



Birchanger Village Magazine

February 2019

Issue 193



From 'Race for Life'..... To the 'London Marathon'

You may remember that two plucky girls, Katie Martin and Claire Jones, ran the Tesco Cancer Research 10k Race for Life in 2014 to raise money for the charity. Well now they have set their sights for something even higher. They have been accepted to run the London Marathon and that is a colossal 26.2 miles long! Both of the girls are delighted to be in the marathon but are just a little bit nervous about what lies ahead. So what has encouraged these two local heroes to take on such a task? Having experienced close family losses in recent years, Katie & Claire are running for two different but equally worthwhile charities which are close to their hearts. Katie is running for the Stroke Association and Claire for Cancer Research.

Katie and Claire will take part in the 2019 Virgin Money London Marathon on Sunday 28th April 2019 and are in need of some help and support in raising funds for the charities.



If you see them out and about running (or perhaps hanging on a lamppost gasping for breath), give them a wave or a beep, it will just make their training miles seem a little bit easier. However, if you would really like to help them achieve their goals why not sponsor them. If you would like to make a donation for two good causes then please follow the links below. No amount will be too big or too small, everything counts and you will have the eternal thanks of two brave girls.

Katie will be running in support of the Stroke Association
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rememberingrobbie2>

Claire will be running in support of Cancer Research
<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/claures-london-marathon-2>

St. Mary's Church Broken Into Again!



Early morning of the 27th December thieves broke into St. Mary's Church for the second time within a few weeks! The lead window in the vestry was smashed and the boarded window from the previous raid was jemmied open to gain entry. Even though there was nothing of value to take, the imbeciles left the church in an awful state, books and papers were strewn all over the floor. They also tried to prise off the lead on the font but didn't succeed. The police were called and a forensic team attended. Evidently, St. John's church office in Stansted was also broken into again around the same time. The church was eventually cleaned and boarded up a second time. If you have any information, no matter how small, please call Essex Police on 101 or report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800555111.

On the 22nd December the church was informed that a local resident had found the money boxes missing from the church from the first robbery. They saw a person acting suspiciously near where they lived and went to investigate what was going on. They found the money boxes, minus the contents. The police were informed and the boxes were retained as evidence. A description of the individual was given to the police.

The church is pursuing a claim through their insurers and awaits the outcome. In the meantime, St. Mary's would like to thank those who have made donations to help the church with this awful situation. If you would like more information or would like to help the church by donating something, please contact Elaine Wright by email at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Are you in need of funding?

In these days of austerity, it is useful to know that there are organisations around that can help support local needs. Do you need a donation for a special project or funding for new equipment? If so the following may be of interest to you.

The Stansted Airport Community Trust

The Trust awards capital grants of up to £2,000 to a wide variety of organisations within a ten mile radius of Stansted Airport. Last year, the Trust awarded provisional grants of £67,625 to 31 organisations. Projects ranged from woodturning equipment to toys for mums and toddler groups, the repair of church bells and a village hall floor replacement. A grant of £2000 was awarded to the animal rescue centre, Mutts in Distress, towards the conversion of a building into a hospital to help sick and injured animals.

The fund is due to close on the 15th February 2019 so if you believe that your organisation (this could be a church, village hall, sports club, playgroup or similar) could benefit from some capital funding to help with a project you have in mind, please contact SACT, PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX or email cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk or call 01245 231250 for an application form or advice. The Trust does not fund projects for parish councils or individuals and does not grant money for completed projects.

Stansted Airport Community Funding

Another opportunity for funding comes from The Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund which donates money to local causes within a 20-mile radius of the airport. The money donated by the committee is raised from the unwanted foreign currency of passengers and staff, which is collected in the terminal. Consideration is given to requests from sports clubs, pre-schools and nurseries, junior sports clubs, Brownies, Guides, clubs, and other local charities. For further information and to request an application form, email Sandra_king@stanstedAirport.com.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

The Big Christmas Light Fail

I have just seen a copy of the village magazine online where it shows some wonderful Christmas light displays. It also mentions my husband John winning the light competition. Unfortunately, it states that the winning house display address as 298 Birchanger Lane. However, as far as I am aware there is no number 298 in the lane. The correct address is 284 Birchanger Lane. Just thought I would draw your attention to this.

Julie Clark

Ed's Reply

Dear Julie, Sincere apologies to you and John for this error and the fact that I could not obtain a photo of your light display before the magazine publishing deadline. Congratulations for winning the competition and I am now pleased to publish your photo.



Dear Ed

Following the glowing comments from Elizabeth Godwin in the December issue under 'Somewhere different for lunch', Ray and I visited The Little Seafood Bar at Hatfield Heath and had a lovely seafood platter each, both different but cooked to perfection. On the strength of this we ordered a fresh seafood platter plus beautiful oysters for Christmas Eve which we collected on the day. I urge anyone with the penchant to enjoy such delights to pay a visit. Booking is essential if a large gathering. The telephone number for booking is 07873 332774. *Cathy Gooding*

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchanger/

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Birchanger to Have a Resident District Councillor Again?

Nobody stood for Birchanger in the last district council elections. Birchanger is now part of the Stansted South Ward and two district councillors are elected to that ward. Both current incumbents are to retire and Birchanger resident, Geof Driscoll, is to stand as one of the prospective candidates.

There is room for another one. Interested? Talk to me, I can tell you exactly what being a district councillor means. I never regretted my time as a councillor, I met many different people and did things I would never otherwise have had the opportunity to do. You would also be helping your local community.

Have your say on revised local 'Sustainability Appraisal'

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is inviting the public to comment on a revised sustainability appraisal to the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan. A sustainability appraisal is a tool to assess the extent to which the local plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. The appraisal has been updated following a review of the Regulation 19 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal. You can make your comments directly on the UDC's online consultation portal where you can read the appraisal and make comments. The closing date for comments is 5pm on Monday 25th February 2019.

Successful Art Show Brings Benefits

The 2018 Art Show left a legacy for Birchanger individuals and groups with special projects to apply for funding from the Art Show profits. The show is run for Birchanger and any money raised is reserved for residents in a venture they want to complete or a project which would benefit them or others in some way. If you would like to apply for funding, please call me on 812793 to discuss what you would like to do and how much you need for your project.

Coffee Morning 12th February

It may be bleak and horrible outside, but there will be coffee at Moorswood as usual on Tuesday February 12th between 10.30 and noon. Everyone is welcome. Come and see for yourselves.

Stop Unwanted Junk Mail

The amount of junk mail which goes from door mat to bin must result in at least one forest being cut down unnecessarily every year. You can stop this by registering for the Mail Preference Service on line, or you could ask for the free no junk mail sticker at wastemanagement@essex.gov.uk or calling 0345 6037625.

We Are All Responsible For Our Unwanted Items

Despite the difficulties we have experienced going without any refuse collections during the Christmas week and the reduced, late collection the following week, we are still responsible for the correct disposal of any rubbish on our premises. Some people have been somewhat surprised to be told that they have been identified as fly tippers. They were under the impression that the person they paid to take away their rubbish was registered with the Environmental Agency. However, the cowboys who dumped your items on a verge somewhere were not registered and acted illegally. The council has identified you as the owner of these items.

Now here's the thing, we are all responsible for our unwanted items and when disposing of them using a waste contractor we need to be sure the contractors are the real thing. If they are, they will have a waste carriers number and certificate from the Environment Agency. You also need to ask for a transfer notice or receipt before parting with your goods. As a precaution, take their vehicle registration number. If you use an unregistered contractor your waste disposal will become even more expensive than you thought. Even though you did not do the dumping, you are legally responsible for the rubbish and will be heavily fined. Note some charities collect heavy reusable items free of charge.

Do You Have Questions for Uttlesford District Council?

It would be easier to ask who does not. But the council are asking us to voice our opinions and are prepared to listen over coffee when they visit Stansted on Saturday 15th March from 10.30 am. The idea is for people to join the council officers at the Yeoman's Cafe in Stansted and discuss with them their concerns, issues, or ideas in a relaxed and informal setting.

Many residents have issues they never talk about but should or have bright ideas which never see the light of day. There will be those with unanswered questions and concerns who would far rather talk to someone informally than speak to a voice on the phone or face and a long wait at the council offices. The occasion is designed to be relaxed and to give people a chance to tell someone from the council just what is really bothering them. This is a new way of talking to the public and for council officers to engage with the ratepayers who have concerns but rarely voice their opinions.

Free Weight Loss Advice

You can join the free weight loss programme at the Romeera Centre in Stansted. You get weighed every Tuesday between 11.30 and 12.30 and you can pick up some free advice on a suggested exercise program.

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 27th February AGM (members only)

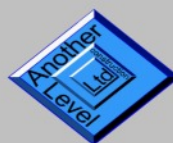
Wednesday 27th March 2019 7.30 for 8.00 pm

New members welcome

Angie-817376

Telephone for details
Rosemary-814678

Barbara-813007



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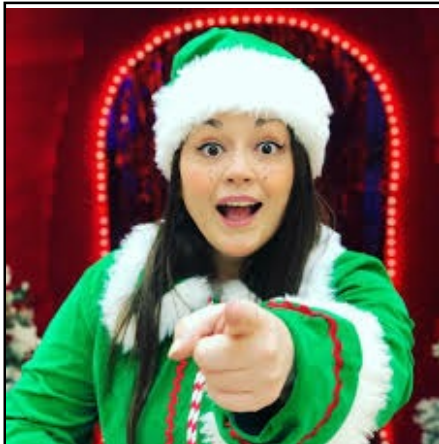
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Dealing with Doorstep Callers

It is a sad fact that not all doorstep callers are our friends. Some of them are just the reverse and their only intent is to relieve you of as much of your money as they can. They will try to have you running to the bank for large sums of cash in no time at all if you let them and this has happened very close to home. Some will ask you to pay upfront in cash for the work which they say they will do, but having paid upfront the work is not done and you never see them again. If you do decide to employ someone you do not know, show them exactly what you want done, agree a price and get a written quote. Inspect the work before you hand over any money. The best way of all is never to employ these doorstep callers, no matter how charming they seem but use somebody who is registered as an approved trader at the Buy with Confidence website, or one of the many trusted small businesses in Birchanger.

How Are You Coping With Winter?

A great many of us find that the middle of winter is a very difficult time. Even on mild days our homes may not feel warm enough. It is recommended that thermostats should be set at a minimum of 18 Centigrade (65F Fahrenheit) or above. Some fuel suppliers also offer help with free loft insulation. Alternatively, it is time to remember our old warm clothing especially if you are over the retirement threshold. It may be that you are managing very well, but an elderly neighbour could be struggling. A quick daily call can be a life saver.



WE NEED YOU! For The Birchanger Pantomime

Calling all actors, writers, carpenters, painters, costume designers and anyone else that may be

interested in helping to produce a village pantomime this year.

We already have a small number of people keen to make this happen and we are looking for quite a few more. If you are interested in joining us we are going to have a brief meeting on Tuesday 19th February at 8.00pm in the social club to see how much support we can get. Please come along and let's see if we can make this happen for 2019!

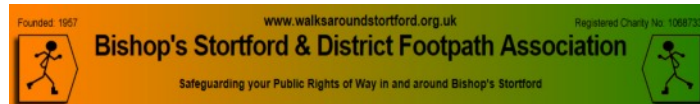
For further details, call Evan Hill on 07751628678 or email: evanhill@hotmail.co.uk



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We have our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th March at 7.45pm in the New Apton Centre in Bishops Stortford. local walker and author, Phoebe Taplin will provide a super insight into the area around our base town and the greater beyond. All are welcome so do come along - no charge!

Thank you so much for your kind responses to my last article in respect of the Aubrey Buxton south-side field path and for the need to improve the footpaths from the River Stort to Stansted Brook at the Trout Bridge/B1383, together with lack of public footway along Gypsy Lane. Please keep them coming.

Sunday Walks: Departing at 10.00am - 5/6 miles

10th Feb. 10am Albury Village Hall. (fm BS/LHadham Left at Clapgate) GR: TL441248. SG11 2JD.

24th Feb. 10am Hatfield Heath-CPk Behind the Chippy GR: TL524150. CM22 7EB.

10th Mar. 10am Thremhall Park (Bury Lodge Lane) GR: TL532214. CM22 7WE.

24th Mar. 10am Green Tye (Roadside next to Price of Wales PH) GR: TL444184. SG10 6JP.

The Footpath Association continues to represent walkers and cyclists in respect of existing public right of way (PROW) and improving our many local PROWs, particularly for the health and safety of users, as housing developments and the resulting increase in motor vehicles become more prevalent in Stortford North, Stortford South and the peripheral developments. Recently we have come across builders tips at Elms Farm Stansted, and the destruction of protected verges in Stansted. PROWs are what the words say 'public right of way' over which the public may freely pass. Please let us know of any problems you find during your walks.



(Photograph - Courtesy of Prince) Daphne Wallace-Jarvis,
Publicity Officer: Email: dwwjwj.444@gmail.com. Website:
www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

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Local News

Once again St. Mary's Church was broken into over the Christmas holidays causing damage to another window and causing a mess inside the church. This was the second time within a month! Articles of furniture were found dumped in Tot Lane illegally. Two car number plates were removed in Birchanger Lane during January. One of the plates missing is

V6 PTH. If you have any information on any of these events, please call Essex police on 101.

Home fire safety

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service recommends that all floors in your home are fitted with a suitable smoke alarm. The alarms should be tested weekly and batteries changed when necessary. The Fire and Rescue Service offer free home inspection and will supply smoke alarms free of charge. If you or someone you know (perhaps an elderly, lonely, or infirm person) would benefit from a visit please call 0300 303 0088. Alternatively, go to the website www.essx-fire.gov.uk and apply by email.

TV Licence scam

Action Fraud has received more than 5,000 reports about fake emails and texts purporting to be from TV Licensing. The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information. Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information in case it's a scam. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text. For more information about how to stay safe online, visit cyberaware.gov.uk

HM Revenue and Customs Alert

Action Fraud has experienced an increase in the reporting of malicious calls, voicemails, text messages or emails to members of the public purporting to be from HMRC. The fraudsters state that as a result of their non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable to prosecution or other legal proceedings such as repossession of belongings to settle the balance but can avoid this by arranging for payment to be made immediately by methods such as bank transfer or by iTunes gift cards. If the victim is hesitant or refuses to comply, the suspect makes a threat such as immediate arrest, bailiffs or, in cases where the victim appears to be of overseas origin, deportation. Often, the period for which the tax is allegedly due is distant enough to guarantee the victim will have little, if any, paperwork or ability to verify the claims. Once the money is paid the suspects sever all contact. It is vital that the public exercise caution when receiving messages or telephone calls of this nature.

What you need to do

You must always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information. Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and contact details), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Instead, contact the company directly using trusted methods such as a known email address or phone number. Listen to your instincts. If something feels wrong then it is usually right to question it. No genuine organisation will ask you to pay taxes, bills or fees using iTunes Gift Cards, or any other type of voucher. Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision. Under no circumstances would a genuine bank or some other trusted organisation force you to make a financial transaction on the spot. Report phishing attempts. If you receive a call, text or email of this nature and have not lost money, report this as a phishing attempt to Action Fraud or call 101.

Health Matters

Working for a Voluntary Organisation Benefits Your Health

Many of us feel better just by getting out and about, even walking the dog we can meet people but not everyone has, or wants to have a dog. There are other ways to get out and have a purpose in doing so. There are a great many charities and voluntary organisations who are short of volunteers and would appreciate your help. Some very close at hand. It does not have to be an organisation. Friends or people you know of may be housebound and would appreciate help with shopping, getting library books, or just a little company. A recent study at Harvard University discovered that those who helped others or were volunteers or charity workers were 42 per cent more likely to be happier and lead more active lives than those who don't. Happiness is proven to be important for good health. There are so many people out there who could benefit from you, and it seems, you will benefit too.

Cunning Way to Kill Cancer?

British Scientists have long been at the forefront of cancer research. They are coming up with many different ways of killing the cancer one of which is by using viruses to destroy not only the cancer cells, but also the healthy cells around the cancer which we now know are unwittingly protecting it. This new therapy will be used in difficult to treat cancers which do not respond to conventional therapies. It is already being used with success in clinical trials. Hopefully when our great grandchildren are born, cancer, like Polio in the 50's, will be one of the diseases we have managed to eliminate, or at least make it more easily treated than it is now. Research down different pathways is producing promising results all over the world.

Don't Be Fooled Just Because You Are Slim

Most of us have a lot of fat in our diet these days even though we know it is bad for us and mainly try to reduce our consumption. We think we can spot those at risk of heart disease and diabetes, but recent research may be about to prove us wrong. We are always going to be different from each other, mainly due to our genes.

Slim people surprisingly do not have a magic method of fat disposal, they just store fat differently, namely around their hearts, livers and other internal organs. They are storing fat, but not necessarily in an obvious way. It is this way of storing fat which makes them more likely to develop diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. In other words, even thin people need to control their fat consumption!

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What's on in the village...

		February 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 first Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.						
<div> <p>Note!</p> <p>Garden Bins are now collected on the same day as black bins.</p> <p>Lost Watch found on the corner of Birchanger Lane and High View. Please contact Mr Ellis on 01279 814483 or collect from 44 Birchanger Lane.</p> </div>				1 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest	2 BSSC: 13.00 Meat Draw 21.00 Cadence - LIVE	3 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins (Presentation of Christ)
4 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	5 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 20.00 Parish Council Meeting. All are welcome	6 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	7 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	8 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC:	9 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	10 St Mary's Church: 10.45 Holy Communion
11 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	12 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors. Moorswood: 10.30 Coffee Morning	13 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	14 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	15 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest	16 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 19.00 Comedy Night - Only Fools & 3 Courses	17 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family service Easton Lodge: 11.30 Open Day
18 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	19 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors BSSC: 20.00 Pantomime meeting	20 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for beginners	21 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	22 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC:	23 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Katie's Charity Quiz	24 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Easton Lodge: 11.30 Open Day
25 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	26 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	27 Church Hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio - 19.00 for beginners 19.30 BAGS-AGM	28 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	<div> <p>Family Prize Bingo Evening</p> <p>Saturday 13th April at 19.30 at the village church hall in aid of the church fund. For tickets please contact Pam Lee on 07702171744</p> </div>		

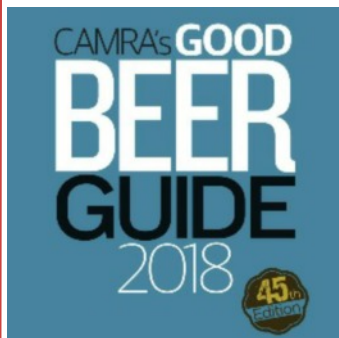


BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

Sports & Social Club News



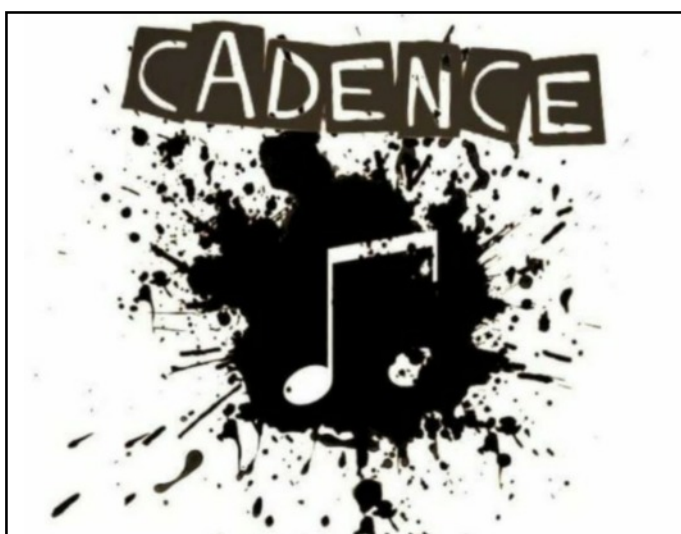
Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool - Football - Cricket - Bowls



Treasure Chest
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Friday 1st & 15th Feb.



Don't forget to renew your membership!



Saturday 2nd February

Don't miss the opportunity to see this popular
4 piece Essex covers band with singer Michelle



Saturday 16th February

Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday Feb. 1 st	Evening Treasure Chest
Saturday Feb. 2 nd	9.00 pm Cadence LIVE
Friday Feb. 15 th	Evening Treasure Chest
Saturday Feb. 16 th	7.00 pm Comedy Dining Night – 'Only Fools and 3 Courses'
Saturday Feb. 23 rd	8.00 pm Katie's Charity Quiz Night
Sunday Mar. 31 st	8.00 pm EGM - Approval of 2017/18 accounts

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
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

Birchanger Primary School



Birchanger writing is top of the class!

Over the last four years at Birchanger School we have worked hard to improve the quality of teaching and learning in writing for all children. We have had a huge success in phonics over the last two years with 100% of children in year 1 passing their phonics screening test. Structured and focused sessions in Key Stage One has meant that children are secure in reading and writing by using their phonics knowledge. Children can apply this knowledge to spellings before they begin learning new spelling rules and patterns in Key Stage Two. We were delighted when we received a letter from Nick Gibb, who is an MP from the Minister of State for School Standards, explaining that we were in the top 3% of all primary schools exceeding across the country. Brilliant news!



We have also introduced a new handwriting style since September 2018. This new style is cursive which enables the children to join their writing more easily and build up 'writing stamina' for their writing tasks. Although it is new and different, the children at Birchanger C of E Primary School have not let us down and many of the parents who came to our open classroom last term commented on the improvement of handwriting in books.



A lot of hard work has gone into this to try and improve our handwriting standards. When children consistently produce beautiful handwriting they are awarded a pen licence which improves the standard of writing even more!



During this term our topic will be called Funny Bones and it will be focusing around science although we shall still be making the most out of every writing experience! We shall look forward to seeing writing about the body and skeletons all over our school as the children show their commitment to excellence in their work.

Claire Berry, Headteacher

Untimely death of ex-Birchanger man in M11 collision

Following the report in January by Essex Police that a 63 year old motorcyclist from Dunmow died at the scene after being involved in a fatal collision on the south bound M11 carriageway between junctions 8 and 6, it has come to light that the motorcyclist who died was in fact Steve Lord who had earlier lived in Harrisons, Birchanger.

A 37-year-old man from Harlow was arrested shortly after the collision, on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at the scene of an accident and driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs. At the time of going to print he has been remanded on bail.

Police are looking for a Ford Focus that was driving in the area of Stansted Airport on the 17th January, on the A120 and the M11 between Birchanger and Harlow, or on the A414 in the direction of Harlow between the times of 4.40am and 5.15am.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Steve's wife and family.



Waiting game on airport expansion

At the time of going to press, a decision is still awaited from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, as to whether the planning approval granted by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) last November for further expansion at Stansted Airport should be allowed to stand.

SSE has submitted a 92-page dossier to James Brokenshire, arguing for the UDC decision to be declared null and void and for the airport planning application to be looked at afresh at a Public Inquiry.

Meanwhile the High Court judge (Mr Justice Dove), who is dealing with SSE's legal challenge against Transport Secretary Chris Grayling on the same underlying issue, has agreed to SSE's request to defer setting a date for the case hearing until James Brokenshire has made his decision. The case had previously been scheduled for a two-day hearing in the High Court on 19th and 20th February.

Barristers acting for Manchester Airports Group (MAG), the owners of Stansted Airport, strongly objected to SSE's request for a deferral but Mr Justice Dove agreed with SSE's position that it made sense to wait for James Brokenshire's decision before setting a date for the hearing. There may not even be a need for a High Court hearing because, if James Brokenshire decides that the UDC decision should be set aside and the planning application looked at afresh at a Public Inquiry, SSE will have no need to proceed with its current legal challenge. On the other hand, if James Brokenshire allows the UDC decision to stand, the likelihood is that SSE will seek permission from the High Court to extend its legal challenge to include both Secretaries of State. There would also be the possibility of including UDC in the action.

UDC itself now appears to accept that mistakes were made in the handling of the planning application. The Council's Scrutiny Committee has agreed to commission an independent investigation to look at all aspects of UDC's handling of the application to identify what lessons can be learned. Addressing the Scrutiny Committee, SSE Deputy Chairman Brian Ross underlined the importance of having a genuinely independent and thorough investigation and emphasised that it should not only look to identify "best practice" (as was being suggested as its main purpose) but also any malpractice.

Brian Ross ~ SSE Deputy Chairman



If the weather is suitable, we hope to carry out coppicing in the near future. Birchanger Wood predominantly comprises of hornbeams. Coppicing is the process of cutting trees down which over a number of years allows the stumps to regenerate, taking some 7 or more years. It is usually carried out on the bushy smaller trees like Hornbeam, Hazel and Hawthorn etc. However, it may also be applied to other deciduous tree species, including Oak, Maple, Sweet Chestnut, Willow, Lime and Ash. Coppiced trees regenerate from the cut stump, producing many new shoots, rather than a single main stem.

Coppicing is a form of woodland management that has shaped woodlands for hundreds of years. Trees are cut down leaving a stump about one foot high allowing new shoots to grow from the stump and extend the life of the coppiced trees indefinitely. Reasons for coppicing have changed over the years. In the past trees were coppiced for fire wood, charcoal, bean poles, weaving and pea sticks. Nowadays timber production is combined with management for conservation.

Today, the most important reason is the benefit it provides for wildlife. Rotational coppicing maintains a small-scale structural diversity, with a constantly changing pattern of cut-over areas, scrub thickets and open areas. Newly opened areas allow sun and rain into the floor of the woodland, and this stimulates dormant seeds into life which then cover the woodland floor, attracting insects, butterflies, moths and beetles. These in turn become food for birds and bats. After some 3-5 years, shoots of the coppiced stools grow, and brambles and bracken take over from the herbaceous plants.



If left undisturbed longer than say 5-15 years, coppiced areas become thick impenetrable havens for larger mammals, foxes, stoats and weasels which can forage without being chased by dogs. It is also superb for small nesting birds such as warblers,

dunnocks and wrens. In this time, hornbeam coppice shoots will have reached up to 20-30 feet and out shade all else. The long close growing branches make excellent nests for blackbirds and thrushes and if left will be ready for coppicing again after 20 years.

Photograph by Peter Sherlock

*Daphne Wallace-Jarvis secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org
www.birchangerwoodtrust.org*

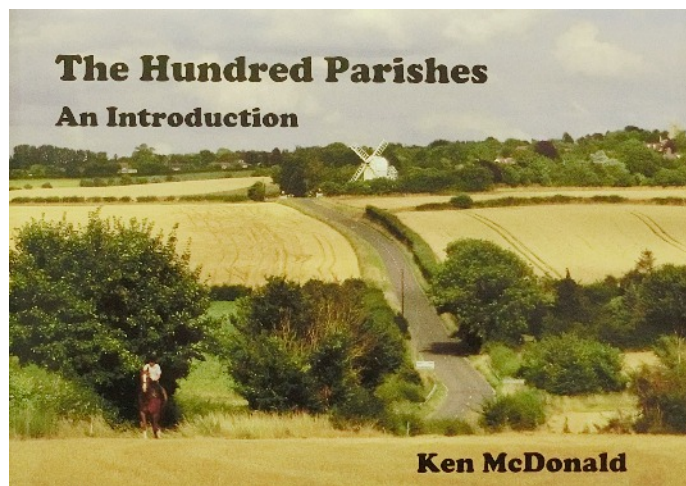


The Hundred Parishes Society

We have been sending monthly articles to magazine editors for more than four years now and thought it might be a good idea to provide a reminder of the Society's aims and activities. The Hundred Parishes Society is a registered charity, run entirely by volunteers and was launched in 2014. A full explanation of the organisation's objectives is given on its website. Put briefly, it exists to increase awareness, enjoyment and care of the Hundred Parishes, an area that is characterised by its rich and diverse heritage.

The area covered is approximately 450 square miles and incorporates 104 parishes in northeast Hertfordshire, northwest Essex and southern Cambridgeshire. It includes 6,700 listed buildings which is more than any of the country's National Parks despite it being one of the smaller areas. It is also worth pointing out that the three districts in the UK with the greatest concentration of pre-1700 listed buildings are Uttlesford, Braintree and East Hertfordshire.

Running the organisation is the responsibility of a small group of trustees who meet about every two months. At the present time we would welcome an extra trustee, particularly one from Hertfordshire. We now have 120 members paying a minimum annual subscription of £10: a mixture of individuals and households, parish councils and other local organisations. Our main activities revolve around the spreading of information through leaflets, the website, regular magazine articles, member emails and occasional talks. The website has details of 20 interesting walks, each starting and ending at a railway station.



In 2018 the Society published 'The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction'. This 400-page quality hardback book contains a brief history of each parish and is lavishly illustrated with almost 1,000 photographs. It can be bought at local Tourist Information Centres. Website:

For further information: www.hundredparishes.org.uk
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Mike Young, Trustee

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

The New Year is now well underway for volunteers at the garden, with a range of restoration and improvement projects in hand. For example, we are continuing to clear the far end of the walled kitchen garden, putting in more raised beds for vegetables. There are many areas of hard standing where once in the distant past stood a number of greenhouses. Who knows, one day we may be able to reconstruct one? In the meantime we plan to make safe the rubbly areas around the good vegetable beds by covering them with grass and maybe include a camomile lawn area. Perhaps one with clover in the grass mix to make a more diverse habitat. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with experience to share of establishing a camomile lawn!

Our clearing continues to unearth more snowdrops where they are not wanted! So as usual we will be selling snowdrops in the green on our 17th and 24th February snowdrop open days. Our gates will be open from 11.30 - 4.00 (last entry 3.00) and we will have hot drinks, soup, bacon rolls and of course home-made cakes. There will also be a plant stall.



The snowdrops are coming up on cue and this year visitors will be able to see our new Maynard stag bed amongst the snowdrops in the kitchen garden! We sell excellent value season tickets – you can see the range of activities planned for our open days on our website (although it is not yet a full programme!). Season tickets are available on the gate or through the website at <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk>
Jill Goldsmith



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Village Services and Activities

Alzheimer	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
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
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	Elaine Wright	01279 813474

St. Mary's Church News



Church services

3 rd Feb 11:15 am	Matins service (Presentation of Christ)
10 th Feb 11:15 am	Holy Communion
17 th Feb 11:15 am	Family service
24 th Feb 11:15 am	Holy Communion

Did you know?

That after Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) comes Ash Wednesday and Lent thereafter starts the 40 day period of fasting and represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. They are all special dates before Easter and in line with tradition people give up something or choose to do something special for Lent. For example some may volunteer to support the local church on a Sunday morning giving out the hymn books, or offer to read a passage from the bible or think about giving an offering to support the daily function of the church, or even their time to help maintain the church.

Whatever gift or skill you have, this time of giving up and giving is regarded as a period of spiritual preparation to grow closer to God. So what will you do this lent? If you would like to know more about the special dates leading up to Easter or would like to offer your services or skills, or if you would like to make a donation to support the St. Mary's church, please contact the Church Warden by email at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Future Events

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 12th February 10:30 – 12md at Moorswood, all are welcome. Any items for sale gladly received, please give me a call or email.

A prayer for Lent

Lord God,
 you who breathed the spirit of life within me.
 Draw out of me the light and life you created.
 Help me to find my way back to you.
 Help me to use my life to reflect your glory
 and to serve others as your son Jesus did.
 Amen.

Elaine Wright - stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



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



Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Wednesday Tearoom: From 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
Family Prize Bingo Evening: 7.00 pm Saturday 13th April.
 For tickets please contact Pam Lee on 07702171744

For hall bookings please contact: Elaine Wright 01279 813474

Village Church Hall Manager Wanted

An exciting opportunity has opened in the village for the position of 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 on 01279813474 or e mail at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

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Village Church Hall



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Nights

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

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Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.