



Birchanger Village Magazine

February 2020

Issue 205



SSE Urge Council Not To Jump the Gun!

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) is urging Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to await the final outcome of SSE's High Court challenge as well as the publication of the Government's new aviation policy – both expected at any time, before making a decision on the current Stansted Airport planning application.

Uttlesford planning officers have been pressing their councillors to decide the controversial planning application as soon as possible and have set a timetable which could mean that councillors would be forced to vote at a special meeting of the Planning Committee scheduled for Friday 24th January. For more than a year officers have been recommending that councillors should approve the airport planning application.

The central issue in SSE's legal challenge is whether the current airport planning application should be decided locally or nationally. The case was heard in the High Court in mid-November and the judge's decision is expected at any time. SSE says that it would be illogical, and potentially give rise to substantial and unnecessary legal costs, if UDC were to attempt to determine the planning application locally before the final outcome of these High Court proceedings clarifies the legal position.

Also imminently expected is the new Aviation White Paper setting out the Government's long term policy for the future development of UK airports and the wider aviation industry. This will be only the third Aviation White Paper since 1985 and it will define the Government's updated approach towards controlling aircraft noise, air pollution and carbon emissions. All of these matters are highly relevant to the consideration of the current airport planning application.

SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "It is fully appreciated that enormous pressure is being put upon our local council by the airport and various lobbyists to decide the current planning application. We would however urge the council not to be swayed by this pressure, or by any sweeteners offered by Stansted

Airport. It is common sense that the Planning Committee should await the decision of the High Court and also the new Aviation White Paper, both of which are imminently expected."

Mr Sanders concluded: "There is no rush to settle this matter. Stansted has plenty of headroom for growth under its existing planning permission and the fact is that passenger numbers have been in decline for the past six months. This is a time for calm reflection, not a potentially costly, hasty decision."

Local Plan Rejected by Inspectors

The Inspectors hearing the latest version of Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan apparently did not like it one little bit. In fact they have asked the District Council to withdraw the current version and go back to the drawing board - damning indeed! The changes the inspectors are seeking are so extensive that a completely new plan is the only sensible solution.

This may sound like good news for some but is it? If a major re-think on the new settlements is required, this will take some time. In the meantime, the houses which the government dictates the council must provide sites for will have to be built somewhere until the so called new garden communities are up and running, if indeed they ever are.

In the meantime, the council has to attempt to meet government imposed building requirements. In the absence of an up to date plan, everywhere in the district is vulnerable and the council may be tempted to go for a quick fix. This would mean a free for all for developers to make an easy case for their own sprawling developments anywhere in the district. Even if the council refused these applications, the developers would very likely succeed on appeal due to the council failing to meet the housing targets. It could give rise to areas of inappropriate development anywhere in Uttlesford. Birchanger is entirely inside the green belt and should be safe. However, nothing is forever certain. Rochford's Nursery outside Stansted was green belt and that was developed into the Forest Hall Estate!



At Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school we have had a very busy term leading up to Christmas. The children enjoyed making decorations, calendars and Christmas cards, which the majority of children posted to their parents or carers. The term finished with a Christmas party and concert, enjoyed by our parents and carers.



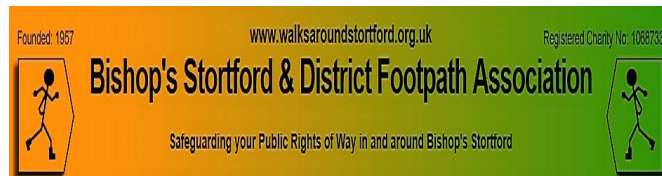
We returned in January and welcomed five new children and their families. This term we are looking at 'Growing and Keeping Healthy'. Our Forest School sessions continue on Wednesday afternoons. We recently made a fire for the children where they cooked crumpets and learnt how to safely use some tools. The children also had the opportunity to explore our ever-changing environment, looking at the leaves that have fallen from the trees and searching for signs of animals in the winter.

Our qualified, experienced team are pleased to be able to take children from 2 years old and offer up to 30 hours per week. The sessions we offer are; 9am to 12 noon, 12 noon to 3pm and 9am-3pm.

If you are interested in a place at our pre-school please contact us via email: admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk or call us on 01279 810 800.

We currently have only a few spaces available for the academic year 2019/2020 and are taking registrations for September 2020 now.

Karen Reilly - Pre-school Manager



Sunday Walks Departing at 10.00 am 5/6 miles

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

08 Mar 2020 Perry Green, The Hoops Pub
TL439174, Postcode SG10 6EF

22 Mar 2020 Harlow-Eastwick Memorial & Pub
TL434117, Postcode CM20 2QY

It is with sadness we report that our former secretary, Anne Lowe died on Friday 6th December - after a long illness. Some will know that she has suffered from cancer for some years and although it was terminal she was about to start chemotherapy at the beginning of December but unfortunately the cancer spread too rapidly in the intermediate 4 weeks and she was too poorly to receive it.

Be aware that footpaths across the fields which form part of the Stortford North Developments may be subject to temporary closure. We will follow this throughout development and try to ensure that closure is not permanent and that the routes are kept open during the construction period.

Countryside and Rights of Way Monthly News has a new on-line E-news monthly publication from the HC Countryside and Rights of Way department.

Herts CC and East Herts are currently drafting a 'Cycle Corridor Study' running up from the Lea Valley via Harlow, and Bishop's Stortford into Stansted Airport'. This is a very detailed survey and is full of interesting possibilities.

Stansted Mountfitchet is in Essex and the latest Essex/Uttlesford Cycling Strategy Document 2018, does not identify any 'flagship route' for Stansted Mountfitchet, although it does state that with the right infrastructure provision and incentives from employers in and around the airport, the share of cycling by employees could grow significantly. There is also a new college at Stansted Airport situated on Round Coppice Road which would benefit!

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

Email: dwwj.444@gmail.com
www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

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



Scammers Get More Sophisticated

At least it seems that way. They now do more research: they seem to know where you bank, what

accounts you have and which accounts contain the most money. When you speak to them, their accent may be Scottish, Irish or any other European nation.

When talking about your bank account, they seem to know all about your accounts. To cover any suspicions you may have they talk about unusual activity, payments sent to unusual destinations, the number of bank accounts you have and with whom.

Banks will never ask for your account details. If the caller asks for your account details or pin number, simply hang up and assume it's a scam. If you want to check about the call wait a few minutes and call your bank using the telephone number you know is legitimate.

A new trick the scammers use is to enlist your confidence by saying they are from the staff investigations unit at your particular branch. Cash is going missing from the branch and they believe your account is involved. They would like your help to investigate this. The only thing they are investigating is just how to get hold of your money. Have none of it and hang up.

This is just one of the current scams but there will be others following. Remember 'Stranger Danger' from your school days! There is 'Stranger Danger' in our communication systems now as well, so take care.

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 26th February 7.30 for 8.00 pm

A Social Evening to have a natter and catch up with village friends

Telephone for details

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

The Big Coat Swap

At this time of the year it seems that spring is too long coming and we are all fed up with the cold dank dark days of winter and everything that goes with it. That in my case also includes my now rather boring winter coat.

There is nothing wrong with the coat except that I am rather tired of it but don't want to get a new one at this stage in the winter.

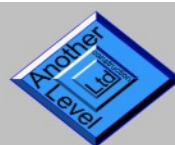
Actually I don't have to get a new coat at all. I can take my coat up to the coat swap in either Dunmow or Saffron Walden libraries, put it on a hanger and go and select another coat for free. If there isn't anything right for me I can either take my coat home again or simply leave it there for someone else. The only stipulation is that any coat brought to the coat swap must be clean. At least that way clothes swap users can be sure that the coats they choose are clean also.

Help Run Your Business from the Library With Cobra!

Essex Libraries are not just for lending books, they provide a lot of other necessary services as well. Small businesses need access to all kinds of reliable information at some time or another but many find themselves dependent upon the usual accountants, business advisers, or solicitors.

Unfortunately all these services cost money and with many smaller businesses, money can be in short supply. Information is available through Essex County Council Library Services whose information service, known as Cobra (not to be confused with the government's high powered emergency committee), can provide all the necessary information online through the ECC library service.

The service can be accessed at any time but you need your library card to access the information. Whilst you are at it, why not also borrow a book online. Books are very easy to return and there are no fines for being overdue!



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The Mountbatten Indian Restaurant Revisited

One of the best local curry restaurants close to Birchanger village is the Mountbatten which in a previous incarnation used to be the Red White and Blue Pub. It is the source of many of our takeaway meals so I was curious to revisit it again and to eat in as the last time I was there the service was very poor.

The Mountbatten serves up curries which are not always to be found in other restaurants. Its spacious surroundings make the meal more of an occasion. On this visit, the food (when it came) was as good as ever but the time it took to come was totally unacceptable. Takeaway diners were in and out collecting meals with hardly any wait while the increasingly hungry in-house diners looked on, becoming increasingly disgruntled. After all there are only so many poppadums you can eat, even if they are accompanied by delicious chutneys, yoghurt sauces and the like.

It seems that the Mountbatten needs to choose a way forward. Focus on takeaways, or look after the in-house diners. If they want to continue to do both they need to find more staff, even if this means training up more local people to cover the very obvious lack of restaurant staff. In a multi-cultural society what is wrong with that? If they do not change their ways, perhaps the decision will be made for them by their customers. In the end, an attractive and popular restaurant may become a victim of the takeaway trade.

Mental Illness Help for All

Did you know that there is a group offering affordable therapies to all mental illness sufferers and their families? The group is known as 'Thrive' and it offers one to one help or group workshop therapies to all those of any age who are suffering from a mental illness at affordable prices. If this might benefit you or someone you know, Thrive can be reached on 01799 252009.



Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,
Birchanger,
Herts.
CM23 5QF



Get Fit for Spring with Uttlesford Health Walk

Don't be put off by the weather, spring really will be here soon and there are

other paths to fitness besides the gym. You could try one of the health walks with others who are trying to be a little fitter under the expert eye of a trained leader who selects the walk and guides you along the way.

You do not have to be super fit to take part in these walks. You do not have to come with a group of friends as there will be people to talk to along the way. All you need to provide in addition to yourself is appropriate clothing and footwear. You will be walking for approximately 75 minutes although times may vary slightly. The nearest walk for Birchanger residents starts in Stansted leaving from Chapel Hill near the library at 10.30 am on Friday mornings. There is also a walk in Hatfield Forest at 9.45am on Thursday mornings starting at the main entrance car park.



Well behaved dogs are also welcome on this walk which uses forest footpaths and open grassland. Both these walks offer opportunities to explore areas you may never have visited before. There are also walks in Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Thaxted.

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Celebrating 25 Years of Essex County Neighbourhood Watch

The Essex Neighbourhood Watch Association (NhW) recently celebrated 25 years of helping to make the county safer. The Association was created in 1995 by

its President, Geoff Ireland, and it now has thousands of volunteers who give up their time to assist in making their communities a safer place by reducing the opportunity of crime.



Chairman of Essex NhW, Clive Stewart and Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Jane Gardner were joined by representatives from all of the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Districts to celebrate the 25 years anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, Jane Gardner presented the volunteers with a cake as a token 'thank you' for all their sterling efforts over the years at a meeting held at Kelvedon Park.

Since April 2016, Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, has awarded Essex Neighbourhood Watch £56,386 from his Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant Fund to help with running costs, paying for promotional activities and crime prevention items, producing guides for its 140,000 members (including Neighbourhood Watch Facebook and Twitter users) and supporting the organisation's annual conferences.

Roger Hirst said: "Neighbourhood Watch do a very important job in communities throughout Essex. Working with the police they help provide intelligence to officers, support the elderly and vulnerable and go out of their way to make their local area safer. "Just knowing that Neighbourhood Watch is active in an area can play a large part in gathering intelligence and preventing crime from happening in the first place. The volunteers make a significant contribution towards creating safe and secure communities. Congratulations and thank you on your 25 amazing years!"

Clive Stewart, Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association's chairman and secretary, said: "We operate 14 Neighbourhood Watch Districts across Essex and our 140,000 members are all volunteers. We encourage people to come together to make our communities safer and stronger and to look out for each other. "I'm so proud that there have been Neighbourhood Watch groups for 25 years and really appreciate the support we have from Essex Police and especially the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner."

To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and how to get involved go to <http://www.essexnwa.co.uk/>
You can also email your full name and postal address to essexcountynwassoc@btinternet.com.



Damage to cars on the A120 Bishops Stortford By-Pass

Throughout January, anti-social behaviour (ASB) patrols were carried out at various times in Birchanger

Woods, as part of an ongoing operation to catch the culprits and/or disrupt ASB in this area. Please report any suspicious activity in this area to the Police ASAP. Call 999 if you see any persons aiming objects at cars on the bypass otherwise call 101 for suspicious behaviour.

Losing Weight Without Dieting?

Apparently it can be done and it does not at first sight seem too arduous either. The instructions are that more sleep is necessary for a start. Well at least there will be less snacking time on the wrong things. Sleeping more can be worked up gradually as most people need to relearn just how to get more sleep. A lot more attention to bed time routines and less alcohol helps.

Regular exercise is of course very important. It doesn't have to be strenuous, as long as you break into a sweat. Even taking the dog for a walk an hour a day will help. Then there is the old adage, eat like a king at breakfast, a lord at lunchtime and a pauper in the evening. Anyone on a diet really does need to eat less in the evening. Eating breakfast if you are not used to doing so can be a big ask, but maybe it beats a restrictive diet.

The next thing you have to do is to eat more slowly, again not easy to achieve if you have a train to catch. Other commuters don't exactly appreciate someone munching a bacon sandwich beside them on the daily commute. However chewing everything 30 times was something the Victorians taught us and apparently those in the know say it works.

This is not exactly dieting but you do need to dump the sauces for something like balsamic vinegar or a tomato salsa. Salad cream, mayonnaise and ketchup can pile on the pounds. However non-saturated fats such as those contained in avocados are fine. Also you should try eating five smaller meals each day and keep hunger at bay by eating soups, potatoes, pulses but no baked beans. Remember two rules, don't shop when you are hungry (you buy all the wrong things), and late night snacking is out.

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

Are you a good listener?

We are looking for reliable volunteers with great listening skills to join our local team, providing emotional and practical support to people affected by crime.

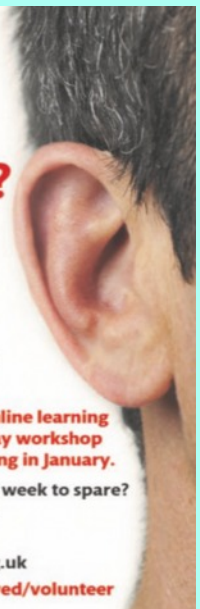
Help people in your local community and learn new skills.

Full training provided, involving an online learning course followed by a two and a half day workshop on 16, 23 & 24 March 2020. Interviewing in January.

Interested? Have four or more hours a week to spare? Then we would love to hear from you.

Call us on 01277 357557 or email: essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer



What's on in the village...

HELLO FEBRUARY		February 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.						
					1 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	2 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Mattins Church Hall: 12.00 Birchanger Litter Pickers Volunteers
3 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	4 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	5 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	6 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	7 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Bottle draw	8 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	9 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion
10 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	11 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	12 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	13 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	14 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: 50/50 Win or Lose	15 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	16 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family service BSSC: 16.00 Kids Film - Finding Dory
17 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	18 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4yrs 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance	19 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance	20 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	21 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Bottle Draw	22 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 White Room Duo - Live	23 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion
24 Church hall: 11.00 Petal Senses 19.30 Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	25 Church hall: 13.00 Petals Baby Yoga 15.55 Ballet 3-4 yr 16.30 Ballet 5-7yrs 18.30 Apton Dance 10.30 Coffee at Moorswood	26 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 15.45 Fencing 18.30 Apton Dance 19.30 BAGS	27 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimer's 12.30 Line dance 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	28 Church hall: 9.30 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC: Pot of Gold	29 Church Hall: 9.00 Dance for Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Cat's Charity Quiz Night	

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

Sports & Social Club News



What's on at the club

7 th February	Bottle Draw
14 th February	50/50 Win or Lose
15 th February	Diamond Dolly-Tickets are still available
16 th February	Finding Dory
21 st February	Bottle Draw
22 nd February	White Room musical duo – Live 9.00 pm
28 th February	Pot of Gold
29 th February	Cat's Charity Quiz night - £10 per ticket, including a sausage and chip supper

Please Note! Due to unforeseen circumstances, the kitchen is closed until further notice.



Diamond Dolly
Dolly Parton Tribute Act
£20 Dinner and a Show

For details, go to:
www.birchangerclub.com/btc

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Buy from the club only

Diamond Dolly
Diamond Dolly

New Date

Friday 17th April



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:

Thurs: 17.30-21.00
 Fridays: 12.00 - 23.00
 Saturdays: 09.30-12.00 (Breakfast) & 17.30-21.00
 Sundays: Fresh rolls from the bar at opening

Restaurant Closed Until Further Notice



50/50 Win or Lose
Friday
14th February



Pot of Gold Friday
28th February



Kids Film
Finding Dory
16th February 4.00 pm

22nd February
Simply great music for all occasions..

White Room
Live Music Duo..



Tommy's
Funding research
Saving babies' lives

Cat's Charity Quiz Night 29th February
 Cat is holding a charity quiz night for Tommy's, the baby charity which goes towards funding research into premature, stillbirth and miscarriages.
 Tickets are £10 per person which includes a sausage and chip supper or veggie option. There will be a raffle on the night together with table games.

Tickets available from Cat or at the club, or alternatively order by email to: mrscatroberon@gmail.com.
 For more information logon to:
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=CatRoberson1&pageUrl=1>

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



Birchanger Primary School

We have started the New Year with lots of enthusiasm for the learning and challenges ahead. Our topic for this term is 'Best of British' and during this topic we shall develop skills in English, geography, history and art.

During the first week back at school we invited Linda Morris, a local potter, to join us. Linda's work reflects the history of pottery that we have in our country. During their learning this term, the children are going to find out more about local and national potters and the style of work that they produce. During the day that Linda was with us she presented some of her work in assembly. The children also had the opportunity to hold pieces of pottery that used different techniques. Linda also showed us some of her work and the children asked her questions about being a potter.



Once the assembly was over Linda had time in each of our five classes to work with the children. She supported them to make a class fossil pot and to contribute to one large school pot. The technique that Linda used was simple and involved rolling clay over corrugated cardboard and rolling it up. This turned a normal piece of clay into a clay ammonite

which were placed together by the children and are now going through the drying and firing stages at Linda's studio.

The children really enjoyed the experience and they made comments like, "I liked getting messy", "I absolutely LOVED doing pottery and I hope that we could do it again" and they said "Thank you for helping us to make pottery Linda and we hope that you come back". Once the firing and glazing has been completed, Linda will return the pots to school where we shall display them, hopefully in time for our Mother's Day treat later this term. *Claire Berry - Headteacher*

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A 10th Anniversary 2019-20



Our annual Christmas Lunch was held at Bury Lodge on December 19th. It was very well attended and a great success. Before lunch we were entertained by the Strummers, the Singers having appeared at the Hadham Golf Club Christmas Lunch on the 15th. We are very grateful to the local businesses who donated raffle prizes.



2020 is promising to be another busy year for Stansted U3A with plenty to look forward to. There is a full list of speakers for the monthly General Meetings on the Trips and Events page of the website. Our General Meeting in February will be held on the 20th at St John's Hall, Stansted, 1.30 for 2.00pm. This will be a talk by Tracy Mackness from the Giggly Pig Organic Farm. At the meeting she will be selling sausages, other produce and her books.

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 4th. Please note this is not the date stated in the January article. It 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.

The Saturday Seminar programme for 2020 is now almost complete and includes talks on a range of subjects such as Art, History and Science. The first Saturday Seminar of the year will be held on Saturday March 14th when Neil Faulkner will give a talk entitled the "The History of the World in a Morning".

For further information, please contact us by phone: 07874 385541 or email: stansted_u3a@gmail.com or logon to: www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Anne White on behalf of Stansted U3A



Protecting native woodlands is regarded as crucial in the fight against climate change. Our community is very fortunate to have ancient woodland on its doorstep, Birchanger Wood. The trust that manages the wood was originally set up to end encroachment by housing and preserve it as “green lungs” in an area dominated by the M11 motorway and an international airport.

The wood can only be properly managed with the help of volunteers and support from the community. Over recent months, residents have bought our seasoned firewood,



while the Stort Valley Rotary Club and the Premier Court Care Home in Thorley have kindly donated funds to help support the maintenance and improvement of the woodland.

Yet, nothing could happen without the involvement of our team of volunteers, led by our warden Pat Forrest (Pictured left), a man whose name well suits his lifelong commitment to envi-

ronmental conservation at Birchanger Wood.

Every Saturday during the coppice season, Pat and his team are active in coppicing trees. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which exploits the capacity of many species of trees to put out new shoots from their stump or roots if cut down.



In a coppiced wood, which is called a copse, young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level, resulting in a stool. This is a sustainable way of managing trees, which regrow and provide the firewood that funds our operations. However, we are always in need of more volunteers for the team and would warmly welcome people who are prepared to be hands-on. If you are interested in conservation and would like to volunteer, even for just an hour or two on a Saturday, please go to the compound next to the water tower on Heath Row in Bishop's Stortford.



Meanwhile, local ecologist and science educator Jono Forgham has been documenting all the species in the wood. He is calling for community involvement in a year-long study of the wood and its natural history by recording the tree species, birds, mammals, insects, arachnids, plants and fungi. He will be visiting two to three times a week with moth trap nights on a weekly basis and would like anyone who is interested, no matter their experience, to join him.



If you would like to help and get involved, please contact Jono.

Email: jforgham@hotmail.com

Or text him on 07805571551.

Daniel Brett - Secretary



The Hundred Parishes Society

It is easy to take for granted the helpful signposts to be found at many of our road junctions, yet they are part of our culture and heritage. Early road signs were erected by cycling and then motoring organisations as ordinary people began to enjoy the freedom afforded by ownership of a bicycle or motor car. Standards for signage on main roads were redefined in the 1960s to satisfy faster traffic and night visibility. Fingerposts that indicate direction and distance from rural junctions are frequently much older and can merit further investigation.



Fingerposts, with arms pointing in several directions, are white with black lettering, and generally made of wood or iron. Many local examples, some almost 100 years old, were made of iron in Essex at Maldon Iron Works. The

manufacturer's name is now usually obscured by many layers of paint.

Personal favourites include the fingerpost at Matching Green indicating the mileage to London – precisely 26¼ - and one north of High Roding that points to Takeley Station which closed 60 years ago.



On the B1039 between Chrishall and Great Chishill, a finger points to a non-existent 'Great Chishall'. A Henham sign shows the way to the pub, Ugley Chequers. This and all other signposts were removed for the duration of WWII lest they should aid the enemy.



Some signs at T-junctions have information on the back, albeit hidden from view. Usually this is the same as the visible side, but not always: the southerly finger of one on the B1051

in Broxted points to Broxted and Bps Stortford, but the back reveals that it has been recycled and once pointed to Wimbish Green.

As you travel along the lanes, please take time for a second look at our humble, ancient fingerposts.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We have been looking back at our recent snowdrop days but they give us little clue as to what we can expect this year. We had a heat wave in February 2019 with record temperatures, more like an early summer's day and in February 2018 we had the start of the 'Beast from the East'! Undaunted, we are planning for the best and building a new wooden gazebo so that we can have an additional catering outlet, just in case! Our snowdrop open days are on 16th and 23rd February, gates open 11.30 am, with last entry at 3.00 pm. Our volunteers stand ready to provide tasty homemade soup, bacon/cheese/hummus rolls and of course our homemade cakes! We will also have snowdrops in the green for sale.

In 2019 Landsec funded the restoration of the stone steps into the Italian Garden and based on that really positive experience, we are now planning for the next big stone restoration project in 2020/21, the balustrade around the lily pond. The Co-Op have enabled their members to support this project every time they shop, so if that's you, or even if you only sometimes shop in the Co-Op, please sign up to help us. You can find more details on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/support-us/fund-raising.

We have updated our website with key information for 2020 and will be adding more detail as it is confirmed, so why not take a look, put our dates in your diary and maybe buy a season ticket? They are excellent value! Season tickets are available on the gate or through the website. Go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk - Jill Goldsmith



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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
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Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
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Nail & Pedicure	Hien's Nails	01279 507019
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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



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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

2 nd February	11:15 am	Matins service
9 th February	11:15 am	Holy Communion
16 th February	11:15 am	Family service
23 rd February	11:15 am	Holy Communion

Church News

On the 5th January we were treated to the exceptional culinary delights of someone's cooking (I won't say who) and had a wonderful Epiphany Lunch with 16 people from the village and congregation who included Paul our rector and his wife Janet. These events are always advertised so anyone can come along, for £10 per head. Perhaps next time you may want to join us?

Can You Help?

As many of you are aware, our beautiful church that has been a stable and secure factor in our village since the 11th century has gone through many changes to the one we have today. This has been made possible by faithful servants, such as supportive villagers, Rectors and lay people some of whom have taken on the responsibilities of Church management and day to day running. As we start this New Year, we realise that the volunteers who undertake the management of the church is diminishing. We are in need of a treasurer, a secretary, a churchwarden and anyone who is able to help in any way. We also need the help of YOU to tell us what you feel about your church and what we can do to make God's love more accessible to everyone and not just at certain times during the year.

Our village Church has fabulous facilities: it is a spiritual quiet place for reflection and prayer and we want to share this with you. If you want to discuss how you could help in any way then please contact me (see below) or perhaps check out our Facebook page.

Did you know?

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

Whatever gift or skill you have, this time of giving up and giving is regarded as a period of spiritual preparation to grow closer to God. So what will you do this lent?

A prayer for Lent

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

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 25th February 10:30 – 12MD - Coffee morning at Moorswood. All are welcome and any items you could donate for our sale would be gladly received.

Elaine Wright (Church Warden) Tel. 01279 813474

Email: stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact;
Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243
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**St.
Mary's
Church
Urgently
Needs
Help!**

St. Mary's Church is in urgent need of a treasurer, a secretary and a churchwarden. Anyone who would like to help in any way. Please contact Elaine Wright:
Tel. 01279 813474
Email:
stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com



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