



Birchanger Village Magazine

January 2020

Issue 204



Say hello to Martin Hills, Birchanger's dedicated Community Special Constable



CSC Martin Hills, pictured above, started his role as special constable in Birchanger mid-December after meeting with the Parish Council and discussing the Community Safety Plan. Martin comes with 30 years experience as a police officer so is not new to the job. He has already visited the school and the club and apart from looking after the safety and security of Birchanger will be carrying out regular speed checks and will issue tickets to anyone breaking the speed limit.



You may not always see him on the street as he will sometimes tour the village in an unmarked police car. We wish him success in his new role in 2020. Picture left: Parish Council Chairman, Angie Driscoll, welcomes CSC Martin Hills to the village after the community safety meeting.

Community Speed Watch on the alert

On a dry, sunny but cold and blustery day in early December, Community Speed Watch was out and about for the first time checking vehicle speeds at the corner of Birchanger Lane and Harrisons. No speeders found on this day as drivers were behaving themselves. Over a period of an hour, around 30 vehicles were checked and a maximum speed of 33 mph was recorded.



The speed checks started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.00 am, which was not the best time for a high volume of cars but was perfect to get acquainted with the equipment.

Birchanger Speed Watch has 8 volunteers from the village who have been trained by Essex Highways in the use of the radar speed gun and road safety. Be warned, anyone caught speeding through the village will be reported to the police for further action.



Winner of the Christmas Lights Competition

The cup for best Christmas light show competition 2019 was awarded to Evan Hill, shown here with his wife Rosalynnd. Birchanger villagers voted unanimously for Evan's display which was well deserved. The club came a close 2nd.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Well, I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and hope that the new year, so far, has been a happy one. I thought I would dedicate this page to show photographs of some of the brilliant light shows that could be seen around the village. Congratulations of course go to the winner, but I think the whole village put on a spectacular show of illuminations this year. Well done Birchanger!

All photos courtesy of John McArthur



Winner of the Christmas light show 2019
Evan Hill, Birchanger Lane



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 Burns Brighter Than Ever!

Congratulations to everyone for all the wonderful Christmas light displays which can be found in every part of the village. Everyone is unique, with different designs, styles and colours all over Birchanger. Thank you everyone for making Christmas so very special again.

Beat the January Blues

This can be a very lonely time of year for people who are older and may live alone. They want to get out, but have no idea of where to go or who to go with. One possibility is to join a U3A Group. There is one close at hand in Stansted which has a general meeting on the third Thursday of every month in St John's Church Hall. While there you will find they offer short holiday breaks, theatre groups, a bridge club, film groups, art groups, poetry groups, Pilates, yoga, singing, ukulele and much more. There is even a pub grub group and scrabble club. There is a small annual membership fee. At the monthly meetings there are speakers talking on any variety of topics.

At the end of last year, Stansted U3A turned 10 years old. This was celebrated last autumn, where the club's function and events were explained. The Stansted U3A Singers and the Ukulele Group entertained. There were delicious homemade cakes with a cup of tea to celebrate. The afternoon at Stansted U3A was warm and welcoming, as all the meetings are and there is a strong possibility that you will find someone you know there or who has similar interests to your own. Other U3A groups meet in Dunmow and Bishops Stortford.

Save on Fuel Bills This Winter

There is still time to join in the next big 'Essex Energy Switch Auction' which will take place in February 2020. I have participated in two big switch auctions and each time it has saved our household a great deal on our fuel bills. Using a larger and reliable agency such as Essex County Council is usually cheaper and certainly easier than trying to do this for yourself unless you do strike incredibly lucky. Shortly before my current contract ends I will definitely be participating again. To participate or find out more about the scheme, go on line and register for the Big Essex Energy Switch through Essex County Council's website or call 0800048 8285 in office hours.

Still Time to Register Your Child for Primary School

As a parent you may not know that there is a deadline to register your child for primary school for the coming term in September 2020. If you do not do this you are unlikely to get the primary school of your choice, even then, there are no absolute guarantees. If you have yet to register you can still do so on line at the Essex County Council website by the January 15th deadline. You should hear which school your child has been allocated to by April 11th.

New School Hours Lead to Dangerously Full Buses

We are all encouraged to use the bus these days, but there are now times in the day when our buses are dangerously full. Add to the fact that every bus which goes through Birchanger seems to be well past its sell by date and you have an accident just waiting to happen.

One of the worst times happens around three pm. School hours at some schools have apparently changed with schools closing earlier which means that buses used by shoppers are now dangerously overcrowded. There is no control at all on the numbers boarding the bus and the situation now is potentially catastrophic. Parents need to be aware of this as do shoppers while those in charge of school transport and those who run the bus service schedules need to learn that one bus at this time is woefully inadequate for the numbers who need to use it. Something must be done urgently to remedy this potentially dangerous situation before it is too late. Long gaps in the day time service timetables simply make the situation worse.

Could You Be Lucky on Essex County Lottery?

Essex County Council has been running a weekly lottery for the past two years. All the proceeds go to Essex Charities and participants can win up to £25,000 per week. More information for those living in Essex who would like to buy lottery tickets or charities who would like to be in receipt of benefits from the lottery can be found online at: <https://www.essexlottery.co.uk/>

More Gritting Lorries

Did you know that Essex County Council now has 62 gritting lorries to cover the county when the temperature drops? There is therefore no excuse for the times when Birchanger Lane has apparently been forgotten. Hopefully this will not happen for the remainder of this year's winter. (Continued on page 5)

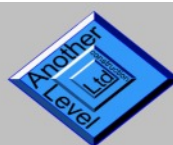
Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' invite women 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
AGM with wine and nibbles available

Telephone for details
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678



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Stansted Mountfitchet U3A 10th Anniversary 2019-20



The monthly meeting on November 21st to hear Charlie Haycock's view of the Eccentric View of the Countryside was very well attended. He was most amusing and entertaining and a welcome antidote to the miserable November weather. On December 12th, we held our monthly meeting where Paul Adams talked about the Rock and Roll music of the 50's and 60's. We held our annual Christmas Dinner at Bury Lodge on December 19th.

There is plenty to look forward to at the U3A in the new year. There is already a full list of speakers for the monthly meetings in 2020 on the 'Trips and Events' page of the website. Our first monthly meeting of 2020 is on January 16th at St John's Hall, Stansted, 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm, when Linda Scoles will give her talk "The Yanks are Coming", an American's view of a Suffolk village. This is expected to be very amusing.

The first trip is a theatre trip to see the west end show Pretty Woman at the Piccadilly Theatre. This is being organised for Wednesday March 28th and will be a matinee performance starting at 2.30pm and costing £47 per person. By now the trip may be fully booked but please see the Trips and Events page of the website for information on how to book or add your name to the waiting list. Tel: 07874 385541 - Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted - Anne White Stansted U3A.

Help Stansted Churches Foodbank

If you or someone you know are in need of a food parcel, you can contact Spangles Children's Centre on 01279 812348 or call Uttlesford Citizens' Advice on 01799 618840.

Can you help?

Donations of food would be much appreciated for local people in need. We welcome all food with a long shelf life. At the present time we particularly need the following: Breakfast cereals, fruit juice and squash, tinned vegetables and fruit, tinned meat and fish, pasta sauce, sugar and jam.

Donations can be put in the box near the tills in Stansted Co-op, or taken to: St John's Church on Tuesdays 9.15am-11.00am and Thursdays 10.30am-noon, Stansted Free Church foyer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am-12.30pm when *The Place on the Hill* is open; or Spangles Children's Centre, Lower Street, which is open Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm.

All donation boxes have an updated list of the items which are most needed. A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the food bank in the past; we are receiving many more requests than when we first started and our stocks need regular replenishment. Thank you.



Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,
Birchanger,
Herts.
CM23 5QF



Happy New Year to you all!

We had a fascinating walk recently which started from a car park in Great Dunmow. The walk took us over typical North Essex farmland, its countryside and the old airfields, with a stopping point at Little Easton. We returned to Dunmow using almost every 'twitchell' in the town - amazing!



Ten stars to our walk leader, Phoebe. She writes books on walking and incidentally goes everywhere by public transport! I have included a couple of photographs taken at Great Dunmow and Little Easton by our Chairman Dave Webber, who accompanied us on the walk.



Sunday Walks Departing at 10.00 am 5/6 miles

12 Jan 2020 Braughing - opposite the Axe and Compass Pub
TL 379252 Postcode SG11 2QR

09 Feb 2020 Quendon - Quendon Village Hall
TL 513301 Postcode CB11 3XQ

23 Feb 2020 Stansted Mountfitchet Castle Car Park
TL 515248, Postcode CM24 8LY

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Publicity Officer:

dwwjw.444@gmail.com www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

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Protecting yourself online doesn't have to be complicated or expensive

Online threat is constantly evolving, but there are hassle-free ways you can protect yourself without costing you time and money. Below are our 5 Top Tips for a safer online experience.

1. Devices - this is a very important first line of defence. You don't need to spend a fortune as there are a number of free, award-winning antiviruses (AV) software for PC, Mac, Android and iPhone. Neighbourhood Watch has linked up with Avast software and you can download their software by searching in your browser for 'Avast free antivirus'.
2. Ensure your computer and phone software is always up-to-date. Software updates often include security patches which are important for keeping your devices safe.
3. Use different passwords across your accounts so if one account is compromised, the rest are still secure. Use pass phrases that include a mix of symbols, numbers and characters to make it easier to remember, for example, B0bLov3sFootb@11.
4. Change default passwords shipped with new devices. This is a relatively easy but effective way to improve the security of your internet-connected gadgets and home routers.
5. Get a password manager to help manage all your passwords and keep them secure. That way, you can choose hard passwords without having to remember them.



FREE HOME SAFETY VISIT

We recommend that each floor of your home has a working smoke alarm fitted. These should be tested on a monthly basis and batteries replaced if necessary.

We provide smoke alarms to all our Essex residents completely free of charge, via our Home Safety Visit.

To keep yourself and your family safe from fire, contact us now:

0300 303 0088

www.essex-fire.gov.uk/HFS



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

[@ECFRS](https://twitter.com/ECFRS)
www.essex-fire.gov.uk

More rain needed to prevent drought in 2020!

Above average rainfall in September and October has signalled a good start to the recharge season with the wet weather increasing moisture content of the soil, making it more likely for future rainfall to filter down into the aquifer. However, even with the recent above average rainfall, the total rainfall received over the last three years has been below average, and groundwater levels are still low.

The wet weather throughout October, which was 131% of the long-term average, means we are heading in the right direction, but above average rainfall will need to be sustained for the rest of the winter for the situation to continue to improve. If levels fail to recover, we will need to introduce temporary water restrictions (previously known as hosepipe bans) in spring 2020.

Starting a New Business?

If you are and could do with some extra funding you could contact a government funded initiative known as the South East Business Boost. They are able to give you information, advice and support with your business plan and the minefield of legalities which surround small businesses today. You can contact them on 01702 417765. For those already running a small business, they can be a very useful contact for advice and further funding initiatives as well.

Time to Join the Library

The mobile library still visits Birchanger and has a regular but increasingly large clientele. There are all manner of books stacked into its relatively small space and several DVD's available as well. The colour of the vehicle is now predominantly red and it parks by the club every third Saturday between 1.55 and 2.25 pm. It is scheduled to visit again on January 4th.

Restaurant Review - Pub at Audley End

Until recently I had just passed this pub thousands of times, but had never actually been in. It is a well-known landmark for those forgoing the M11 on their journey northwards towards Cambridge. It is also a cheaper parking venue for those on the daily commute from Audley End Station. Car parking is ample, children seem welcome and there is a large pool table which was well used at the time of our visit. Beer was well looked after and very much appreciated by the gentlemen in our party.

The menu looks good, with most of the dishes purporting to be homemade. However, not everything seemed that way. Halloumi was a delicious starter, the batter on the main course fish and chips was incredibly pale and the gorgonzola lasagne certainly different but had not been roasted and the pasta entirely boiled. Not as had been expected. However, the restaurant redeemed itself with the best pub made homemade ice cream we had ever tasted. There were plenty of options for those with dietary special needs.

Elizabeth Godwin

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info@dynamiccounselling.co.uk
www.dynamiccounselling.co.uk

What's on in the village...

		January 2020				
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.						
BSSC Don't forget to renew your club membership		1 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	2 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	3 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Evening Tote	4 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	5 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Mattins Church Hall: 12.00 Birchanger Litter Pickers 13.00 Epiphany Lunch
	6 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	7 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	8 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	9 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	10 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Evening - Tote Bottle Draw	11 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw
	13 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	14 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	15 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	16 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	17 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Evening - Tote Win or Lose	18 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Fanny Galore show (sold out)
	20 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	21 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	22 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	23 Green Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	24 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Evening - Tote	25 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw
	27 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	28 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4 yr 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	29 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance 19.30 BAGS	30 Black Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	31 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Evening - Tote Pot of Gold Poker Night	

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

Sports & Social Club News



What's on at the club

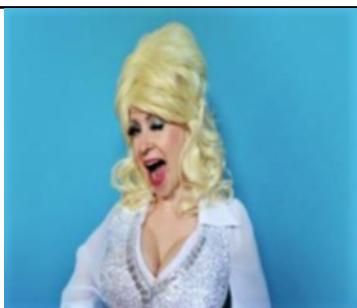
January

Friday 10th The Tote Starts Every Friday
 Friday 10th Bottle Draw
 Friday 17th New! 50/50 Win or Lose
 Saturday 18th Fanny Galore - Sold Out
 Sunday 19th Children's Film Event 4:30 pm Finding Nemo. Soft drinks and popcorn available to purchase
 Friday 31st New! Pot of Gold
 Friday 31st Poker Registration 7:30pm (sign-up sheet at the Bar)



15th February Diamond Dolly

Dolly Parton Tribute Act
 £20 Dinner and a Show
 Tickets on sale now
 Buy from the club only
 Details from:
www.birchangerclub.com/btc



Weekly Events:

Day	Event	When
Mondays:	Quiz Night	21.00
Thursdays:	Bingo Night	20.00
Fridays:	Tote	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: 09.30 - 23.30
 Sun: 12.00 - 22.30

Restaurant Hours:

Thursdays: 17:30-21:00
 Fridays: 12:00-15:00 & 17:30-21:00
 Saturdays: 09:30-12:00 (Breakfast) 12:00-15:00 & 17:30-21:00
 Sundays: Fresh rolls from the bar at opening

Membership and what's new for 2020?

In 2020, we have a new variety of entertainment shows available for members and their guests, which we have called 'Behind The Curtain'. These events will be modestly priced ticketed events on our stage area and members and guests can enjoy a reserved seat area and a meal all included in the price of each ticket.

The first show with 'Fanny Galore' on the 18th January is already sold out. Diamond Dolly is coming next on the 15th February, followed in July by Mrs Browns Boys Comedy Dining Ready to Go.

The club will host a fantastic VE Day event in May and run their popular Beer Festival and Family Fun Day in the summer plus a revitalised Village Fete and much, much more all through the year.

Renew your membership!

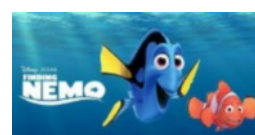
You could WIN FREE TICKETS + meals for all 'Behind The Curtain' events throughout 2020 if you renew your membership either over the bar or online at www.birchangerclub.com/renew by January 10th 2020! This is a fantastic prize worth over £400 that one lucky renewed member will win. The draw will take place on the evening of January 10th at the club. Both life and ordinary members can participate. Just follow the information on our website:

www.birchangerclub.com/renew

Thank you for your continued support of your local club



NEW!
 50/50 Win or Lose
 Fri 17th Jan



Kids Film
 Finding Nemo
 Sun 19th Jan. 4.30pm



NEW!
 Pot of Gold
 Fri 31st Jan



Friday 31st January 7.30



The Tote
 Every
 Friday

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

Birchanger Primary School



Happy New Year from Birchanger C of E Primary School

We have had another busy term at our school and by the time that you read this all of the children, staff, governors and volunteers will be enjoying a well-earned rest.

Our topic for the autumn term was called 'Boom!' and it brought together learning across the curriculum. The second half of the term focused on music and the development of the children's skills in this important art form. All of the children have music lessons in the classroom and we use the Essex based Charanga programme to help the children broaden their knowledge through the year. The school has also funded ukulele lessons for our Year 4 and 5 children where these children have learned to play a number of popular songs together. We are also fortunate to benefit from the skills of church organist Ann who visits our school every Thursday morning to play the piano and teach us new songs in assembly. Ann has also developed a choir which includes children from Year 2 – Year 6 who sing when we hold our church services.



At the end of November we welcomed a number of musicians to our assemblies. These visitors gave up their time to share their talent and inspire the children from school.

Over the course of a week we heard from a guitarist who played the electric and acoustic guitar,

a clarinettist and an opera singer. The children really enjoyed hearing them play and since their visits we have been inundated with requests from children who are keen to learn a musical instrument.

Currently we offer one to one music lessons on the guitar, piano and violin and we are looking forward to watching the numbers of our musicians grow.

Each year group has their own set of skills for music that they need to develop through their learning and most years need to develop their ability to perform a piece of music with increasing confidence. In KS2 this term the children performed for family and supporters. We were treated to some of the songs that the children will sing at the O2 when they join many other schools to sing together in one of London's iconic venues. During the concerts we also heard lots of children perform, using a range of instruments and we decided that without doubt 'Birchanger's Got Talent!' The collection after the shows raised nearly £400 which was put towards a trip to London to see the West End show School of Rock to provide the children with a wonderful opportunity to watch others of their own age perform professionally.



Our younger children in KS1 included lots of singing in their nativity production and the parents and supporters commented on the confidence of our performers, even though some children have been at school for less than a term.



Next term we shall change our topic and it will be 'Best of British' which will include listening to British music as well as studying local artists. The focus in geography will be to review our local area so watch out for the children walking through the village and learning about the important features of our village.

Claire Berry - Headteacher



NEW RESEARCH SHOWS NO SAFE LIMIT FOR AIR POLLUTION



New research published in the British Medical Journal last month has shown that airborne emissions of fine carbon particles – known as PM_{2.5} – can have serious health impacts even when the level of concentration is below the World Health Organisation's guideline limits.

PM_{2.5} emanates from fuel combustion and transport sources and is one of the major issues associated with airport expansion, not only because of the additional air pollution caused by the increased flights but also from the additional road traffic generated by the increase in passengers.

The results of the research confirm previously established associations between PM_{2.5} and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as Parkinson's and diabetes. In addition, the study found evidence of health impacts not previously associated with PM_{2.5} including septicaemia, fluid and electrolyte disorders, as well as urinary and skin infections.

Stansted Airport is already a major source of PM_{2.5} air pollution and, in connection with its current planning application to increase its permitted annual throughput from 35 to 43 million passengers, the airport was required to provide a report on the projected pollution levels. This report showed that if its current planning application were to be approved, the airport would be responsible for putting 13.6 tonnes of fine carbon particles (PM_{2.5}) into the air annually, 25% more pollution than today.



SSE Health Advisor, Professor Jangu Banatvala, commented "The paramount duty of Uttlesford District Council is to do everything possible to safeguard the health of its local residents. That includes protecting the air that we all have to breathe. In view of this new

research it is inconceivable that our local council could permit any further airport expansion until such time as this can be achieved without increasing the risks to the health of the local population." *Brian Ross*

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Happy new year from the Easton Lodge Gardens!

January can be grim can't it? So, like you, we are focusing on the nice things to come in the year ahead of us, starting with snowdrops (of course!).

The snowdrops continue to spread through the Gardens. In the Bosquet there are patches of aconites as well as the swathes of snowdrops among the trees and towards the treehouse, along the Glade and in the kitchen garden, they are colonising the grassy areas too.

Our snowdrop Open Days are on 16th and 23rd February, gates are open at 11.30 am, with last entry at 3.00 pm. We can also arrange other dates for group visits of 10 or more people.

We have been busily planting and planning for more colour in the gardens through the year and are also working on exciting additional activities for the full season open days. Why not follow our progress on Facebook or our blog, or arrange for a speaker to come to your community to share the gardens' story?

For more information, see the 'What's on', 'Group visits', or 'Talks' pages at www.eastonlodge.co.uk. To book, call us on 01371 876979. *Jill Goldsmith*



Help wanted for 75th anniversary of VE Day

Friday May 8th 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Birchanger is planning to join communities around the country in celebrating this important day with a day of activities and entertainment. Initial plans have been made for some events and entertainment but we still require help and input to make this day successful and memorable for everyone. Some of the activities planned are a 'street party' or picnic, sports day for the children and possibly the adults and we hope to run a 1940's fancy dress competition. We already have some quality period entertainment booked with hopefully more to confirm.

We are looking for help in organizing with the planning before and on the day. We will also be looking for help in fund raising to cover the costs with any surplus funds being donated to charity. If anyone would like to help out with the organizing of the events or help out on the day could they please contact Evan Hill on 07751628678 evanhill@hotmail.co.uk Any help would be gratefully accepted no matter how large or small to make this a great community celebration. *Thank you, Evan.*

Christmas Tree Recycling

Uttlesford District Council is providing skips to re-cycle your old Christmas tree and other green waste.

When: Sunday 12th January 2020
Time: From 09.00 am to 10.00 am
Where: Stansted Lower Street Car Park



The Hundred Parishes Society

The logo of the Hundred Parishes Society includes birds and trees surrounding a church spire. This tranquil scene, a wood engraving by Eric Ravilious, captures the sights and sounds of the countryside, hinting at church bells, wind in the treetops and bird song.

During a wintry walk as you scan the horizon you may spy a variety of birds. Mixed flocks of noisy corvids, especially rooks and jackdaws, deftly execute their aerial acrobatics in blustery conditions. The larger ravens are increasing in number and you may hear their gurgling croaks which carry far on the wind.



Stansted Mountfitchet

Mature circle-soaring buzzards are patrolling their territories. Hovering kestrels are searching for food. You may also see a red kite with a forked tail and wingspan of nearly 6 feet (1.8 metres).

Albury



As a tractor cuts furrows in the damp ground, the corvids are frequently joined by noisy groups of gulls eager to feast on worms and other soil invertebrates.

Farmers do what they can to discourage unwelcome flocks of vegetarian woodpigeons as they attack their precious crops.



Matching

Mixed parties of tits keep in touch as they flit among branches searching for insect food. Robins sing and a mistle thrush may proclaim his presence from a lofty perch. In a sunny sheltered spot, starlings whistle merrily.



Radwinter

As you walk, a snap of a twig or the squelch of your boot in the wet mud reveals your presence and a startled pheasant or blackbird may sound an urgent alarm call.



Quendon - Hanging Hill

All too often, the background noise of vehicles, sirens and aircraft can intrude, but it is still possible to find locations where the natural sounds take centre stage. I encourage you to experience the sights and sounds of the countryside. www.hundredparishes.org.uk offers a choice of winter walks. *Tricia Moxey, Trustee*

The Three Horseshoes



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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
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
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	Barbora Dragoskova	01279 815243

Village Church Hall



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



Forthcoming Fundraising Events:

Tearoom every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Hall Hire:

Hall Administrator - Barbora Dragoskova Tel. 01279 815243

Email st.johns.church@btinternet.com

Key Holder - Elaine Wright Tel. 01279 813474

Email: stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

St. Mary's Church News



Church services

5 th Jan	11:15 am	Matins service - Epiphany
12 th Jan	11:15 am	Holy Communion - Baptism of Christ
19 th Jan	11:15 am	Family service
26 th Jan	11:15 am	Holy Communion

Church News

The coffee morning on the 10th December was a huge success. Those attending were treated to mince pies and festive music and raised £190 towards church funds. Thanks to Elizabeth and Pim Godwin for their continued support and wonderful hospitality. The next one will be on the 25th February 2020 at 10:30 am.

New Village Church Hall Management

The village hall will be managed in the New Year by Barbora Dragoskova, the Benefice Hall Administrator, at the St Johns office Stansted. What does this mean? All bookings and queries in future will be via this office, which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. To support this change there will be a list of key holders for the hall and access to the hall will be via them. This decision has been taken by the trustees of the hall to improve the management of the hall and making it a really great hall to hire. We wish Barbora every success with this new venture.

Hall administrator: Barbora Dragoskova Tel: 01279 815243

Email st.johns.church@btinternet.com

Key holder Elaine Wright Tel: 01279813474

stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th January 1.00 pm at the village hall. Epiphany Lunch, 2 course hot meal, £10 per person. Call Pam Lee 07702171744.

A Prayer for the New Year.

Dear Lord,

Grant me the strength from day to day

To bear what burdens come my way.

Grant me throughout this bright New Year

More to endure and less to fear.

Help me live that I may be

From spite and petty malice free.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today

Help me to put my faults away.

Let me be big in little things;

Grant me the joy which friendship brings.

Keep me from selfishness and spite;

Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I

May bring no tear to any eye.

When this New Year in time shall end

Let it be said I've played the friend,

Have lived and loved and laboured here,

And made of it a happy year.

(Edgar A Guest)

Elaine Wright (Church Warden)

stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For information or bookings, contact:
Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243
st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Key Holder - Elaine Wright 01279 813474
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Editor: Peter Sampson Tel: 01279 813193, Email: magazine@birchanger.com

Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin.

Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.