the special place it is. They have raised plants for us and helped with gardening, carpentry, cake making and served in Daisy's. They have also attended the car park, provided music and supplied other entertainment and much, much, more.

Our thanks go to all our volunteers and visitors for making 2018 such a good year. Our 2019 Calendar is available for last minute Christmas shoppers - by mail order or by leaving a message on our enquiry line 01371 876979, or on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk. Happy Christmas.

Jill Goldsmith



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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 864781
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
Nail & Pedicure	Hien's Nails	01279 507019
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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



Church Hall Manager Wanted!

An exciting opportunity has opened in the village for the position of Church Hall manager, to take over from 1st January 2019. This role would suit someone preferably who lives in the village, with good administration, finance and IT skills. Previous experience of a similar kind would be an advantage, although the right candidate would be given training. Interested applicants should contact Elaine Wright via email or phone for more information and the honorarium payable. 01279 813474 - stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Family Prize Bingo: Saturday 8th December at 7.00pm in the Church hall. Adults £10.00 Children £5.00 Includes Supper.

Tearoom: Every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

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

St. Mary's Church News



Church services

2nd December	11:15am Mattins
9th December	11:15am Holy Communion
16th December	11:15am Family
21st December	7:00 pm Carols by candlelight
23rd December	11:15 am Holy Communion
25th December	11:15am Christmas day Holy Communion
30th December	11:15am Mattins

Church News

Fashion Show: 78 ladies attended the annual fashion show at the church hall on the 30th October and together raised a whopping £649. I would like to thank the models and the helpers for making the evening a fantastic fundraising event. A special thanks also goes to the Sports and Social Club, The Three Horseshoes and The Three Willows in providing our star raffle prizes.

Remembrance: Those attending the remembrance service were greeted by displays of poppies, including 100 poppies on a large cross, and the "there but not there" figures (donated to the church by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund). Art work from the primary school was also on display. The service took place as usual at the memorial with villagers, the local scouts group and the head boy and girl from the primary school. They both read the names of the war dead. The timings were just right as we heard the cannon fire for the start of the 2 minute silence. The service continued inside the church and was taken by Reverend Helen Flack, our Curate. The service was calm and reflective with the tribute to the millions being read by the local scout leader, and a poem read by Geof Driscoll. The service finished with the National anthem. The church continued its commemoration with the national peel of church bells at 7:05 pm. I would like to thank all who attended and took part in the service it was to many extra special.

Pam Lee Retires: It has been announced that the church hall manager Pam Lee will be stepping down from the volunteer role of hall manager at the end of the year. Pam has continually worked extremely hard maintaining the hall and trying to raise its profile. The Parochial Church Council and the people of the village thank her for all her hard work.

Dates for your Diary

Coffee Morning at Moorswood: 11th December 10:30—12md. Christmas raffle & mince pies are on offer! If you need help getting to the coffee morning call us and we will arrange a pick up for you.

Carol Service by candlelight: will be on Friday 21st December at 7pm. Come and help us through readings and carols build the Nativity scene, and enjoy some mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. We hope you can join us!

A prayer for Christmas by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Elaine Wright 01279 813474 -
stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

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Take an hour out of Christmas shopping in Bishop's Stortford and pop into St. Joseph's Church to enjoy a family friendly whistle stop tour of all your favourite carols and Christmas songs. With some audience sing-along's, jingle bells and a treat for the kids, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed!

Tickets available at £5 for adults, £3 for children. Tel: 07916 153 898, or www.theharmonaireschoir.com or purchase at the door.

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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