



Birchanger Village Magazine



December 2019

Issue 203



The fight against Speeding

As reported in last month's magazine, Birchanger Community Speed Watch (CSW) was given their initial training at the village hall on the 6th November. Seven volunteers from Birchanger attended plus another eight volunteers from surrounding villages.

Apart from learning how to use the radar speed gun, training covered such subjects as: road accident trends and statistics, road safety, codes of conduct, and how to record and submit speeding offenders to Essex police. All the equipment necessary was supplied by 'Safer Essex Road Partnership' which is made up of Essex Police, Essex County Council and Essex Fire and Safety Service. The Birchanger CSW team are now fully armed and ready to go. You will see them out and about in the next few weeks throughout Birchanger lane, so beware!

Birchanger doesn't meet the criteria for speed calming measures!

Birchanger Parish Council has been trying on and off over the last few years to get some method of speed calming measures in the village, especially for school children crossing the road near the village hall, but have always been refused by Essex Highways.

A recent Essex Highways speed survey carried out over seven days in September this year shows that on average most drivers do keep to the 30 mph speed limit with just a few exceeding the speed limit. The survey included measurement for both south and north directions. According to Essex Highways, due to the recorded statistics, the village does not meet the criteria for speed calming measures. Three areas were chosen for the speed survey and the summary of the results were as follows:

B. Lane/Three Willows, volume 8189, average speed 27 mph, 38% over 30 mph, max recorded speed 36 mph.

B. Lane/Birchwood, volume 7592, average speed 25.7 mph, 15% over 30 mph, max recorded speed 32 mph.

B. Lane/High View, volume 9909, average speed 27.7 mph, 27% over 30 mph, max recorded speed 33 mph

Bearing in mind, police allow a specific tolerance when checking speeds, vehicles can travel up to 33 mph in a 30 mph limit and not be prosecuted. Looking at the figures above, it can be seen that most drivers complied with the 30 mph speed limit except for those vehicles approaching The Three Willows from the roundabout.

Essex Highways have informed the parish council that it is doubtful that they could sanction the use of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), even if the parish council pays for them as Birchanger does not meet the criteria. There may be a possibility of other signs such as '20 is plenty' or possibly so called 'Wig wag' signs which could be installed in Birchanger Lane by the school approach near the

village hall. These are programmable flashing LED signs that can flash during school start and finishing times.



VAS Sign



Wig Wag Signs

Birchanger Parish Council states that it will continue to look at all available solutions and are determined to find ways of reducing the speeds of vehicles driving through Birchanger.

Community Policeman for Birchanger

A Community Special Constable (CSC) has been appointed for Birchanger and could start as early as the 1st December 2019. Birchanger Parish Council, together with Neighbourhood Watch, decided earlier this year to see if it was possible to find a part time policeman for Birchanger but after many months of advertising in newspapers and on social media the council simply could not find a suitable candidate.



Even if the council had found an applicant, Essex Police said it could take up to one year to vet and train a CSC officer and the council was almost ready to give up the idea. But then on the 12th November Les Hawkins, Specials Supported Policing Coordinator from Essex

Police, contacted the council with some good news! Special Constable Martin Halls, an experienced CSC officer currently working in Saffron Walden, had volunteered to cover Birchanger as well as Saffron Walden on a part time basis.

CSC Martin Halls will volunteer a minimum of 16 hours each month in the parish to target and disrupt anti-social behaviour, respond to community concerns and carry out high visibility foot patrols. Specials have the same full policing powers and uniform as regular police officers. Community Specials are committed to policing the area that pays for them. However, in the event of a critical incident, the Community Special may be called on to help in another area of the county.

Under the scheme, the council will fund the expenses of Special Constable Martin Halls, with all other costs being met by the Force. The parish council is delighted with this result and is looking forward to meeting Martin and to discussing his role and time schedule for patrolling Birchanger in the near future.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley and myself, would like to wish all our readers a very peaceful Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year. The same goes for our reporters, proof readers, distributors and of course our printer, Keeley & Lowe, without which our magazine would not be possible. We hope you have enjoyed reading your local magazine over the past year but if you have any suggestions for improvement please let us know. Enjoy the wonderful Birchanger light show, enjoy your Christmas dinner and most of all enjoy the company of family and friends.

Birchanger Magazine would also like to give special thanks to Stansted South and Birchanger District Councillors Ayub Kahn and Melvin Caton for their very kind and generous donation of £400 towards our printing and distribution costs. This was a very timely and welcomed Christmas present for the magazine.

Kind Regards and best wishes - Peter Sampson



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

U3A Choices

It's good to see articles about local organisations, so I was pleased to see that Stansted U3A are keeping Birchanger residents informed of their activities. I'd like to remind readers that Stansted is not the only U3A in the area. The oldest and largest local U3A is Bishop's Stortford, with over 1000 members (several of them living in Birchanger) and about 70 activity groups. Members organise several daytrips and holidays every year. All members are welcome to attend interesting talks at the monthly meetings in the town centre. Their web site is at <https://u3asites.org.uk/bishops-stortford/home>.

Dunmow also has a U3A, and it may be that one or more of their groups fits your needs. Their details are at <https://u3asites.org.uk/dunmow/welcome>. There are also U3As at Thorley and Sawbridgeworth.

U3As are cheap to join and provide many opportunities to explore interests, existing and new, as well as to meet new people. You can join as many U3As as you like. I'd recommend that anyone who's retired, or semi-retired, investigates what they have to offer.

Regards Ken Wheatley

Dear Ed,

Keeping fit for ladies

I just thought I'd tell you about "The Toning Rooms" which I have been going to for a year and a half. It involves power assisted exercise for women only. Tone, firm, and lose inches. Increase muscle strength, for any age and fitness level. The partners who run it are so caring and help anyone with a disability to use the machines. It's as easy or strenuous as you choose as all the machines have different levels. There is also a cardio corner if you're up for it.

You can have a free trial by making an appointment. I have found it so beneficial, and as a result am so much fitter. Reflexology is also available and gel manicures and other beauty treatments Contact: www.thetoningrooms.com or Tel: 01279655112. Situated in Sworders yard. *Regards, Sue Gilbey*

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



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger



VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

A day to remember

Remembrance Sunday in Birchanger, held at St Mary's Church, drew a large gathering of people who congregated at the war memorial to remember those who died fighting for their country. Not only the regular congregation attended the service, but representatives from the school and the Parish Council came together with many villagers who rarely visit the church.



This year also saw the attendance of Hatfield Heath Scout Troop that uses the Birchanger scout hut for their meetings. It has been many years since a banner was lodged behind the altar and so the scouts were very welcome. The names of the fallen were read out by pupils of Birchanger Primary School and the weather was fine, old friends came together, but somehow, Birchanger managed to get the timing of the Silence slightly wrong - again!

Remember it's time to light up the skies

The big date is Friday November 29th at the club. Children from Birchanger School will be there singing the first carols of Christmas, with mulled wine for the grownups and other Christmas treats on offer.

Birchanger had the best lighting displays ever last year and that will be a hard act to follow but Birchanger never flinches at a challenge. One of the best sights of Christmas is families out and about in the evenings just to see the lights.

It is not easy picking the winner, and the best display will receive the Birchanger Lights Cup to keep for a year. When you have decided who has put on the best light show you can post your vote in the ballot box at the club or drop them in to 330 Birchanger Lane. The winner will be announced and the cup presented at 9pm on Friday December 20th at the club.

Christmas is not always all sweetness and light

We all have high expectations for Christmas: lunch will be perfect, perfect presents, perfect decorations and always perfect relationships. Sadly it does not always work out like that. Not everyone is kind, and with alcohol flowing throughout the Christmas period people may say things which are inappropriate at best and downright unkind or untrue at their worst. People call this hate crime these days. Hate crime is just what it says, a recognised crime, but many people are reluctant to report it, especially if it is a so called friend or acquaintance who has said something hateful or very unkind at best. Often the fact that this has happened preys on the victim's mind, even though they do not want to go to the police.

Now there is help from an unlikely source. Uttlesford District Council has a Hate Incident Reporting Centre, where the incident can be reported and the issues discussed confidentially. Staff can take reports on what has happened and provide support or a referral to agencies which provide expert help. This is a crime and there is no need to fight it on your own.

Restaurant Review

Pride of Sylhet - Dunmow. This Indian Restaurant is situated in the centre of Dunmow. Parking in the evening is free after 6.30 at either of the town's main car parks. Most Indian Restaurants have menus which all seem very similar, but the specials here are rather different and the quality of the dishes from the general menu as chosen by members of our party was very good. The prawns were not rubbery, the chicken and lamb tender and well marinated and there was plenty of choice for vegetarians. Service was efficient, no long waits on the night we were there but it was a Monday and the restaurant was less than half full. It's worth a visit for a good and reasonably priced curry.

Want to track your past at Essex Libraries?

There is a new service developed by Essex Libraries which can help you to discover just who your ancestors were and where they came from. 'Find My Past' will help you to get started and point you in the right direction with links to a variety of sites which could be of use to you. Well I suppose that's one way to while away the winter gloom when Christmas is over! Another thing of note, Essex Libraries will no longer send out expensive postal reminders chasing up your overdue books, they will be texting you or contacting you online instead.

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 29th January 2020 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year

Telephone for details
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678



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Speed cameras are coming!

When you ask people about the concerns they have about living in Birchanger nearly everyone mentions speeding issues which they all experience regularly when using Birchanger Lane. At long last, measures have been taken to do something about this. Following a long period of waiting, due to lack of resources from Essex Highways, the necessary training of 10 volunteers was finally completed in November and they are now ready to bring Speed Watch to Birchanger. They will be out and about on Birchanger Lane at any time, on any day and speeding motorists will have their numbers taken and will be reported to the police who will take appropriate action. This has been a long time coming but hopefully the message will be out there and Birchanger will become a safer place at last.

A Community Policeman for Birchanger

It seems that after an absence of over ten years, there is to be a community policeman in Birchanger again. Despite advertising for several weeks, nobody seemed to be interested in taking the job until recently when a community policeman in Saffron Walden expressed an interest in Birchanger. Hopefully the final details of this new appointment will be worked out and Birchanger will finally get its own community policeman.

Things to do at Saffron Walden Museum

The run up to Christmas can seem to go on for a very long time, especially if you are young. People may not want to travel too far at Christmas either. Remember that Saffron Walden Museum puts on interesting displays throughout the year and it is worth checking up to see if there is anything there to interest you or your family. The current exhibition shows you how you can use a new way to preserve your own identity. People have done this throughout the ages through death masks, diaries, letters and portraits and this is the subject of their currently running exhibition, but with a difference. It can include you. Saffron Walden Museum is inviting you to make a finger cast so you and your family can become a part of our local history. This is just a part of the many things that are happening there right now and it is not so very far away either.



Saffron Walden Dementia Café

Are you living with or caring for someone affected by Dementia or Alzheimer's?

Would you like to get out and talk about it with others? Then why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, information and advice, activities, and of course, refreshments.

We meet every Friday morning at The Garden Room, Hill Street, Saffron Walden from 10am to 12pm. If you'd like to find out more, call 01799 510525, where Volunteer Uttlesford will be able to help.



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www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Reg. No. 1068733

Bishop's Stortford & District Footpath Association

Safeguarding your Public Rights of Way in and around Bishop's Stortford

Sunday Walks	Departing at 10.00am	5/6 miles
01 Dec 2019 Manuden	Community Centre, David Collins Rd	
TL 486273	CM23 1EH	
15 Dec 2019 Debden Village Shop,	Mill Road, TL 555335	
CB11 3LB		
26 Dec 2019 Stansted Castle Car Park	<u>*Depart 10.30am*</u>	
TL 515248	CM24 8LY	
12 Jan 2020 Braughing, opposite the Axe and Compass Pub		
TL 379252	SG11 2QR	
09 Feb 2020 Quendon Village Hall		
TL 513301	CB11 3XQ	

I have missed two of our most recent autumn walks, but not last Sunday when we were accorded some excellent views of Hatfield Broad Oak church, from a number of vantage points along the way. This first walk in November was mostly over open countryside, and with the exception of some flocks of gulls, there seemed to be very few birds about. We spotted just one red kite, and what we believe was an owl. The cross field paths were really well marked out and easy to walk over. This was because a quad bike with fat tyres had been run across the newly ploughed fields thereby providing a reasonably solid path.

The majority of trees were still holding many of their leaves although these were in every shade of green, yellow and through to rust, but only a few were quite void of leaf. Along the fringes of the open fields there were many large toadstools, or field mushrooms, their flat caps open and measuring several inches in diameter. They prefer pasture and do not grow where fields have been sprayed with chemicals. We also saw one butterfly, although from a distance, several deer hoof prints and some hops in the hedging.



Photograph: Wild hops

Have a Very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year! *Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Publicity Officer: dwijwj.444@gmail.com*
www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

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Dating and romance scams

Most UK dating websites and chatrooms are legitimate, but fraudsters have been known to use them to steal people's money.

Dating and romance scammers lower their target's defences by building an online relationship, then asking for larger and larger sums of money.

Well-meaning men and women have both fallen victim to this.

What you should know

Be wary of giving out personal information on a website or chatroom. Scammers will quickly contact you, often showing you glamorous photos of themselves and gaining your trust.

But how do you know the person you're talking to (or their photo) is genuine? The answer is that you don't.

A scammer will make conversation more personal to get information out of you, but won't tell you much about themselves that you can check or verify.

They'll normally steer you away from chatting on a legitimate dating site that staff could monitor. They want you to talk on email, text and phone, rather than through the dating site or chatroom where you met.

A scammer tells stories to target your emotions and get you to give them money. They may claim they have an ill relative or are stranded in a country they don't want to be in.

They may not ask you directly for money, hoping instead that you'll offer it out of the goodness of your heart. You must not.

Never send money abroad to someone you've never met. Never send it to anyone you don't actually know and trust.

Likewise, never agree to keep your online relationship a secret. This is a ploy to get you not to tell your family and friends, who'll see the scam for exactly what it is.

Equally, don't accept any offer of money. A scammer may ask you to accept money from them into your own bank account, using a convincing story as to why they can't use their own account. The circumstances may seem genuine, but you could unwittingly be laundering money, a criminal offence.

Holiday fraud

Holiday fraud is on the increase as people use holiday booking websites more and more.

Scammers will list a hotel room or accommodation that isn't available or doesn't exist. Often victims only realise it's a scam when they arrive at their destination, by which time the fraudster is long gone.

What you should know

Scammers may want you to pay them by direct bank transfer, not through the website. They entice you to do this by offering discounts for bank transfer payments. Don't be tempted.

A scammer will often use photos of accommodation copied from other sites. Use [Google Images](#) [External Link](#) to check where else an image has been used.

The scammer, or their advert, may claim that they belong to a legitimate trade body or consumer protection scheme, such as the Association of British Travel Agents ([ABTA](#)) <https://www.abta.com/>. Contact the body or scheme to check the person's credentials.

Research the property yourself. See if it has its own website. Always try to call the owner of the property to confirm they know about your potential booking. If you can't see a phone number, send an email asking for it.

For more information and help or to report these and many other types of fraud, go to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Tai Chi in Birchanger

Tai Chi is an art form which embraces the mind, body and spirit and has been held in the village hall every Wednesday morning by Mary Dann for many years. Tai Chi originates from ancient China and is said to be one of the most effective exercises for health of mind. Mary Dann retired in July 2019 and the sessions are now run by myself, Cait Goddard.

I had been attending the class for some four years despite living in Lewisham, London! My Mum, Jacqui Goddard, has lived at 95 Birchanger Lane since 1958 and I visit her every week on Wednesdays. I originally started to go to Tai Chi with her after she had a fall and I got the bug. When Mary retired, it looked like the class would fold as there were no other Academy Teachers available so I offered to become the class teacher. In no way do I have the experience and skill that Mary has and volunteering to teach the class has been a steep learning curve for me – especially as some of the class members have more experience than I do! We are still going strong with about 10 members and the session is held at St Mary's Church Hall from 10.00am – 12.00am every Wednesday. New members are very welcome, we have a 30 minute tea break and the group is very friendly and sociable. If there is sufficient demand from beginners I am thinking about running a second class on Thursdays after Christmas. I would need a minimum of 6 people to make the class viable. We charge £60 per quarter, which also entitles members to attend any of the Academy classes, the nearest being at Felsted on Thursday mornings.

The group will miss Trudy Revell

We were all devastated by the sudden and tragic death of Trudy Revell last month and I would like to relate here a short story by her on the origins of Tai Chi in Birchanger. Trudy told the story of the first visit made by the academy to a BAGS meeting (Birchanger All Girls Society) and which I would like to dedicate to her memory.

At the BAGS meeting, we were discussing the establishment of our academy some ten years ago. There were eight of us, seven ladies of advanced years and John, an aging country and western star, sitting in a circle in the middle of the Church Hall. Viv had had us in stitches with her impersonations of men buying ladies underwear, bras and suspender belts, in the old department store in town – 'What size?' Viv asks 'Oh... err... she's about my size' the male customer replies. There was something of a music hall routine about it. Then Trudy, usually a quite reserved group member, told us a story about the origin of the Birchanger Tai Chi Class. The BAGS invited Michael and Mary from Essex Tai Chi to give a demonstration of Tai Chi for Health which emphasises the physical benefits of their form and avoids the somewhat wacky spiritual stuff of the Taoists.

Trudy's story: "The BAGS happen to use a small brass hand bell to call the ladies to order (someone had previously bought it in a car boot sale) and it sat on the stage at the head of the hall. Michael, who was of advanced years but an experienced Tai Chi practitioner started his demonstration with turns, chops, punches, sits, stand-ups, cloudy hands, snakes, cockerels and storks cooling their wings. All one hundred and eight moves performed in silence and with intense concentration. It is a slow and graceful performance. Towards the end of the set comes the most complicated move, the Sweep Lotus, which involves turning through three hundred and sixty degrees and then slapping a raised thigh. It was at this point that Michael noticed the sign attached to the handle of the bell which reads 'Ring Me If You Want a Screw'. Well Michael finished the final moves with some difficulty, trying hard to suppress his laughter. The demonstration was a success and from then on Mary started to teach the weekly class which has now been running for over five years. A nice story that reminds us of our Birchanger Tai Chi origins.

For information on Tai Chi, contact Cait Goddard on 07415 628935

What's on in the village...

		December 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 7.30 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.						
30 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	31 BSSC: Open 16.00 to 01.00 am New Years Eve Disco with DJ Martin	<i>Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To all our Readers</i>			1 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Mattins Church Hall: 12.00 Birchanger Litter Pickers Volunteers	
2 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	3 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet for kids aged 3-4 yrs 16.30 Primary Ballet for kids 18.30 Apton Dance	4 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	5 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.00 Apton dance BSSC: 8.30 Bingo	6 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Treasure Chest £500 with 8 keys Bottle Draw	7 Church Hall: 9.00 Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Members Night 21.00 Cliff & Ken - Live + Disco	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion
9 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	10 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet for kids aged 3-4 yrs 16.30 Primary Ballet for kids 18.30 Apton Dance	11 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	12 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 8.30 Bingo	13 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Bottle Draw	14 Church Hall: 9.00 Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service
16 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	17 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet for kids aged 3-4 yrs 16.30 Primary Ballet for kids 18.30 Apton Dance	18 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	19 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 8.30 Bingo	20 St Mary's Church 19.00 Christmas Carol Service BSSC: Light show winner Katie & Kenny's Cocktail Night Bottle Draw	21 Church Hall: 9.00 Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Cadence - Live Christmas Raffle Draw	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
23 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	24 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet for kids aged 3-4 yrs 16.30 Primary Ballet for kids 18.30 Apton Dance	25 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Christmas Service BSSC: Open from 12.00 to 14.00	26 Black Bin # BSSC: Open 12.00 to 17.00 Whiskey Draw Winnie - Live	27 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Bottle Draw	28 Church Hall: 9.00 Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	29 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Mattins

Sports & Social Club News



What's on at the club

December

- 6th Treasure Chest £550 with 8 keys
- 7th Members Night with Cliff and Ken - Live + Disco 9.00 pm
- 20th Winner of Christmas lights presentation
- 20th Katie and Kenny's Christmas Cocktail Night
- 21st Cadence - Live 9.00 pm with Christmas Raffle Draw
- 26th Boxing Day Whiskey Draw and Winnie - Live
- 31st New Year's Eve Disco with DJ Martin

Cracking fireworks display

We would like to thank the residents of the village and beyond for attending our fireworks display. It was lovely to see so many people come out to support this event. A big thank you to everyone who made a donation that evening. We hope you all enjoyed the show as much as we did.



Behind the Curtin Events

Fanny Galore 18th January - Tickets still available at the club,

Dolly Parton Tribute act February - Tickets available at Month end.

Coming in January

A new feature at the club 50/50 (members can purchase a ticket for the chance to walk away with half of the prize pot). And The TOTE returns....

Did you know? We have a Snooker table at the Social Club? Why not come and try it out...

Christmas & New Year's opening hours

- Christmas Eve 2.00 pm - 12.00 pm
- Christmas Day 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm
- Boxing Day 12.00 am - 5.00 pm (at the stewards' discretion)
- New Year's Eve 4.00 pm - 1.00 am. *Note! The bar will be closed from 11:45 pm till 12.15 am for the staff to see in the new year with members of the club.*
- New Year's Day 12.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Weekly Events:

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	21.00
Thursdays	Bingo Night	20.00
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Draw	13.00

Club Opening Hours:

Mon/Tue/Thu: 17.30 - 23.00
 Wed: 12.00 - 15.00 & 17.30 - 23.00
 Fri: 12.00 - 23.30 Sat 08.30 - 23.30
 Sun: 12.00 - 22.30

Restaurant Hours:

Thursday 17:30-21:00
 Friday 12:00-15:00 & 17:30-21:00
 Saturday 08:30-11:00 & 12:00-15:00 & 17:30-21:00
 Sunday fresh rolls from the bar at opening

Saturday 18th January 2020

FANNY GALORE!



BIRCHANGER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

'Dinner & A Show' - £20

Tickets on sale from the bar at the club from Monday October 28th.

Tickets sold to members who can purchase for members and their guests.

Please select your meal choice at the time of booking.

DON'T MISS OUT! - FULL 'BEHIND THE CURTIN' SCHEDULE FOR 2020

WWW.BIRCHANGERCLUB.COM/BTC

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

Birchanger Primary School

At our school we are very lucky to have a number of people who give up their time to support us. We have volunteers who form our governing body which leads the school and its development and we have volunteers who come in to the school and hear our children read. We have volunteers who come in to the school who are teaching our Year 6 British sign language and we have a volunteer who comes in and empties our bins. This group of people, who give their time freely to help and support us, make a big difference to our children.

We also have an active PTA who work very hard to raise money for the school. Recently they have provided the school with a new gazebo where the children can sit in a quiet space at break times and lunch times. As well as working hard to raise money, the PTA received money through the Airport Community Fund led by Councillor Susan Barker. We were very grateful to receive the grant and so when the gazebo arrived and we had set it up ready for use, we invited Councillor Barker and Councillor Ray Gooding to officially open the gazebo.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing your readers, our children, staff, PTA and governors a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. *Claire Berry - Headteacher*



Do you ever think that you would like to 'give something back'?

If so, we are looking for volunteers with a genuine commitment and desire to help support and shape our village primary school. You would be working with a small group of dedicated volunteers and staff, who strive to improve outcomes for all our pupils.

At Birchanger C of E Primary School we combine the most current curriculum and initiatives, with traditional values and, most importantly, we understand how important the school is as part of the village community.

If you are over 18, enthusiastic about giving children the best start in education and especially if you have an Education, legal, HR, or arts background we would love to hear from you.

For more information about this fulfilling volunteer opportunity, please contact the Governors via the school on: 01279 812362 or email them at admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk.

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Look out for your poll cards

Your poll card tells you which polling station you should use to vote on 12th December – but you do not need your poll card to vote. Poll cards and postal poll cards are being sent out from the end of this week. If you have not received your poll card by 22 November it may mean you are not registered. If you're already registered to vote you don't need to register again.



Make sure you are registered to vote

All you need is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number to register to vote in the 2019 local elections.

People have until 26th November to register to vote in the upcoming election if they are not already registered.

Apply online

If you are not already registered to vote you can apply online. It's simple, quick and secure. Remember to have your national insurance number to hand before you start. If you prefer, you can also download a paper registration form to complete and return in person or by post.

For further information or to help with registering, please contact the Uttlesford Elections Team at elections@uttlesford.gov.uk or 01799 510510.

Birchanger sports & social club

Part-time staff needed for over the busy Christmas period.

We are looking for friendly, customer focused bar staff, waiters & waitresses

Shifts will also include Christmas Eve, Boxing Day & New Year's Eve

Apply within with a C.V

Or email

Katie.bssc@gmail.com

Or call 01279813441

Cm23 5qj



Airport denies plans for 50 million passengers a year!

Stansted Airport has denied that it is planning to expand the airport to 50 million passengers per annum (mppa), well beyond the 43mppa limit applied for in its 2018 planning application, which continues to be under consideration by Uttlesford District Council.

The denial came in the High Court on Wednesday 13th November during SSE's legal challenge over the airport planning application. However, the previous day, SSE's barrister, Paul Stinchcombe QC, provided the Judge with multiple sources of evidence demonstrating that Stansted Airport was planning to expand to 50mppa. The Department for Transport (DfT) was aware of this and knew also that the existing runway could handle 50mppa.

Legally, a proposal for airport expansion to 50mppa must be dealt with by the Secretary of State and subject to detailed national scrutiny whereas a proposal to raise the present 35mppa limit to 43mppa can be dealt with locally by Uttlesford Council with far less scrutiny.

SSE had amassed its evidence over the past two years primarily through the disclosure of the notes of confidential meetings that took place between Stansted Airport and DfT officials. The DfT was legally required to provide SSE with this confidential information as soon as SSE filed its legal challenge in the High Court. This evidence – running to several hundred pages – was augmented by meeting records obtained from UDC under the Freedom of Information Act and by additional confidential information disclosed to SSE, following a High Court Order issued by the Judge earlier this year.

Since September 2018, however, SSE has been bound by a Non-Disclosure Agreement ('NDA') – a so-called 'gagging order', imposed by the DfT on behalf of the Secretary of State – which prohibited SSE from disclosing certain documentary evidence. The NDA no longer applies because the information, having been presented and discussed in the High Court, is now deemed to be in the public domain.

SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "We have undoubtedly given the Judge a great deal to think about and we must now wait and see whether that will be enough. In challenging the combined forces of the Secretary of State, the Manchester Airports Group and Uttlesford District Council, it is obviously essential to present the strongest possible case supported by the clearest possible evidence. We have certainly given it our best shot. We've learned, however, never to make predictions in this type of case." *Brian Ross*

THE

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CHOIR

Jingle All The Way!
A Family Christmas
Concert in aid of Save
the Children

Saturday 14th December 11.00am
 St. Joseph's Church, Bishop's Stortford

A sell-out last year, so take an hour out of Christmas shopping in Bishop's Stortford to pop into St Joseph's Church to enjoy a family friendly, whistle stop tour of all your favourite carols and Christmas songs. With some audience sing-alongs, jingle bells and a treat for the kids, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed! Tickets are available at £5 for adults, £3 for children from 07916 153 898, www.theharmonaireschoir.com and on the door.

Uttlesford Community Travel Helps You Get Around



IF you're elderly or disabled, and are finding it difficult to get out and about, a local charity is on hand to

help with all your transport needs. Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT), whose head office is in Great Dunmow, supplies minibuses and cars to take residents of Uttlesford wherever they want to go, including to medical appointments.

A fleet of six specially-adapted minibuses, all of which are wheelchair accessible, are used for its Book-A-Ride service, transporting passengers to just about anywhere they want to go. All drivers are fully trained and checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service. Passengers pay a £10 annual joining fee and then for their journeys it costs £3.40 for the first two miles travelled and £1.02 for all subsequent miles.

Book-A-Ride also provides an opportunity for groups – such as WI's, schools and all sorts of other clubs – to join to provide transport for outings such as trips to the coast, places of interest, theatre trips, garden centres, lunches and afternoon teas, school trips and even regular group meetings. The annual joining fee for a group is £20 and the price for journeys is then worked out on an individual basis per group.

UCT also provides a Hospital Car Service, which helps people who have difficulty in getting to medical appointments by finding a driver who lives nearby, and who uses their own car, to take them. The drivers are all volunteers, so the passengers have to pay only the HMRC mileage rate of 45p per mile to get them there.

For more information please call the charity on 01371 875787 or email info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org.

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
10th Anniversary 2019-20



The Stansted U3A Strummers
will be appearing at the
Angels and Christmas Trees
weekend at St. Mary's
Church, Stansted on Sunday
8th Dec. at 2 and 3 pm.

Please note the change of date and venue for our monthly meeting in December. This will be on Thursday 12th at St Theresa's Church Hall, High Ln, Stansted, CM24 8LQ. Paul Adams will present Rock and Roll music from the 50's and 60's.

Our annual Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge is the following Thursday, December 19th. There are still some places left so if you still have not booked contact Stansted U3A and be prepared to make your menu choices. These can be viewed on the webpage at Christmas Lunch Menu.

We look forward to our first meeting of 2020 on January 16th when Linda Scoles will talk about an American's view of a Suffolk village.

Sally Rich (Vice Chairman) Tel. 07874 385541

edu3a@gmail.com www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted



The Hundred Parishes Society

As Christmas approaches, we are more likely to hear the distinctive sound of church bells. Most of our church towers were erected with the specific purpose of housing bells high above the rooftops so their sound could be heard over a wide area, calling people to worship or, sometimes, to celebrate a special occasion.

Church bells come in many different sizes, the larger giving a deeper tone. Of Hundred Parishes churches, Saffron Walden has most bells with 12, the largest weighing over a ton. Some bells are extremely old: Great Waltham, Little Hallingbury, Little Hornead, Strethall and Westmill each have one dating from the 14th century.



A 5.5 cwt bell cast in 1705 in St Mary's, Stansted

Each bell is rung by a separate person, pulling gently but firmly on a bell rope from below. A practised team of bell ringers can create a wonderful sound as the bells are swung in a predetermined sequence. The simplest sequence is to ring the lightest bell first and so on through to the heaviest, producing a round of descending notes.



The round may be repeated many times or, on the conductor's instruction, the sequence may be changed by swapping two bells.

There are many possible sequences for ringing a given number of bells: for eight bells the number of different sequences is 40,320. An experienced team will sometimes attempt to ring a continuous set of changing sequences. Long ago it was decided that anything over 5,000 changes of sequence would be termed a "peal".

A peal typically takes around 3 hours so requires organisation and great concentration and stamina. Peals are rarely attempted, but when successfully achieved they may be recorded in the church on a "peal board" giving the bell-ringers' names and the title of the change sequence or method that was used.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE



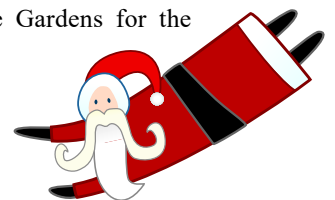
It's strange to think that we welcomed the rain in October and November. The reason being that the Gardens have really enjoyed the rain, the lily pond has been slowly refilling and a few lost volunteer hours at this time of year have not been a problem!

The final Open Day of the season was lovely – too early in October to celebrate Halloween - but many of the 100 children who visited enjoyed making crowns for their mini-pumpkins, while other visitors were pleased to take away squashes for an autumnal soup! The autumn colours were building and there were lots of interesting fungi to spot!

This year's open season has whizzed by, thanks to the huge efforts of all our volunteers, who have made the gardens so beautiful and given such a warm welcome to our visitors. We were particularly delighted to meet and show around the grandson of the Countess of Warwick's head gardener – Peto, who transformed the gardens in 1902. We love hearing from people with connections to the gardens, so if you have any old stories or photos to share, please do get in touch!

Best wishes from all of us at the Gardens for the upcoming festive season.

Jill Goldsmith
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



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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 for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
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
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
Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Property Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Elaine Wright	01279 813474
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628935
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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For hall bookings please contact: Elaine Wright 01279 813474
stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Forthcoming Fundraising Events:

Epiphany Lunch at the Church Hall

Sunday 5th January 2020 at 1.00 pm. Hot 2 course meal
 £10 per Person. Call Pam Lea on 07702171744 for details.

Family Prize Bingo Evening

Saturday 13th January 2020 Church Hall 7.00 pm
 £10 per adult, 35 for children - includes ploughman's supper.
 Wine and soft drinks available.
 To book call Pam Lee on 07702171744

Tearoom: Every Wednesday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

St. Mary's Church News



Church Services

1st December	11:15 am Mattins service
8th December	11:15 am Holy Communion
15th December	11:15 am Family service
20th December	7:00 pm Christmas Carols by candlelight
22nd December	11:15 am Holy Communion service
25th December	11:15am Christmas day Holy Communion service
29th December	11:15am Mattins service

Church News

Remembrance Sunday

Leading up to remembrance Sunday the church was adorned with floral displays of poppies, including 100 on the large wooden cross. The 'There but not there' figures (donated to the church from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund) were positioned in the pews on the side aisle of the church each with their own poppy. Thanks go to Rosemary Saward and Sue Warr for their hard work in making the church look so beautiful at a solemn time.

The service with over 80 people in attendance took place firstly at the war memorial with the head boy and girl from the primary school reading out the names from the First World War and the scouts read the names from the Second World War. Two names were added to the list this year from memorials within the church. Several wreaths were laid and the service continued inside. This year, thanks to Peter Sampson and Tony Wilson, we were able to hear all the names of the war dead clearly, due to the PA system they installed for the outside service.

Three families who have relatives amongst those on the memorial attended the service; some of them came with information about those who did not return from the First World War. After the 2 minute silence, the service continued inside the church and was taken by Reverend Paul Wilkin. The service was calm and reflective with a poem from Geoff Driscoll read from the organ loft. The service finished with the National anthem.

Dates for your Diary

Don't forget 30th November Grand Christmas Bazaar at the church hall from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. £1 entry includes a mince pie and a cuppa. Free entry for children, lots of gifts and a bonanza raffle.

There will be a bumper Christmas Coffee morning at Moorswood on the 10th December, starting at 10:30 am until 12:00 am, with a Christmas raffle and mince pies! If you need assistance getting to the coffee morning, please give us a call and we will arrange a pick up for you.

Our annual Carol Service by candlelight will be on Friday 20th December at 7.00 pm. Come and help us through readings and carols, build the Nativity scene, and enjoy some mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. We hope you can join us!

There will be an Epiphany lunch after the service January 5th with wholesome food, good conversation and friendship on offer. Put this date in your diary, more news later.

A prayer for Christmas: by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
 that we may share in the song of the angels,
 the gladness of the shepherds,
 and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate

and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
 and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
 and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
 forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Elaine Wright stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For further information and bookings contact;

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

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Our new website page is being developed



Mitchell School of Dance

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from 3.55 to 4.25pm in Birchanger.

Primary Ballet for 5-7 year olds is held from
4.30 to 5.00pm in Birchanger.

Call Philippa McMeechan on 01763 271010



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Printers: Keeley & Lowe Tel: 020 7729 3350 - Email: info@keeleylowe.com

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