



Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2019

Issue 195



Birchanger 10k and Children's Fun Run is back!

In previous years the 10k run has attracted more than 150 race participants and over 50 children for the fun run, plus a similar number of spectators. After being 'away' for a couple of years, the 10k Race is being brought back to Birchanger with the hope that it will be even bigger and better!

This year's event will take place on the morning of Sunday 12th May and will kick off at 10.00 am in the school grounds. All profits from the event will go to the Birchanger Primary School towards enhancing the children's learning experience, educational visits and a new outdoor classroom.

The run will start and finish in the grounds of the school. It is a two looped multi-terrain course, 6 km out, returning through Birchanger Village for a second loop of 4 km. The children's fun run will start after the final adult has finished. The minimum age for runners in the adult race is 17.



Adults booking before the event will cost £12.50 each. Entries on the day will be charged £15 each.

Children can register on the day at a cost of £5.00 per entry. Under 7's must be accompanied by an adult. There will be winners' trophies and prizes plus a goody bag, including a T-Shirt for all the finishers. There will also be medals and winners' trophies for the children's race. Please note there are no changing facilities, therefore, please arrive ready to run. There's plenty of time to get around the course with lots of people to encourage you on the way!

Come along and support the run by either entering the race, or simply coming along to cheer the runners on, in order to raise funds for such a good cause. It promises to be a fantastic community event for both adults and children alike.

For more information or to enter please logon to: www.entrycentral.com/birchanger10k

Volunteers clean up the village

Laura Chapman of Harrisons was so fed up of the rubbish being left in and around the village that she decided to start a new group of volunteers called the 'Birchanger Pickers'. They already started the big clean up in February and March but could do with some more help.



If you would like to help keep the village clean from rubbish, the Birchanger Pickers meet on the first Sunday of each month at the Village Hall at 12.00 noon.

Litter pickers and hi-vis vests are provided. Laura is awaiting official bags to be provided by the council and a collection point to be finalised but in the meantime, if you are interested in keeping your village clean and free of unsightly trash and wish to join them, please bring a black bin bag with you and Laura will dispose of the bags at the tip afterwards. For more information, contact: Laura Chapman lawschapman@hotmail.co.uk



Don't Overstay at the Services Car Park!

Reports are coming back of enormous fines for those who overstay their welcome at the services car park. Apparently you can stay there long enough to buy a meal and have a rest but after that you have definitely overstayed your welcome. Strangers to the area apparently do not see the warning notices. People who arrange to meet someone at the Services and leave one of the cars there while they go on together to another destination are learning this to their cost when large fines start arriving in the post. It is clear that this is an attempt to block the scourge of airport related car parking and sometimes the car park can get full, but as so many people seem to miss the notices perhaps a little more clarity is needed.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Local Government Elections

Local Government Elections will be taking place in Uttlesford on the 2nd May 2019. The elections are for all 39 seats on Uttlesford District Council, as well as the Town and Parish Councils in the District where seats are being contested.

Parish and town council elections

All seats on parish and town councils in Uttlesford are up for election at the same time as the District Council – so none of the existing parish or town councillors will remain councillors unless they stand again as candidates. Not all of the local councils will end up having an election (strictly called a poll), as this depends on whether there are more candidates for the town or parish council than there are seats on it.

If there is a poll for Birchanger Parish Council, this will be indicated on your poll card and you will be given a separate ballot paper in the polling station, or sent the parish ballot paper as well as the district one if you have a postal vote. Where there are fewer, or the same number of candidates as seats, the candidates elected are those whose names are put forward as validly nominated.

Birchanger needs new Parish Councillors!

Could you be one? The Parish Council elections will be held on Thursday 2nd May. Nominations are for the position of parish councillor must be submitted to Uttlesford District Council **by 4.00 pm 3rd April**. For a nomination pack, please contact the parish clerk: Keith Williams, Telephone: 01279 814473 or email: clerk@birchanger.com.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

Your email address was given to me by one of our members who lives in Birchanger. Our U3A is a non-profit making charity run by volunteers, covering Stansted and the surrounding villages. We have quite a few members who live in Birchanger and we would like to attract more. We were wondering if you would accept monthly articles from us in your magazine? We already provide articles to the Stansted Link, the Manuden & Berden Parish News, the Elsenham parish news and are about to go into the Henham Dragon.

If you are not aware of the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A, which is affiliated to the national organisation The Third Age Trust, we are a group of retired and semi-retired people who come together to continue our educational, social and creative interests. We are all volunteers and we run over 30 interest groups locally on a monthly basis as well as general meetings, trips and holidays and we believe that we provide a valuable service to local older people.

Kind regards, Sally Rich
Acting Vice Chairman, Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
Stanstedu3a@gmail.com

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

Editors' response:

Dear Sally,

Of course we would be happy to include your articles in our publication; your first article with us is published in this month's magazine (page 4).

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's Winter From Hell

Mud, floods and workmen digging everywhere, lane closed and no buses, big badly signed diversions and shoddy work which needed re-doing. That was the winter we have just gone through. Not the best start to 2019.

Will it be better for the rest of the year? Nobody can really answer this with any certainty. We are told that the gas main through the village is nearing the end of its life. Cabling on the side roads may not be complete and then we have the roadworks by Junction 8 to contend with.

On previous occasions when work has been carried out in the lane, at least every effort was made to keep the bus running. Previously, buses turned around on the island by the club. Not the current company. This time the service simply stopped. It left shoppers stranded, reliant on taxis, friends or going without and appointments were missed. Confused delivery drivers failed to turn up as the signage was so appalling. There were no indications of where and when the blockage would end. Strangers went around in circles as both ends of the lane had signs stating 'Road Closed'. This may not have been a regular contractor, but the basic guidelines of traffic direction and management did not exist. Next time anything like this happens in the lane the contractors must learn that we are at the limit of our patience and we must try to get a better deal for Birchanger.

Don't Let Your Bin Get a Yellow Card

If your re-cycle bin gets one of these nasty yellow tickets on it, it will not be emptied until the next collection, and then only if the offending items have been removed. The items should be listed on the back of the ticket; they include cling film, bubble wrap, items made from polystyrene, all shoes and clothing and unwashed containers to name but a few. A full list can be found on line.

Bins should be placed outside the house on collection days. Larger items can be collected by arrangement by calling 01799 510510 but there is a charge for this service. If you would like to join the garden bin service, call the above number. The bin costs £20 and the annual charge is £45 or £35 if you pay online by direct debit.

Birchanger is a No Drone Zone

Sorry guys, you may have spent hours constructing your drone, spent a small fortune getting it fit to fly, but suddenly you are told you can't. Well not in Birchanger anyway.....

After the chaos caused by drones at Gatwick and Heathrow, drones are not allowed to fly within a 5 kilometre exclusion zone around all UK Airports. Birchanger is within this zone. The ban only covers airports for now but could be extended to other areas in the future.

Forget the Resolutions - Chaos Returns

I don't normally hold with New Year's resolutions solely on the grounds that they are lucky to survive the first three days. This year, I did say I would try to de clutter my mind and I find I rather like the effect.

I started to list tasks I had to do. If I ever actually did them it felt great to tick them off. Also I did not have to worry that I had forgotten what I was supposed to be doing. Some say it helps to keep a diary, I would be terrified if anyone was to read what I might put in it, so that is a waste of time. What wasn't a waste of time was arranging set places for all things like keys, phones, handbags and wallets etc., this alone saved a lot of my time every day - once I had remembered to do it. I find it so worthwhile and I actually do remember to do it now. The answer is, only make a resolution that is actually going to be worthwhile for you and that you can keep.

Council Tax Takes Another Bite

Council tax never seems to go down. It may be going up for many different reasons, but the fact is, we still have to find the money from somewhere to pay for services from the Parish District, the County Council, the Fire Service and practically non-existent Police force. However, don't blame our Parish Council; the precept is actually down by 2%. Well, as they say, every little helps!

Youth Housing Group

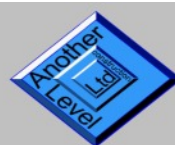
Many young people are forced to live at home as it is simply impossible for them to be able to buy or rent their own property. Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is very aware of this and would like to get to know about young people's needs and ideas which could bring about a solution to this difficult issue. In order to gain a better understanding of what is really happening and how to go forward, UDC have set up the newly formed 'Youth Housing Working Group' and are inviting young people to come and join the group.

To find out more, email: youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk or send a private message on Facebook or Instagram. Your housing needs, ideas and situation are important and need to be heard.

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 24th April 2019 - 7.30 for 8.00 pm
A creative evening with a workshop from 'Molten Wonky'
Join us and have a go at Glass Fusing
Telephone for details
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678



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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A invite new members

Stansted U3A is a non-profit making charity run by volunteers, covering Stansted and the surrounding villages. We are a group of retired and semi-retired people who come together to continue our educational, social and creative interests. We are all volunteers and we run over 30 interest groups locally on a monthly basis as well as general meetings, trips and holidays and we believe that we provide a valuable service to local older people. We have quite a few members who live in Birchanger and we would like to attract more.

This month, we will again welcome Sue Fishpool of Grove Cottage to our Monthly Meeting at 1.30 for 2.00pm on April 18th at St John's Church Hall, Stansted. She will speak about Mencap and the work of Grove Cottage. Membership renewal started at the March meeting but you can also renew it at this meeting. Anyone considering joining U3A will be most welcome. The fee for this year is £15. The tea and biscuits are free.

Interest groups meet regularly for craftwork, languages, art and music, games, book clubs, outdoor activities, fitness, socialising and more. You may have noticed that leaflets listing these groups and giving the contact details of group leaders have started to appear. More detailed information about each group can be found on the "Groups" page of the website or phone the number below.

During April the Philosophy group will discuss the work of Kierkegaard. The Art House Film group will discuss "A Bout de Soufflé" by Jean-Luc Goddard. The Bus Pass group will visit Braintree Town Market and Bocking Gardens. The Art Appreciation Group will visit the National Gallery to view work by Joaquin Sorolla and the Literature Study Group will discuss "The Man in the Wooden Hat" by Jane Gardam. There is a coach trip to Cambridge Arts Theatre to see Tom Stoppard's play "Rough Crossing" and to Saffron Hall to hear the BBC Big Band play the music of Nat King Cole.

There are still places available for the trip to Copped Hall on May 8th and although booking for the September Holiday to West Sussex and Brighton started in February there may still be places left. For more information on visits see "Trips and Events" website page. For further information please visit our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted or call: 07874 385541

Anne White stanstedu3a@gmail.com.



Emma Marks
Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,
Birchanger,
Herts.
CM23 5QF



Hello Everyone,

The Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association (BSDFA) is pursuing a linked safe walk (maybe also a cycle-way) into Bishop's Stortford from Stansted. This includes the public right of way over Stortford North and Stortford South, working on the railway crossing closures, the register of "forgotten footpaths", (finding and collating the proof required for submission to Herts or Essex County Councils for application as public right of ways), the Manuden Road (pedestrian safety) and of course, the Harlow North development. As you can imagine, all this takes some considerable time.

So much to do! Sometimes I feel bad about going out to plan a walk! Anyone who can spare some time to assist me in any of these tasks would be very welcome. Please get in touch by email shown below.



Photograph: 'Kissing Gate' (Sylvia Hayes / Dave Webber)

SUNDAY WALKS: Departing at 10.00am – 5-6 miles

- 14th April** Daisy May Farm, Hall Rd., Elsenham. On Left after the Rt-hand-bend GR:TL541261 P/code;CM22 6DF.
- 28th April** Twyford Lock C/Pk., Pig Lane Bishop's Stortford GR: TL493193. Post code: CM22 7PA.
- 12th May** Clavering Village Hall GR: TL480323. Post code: CB114QS.

Don't forget to check our website as there may be other surprise walks listed.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Publicity Officer:
dwwjwj.444@gmail.com www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

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Tenancy Deposit Scheme Alert

Action Fraud have received several reports where fraudsters are claiming to be landlords of properties offered for rent online. Prior to a viewing the suspect requests that the individuals pay a deposit and sometimes a month's rent upfront, claiming that this

money will be put into the Tenancy Deposit Scheme, and is therefore protected under government legislation.

After the individual pays the money, the suspect sends a bogus email purporting to be from the Tenancy Deposit Scheme confirming they have received their deposit. However, this is not the case as the money was sent directly to an account associated with the suspect and the victim is left out of pocket and without the home they had thought to be putting a deposit on.

What You Need To Do

- Always make sure you, or a reliable contact, has viewed the property with an agent or landlord before agreeing to rent a property.
- Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision. Only transfer funds when you're satisfied a genuine property, safety certificates and valid contract are in place.
- Only pay for goods or service by bank transfer if you know and trust the person. Payments via bank transfer offer you no protection if you become a victim of fraud.
- Once you've paid your deposit, you can check whether it's protected by entering your tenancy deposit certificate code on TDS website (www.tenancydepositscheme.com).

TV Licence Scam

An ongoing TV Licensing phishing campaign, first identified by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in September 2018, continues to be reported to Action Fraud in high numbers. Fraudsters are sending the public fake TV Licensing emails that are designed to steal their personal and financial information. Since April 2018, Action Fraud has received over 900 crime reports with victim losses totalling more than £830,000.

How you can protect yourself:

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic, even if someone knows your basic

details (such as your name or address). Remember, criminals can spoof phone numbers and email addresses to appear as companies you know and trust, such as TV Licensing.

Your bank will never call and ask you for your PIN, full banking password, or ask you to transfer money out of your account.

What to do if you've fallen victim:

Let your bank know as soon as possible and monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity.

If you suspect your identity may have been stolen you can check your credit file quickly and easily online. Use a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk, or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Health Matters

Are You Sure of What You'r Eating?

Confused by food labels? Most of us are. Do we know for certain just what we are eating? It is hard to say for most of us, especially anyone trying to keep to a low calorie diet. We happily buy food which claims to be low fat. This should mean 3 grams of fat per 100 grams of product. We confidently buy this product, but did we check the sugar to see how much was in the product. To make up for the low fat and to make a product taste right, sugar is frequently added. Low sugar actually means less than 5 grams of sugar per 100 grams of product; however the no added sugar claim fails to tell you just how much sugar was there in the first place.

Less fat means that there is 25% less fat than in other similar products, but fails to tell you in most cases just how much fat you are actually consuming. Butters, other fats, sausages, fruit juices and yoghurt are all prime examples of food confusion. Butter is always high in fat for a start. 5% less fat makes very little difference.

Is Depression All in the Genes?

Bad genes seem to be responsible for an awful lot of ills these days and now they are adding depression to the list. Depression is apparently caused by neurotic and fearful behaviour. This tends to run in families, so the link is there. Aided by ill health and runs of bad luck it is easy to see how things can escalate. Often things can be helped by simple friendship. If a friend is having a particularly bad time, keep an eye on them. Support during the bad time could prevent a lot of trouble later.

Dementia Friendly Uttlesford

The number of those who have been diagnosed with dementia is on the rise, there is an ever pressing need for those with new diagnoses to seek help and to make plans for their futures while they still can. Meanwhile those who are already struggling with this horrible disease need all the help they can get, whether as a sufferer or a carer. Uttlesford District Council has tried to collate information, advice and information about the various people and agencies who are specifically able to help in a new website and which can be accessed through www.dementiafriendlyuttlesford.org.uk. On this website you can not only find useful links to other organisations who offer ideas and support, but you can find out what is actually available for you close to home.

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What's on in the village...

 April Fools'day		April 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.						
1 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	2 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 20.00 Parish Council meeting	3 Church Hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio - 19.00 for beginners	4 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	5 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest	6 BSSC: 13.00 Meat Draw	7 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins Church Hall: 12.00 Birchanger Litter Pickers Volunteers
8 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	9 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	10 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 17.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Apton dance for Beginners	11 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	12 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC:	13 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Celebration Duo - LIVE Church Hall: 19.00 Family Prize Bingo	14 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
15 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	16 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors.	17 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	18 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	19 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest St MarysChurch: 14.00 Easter Fri.	20 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Repertoire Dogs - LIVE	21 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion - Easter Sunday
22 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	23 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	24 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	25 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance - private lessons	26 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC:	27 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	28 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
29 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	30 Church hall: 9.40 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors					

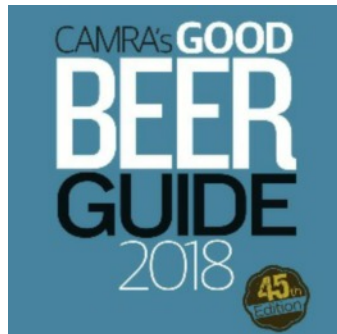


BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

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. 5th & 19th April



Saturday 13th April

CeleBratiOn



Guitar and vocal duo Covers
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The Killers Foo Fighters Rolling Stones
Small Faces Bowie
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Special Events

Friday	5 th April	Treasure Chest
Saturday	13 th April	Celebration Duo - LIVE 21.00
Friday	19 th April	Treasure Chest
Saturday	20 th April	Repertoire Dogs - LIVE 21.00

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



Sporting Activities at Birchanger Primary School

At Birchanger C of E Primary School we love our sport and we hold a gold award for the sport that we provide for our children. This year, from September, we were able to secure Kitteridge Sports as our PE instructors. Ross Kitteridge is the owner and he coaches once or twice a week at our school. He leads the after school clubs and Dan works with him on lessons and clubs. During our end of term review with Ross, he complimented our pupils on their skill level, enthusiasm, desire to learn and their manners. He is now working with us on individual assessments.

We have had a mixed netball club, mixed football squad training, girls football training and boys football training. We also have gym trails each morning. The pupils continue to try and improve their speed, agility and effort in the popular 'Make a Mile' event in school. It is currently being completed on the playground as the field is wet. We have been working on the 30 / 30 campaign. This aims to ensure children get at least 60 minutes of exercise every day. We incorporate this in our PE lessons, playtimes and Make a Mile. We also know that many pupils attend sports clubs outside of school and this increases their activity during the day. We also have a weekly swimming slot at Grange Paddocks so that all children can learn to swim before they leave our school.



We have had a fantastic start for our newly formed football squad with 3 boys remaining from last year and then a massive 19 more boys and girls joining us for training. We have decided to have a rotation system to enable pupils to have a turn at playing matches. This is in preparation for next season as most of the players are in Year 5. Our year and a half unbeaten run came to an end on Thursday as St Mary's Stansted battled out a match that looked set to be 0-0 to score with 4 minutes to go. Well done to all players; it was a very high standard match.

The Netball Club is back after a winter break and we are very proud of the attitude and determination of the 16 pupils. The matches have again been shared amongst the players and we have won 1 and been close in 3 others. We have played these matches with a range of Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils. Again, this allows us to prepare players for the future and for them to gain vital experience.

The Cross Country event was held in Manuden and it was amazing to see 76 pupils taking part with individual successes and one team that gives us representatives in the cross country finals event. This was a new location for us and the length of the field was daunting. However, every pupil completed the race and we saw great determination from everyone. Yet again both events were firm favourites. Thank you for the parents who supported this event. We also attended two tag rugby events at Howe Green with Years 5 and 6 and then Years 3 and 4 gaining vital match experience.

We always enter a group of children into the archery competition and last term we took all of Year 5. We had top scores in the girls sections and 2 good team results. This is a great sport for control. In addition, two of our Year 6 pupils were selected for the Talent Camp in May – WELL DONE. They will now compete alongside other talented children from the area to boost their skills.



Other Activities

Our younger children have also been busy. Year 1 / 2 Class have prepared a 'Skeleton Dance' for the fabulous dance festival organised by our amazing SCO for the area; Carron Parrish. Good Luck Sparrow Class. Our topic this term is 'Funny Bones' hence the Skeleton theme. We have just had wonderful Science Week with experiments and investigations based around health and exercise which was organised by our Science Lead and our three Year 6 Sports Ambassadors.

During this week our children were investigating what sports equipment they wanted, what foods had more sugar in them, how much fat was in three varieties of sausages, what exercises were needed to increase heart rates and pulse calculations and what effects different types of drinks have on egg shells as these are like the enamel on our teeth. The staff ran a variety of games at lunchtimes including dodgeball, circuit training, and skipping and mindfulness activities.

Overall you can see that although we are a small school we have mighty ambitions for our children to be able to take part in a wide range of sporting activities all year round.

Claire Berry, Headteacher



The Waiting Game Continues!

It is now more than four months since Uttlesford District Council (UDC) approved Stansted Airport's Planning Application for expansion to an annual throughput of 43 million passengers. However, UDC is prevented from confirming its decision as a result of SSE's objection to the process followed by UDC. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('SSHCLG') has instructed UDC not to grant planning approval until he has decided whether or not to 'call in' the Planning Application. The stakes are high because if he decides to 'call in' the application, this would mean a Public Inquiry and if he decides not to 'call in' the application, this could result in another legal challenge by SSE.

Meanwhile SSE still has an outstanding Judicial Review application (SSE's first legal challenge) against the Secretary of State for Transport ('SST') over his decision to allow the same Stansted Airport Planning Application to be determined locally by UDC. This case was due to be heard in the High Court on February 19th/20th but has been 'stayed' by the Judge pending the decision of the SSHCLG, as referred to above. The High Court has asked for an update on 29th March but the Judge understands that the delay is down to the indecision of the Secretary of State rather than to SSE.

Government indecision, legal complexities and one delay after another. This all has a familiar ring! *Brian Ross*

Birchanger All Girls Society

Have you seen our advert on page 3 and wondered what BAGS is all about? Well BAGS is short for 'Birchanger All Girls Society' and is open to all ladies in Birchanger and their friends. We have now been going over five years and meet in the meeting room of the village hall at 8.00 on the last Wednesday of every month. We are a very friendly, sociable group and with members' suggestions, try to offer a wide range of activities plus an annual summer outing.

This year we have a new Chairperson, Olivia Wright, and some changes on the committee, and so with renewed enthusiasm we are busy planning this year's activities. Some of you more creative types may like to join us for our April meeting when we shall have 'Molten Wonky' running a glass fusing workshop. If you would like to join us for this evening but are not yet a member, please give us a call on 01279 814678 or speak to one of our committee so we have some idea of numbers for this event. Other activities we have in the pipeline include a line dancing demonstration, a summer garden party and a guided tour of Birchanger Woods.

Apart from our Wednesday evening meetings, we have now started our 'Wednesday Walkies Group'. We meet every Wednesday morning at the bus shelter by Birchanger Sports and Social Club and walk (or stroll) for about an hour over approximately 3 miles. This has proved a really nice friendly small group, getting out in the fresh air, which is great for mental as well as physical health. So far walks have been along Birchanger and Stansted paths, but we intend to go by car to explore a little further as the weather improves. Friendly dogs are always welcome and seem to enjoy the company as much as their owners.

Keep a look out for our advert in Birchanger Village Magazine to find out what is happening each month.

Rosemary Wheatley rosemary@birchanger.com



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Can't be Bothered With Spring Cleaning?

A lot of us think so called spring cleaning is a really bad idea. With modern cleaning aids and materials who needs it? There must be some kind of primeval urge to improve our surroundings as the days get longer otherwise DIY stores would not have so many paints, wallpapers and cleaning materials on offer at this time of year. Blue is apparently the best colour for inducing sleep.



It only takes a few odd changes to make a house look made over. Photos of happy times with friends and family, pictures of lovely landscapes might just be enough to lighten your mood after a hard day at work. New cushions, blinds or curtains bring new life into an old format.

You might be healthier if you ditched the shag pile carpet for varnished floor boards or a less fluffy floor covering. Shag piles are apparently great bug collectors, even if they are great to walk on with bare feet.

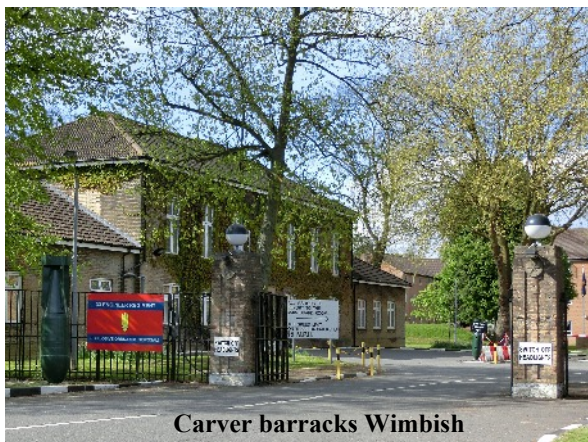
Mould on bathroom walls or inside damp cupboards is depressing and unhealthy. It helps if you bath or shower with the window open and there are good anti-mould sprays available now. There are many ways to greet the spring and enjoy it without subjecting yourself to the habit called Spring Cleaning. After all, you had all winter to do that!



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Hundred Parishes area includes many airfields and former airfields. Most were constructed in a remarkably short period by the United States Army Air Force when the USA became involved in World War II, while others date back to World War I and the very early days of aviation.

Duxford was built towards the end of WWI, many of its buildings constructed by German prisoners of war. It played a significant role in both World Wars. It is now the location of Imperial War Museum Duxford, a fascinating site that includes many buildings from both World Wars and a huge collection of military and civilian aircraft and other wartime exhibits. RAF Sawbridgeworth (actually in High Wych parish) also originated in WWI and was then used in WWII.



Carver barracks Wimbish

Andrews Field was the first US air base in Europe, constructed in 1942/43 using rubble from the London Blitz. This airfield, partly in Stebbing and partly in Great Saling, is well used today by small private aircraft and has a tea room open to the public.



Little Easton - remnants of WWII airfield

Other airfields were built in WWII at Castle Camps, Hadstock (known as RAF Little Walden), Hunsdon, Little Easton (also known as RAF Great Dunmow), Matching (mainly in White Roding parish), Nuthampstead, Radwinter (known as RAF Great Sampford although only partially in that parish) and Stansted.

The runways, along with various buildings and more recent memorials survive at most of these airfields, whilst the sites have been developed for a variety of uses. RAF Debden, constructed in 1937 and mainly in Wimbish parish, is now the site of Carver Barracks. Wethersfield airfield (mainly in Finchingfield parish) was built by the Americans and today is still used by the Ministry of Defence. Fuller accounts of local airfields appear in the Society's 2018 book, *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We are now fully recovered from our recent snowdrop open days. A record of over 2,800 adults and children came to see our beautiful snowdrops and kept us on our feet all day, so we started the season proper in April with over a 1000 more visitors than last year! And we are on track to have the Italian garden lily pond back to its best in time for our April visitors, with the lilies divided and ready to multiply.

On the 13th April, we are once again hosting the Helen Rollason Fundraiser Rural Ramble and we will have our own open day on 28th April, where children from St Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow, will be exhibiting their project work on the gardens' history and singing for us. The gate will open at 11.30. For further details, see our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk.



We are working hard to finish our winter jobs and to prep for the Spring – further plantings and sowing of seeds, particularly in the walled kitchen garden, which we hope will be every bit as productive this year as it was last year.

The blossom season started on some trees in early March and others will continue through to April. The new spring bulbs we have planted are just beginning to show and the bees are starting to come out for food.

We hope to see you again soon, either as a visitor or volunteer

Jill Goldsmith



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Village Services and Activities

Aerial/Sat. Installation	Mideacoms	01279 656983
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 810800
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
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Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Laundrette	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

Village Church Hall



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Family Prize Bingo - Saturday 13th April

Village Church Hall - Doors open 7.00 pm

Eyes down at 7.30 pm - Tickets available now

£10 per adult £5 per child - Includes ploughman's supper

Contact Pam Lee: 07702171744

Tearoom: Every Wednesday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

For hall bookings please contact: Elaine Wright 01279 813474.

stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

St. Mary's Church News



Church services

7th April	11:15 am 5th Sunday of Lent Mattins Service
14th April	11:15 am Palm Sunday, Holy Communion
19th April	2 – 3 pm Good Friday service with Passion narrative
21st April	11:15 am Easter day, Holy Communion
28th April	11:15 am 2 nd Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion

Church News

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting was held in March and when we discuss what has happened over the past year looking at our attendance, general management as well as the financial position and most importantly our mission. We have had quite an eventful year with a concert, coffee mornings and a fashion show. However, nothing prepared us for the two break-ins we had over Christmas. Thankfully no one was hurt. The Parochial Church Council has managed to keep the church going on a tight budget but it's not just about the pennies. It's how we as a village and congregation welcome people into our church. If you would like to know more about how you can get involved or are willing to volunteer in some way, please contact us. St Mary's is a special place of worship and we would like to share it with you.

Break-in update: the police have informed us that they have a suspect identified, the investigation is still ongoing.

Fundraising: Family Prize Bingo Evening at the hall 13th April, Doors open at 7pm eyes down at 7:30 pm, Adults £10, Children £5 includes a supper. Contact Pam Lee for Tickets: 07702171744.

Coffee Morning 14th May at Moorswood 10:30 am – 12.00 md.

Did you know?

The feast of the Annunciation, (which was celebrated on the 25th March this year) marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. More importantly, since it occurs 9 months before the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the Annunciation marks the actual incarnation of Jesus Christ - the moment that Jesus was conceived and that the Son of God became the son of the Virgin. The festival has been celebrated since the 5th century AD. The festival celebrates two things:

- God's action in entering the human world as Jesus in order to save humanity
- Humanity's willing acceptance of God's action in Mary's freely given acceptance of the task of being the Mother of God.

A prayer for April

Lord God, our Father, we thank you for all the light you give us and for all your loving help in outward things as well. We come into your presence and ask you to give us your light and your constant guidance for the path we must follow. Grant that what is of heaven may be revealed on earth, that we may rejoice in the good and beautiful things you give to all people. Our Father, reveal what is of heaven, and free people from their sin and darkness so that at last they recognise your glory. Strengthen our hope for this goal. Rule and work in the hearts of many people, that through them your glory may be proclaimed to all. Amen.

To find out more, email: stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com or look us up on our Facebook page. Elaine Wright

Village Church Hall



For further information and bookings contact;
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Family Prize Bingo

Saturday 13th April at the Church Hall



Doors open 7.00pm. Eyes down at 7.30pm
Tickets £10 per adult £5 per child
Includes ploughman's supper
Contact Pam Lee: 07702171744

Nights

ADULT DANCE CLASSES

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SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2019
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