



# Birchanger Village Magazine

January 2019

Issue 192



## Brilliant Birchanger

### Brilliant Birchanger, you did it again!

It didn't seem possible but the lights in Birchanger were even more beautiful this year. Not only did those living in Birchanger enjoy the sight, but many others, undeterred by the road works, came to see them as well. A big thank you to everyone who made the effort in making this year another truly brilliant Christmas.



### Village choose their favourite light display

The most popular light display this year, voted as usual by everyone in the village, was John Clark, 298 Birchanger Lane. The announcement was made at the club on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December and afterwards an evening of food, fun and entertainment followed. The club was packed to bursting point with children, parents and friends who started the Christmas period in the best possible way.



### Travellers given notice to quit

According to Sarah Marshall, planning Enforcement Team Leader from Uttlesford District Council, a planning Enforcement Notice has been served on the travellers' site on Birchanger Lane near the A120 roundabout, including on site named parties. The requirements of the notice are:

- Cease the use of the land for residential purposes;
- Remove the caravans and mobile homes from the site;
- Remove any residential paraphernalia from the site;
- Remove the earthbund;
- Remove any waste from the site;
- Disconnect any services to the site.

The notice became operational and effective on the 31<sup>st</sup> December unless an appeal is lodged with the Planning Inspectorate before that day. There is a six month compliance period in which the requirements of the notice need to be carried out. If an appeal is lodged with the Planning Inspector the notice is held in abeyance until the appeal has been determined. If the appeal is dismissed and the notice is upheld, the six month compliance period starts from the date of the decision of the appeal.



# Editors Letter Box

*Dear Readers,*

Well I hope all our readers enjoyed their Christmas and have made their new year resolutions. Firstly, I would like to thank our sponsors and advertisers for supporting our magazine, without whom our magazine would not be possible. Last year was one full of events and surprises, culminating in one of the best and biggest light shows the village has ever seen. Well done Birchanger. Over the year we celebrated the 100 years Armistice Day, suffered the travellers invasion, the saga of Stansted Airport expansion and news that we might lose our roundabout at the top of the lane. Chloe Monk had the amazing trip of a lifetime in Ghana and Birchanger Lane was dug up a few times. George Taylor received the MBE and the Martin family got their home back. Birchanger Lane got dug up again to install new lights. The unwanted cycle track to the airport was laid and the road dug up again for a new footpath to be laid around Churton. The Three Willows changed hands with Mark and David Boden at the helm and Paul Ferret won the photo competition. Peter Booker said goodbye as chairman of the social club whilst Kenny Gould together with Katie Martin took over the stewardship of the club (great job guys). In December, Gigaclear started to install cabling for the new ultrafast fibre broadband line and guess what? The road was dug up again! Life is full of surprises isn't it.

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Ed,*

### **Road closed again!**

I wonder if your readers agree with me that the endless road closures in Birchanger are a serious problem for health care workers, nurses and carers. Birchanger Lane has been closed so many times in the past year that I have lost count. Many of the older residents need daily visits from carers, and nurses for medication and simple day to day attention. When the road is closed the visits get delayed later and later because some of the health workers come from outside the local area and do not know you can get into Birchanger from both ends. It would be very helpful if the road closed signs actually said where the road is closed on that day rather than letting people find out the hard way.

*Yours sincerely, Mrs EM Gilbey (Bett) Birchanger*

### **'Battles Over' material available**

Eddie Gilbey has made a copy of the poems submitted by the primary school for the 'Battles Over' display. (The originals are kept in the village archive.) He has also made a copy of the First World War Casualty list that Geoff Driscoll used for his slide show presentation. These include photos and images of the regimental badges of the soldiers commemorated. If anyone would like a copy of these in PDF format please contact Eddie by email: [eddieb.gilbey@btinternet.com](mailto:eddieb.gilbey@btinternet.com)

### **The odd view....**

While discarding old copies of the Birchanger Village Magazine, I spotted the article about the very successful dog show at the summer Fete. On the radio, in the background, I heard Radio 2 stalwart, Ken Bruce talking about a woman who had won two prizes at her local dog show. The first prize was for the 'Ugliest dog in show' and the second prize was for the 'Dog who looks most like its owner.' Apparently, the lady was delighted with her wins. I was just about to suggest to my wife that we should buy a bulldog when I realised she was also tuned into Ken Bruce in the other room!

*Bernard Hainsby, High View.*

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*

## Christmas countdown at the club

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November, mulled wine and mince pies at the club heralded the start of Birchanger's Big Light Up 2018 and thanks to the hard work of a small group of club committee members, the light up festivities went without a hitch. A large crowd helped with the countdown towards Christmas when the lights were switched on both inside and outside the club and at the same time many of the homes throughout Birchanger were lit up. The club lights this year were outstanding.

## Bin collections for the new year

Due to the limited opportunity for refuse vehicles to tip waste at the transfer station (this is where the waste has to go before it can be sent for recycling) and to avoid complex catch-up arrangements, there were no bin collections during the week of Christmas according to Uttlesford district council.

Collections of the green-lidded recycling bin and food caddy will restart on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. All collections that week will be one day later than normal. For example, if your bin is normally collected on a Friday, it will instead be collected on the Saturday.

If you fill your green-lidded bin before the first week of January, you can use any plastic bags (except black bin bags) or cardboard box and put these next to your bin for collection. If you fill your food waste caddy you can put extra food waste in your black-lidded bin.

All collections will return to normal from Tuesday 8 January 2019 (the black-lidded waste bin and food caddy). Crews will accept additional bagged general household waste during that week only. For more information about recycling, reducing or reusing your waste, visit [www.loveessex.org](http://www.loveessex.org).

## Real Christmas tree recycling

Once you have packed the decorations away for another year, make sure you recycle your real Christmas tree. Skips and refuse vehicles



will be at Stansted Lower Street car park between 12.30 and 4pm in the New Year on Sunday 6 January 2019. Simply take along your Christmas tree, and other green waste, for disposal. Real Christmas trees can also be taken to your local recycling centre for household waste.

## Birchanger All Girls Society

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

### Forthcoming Meetings:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 AGM 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Angie-817376

Telephone for details  
Rosemary-814678

Barbara-813007

## A New Year's resolution for dog owners

This is intended for those who clear their gardens of dog mess but then somewhat stupidly take it to one of the dog waste bins which the Parish Council has paid for and maintains for dog walkers in Birchanger. These people are acting very selfishly as they ensure that dog walkers, who responsibly clean up after their dogs while out and about have nowhere to put their bags as the bins have been filled up already. Everyone has a black bin into which it is permitted to place dog excrement. Every time a dog bin is emptied, the Parish Council has to pay, so please make this your New Year's resolution.

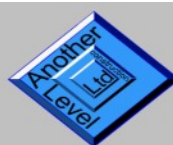
## Ultra-high speed broadband has arrived

November saw the start of installation of new cabling and cabinets in



the village which will provide ultrafast fibre broadband speeds of 50Mbps and above. The installation is being carried out by the Gigaclear Company under the Superfast Essex programme. You can find out which area cabinet you're connected to

by entering your address in the Gigaclear postcode checker on line at: <https://www.gigaclear.net/postcode-checker/superfastessex>. If your community cabinet area is listed, you can upgrade to an ultrafast broadband service on the Gigaclear network. However, nobody is automatically connected to the faster service when it arrives! You need to contact one of the broadband service providers listed on the Gigaclear website and ask to switch or buy a fibre broadband service on the Gigaclear network. When it is available, you can find out which network provider can offer you the new ultrafast broadband service on the Superfast Essex website: <http://www.superfastessex.org/>. This list will be updated weekly as new Community Cabinet Areas become live and ultrafast broadband services are available. It would of course help if the contractor improved their signage. 'Road Closed' at both ends of the Lane is simply not good enough. We need to know which end is actually closed and from what point it is closed. If you are a stranger to Birchanger, lack of clarity could mean going round in circles for hours. All I can say is that it had better be worth it.



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### New Uttlesford website provides quick access to services

The District Council is trialling a new website which aims to provide support and information through the use of key words. For instance those in need of heating advice could simply use a key word such as 'heating' and the right Services should be shown. At least, that is the theory. You can try the new service at [www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk).

### Library may be closed in Stansted

For many people libraries are a very important part of their lives and they are used by all ages from pre-school onwards. Sadly, we are not using the library service as much as we used to. Why this is happening is not clear, but it could well be that we are turning more to eBooks and the 'three for the price of two' deals in many bookshops. Perhaps for many of us, the opening hours are simply not convenient. Library closures will hit the elderly and students the hardest. Main libraries may still remain open in larger towns but most people in vulnerable groups will not be able to travel there. Not everyone is into eBooks or is able to gain the specialist information on line. If you do not want to lose the library service, tell Essex County Council. You could also make your opinions known to our local county councillor Ray Gooding. If the library in Stansted goes, it is very unlikely ever to come back. Unfortunately, Stansted is in the middle of building a brand new library! Now what are they going to do with that?

### Looking for Voluntary Work?

Saffron Walden Museum is looking for volunteers to help man their Welcome Desk at Saffron Walden Museum. For further information call 01799 510333.

### Have you considered fostering a child?

Essex County Council is searching for more foster parents and is holding events in January to give people an idea of what fostering means and how those who care about children could become foster parents. The initial interview process can take six months. At all stages prospective foster parents can ask questions and are free to

leave the process if they find it is not something for them.

Every child is different and there is a lot to learn along the way. Foster parents meet other foster parents regularly and they will have ongoing support from social workers and other children's specialists. If you have other children it is important that they understand what

fostering means and that you have discussed it as a family. Foster parents are paid for the care they give. You can find out more by attending an information session. The next sessions are being held on Saturday January 19th and between 11.00am and 1.00 pm at the Holiday Inn in Basildon and at the County Hall Hotel Chelmsford on Saturday February 2nd between 11am and 1pm.



## Do you know who is watching you?



Over the past few years, many Birchanger residents have installed CCTV surveillance cameras around their property and whilst this can help increase

security and capture images of thieves in the act, there are some strict rules that must be observed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

A CCTV system to protect a domestic dwelling from acts of crime and anti-social behaviour is now commonplace. Although this seems a reasonable use, there have been a number of complaints to the police, ICO and the SCC from neighbours and other members of the public using pavements in the vicinity who believe that cameras are being used to spy on them and their families. If you already have CCTV or are thinking of installing one, you should ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does the position of the CCTV ensure minimal intrusion to neighbours, and other people's privacy?
2. Will the range of the cameras overlook my neighbour's property, pavements and other areas?
3. How will my neighbours feel about my CCTV?

Ensure that you are transparent to those around you when installing a CCTV system and that cameras do not intrude on your neighbour's property as this could mean that you will not be complying with the Data Protection Act. Regularly delete the recordings and do not keep them for longer than is necessary for the protection of your property. You are responsible for all the information that is recorded by your system and you must make sure that the information is not used for any other purpose than protecting your property. You must keep the recordings secure and keep access to them to a minimum. Remember that you are responsible for what happens with the information.

### Domestic CCTV and the Data Protection Act (DPA)

You need to be aware that if your cameras capture images outside the confines of your own household, those images are subject to the Data Protection Act. Check the position of your camera from time to time to make sure it still captures the right images and does not overlook someone else's property or public space, such as walk ways. For further information on the DPA please visit the website; <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/cctv/>.

In certain circumstances, the information you record may be used as evidence. You should bear in mind that if your system captures information of an incident, it could be used by the police to aid an investigation. It is important that the information you record can be used as evidence if required. If you are not sure about any of this information, check with your installer or your local police.



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### Theft from vans and cars on the increase

There has been a rise in petty crime in Birchanger and other local villages recently. Two vans were broken into by breaking the door locks, one parked in The Three Willows car park and another in High View. Also over a dozen or so vans were broken into in Stansted, Elsenham and Dunmow

with high value tools and equipment removed. The police have made arrests but some of the thieves are known to be still out there. It was also reported in December that thieves stole over £1,000 from St. Mary's Church and removed a number of outdoor decorative Christmas lighting throughout Birchanger leaving open live wires.

### Vehicle Security

Thefts from motor vehicles – remember a thief will not know what is in that bag on the back seat, he only finds it is your recently worn gym gear after he has broken into the car and caused damage. Leave no attractions visible within the car.

### On the Driveway

If possible, garage your car. Many people fill their garage with junk and leave their expensive car on the driveway. Make sure your alarm is switched on. If you haven't got one, fit a steering wheel lock.

Modern cars cannot be taken without the keys. Thieves will often burgle houses to get them, so do not leave car keys lying around, hide them away securely. If you have a car with keyless entry, purchase a Faraday signal-blocking key pouch to insulate your keys, they only cost around £5.00 each. With expensive cars consider a tracking system with Geofencing.

If you have a van, reverse it up to a wall to deter theft of its contents. Always remove valuables and lock your car even if it's kept in the garage.

### Away from Home

Lock your vehicle whenever you go to pay for fuel.

Do not leave valuable items in view (wallets, handbags, portable sat-navs, etc).

In attended car parks, park near the attendant's kiosk if possible and do not leave the ticket in the car.

Park in well-lit areas.

Set the alarm or fit a steering wheel lock.

### Domestic Heating Oil Security

With the price of fuel so high, this type of crime appears to be on the increase; not only from commercial premises but also from homes and private vehicles. By implementing some simple measures you can help to minimise the theft risk:

Move it: if the tank is located away from the house, if possible move it closer where you can keep a better eye on it.

Screen it: if the tank can be seen from the road, screen it with fencing or hedging.

Cage it: consider building a metal cage around it with a secure entrance gate.

Alarm it: consider installing an oil tank alarm.

Hide pipe work: reduce locations that it can be attacked and hide external pipe work.

Cut the power supply: ensure that any electrical control boxes or switches are in a secure environment (in your house if possible).

Block vehicle access: keep vehicles as far away from your tank as possible, use locked gates, parking posts or hooped barriers. Install a driveway alert monitor.

Invest in good lighting: fit movement activated lighting. Consider one that activates a buzzer in the house as it switches on. Adjust sensitivity to prevent false alarms.

Check your home insurance: ensure that your home insurance covers you for the loss/theft of your heating oil.

Peter Sampson ~ NhW Coordinator

peter.sampson@talktalk.net

## Health Matters

### Could you take the sugar awareness challenge?

January 14th to 18th have been named as the five days when everyone is to be asked to give up sugar. The problem is that most of us simply do not realise that sugar hides away in just about all manufactured foods in seemingly unnecessarily large quantities and is present in just about everything we eat or drink under a variety of different names. These include cane sugar, glucose, fructose, evaporated cane juice, maltose, dextrose, honey corn sweetener and many more in far larger than necessary amounts.



Experts tell us that the sugar hit is akin to cocaine - high in intensity, but this hit is legal, yet does just as much damage in its own way. The addition of so much unnecessary sugar into our foods is fuelling the national obesity epidemic.

Giving up sugar for this week will not be easy and depending on your unconscious level of addiction may have some strange side effects, but less sugar in your life will pay benefits in the longer term. Waiting to the end of the mince pie season when a lot of us have expanded waist lines is a good time to try this.

### Foods that could help take you into your second century

Want to live more than 100 years? There are those who claim that by eating certain foods, your chances of having a really long and healthy life are greatly increased. The pundits suggest that eating as many as possible of the following everyday foods will increase your chances of not only living longer, but feeling better as well.

They suggest that you eat only the brightest coloured fruit and vegetables, such as oranges in preference to pears, and sweet potato instead of ordinary potatoes. Daily green tea, cranberries and the liberal use of garlic in your cooking are all reported to help to kill cancer cells. A cube of over 70% dark chocolate daily helps combat heart disease, olive oil reduces the risk of stroke, and the flavonoids in a cup of coffee will help to prevent heart disease. However, too much coffee will tend to raise your blood pressure to unacceptable limits. De-caffeinated tea and coffee increase hydration and reduce blood pressure. So bring on the brightly coloured fruit! It's a shame about the stingy chocolate allowance though!



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# what's on in the village...



January 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 #

**Parish Council Meetings:** Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.

	<b>1 Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 20.00 <b>Parish Council Meeting.</b> All are welcome	<b>2 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance - beginners	<b>3 Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance -private lessons	<b>4 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	<b>5 BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat Draw	<b>6 St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Epiphany, Mattins service
<b>7 Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>8 Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>9 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	<b>10 Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	<b>11 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers  <b>BSSC:</b>	<b>12 BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Popgun - Live	<b>13 St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Baptism of Christ, Holy Communion service
<b>14 Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>15 Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	<b>16 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	<b>17 Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	<b>18 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Treasure Chest	<b>19 BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>20 St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Family service
<b>21 Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>22 Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>23 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for beginners	<b>24 Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	<b>25 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers <b>BSSC:</b> Poker Night	<b>26 BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 9.00 Retro - Live	<b>27 St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion
<b>28 Church hall:</b> 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>29 Church hall:</b> 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	<b>30 Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 for beginners 19.30 BAGS	<b>31 Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	<b>Note!</b> Next Parish Council Meeting is on February 5 <sup>th</sup> at 20.00. All are welcome to attend		



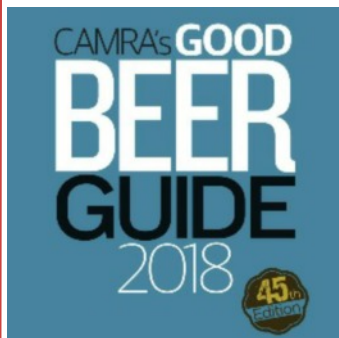


**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News



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**Treasure Chest**  
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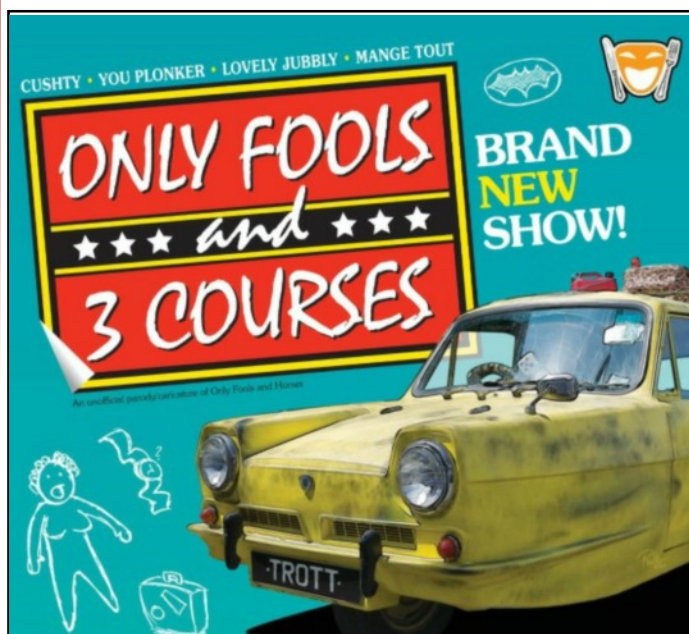
Premier five piece covers band dealing  
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**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 9.00pm**

# RETRO BAND

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noughties!

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 9.00pm**



**16<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm**

Birchanger Sports & Social Club are pleased to announce the dining  
experience of the year, 'Only Fools and 3 Courses', a completely  
different dining experience performed by the 'Comedy Dining'  
company. Tickets are on sale at the club from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019

### Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Treasure Chest
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Popgun - Live
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Treasure Chest
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Poker night
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Retro - Live

### Weekly Events

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

**Restaurant open-Lunch:** Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.  
**Restaurant open-Evening:** Friday, Saturday.

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



## Airport expansion battle moves to Whitehall

The decision of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) Planning Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November to approve the expansion of Stansted Airport to a throughput of 43 million passengers per annum (mppa) is currently being reviewed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has been pressing the Secretary of State since March to "call in" this planning application and deal with it at national level. SSE has consistently argued that it is unrealistic to expect UDC to be able to deal properly with a planning application of this scale, complexity and importance. The planning application file consists of 2,352 documents amounting to 12,000 – 15,000 pages.

SSE's concerns have proved well founded, not least because it has now emerged that the Chairman of UDC Planning Committee, whose additional casting vote resulted in the application being approved, did not even realise that it would lead to an extra 25,180 flights a year, compared to refusing the application. He had believed that approving the application would make no difference to the number of flights! There is now evidence that other Planning Committee members were under the same misapprehension.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December SSE provided the Secretary of State with a 92-page dossier, containing the evidence and the legal basis for setting aside the decision of the UDC Planning Committee and 'calling in' the airport planning application for examination by a Planning Inspector at a Public Inquiry. The Secretary of State is expected to announce his decision in early 2019 as to whether or not he will agree to this. Meanwhile SSE continues to press ahead with its High Court challenge against the Secretary of State for Transport, which is based on the same underlying issue, namely, whether the current airport planning application should be determined nationally or locally. The battle over the current airport planning application is still far from over.

*Brian Ross ~ SSE Deputy Chairman*

## The Light Fantastic

Another picture illustrating the fantastic Birchanger village 'light show'. Well done to all those that made the effort to brighten up our cold dark December evenings.



At the beginning of December, Birchanger Butterflies Pre-School Committee, organised a successful Christmas Fair raising over £400. Thank you to everyone that supported the event. The funds raised will be used to purchase new resources.

We have had a very busy half term and at Forest School, the children have been taught the Forest School rules. A part of the rules cover the safety, care and attention they need to know when around open fires, consequently we have been able to light a fire in order to heat marshmallows and toast crumpets. The children also bored holes (with a manual drill) in order to make Christmas decorations that were sold at our fair. We also went on a trip to Audley End and rode on the miniature train after which the children met with Santa and received a gift.



The term finished with a Christmas party where the children sang some Christmas songs for their parents and grandparents. Many thanks go to Birchanger Primary School for allowing us to use the school hall.

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. *Karen Reilly ~ Pre-school Manager*

## Family prize bingo night success *by Pam Lee*

What a great night that was, "when are you holding another one"? That's what people said to me when they came to the village hall on the 8th December. It was such a fun event where everyone, adults and children, could join in and there were some lovely prizes on offer. I thank everyone for their support and confirm we will hold another bingo night similar to this sometime soon.

Without the kind help of volunteers, events like this are simply not possible. I am therefore really grateful to Sue and Rosemary who prepared supper for us, Christine who served the drinks, not forgetting Evan and Elaine who organised an impromptu raffle.

## Village Church Hall Manager Wanted

An exciting opportunity has opened in the village for the position of Volunteer Church Hall manager. 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. For more information and the honorarium payable please contact Elaine Wright:

By phone on 01279813474

By e-mail at [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com).



# Birchanger in danger of losing bus route!

By Councillor Ray Gooding

Lots of people have complained to me that over the past year bus services in Birchanger have been badly disrupted and the 7/7A service that comes through the village has been cancelled for long periods because of road works. This has been particularly bad more recently as a result of the Gigaclear installation of fibre broadband services along the length of Birchanger Lane.



The bus has two busy services during the day and that is the morning and afternoon ones that take children from Elsenham and Stansted to and from schools in B i s h o p s

Stortford. For the remainder of the day the number of users falls off considerably and often the bus trundles through the village with only a small number of passengers. Because of that the route teeters on the edge of viability. £5.00 per passenger journey is the maximum level of support that Essex County Council will provide and the 7/7A is currently at £4.98. However, for the people in the village who rely on the bus to get into town this service is an essential lifeline that we cannot afford to lose.

The usual mantra from Essex County Council is “use it or lose it” but that is rather difficult if road works and congestion constantly disrupt the route. So, in conjunction with the Parish Council, I am asking whether it is time to take matters into our own hands. There are a number of options that are worthy of consideration and these include: a service devolved to the Parish/Community to run, the Uttlesford Community Transport service and Dial a Ride to mention a few. Parishes in other areas have successfully operated bespoke Shopper Services. There are inevitably complications and legal difficulties associated with establishing these services particularly if people want to use their concessionary fares but I would like to hear from you with thoughts on what would be the level of service you would want to see.

Please contact me by email at: [ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk)

Or drop a note through my door to:  
Ray Gooding,  
260 Birchanger Lane,

Essex County Council, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Passenger Transport

## Church Warden retiring

For those of you who know our churchwarden Peter Odrich will know he has been a Church Warden for many, many years. He has recently announced to the congregation that he will be retiring his role at the end of March; however he will continue in his role of ‘Sides Person’ and will take services as usual. The Parochial Church Council wish Peter happiness in his retirement and thank him for all his commitment over the many years.

## St. Mary's Church broken into

Thieves broke into St. Mary's church during the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> December, smashing an expensive window, stealing £500 in cash and removing valuable church artefacts that are worth considerably more.

It seems that the perpetrators planned the raid in advance using local knowledge and information. They first made their way to St. Johns Church in Stansted and gained entry by smashing in the hall doors. They removed keys from a locked container that was in a locked desk and then went on to St. Mary's Church in Birchanger. They were obviously after the keys because they didn't take any other items from St. Johns. The police believe the thieves may have been on bikes or mopeds and rode through Digby Wood on their way to Birchanger.

The raid probably took place just before daylight after the rain had stopped. Apart from the keys for St. Mary's, they threw all the other stolen keys away on a footpath on their way to Birchanger. The thieves seemed to know where to find the money and that the cash was in the safe, which was due to be banked on the Monday. They took £500 in cash, and some change which was kept in a clear Tupperware lunch box with a white lid, measuring approximately 6" x 4" x 2". They also stole a silver chalice and flagon dating from 1846 (shown below) together with a silver communion campaign set. Why the thieves smashed the glass window when they had the keys remains a mystery?



Although the thieves were thought to have worn gloves, it is possible that forensic evidence collected could identify the robbers.

A spokesperson from the church said “they were devastated and saddened that this has happened, especially during the run up to Christmas, a time of peace and goodwill. Needless to say, the keys are now safely kept in a secure place off the premises”.

If anyone noticed something unusual on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> or early morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> December, or has found the Tupperware box, or has any information about the crime, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, please contact Essex Police by calling 101. Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

## Church Donation Appeal

Due to the recent break in at the church, an appeal has been organised to raise funds to replace the loss of cash and artefacts stolen. If anyone would like to make a donation they can transfer the donation through their bank to:

Birchanger Parochial Church Council  
Sort code 20-36-98, Account 50160024

Alternatively they can contact the church by email at [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)



## The Hundred Parishes Society

Today there is much we take for granted that our ancestors would not have done, for example the availability of fresh running water. In 1786 it was recorded that during an attempt to reposition a Dunmow water pump "The gentlemen of the mob classes were determined it should not be moved, a great mob got together and a great riot ensued." The riot led to 12 people being imprisoned in Chelmsford Gaol. Throughout the Hundred Parishes there are numerous surviving examples of water pumps that once served a small local community. Many are listed:



In Ugley Green, beside a large puddingstone, stands a village pump that dates from around 1800 AD.

Westmill village in Hertfordshire has a pump dating from about 1900. It stands on the village green and carries the inscription "Traverse the desert and then you can tell what treasure exists in the cool deep well." This is an extract from a poem, 'Water', by Eliza Cook.

The communal village pump at Pump Green, High Easter has been sensitively renovated, having been in use until the 1930s. It stands in the shade of a lime tree planted to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1910.



A 19th-century pump stands in the road in the centre of Hunsdon's conservation area in front of 16th-century Pump House.

To commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 the village pump was erected in Little Dunmow. It is now listed and is a fine example of Victorian design.



Thaxted and Great Dunmow have similar, rather grand, 19th-century pumps in prominent positions. I have mentioned just a few of the many and varied examples. There are plenty more to be 'spotted' around our beautiful area, some in obvious public locations and others in private gardens.  
[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)  
- Ken McDonald, Secretary

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### New Year's greetings from our Gardens team!

We are looking forward now to the new season. The snowdrops are showing and as ever we are keeping our fingers firmly crossed for appropriately cold weather, so that they don't flower too soon!! So, put our snowdrop open days into your diaries: 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Over the autumn we have been busy planting to add to the range of colours through the seasons and we will do more in the spring too. We have also been working through our plans for further restoration projects in the Gardens.



First up will be restoration of the one functioning set of steps into the Italian Garden. This project is being funded by Land Sec, which should be completed by the start of the full season in April. Other projects will follow, so watch this space!

As regular readers will know, the gardens thrive through the sterling work of our volunteers: gardeners, carpenters, bakers, open day assistants, all overseen by our dedicated Trustees. If your new year's resolution is to get out more, why not consider joining us?

You can find information about volunteering on our website; [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) or you can wait till the weather improves and come along to our 'New Volunteers Day' arranged for Thursday March 14.

*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 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



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



### Forthcoming Fundraising Events

**Tearoom:** Every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
**Coffee Morning:** 12<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am held at Moorswood

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

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

6th Jan 11:15 am Epiphany, Mattins service  
13th Jan 11:15 am Baptism of Christ, Holy Communion service  
20th Jan 11:15 am Family service  
27th Jan 11:15 am Holy Communion

### Church News

#### The Feast of the Epiphany

Is celebrated on January 6th. This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah.

The word Epiphany can mean many things such as the ah ha moment when you finally realise the plot in the book you're reading. It could mean that you suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you. It could also mean a moment of sudden and great revelation. When the wise men saw baby Jesus they worshipped him and suddenly realised what they had seen: hope, love and peace.

#### Coffee morning success

The coffee morning on the 11th December was a huge success. Those attending were treated to mince pies and festive music and raised £130 towards church funds. Thanks to Elizabeth and Pim Godwin for their continued support and wonderful hospitality. The next one will be on the 12th February 2019 at 10:30am.

#### A Prayer for the New Year by Edgar A Guest

Dear Lord,

Grant me the strength from day to day  
To bear what burdens come my way.  
Grant me throughout this bright New Year  
More to endure and less to fear.  
Help me live that I may be  
From spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain  
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,  
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage  
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.  
Lord, as the days shall come and go  
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today  
Help me to put my faults away.  
Let me be big in little things;  
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.  
Keep me from selfishness and spite;  
Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I  
May bring no tear to any eye.  
When this New Year in time shall end  
Let it be said I've played the friend,  
Have lived and loved and laboured here,  
And made of it a happy year.

Amen

Elaine Wright 01279 813474  
stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

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**Village Church Hall**



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

**Nights**

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**Birchanger on Wednesday Nights**  
 Birchanger Village Hall  
 209 Birchanger Lane  
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**Happy New Year!**  
**2019**



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**Treasurer:** Ken Wheatley.