



# Birchanger Village Magazine

June 2019

Issue 197



## Cannabis Factory Raided in Birchanger



If you wondered why five police cars and vans turned up at Harrisons on the morning of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, you can thank our neighbourhood watch team! The NhW team reported suspicious activity at No. 6 Harrisons several weeks earlier and acting on this report, Essex Police decided to put the house under observation. This resulted in police raiding a suspected cannabis factory at the rented house. Officers searched the property in the heart of the village at around 10.20 am and took away more than 100 cannabis plants and cultivation equipment. A 44-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis. He has been taken into custody for questioning. Enquiries are still ongoing.

Inspector Colin Cox of Essex Police said "My thanks go to the Community Policing Team (Both Uttlesford & Braintree) for their response to concerns from local residents regarding the property in Birchanger. CPT Officers attended location, one male was arrested at the scene and cannabis cultivation equipment was dismantled. Some will certainly say that cannabis has medicinal properties and this may well be true but the law still states it is illegal. This was certainly an organised criminal set-up which leads to other criminal activities. Thank you also to local residents".

Well done to Birchanger Neighbourhood Watch, whose observation and timely response led to the arrest. This just goes to show that public observation together with NhW can help prevent crime in our village.

## Birchanger Run

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May saw the return of the popular Birchanger 10K run where 135 competitors took to the road and battled it out for a winner's trophy. 71 children ran the one mile fun run of which about 40 were from Birchanger primary school.

The winners were: Patrick Bickerton who finished in 36:33 minutes and Kate Hunt in 47:07 minutes for the ladies.

Maxine Williams, one of the organisers, said "We would like to thank everyone that made the race a huge success. From the local companies who sponsored our event, to all the runners that took part. We would like to thank all the volunteers that made our day possible, the marshals, first aiders and spectators. A big thank you goes to the companies who donated prizes for the winners and many thanks to all the children and their parents that ran the one mile fun run.



A fantastic grand total of £3,398 was raised for the primary school which included an incredible sum of £1000 from John McArthur's Just Giving page.

Special thanks go to Julia Kay, who with her guidance and previous running of this event made it a little easier for us to take over and bring the Birchanger 10k back on the local runner's calendar. The date for next year's 10K run will be announced soon, so don't forget to pop it in your diary".

To find out more:

Log on to <https://m.facebook.com/birchanger10k/> or email [birchanger10k@gmail.com](mailto:birchanger10k@gmail.com)



# Editors Letter Box

*Dear Ed,*

## **Near miss collision in Birchanger Lane**

I was scooting to school with my son this morning (Monday 13th May) and at the point we needed to cross the road, we had a white Ford Fiesta doing around 50 mph near the football field. I made a point of obstructing them to ask them politely to check their speed through our village and the driver apologised - and then floored it away. I am not sure if they live in the village but both the driver and passenger were around 17-18 year old and in school uniform. I believe the registration number was WR10 CTX. Let's do what we can to make this road as safe as possible before one of us ends up in a hospital bed or 6 feet under! *Chris Emery*

## **What to do about speeding in Birchanger Lane**

I am writing with regards to the issue of 'speeding' through Birchanger Lane. This is not a new issue; in fact the same problems have persisted for many years. Villagers, cut-through drivers, delivery vans and even buses drive through the village at excessive speeds which are unsuitable for the road conditions. There was another near miss recently and quite a few comments were made on social media about what could be done about reducing speeding through the village.

What is our council doing to address the situation? Are there any plans in the pipeline? I know various solutions have been suggested like speed bumps (problem for buses and ambulances?) traffic calming such as chicanes, digital signs etc. (where would we put them?) and people using speed guns (sporadic). Has the idea of speed cameras (average speed) on the start and end of the main stretch ever been considered? *John McArthur*

## **Response from Birchanger Parish Council**

Firstly I'm sorry to hear there was a near miss recently; it must've been very frightening. The council is well aware of the speeding issues through Birchanger and has been working tirelessly for some time to find a way of controlling and/or reducing the speed of inconsiderate and sometimes reckless drivers using the lane as a rat run.

The problem is, the Parish Council has no control and cannot dictate what speed limits are set in Birchanger. Essex Highways has complete autonomy over speed limits and all other highways issues. However, at a recent parish council meeting, speeding was discussed again and this resulted in Essex Highways agreeing to carry out another speed survey. I have no idea of the date yet but at least they have agreed! When this was last done a few years ago Birchanger didn't meet the criteria for a 20 mph speed limit through the village but maybe we will this time.

We have considered various methods of speed control. Speed humps are not recommended any longer as they are said to cause higher carbon emissions, increase noise, damage vehicle suspension and are detrimental to patients in ambulances. Chicanes also cause high carbon emissions and the lane would not be wide enough for the bus to pass. In fact, chicanes have been known to encourage people to drive like Lewis Hamilton! VAS (vehicle activated signs) are a possibility but it is highly unlikely that we would be given average speed cameras as these are normally installed on roads without any side turnings where drivers could either turn off the main carriageway or enter it. The speed survey must show that we have a speeding issue in the village and to date this has not been the case. If the new speed survey shows that we do then of course we will request the appropriate solution to solve the problem. In the meantime we are hoping to install '20 is plenty' signs up around the school area and Birchanger Lane. These are not legally binding but can be quite effective.

The village is now a member of the Community Speed Watch initiative (CSW) and already has twelve enthusiastic volunteers waiting in the wings. They are due to receive training in May or June, after which they will be using their speed gun to catch offenders, so drivers beware! Peter Sampson is the councillor who has taken on this task.

I have also spoken to Ray Gooding many times about the anticipated increase in rat running once the work starts to remove the roundabout on the A120 and I have asked him to find out what mitigation measures they intend to make. I hope you will agree that the Parish Council is doing what it can, but dealing with Highways, District and County Councils is a bit like wading through treacle!

*Angie Driscoll (Birchanger Parish Council Chairman)*

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)



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger



# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## New District Councillor Lives in Birchanger

Congratulations to Geof Driscoll, a long time Birchanger resident who stood for the Hallingburys in last month's local elections as a candidate for the Residents for Uttlesford Party (R4U). Geof obtained more personal votes than any of the other candidates for that ward. A big achievement and well deserved as he had worked very hard meeting as many electors in his ward as he could in the weeks prior to the election.

Political nonsense, which was certainly not of Geof's making, prevented him from standing for his own ward, Stansted South and Birchanger. We now have two Stansted residents elected for Birchanger, after the lowest turnout in recent years. Only 22% of the electorate voted and there were a record number of spoilt papers. Many electors feel aggrieved that the ward is now known as 'Stansted South and Birchanger'. Our previous member fought for the title 'Birchanger and Stansted' at the last electoral boundary changes and after a lot of arguing it was finally agreed. Somehow this has not happened long term and people in Birchanger simply do not want to be subsumed into Stansted South. So well done Geof and enjoy your term in office. Hopefully, at the next local election, Birchanger residents will have their own resident ward member again.

## Farewell to Wiki

Remember back in 2010 when a little dog ran wild throughout Birchanger from September to November? Half the village tried to catch him but he would not be caught. He finally settled on a home, which was where he visited the most and was finally caught by our resident dog trainer after he had been making friends with his black Labrador. A gentle drop of the lead was all it took in the end and Wiki was caught, but he had also found his home.

Over the weeks, that followed, Wiki grew healthier. The dog warden searched all reports for missing dogs but none of them matched Wiki and eventually he was declared legally ours. He was well known throughout Birchanger and he changed the lives of his new family for the better. More walks for them, watching a feisty little personality develop, along with a strong attachment to the man of the house. But after eight happy years, Wiki's health started to deteriorate. First pancreatitis then Cushing disease, bringing on a final major deterioration last Easter. That for Wiki was finally the end of the road. Wiki was a real Birchanger dog and he knew what he was about and where he wanted to be. RIP.

## Perhaps Not So Inviting?

Seen at a pub just outside Barnston attempting to entice you in for Sunday Lunch. 'Sunday Roast Lives Here'.

I rather hope it doesn't. I don't like my roast that rare. You would think they could find a better sign, after all, the pub is called the Butchers Arms, and there is a natural burial ground nearby!

## Community Project Grants

Community Project Grants from Uttlesford District Council for Voluntary Groups of £100 to £3,500 are on offer for any voluntary group or individual who are trying to raise money for a special project which will benefit their community. The group or individual must show that they are raising the same sum that they are requesting themselves to be eligible for the grant. Many people in Birchanger have benefited from these grants in the past. Interested? You must apply before the closing date June 27. Forms and further information are available on line or at 01799 510510.

## Why Keep Hitting On Tot Lane?

Why is it that Tot Lane seems to be the preferred dumping site for miles around? Despite the District Council's regular collections in Tot Lane the rubbish just keeps coming. The dumpers are clever too, as they remove anything that would identify them. You can find old clothes, papers and many other nasties which are regularly chucked out by the litter louts who regularly offload in Tot Lane. Tot Lane is a lovely, typical Essex country road. It is a good place to walk on the few occasions it is actually litter free and can be negotiated with care by careful motorists. Why wreck it? Beats me!

## Saffron Walden Museum and More

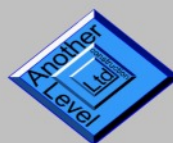
Some of us may have grim childhood memories of being bored silly as we were dragged around some museum or other. At Saffron Walden Museum they aim to be particularly child friendly and actually involve children in the work they do. This spring and summer they are running an exhibition called Discover Our Wild Life. Throughout the summer people of all ages will be able to learn to enjoy and to perhaps actually see what we have all around us, whether or not we have a garden of our own. Our parks, footpaths and open spaces are teeming with wild life. Most of us simply do not know how to find it. There will be opportunities to learn how to make your own wild life area in your garden. And special projects for children to learn how to make bird and bug houses in the holidays. Just pop in anytime.

## 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 26th June at 8.00 pm  
Summer Garden Party: Pimms - buffet - strawberries & cream

Telephone for details  
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678



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## Day trips for all

I just thought I would let residents in the village and local area know that the over 60's club have some day trips organised this year and have some spare seats if anyone would like to come along. This is open to everyone of all ages. The first trip is on Monday 3rd June to St Ives, Cambs. A pretty little market town by the river, with lots of eateries and Monday is market day. The cost for this trip is £18. The next one is on Monday 15th July and is a Suffolk mystery tour, this is also £18, (we will be stopping for a pub lunch, not included in the price). The last one is on Monday 30th September and is for a trip to Godalming Surrey, where we will stop for lunch (not included in the price), with a two hour horse drawn boat trip, from 2p.m. - 4 p.m. cost of coach and boat is £32. The coach picks up from outside the Social club.

All trips are on a first come first served basis and if you are interested please give me a ring on 01279 812614 or 07843707249. You will be most welcome. Thank you. *Jean Camp.*

## Free collection for unwanted items

To donate unwanted clothing, bric-a-brac, electrical items, books, CDs/DVDs, household items, good condition furniture and anything else re-usable you can contact ECCO on 01279 444244 and book a FREE collection. Alternatively you can drop stuff off to their store in South Street, Bishops Stortford.

Michael Daw of Birchanger found this useful service. "I wanted to get rid of a number of items that I felt would be difficult to move like a petrol lawnmower and fishing tackle etc. I looked in Google and found Ecco the charity shop in South Street. I decided to give them a ring and spoke to a very helpful guy who said they take most things except live animals. He arranged for a van to collect the items from my home just a week later. The driver rang me half an hour prior to the collection and sure enough they arrived". The service is free and you will be helping a very worthwhile Charity. Further information from the website: <https://ecco.org.uk/>



## Have you heard the Cuckoo?

After a long absence it seems the cuckoo is back in Birchanger Woods! Jean Williams reported "when

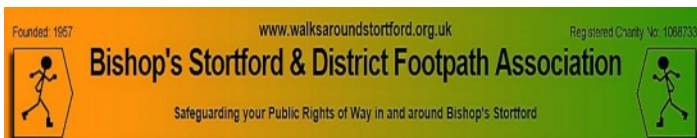
we first came to Birchanger, the cuckoo was a regular visitor but it has been absent for many years. And then suddenly in early May I heard the distinctive call of "cu - ckoo". Such a pleasure to hear it again". This call is only made by the male bird.



## Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273  
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,  
Birchanger,  
Herts.  
CM23 5QF



The walks in April have been really good and jolly interesting and we have indeed been lucky with the weather. Our local walks through our area of East Herts and North Essex have been super underfoot with varied assorted woodlands and birds, open views, villages, the Stort, aircraft, and have included so many interesting vistas across our varied and yet familiar and often times brilliant countryside.



It has been really great to have you all come along; any chance you can give me some feedback?

There are a lot of issues around the Stortford North development, so again, please beware and report them. Recent walks over the Hallingburys, along the Stort River and the old galloping track under the flight-path into Stansted Airport proved to be quite different. We will endeavour to keep them varied but let me know where else you would like to walk. We try to encompass the area north/south from Harlow North to roughly Widdington and east/west from Braughing to Stansted Airport. Do you have a favourite? There are loads of possibilities in our radius around Bishop's Stortford.

## Sunday walks 5-6 miles departing at 10.00am

2nd June Manuden Community Centre. You may have to park on the road, as the Village Scarecrow Trail event is on the same day and the car park will be busy. GR: TL486272. Post code: CM231EH  
16th June Bps. Stortford. Corner Barrellsdown Rd+Cricketfield Ln (on the green) TL 485220 Post code: CM23 2SP

Check our website: [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk) for surprise walks listed or for information regarding a meeting place as there are so many road closures occurring locally. After June, we will take a break and will see you next in September.

Email: [dwjjwj.444@gmail.com](mailto:dwjjwj.444@gmail.com)

Photograph: Extracted from walksaroundstortford site.

*Daphne Wallace-Jarvis (Publicity Officer)*

## TAYLOR PROPERTY SERVICES



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## Keep your home safe

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force. Anything of value that they might spot through a window will only spur them on. But it really doesn't take

much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking. Rob them of the opportunity

### How burglars operate and how to prevent yourself from becoming a victim

Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door.

Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.

Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays

Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.

Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence

Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home.

It's a fact that many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in. Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses.

### Secure your shed or garage

It's strange how most people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes. People often end up using a flimsy lock or padlock to protect the contents – whether it's a car, bike or lawnmower. The fact is, a burglar will usually try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to get into the house. First off, check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.

### Think like a thief

Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. And keep it locked at all times.

### Alarm it

Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

### Lock it, hide it or mark it

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.

Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Visit Sold Secure to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls.

It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.

Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around.

Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode.



## Ken Sturgeon 88

Zena and family would like to thank everyone for their condolences and words of sympathy, and for all the cards and kindness that they have received.

It has meant a great deal to the family in supporting them with their loss.

Thank you and kind regards,  
Gill, Martin, and Tina.  
(Ken and Zenas children)

## Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves

If you are female the chances are that you like spending money! A day at the shops can be positively therapeutic, even if you do take it all back the next day. It's the going out and the actual purchasing that counts. Anyway whether you have been spending or not, summer holidays for many are on the horizon and a lot of us are trying to save at this time of year. Saving can be hard and temptation is always there but you might be able to cut back in other ways.



For instance, do you really need that expensive gym membership? Are you actually still using it? It's quite easy to improvise on most of the equipment you have been using. Some examples: Why not go back to running in the countryside again. Weights can be made up from bags of sugar, flour or rock salt even. Skipping ropes are not expensive either.

Boutique manicured nails are lovely but if you want to save, perhaps you could have a go at them yourself for a little while. We all love eating out but you could try batch cooking, there seem to be recipes everywhere which are suitable for freezing and all you need to do at the end of the day is to heat them up in the oven.

A major expense is the car. Some of us are lucky enough to have a company car paid for by our work but for the rest of us, do we really need those fast cars or four by fours which most of us seem unable to drive properly and are far too big for our lanes? Something smaller is much less of a gas guzzler and can save an awful lot of money. You could even buy a bike and use that instead. As for those expensive haircuts and frothy coffees, try visiting salons with student trainees, they are really keen to look after your hair well at half the cost. Invite your friends round for coffee at home, more work perhaps but you may just have more fun. Enjoy your holiday but don't break the bank, it's far too stressful.

# What's on in the village...

June 2019

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 Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm in the church hall - **Open to the public.**

**1**  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat Draw

**2**  
**St Mary's Church:**  
11.15 am Matins

**Church Hall:**  
12.00 Birchanger Litter Pickers

**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

**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** **Green 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

**8**  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat draw  
21.00 Soul Definition - LIVE  
**Church Hall:**  
19.30 Birchanger Nursery - Quiz Night Fundraiser

**9**  
**St Mary's Church:**  
11.15 am 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.

**12**  
**Church hall:**  
09.30 Tai Chi 1  
14.00 Tea Room  
15.45 Fencing  
17.30 Apton Dance Studio  
19.00 Apton dance for Beginners

**13** **Black 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:**  
Treasure Chest

**15**  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat draw

**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 for beginners

**20** **Green 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

**22**  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat draw

**23**  
**St Mary's Church:**  
11.15 am Holy Communion  
**Easton Lodge:**  
Fun day for dogs From 11.30 am

**24**  
**Church hall:**  
19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults  
**BSSC:**  
Quiz Night

**25**  
**Church hall:**  
9.40 Ballet for adults  
15.45 Ballet for Juniors

**26**  
**Church hall:**  
09.30 Tai Chi  
14.00 Tea Room  
15.45 Fencing  
17.30 Apton Dance Studio. 19.00 for beginners  
**20.00 BAGS**

**27** **Black 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  
**BSSC: Beer & Cider Festival**  
**21.00 Main Offender - LIVE**

**29**  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat draw  
Beer & Cider Festival. 21.00 Retro - LIVE

**30**  
**St Mary's Church:**  
11.15 am Matins  
**BSSC:**  
Beer & Cider Festival + Entertainment



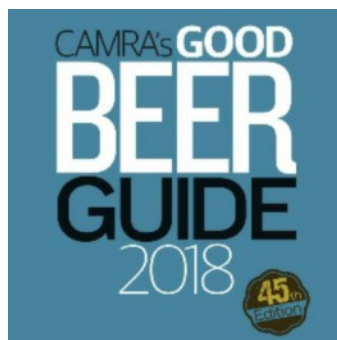


**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## 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!

**Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June**



### Birchanger Bowls Club in Tesco!

Birchanger Bowls Club is currently one of the three organisations which are competing for funds through the 'Tesco Bags of Help' grant. If successful, the bowls club will be able to purchase a much needed new lawn mower and help to pay for specialist treatment to the bowls green.

All of the work to the green is currently carried out by volunteers who do an excellent job in their spare time; however the green is in need of professional maintenance.

Please support the club and help ensure its future by dropping your blue token in the box in store. You can vote in the store until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Thank you.

### Beer & Cider Festival Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June to Sun 30<sup>th</sup> June



**Live Bands & Entertainment**  
**Selection of Real Ales and Ciders**

### BIRCHANGER BOWLS CLUB

Are looking for new members

If you would like to join or just fancy a go, please contact  
Evan Hill 07751628678

**Special Offer £10.00 joining fee**  
Birchanger Sports and Social Club.  
229 Birchanger Lane  
Birchanger  
**CM23 5QJ**

**Bowls can be supplied if required**

### Club Calendar at a Glance

Sat	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Soul Definition - LIVE 9.00 pm
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Treasure Chest
28 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> June		Beer & Cider Festival
Fri	28 <sup>th</sup> June	Main Offender - LIVE 9.00 pm
Fri	28 <sup>th</sup> June	Treasure Chest
Sat	29 <sup>th</sup> June	Retro - LIVE 9.00 pm
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup> June	Beer & Cider Festival

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00 pm
Thursdays	Bingo Night	8.30 pm
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00 pm
Sundays	Roast Dinners	12.00 md
<b>Restaurant open-Lunch:</b> Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.		
<b>Restaurant open-Evening:</b> Friday, Saturday.		



**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 9.00 pm**



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

# Birchanger Primary School



The children at our school have a growing awareness of their natural environment and the need to reduce waste in order to support a wide range of wildlife and reduce climate change. The School Council has taken the lead on extending the recycling that we support and here are some of the words from the council members themselves about our approach. We would love members of our community to support our recycling programme by dropping in items to be recycled. You can find more details on our website.

## Plastic Waste (Angel T - Year 6 and Amber-Lily - Year 2)

"We know that it is important to recycle and reduce our waste because our waste is demolishing our planet Earth and wildlife. One of the main causes of our wildlife being demolished is plastic straws. Plastic straws are killing some of our innocent sea animals. We are only using straws once then throwing them away and that's a waste! They are getting thrown away and end up in the sea after one use and that is killing some of the animals in the sea. Animals are also getting trapped in the pollution some people have caused. A lot of larger companies and restaurants have changed to paper straws. But it's not only straws which are causing this disgrace; all plastic waste is having a tragic effect. We would love for you to give your crisps packets to your children for them to recycle at school".

## Recycling at school (Annie - Year 5 and Freddie L - Year 2)

"At school we have been recycling a lot, we have been doing things like putting rubbish in the correct bins, encouraging local citizens to join in this rubbish-free event and much more! We would very much appreciate it if you could join in with the fun too! We have also been creating a new part of the school called 'The Birchanger Recycling Centre'. This part of our school has been located next to the office and is where all your recycling can come to. It has lots of information you could use to help you know what to bring. This area is open to the public and you do not have to be a member of the school to bring your recycling to us"!



In our classes we have been learning about the dangers of physical activities due to the series of events that are very dangerous and harmful to the environment. In assemblies we have been talking about the gratefulness and gratitude of our planet. Did you ever stop to realise in the next seven years we will have no room for landfill and will start having to put the rubbish in holes in the earth and that will rot away the nutrients of our food and plants etc.

If you want to help us protect the environment, please come and drop in your recycling into the school entrance area. Please write your name on one of our fish and join our school community in helping to protect our planet. *Claire Berry - Headteacher*



At Birchanger Butterflies Pre school we were busy last term with our theme of 'Growing'.

The children enjoyed looking at photos of themselves as babies and talked about how they had grown. They found it particularly amusing to look at baby photos of the teachers! They planted a Pansy to give to their mums on Mother's Day and some children were lucky to have their mums attend our Mother's Day Lunch. Thank you so much to Birchanger Primary school kitchen catering for us as so many of the children were really excited to have their Mums eat lunch with them.

On Saturday 8th June 2019 starting at 7.30 pm in Birchanger Village Hall we are holding an adult Quiz Night Fundraiser. Tickets are £10 including a sausage and chip supper (Vegetarian Option). Please bring your own drink and nibbles. There is a cash prize for the winning team. To book a table (maximum 6 people) please phone: 01279 810 800 or email: [admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk).

We currently have a few spaces available for year 2019/2020. Contact Karen Reilly, Pre-school Manager : 01279 810 800.



## Connie aged 13 died April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

Connie came to live with us as a puppy. She was a brown and white ball of fluff whose amusing antics soon won a forever place in our hearts. Just one look with her beautiful eyes and we were hooked, putty in her paws. Her

favourite games were chasing pigeons and squirrels from the garden. Not too sure what she would have done if she ever caught any. She loved lazing in the sun and rolling in the grass. She loved her walks around Birchanger and her sleepovers with Katie and Max (our grandchildren)

Most of all she just loved being with us. She hated the rain, wasn't too keen on being groomed or having her teeth cleaned. She preferred her two legged friends to the four legged variety. One of her four legged friends, Bertie, gained his doggy wings in January so I hope they are chasing rainbows together. Churton is a sadder place without them both. Connie always brought solace and joy especially during difficult times. Soon after moving to Birchanger in March 2012 we lost our son and she was our reason to get up in the morning. She didn't judge or ask difficult questions or shy away from our tears like a lot of people did. Instead Connie provided comfort and unconditional love when it was most needed. We thank you Connie for being you and loving us. *Richard and Lesley Keen*





## All Change at UDC

It seems that SSE was not alone in believing that the administration at Uttlesford District Council (UDC) was no longer acting in the best interests of the local community. At the local elections on May 2nd the incumbent UDC Conservative administration, which had been in power for the past 12 years, retained just 4 out of their 24 seats. The Uttlesford result was proportionately the largest loss by any ruling party in any district council in all of England. The independent Residents for Uttlesford (R4U) party swept to power with 26 seats and the Liberal Democrats came second with 7 seats.

Despite being non-party political, SSE had no hesitation in welcoming the change of power at UDC. Our political neutrality had been tested to the limit by the former regime's support for unfettered expansion at Stansted Airport. The five members of the UDC Planning Committee who voted in favour of the Stansted Airport planning application last November are no longer councillors, whereas the five who voted against were all re-elected.

Immediately prior to the local elections the previous administration had intended to issue final approval to Stansted for expansion to 43 million passengers per annum (almost as much as today's Gatwick). However, this was blocked as a result of combined action by R4U, the Lib Dems and two 'rebel' Conservatives – all of whom supported SSE's argument that the planning application needed further consideration. SSE is now hopeful that the new planning committee will be given an opportunity to review the airport planning application.

The fact that the expansion was approved in principle six months ago means that their room for manoeuvre might be limited. The new council will need to take expert legal advice in this regard.

Meanwhile, SSE's legal challenges continue to trundle along in the High Court. A Directions Hearing has been arranged for 23rd May at which time it is hoped that the Judge will agree to combine SSE's two cases (one against the Transport Secretary and the other against the Communities Secretary) and set a date for a full hearing – which will probably require three days later in the summer. *Brian Ross*



## A Case of Too Many Hungry Caterpillars

Some visitors to Birchanger Wood have remarked on the massive number of tiny green caterpillars. Unfortunately, this spring we experienced a massive invasion of winter moth caterpillars, which are chomping through young leaves on our trees. Hatching is timed to coincide with the budding of oak leaves, their favourite dish. They also feast on maple, birch, hornbeam, hazel and beech – all the tree species that can be found at Birchanger Wood. The large number of caterpillars is leading to the defoliation of many trees.



Hatching is determined by temperature. The moths are adjusting to climate change through selection with the larvae of the most adjusted eggs thriving. As the climate is changing in winter and spring, the winter moth is hatching earlier and earlier to synchronise with their main food sources. Tits predate the winter moth caterpillar and will feed them to their young. However, this will only work well if the peak wood moth caterpillar population coincides with the hatching of the tits' eggs. Tits can adjust the time when chicks hatch with the weather, a capacity that us mammals lack. However, scientists have found that the birds are less able to adjust to the earlier peaking of caterpillar populations, which means they are often unable to take full advantage of the higher caterpillar population. Research has found a mismatch emerging between caterpillar hatching and the hatching of insectivorous woodland birds.

One of the problems with the lack of management of large areas of Birchanger Wood in the past is that not many birds penetrate very far from the edge with the caterpillars remaining unmolested in the dense canopy. Birchanger Wood Trust's coppicing is helping to open up the wood to more bird life, which should help combat the caterpillar problem. The problem isn't going to go away easily. We can only hope that this is a bad year due to specific weather trends this spring and that the trees will continue to bud new leaves after the caterpillars pupate. Visit our website for a series of educational events throughout the year, including moth trapping and identification.

*Daniel Brett (Secretary)* [www.birchangerwoodtrust.org](http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org)

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## The Hundred Parishes Society

One of the aims of The Hundred Parishes Society is to raise awareness of our rich and diverse local heritage. It is exceptionally preserved in the rural and town landscapes handed down by past generations and there is also a rich vein of local history, culture, customs and legends. Amongst the legends are a couple concerning dragons.

Henham's dragon is commemorated on the village sign and in the name of its parish magazine, The Henham Dragon. The appearance of this "flying serpent" was reported in a pamphlet published in 1669. The creature was described as eight or nine feet long, having been seen by several men. In recent times, the legend has been dismissed as a 17th-century hoax, while local Saffron Brewery produces a Flying Serpent beer to celebrate the story.



Where there were dragons there were also dragon slayers. We all know St George, whose slaying of the beast has been painted and sculpted many times. I can think of only one such image within the Hundred

Parishes: in Bartlow church where conservation of a 15<sup>th</sup> century wall painting revealed the dragon but not St George. I would be interested to learn of other images of dragons or St George within the Hundred Parishes.



A local dragon slayer, Piers Shonks, died in 1086 AD and lies at peace in an ancient tomb within the wall of Brent Pelham parish church. There is a brief account of his story, and why he is buried in the wall, in the Hundred Parishes book and on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) within the parish page for Brent Pelham and Meesden. There you will also find a link to a Hertfordshire Archives account and audio recording of the legend of Piers Shonks. Do enjoy our local area – and keep an eye open for dragons. *Ken McDonald, Secretary*

Photos: (Top) Bartlow Church dragon painting  
(Lower) Piers Shonks tomb in Brent Pelham

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We had a lovely sunny day for our June Open Day last year, so we are hoping for the same again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June for this year's 'Fun Day for Dogs'. Annette Boreham, of 'Take the Lead Essex' dog training club, is helping us organise the day again to build on the success of last year's inaugural day. The show will include classes to judge the best puppy, best veteran, prettiest bitch, handsomest dog, waggiest tail and the dog judges would most want to take home with them! There will be an agility ring with stalls and gifts for dogs and their owners. We're sure the show will be just what the Countess of Warwick would have liked, as she loved her dogs, was herself a breeder of Collies and Japanese Spaniels and actively supported dog shows in Warwick.

The Gardens should be looking at their best in June too. The borders and the beds in the walled kitchen garden will have filled out and the foxgloves will be in full flower in the informal areas of the Gardens. The first vegetables and soft fruit should also be available for sale, not forgetting the fruit cakes of course!

Last year a Dragon Lily reared its head in the Italian Garden in early June – and as is its wont lasted three days. I'm told by our horticulturalist that you never know precisely if and when they will spring to life and flower, so our breath is well and truly bated!!



The gate will open at 11.30; and we will have our usual refreshments – hot and cold drinks and of course our famous bacon and cheese rolls and homemade cakes. For further details, please go to our website: [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) *Jill Goldsmith*



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## Village Services and Activities

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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 810800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders - Another Level	Matt Marks	01279 814273
BSSC Club	Kenny Gould	01279 813441
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Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Dance	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
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Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
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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	Elaine Wright	01279 813474

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### Forthcoming Fundraising Events

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For hall bookings please contact: Elaine Wright 01279 813474.  
Or email: [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:15am Mattins service
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am Holy Communion Pentecost with the Reverend Paul Wilkin
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 am Family service and Father's day
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11:15am Holy Communion with Rev.Paul Wilkin
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am Mattins service

### Church News

A brilliant coffee morning at Moorswood (the Home of Elizabeth and Pim Godwin) was had by all who attended on the 14<sup>th</sup> May where £171 was raised to support St. Mary's Church. 22 people attended where plants, marmalade, and bric-a-brac were for sale, along with a bumper raffle. It was lovely to see so many people. However, we were missing a prominent figure from these regular coffee mornings; our friend Phyllis Hill had recently passed away, therefore it was appropriate for us to have a moment of silence to remember her just before we called the raffle as she so loved these events and St. Mary's Church.

Reverend Helen, our Curate, will be ordained as a priest on the 29<sup>th</sup> June by the Rt. Revd Roger Morris Bishop of Colchester. We will all be sending our very best wishes to her along with our prayers as she starts a new phase of her ministry.

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, therefore IT and online banking skills are essential. If you would like a role description and to talk about the role, please email your details to; [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com), or contact Elaine Wright, Churchwarden on 01279813474. Please note anyone can apply for this role, a requirement to attend church regularly is not essential.

If you like to shop, then why not use the 'Just Giving' web site. There you will be able to pick St. Mary's Church and whilst you shop a donation is made from your shopping. This all helps to keep St. Mary's church going and services being taken there. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of money to maintain it!

Don't forget we have our very own Facebook page where up to date items are posted. If you would like to know more about the church please contact us. Perhaps tell us what you think about our beautiful church and what you would like to see or hear there. All ideas are welcome.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July Summer lunch at Moorswood, Birchanger, details to follow.

### Prayer for Father's 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

[stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com) or phone: 01279 813474

## Village Church Hal



For further information and bookings contact;

Elaine Wright on 01279 813474  
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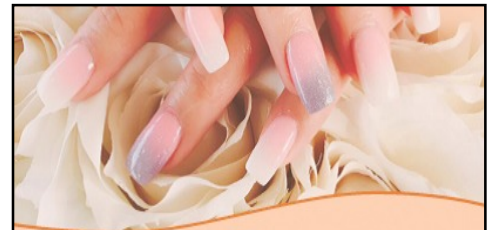
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