



Birchanger Village Magazine

June 2020

Issue 209



VE Day Celebrations Continue Despite Lockdown



VE Day in Birchanger

Despite the Coronavirus lockdown, and in true British Bulldog fashion, Birchanger residents still managed to celebrate VE Day. Houses in Birchanger were suitably decorated in bunting and residents got together for individual street parties whilst of course keeping to the social distancing regulations advised by the government. A balmy warm and sunny day found people socialising in their front gardens, barbecuing and supping a few bevies. A happy day was had by all.

Challenging Times for County Council

The work of the County Council has, not surprisingly, changed immeasurably over the last few months and the issue of Highway matters has taken rather a back seat with preference for many of the things that we always do but never figure very highly on most people's agenda. Having said that, Highways are continuing to work on all of the normal pothole filling and some resurfacing work together with general repairs. However, that work is at a slower pace than normal because of the issues around staff safety and social distancing that needs to be maintained throughout.

The main areas that we are concentrating on are our roles in social care and particularly care homes where we have seen considerable challenges, many of which have been highlighted in the media. Managing those pressures has been extremely challenging and the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic have been significant. Indeed, one of our own members, Terry Cutmore who was a much-respected member from Rochford died early in April and we later heard that his son had also succumbed to complications including the virus.

The challenges around the lockdown have been significant and we have seen a significant increase in the referrals made to our family support units and it is clear that when the lockdown is released there will be an increase in reports of both domestic and child abuse. From this point our schools have done sterling work in remaining in contact with families that are classed as vulnerable but it is

evident that there are emerging problems within households that were not previously registered as in need of additional support.

Essex Youth Services have however been at the forefront of this work and not only are they conducting more than 2500 contacts with young people both remotely and by other interventions but they have also put in place a number of initiatives that young people can take up whilst they are otherwise constrained. This has included a virtual Duke of Edinburgh scheme that will enable all of the preliminary works to be carried out from home whilst the practical and expedition sections will be completed when possible.

Clearly the matter concerning many families is that of when schools will open again and we await guidance from government in relation to this. However, we have been working with schools across the County to ensure that they are ready and properly supported when this is progressed.

Buses and Passenger Transport is a major concern and currently many services, particularly within Uttlesford, are running at about 1% of their normal amounts. ECC have maintained their statutory payments to the operators but inevitably many of the companies will suffer and may not be around at the end of the crisis. We are envisaging that it will be some time before people feel safe in using buses so we are working to ensure that the services can evolve to meet the shifting pattern of need. *Cllr. Ray Gooding*



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

The Council for Voluntary Services Uttlesford (CVSU)

I was recently contacted by CVSU and was invited to attend a Zoom conference meeting to discuss how they could help Birchanger during the Covid 19 Pandemic and beyond. The meeting was attended by several CVSU personnel and six local village representatives including Dunmow, Stebbing and Hatfield Heath. I was happy to tell the participants that Birchanger has 20 or so villagers who, since the start of the virus, had volunteered to help our older, vulnerable or immobile residents. Thankfully, we have only needed to use these volunteers on a few occasions as it seems family, friends and neighbours have stepped up to the mark and have taken care of those in need.

Christine Chester, Community Builder for CVSU, offered help and support, for the current situation and at any time in the future. She explained "The Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford is a charitable company with 31 years' experience of supporting the voluntary sector. CVSU's primary purpose is to support, advise, develop and strengthen the voluntary sector and community groups in Uttlesford as well as providing representation at strategic level on behalf of the sector. We are very proud of the contribution the voluntary sector makes to the lives of people in Uttlesford and we work in partnership with local organisations to ensure that we have an inclusive and successful voluntary sector with a positive future. We work with a wide range of groups, providing professional specialist services and advising on a range of issues including funding, governance, and set up and we also have an important role in disseminating information through the sector. To find out more log on to: <https://cvsu.org.uk/about/cvs-uttlesford/>.

For those of us who are older and either vulnerable or immobile and are not able to see their family or friends, CVSU can offer a 'Facebook Portal', which is a simple to use online device for online contacting allowing video contact calls with your loved ones worldwide without the hassle of using a PC or laptop. If you fulfil the criteria and have an internet connection, CVSU will visit you and install the equipment free of charge. You can keep the device for as long as you want after the pandemic ends at no cost. If you or someone you know needs one please let me know on 01279 813193 or peter.sampson@talktalk.net.

Another service CVSU offer for the ill, elderly, or vulnerable is the 'Safe Home Project' which amongst other things offers free gardening services. So, if anyone needs help in the garden please contact me. Stay Safe. *Peter Sampson*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

Coronavirus heroes

Every Thursday evening a large proportion of people in Birchanger come out and clap for the NHS workforce who have been putting themselves on the line for us. Without them we would not be making our slow way out of the clutches of the virus, hopefully for the time being anyway.

In Birchanger many of us have found our own particular heroes living here and helping us in so many different ways, when we can't go out, can't get a shopping slot, need an urgent prescription and much more. The people who have helped simply downed tools, putting their own needs aside.

Many of us have received their help. We know who they are. They do too, although they might never admit it. If you have your own unsung hero please tell us about them. It is good to hear about all the good things which are happening in this memorable but very difficult time.

Elizabeth Godwin

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

VE Day Revisited

As a small child growing up in a South London suburb in the grounds of a hospital, I had never known anything other than life in a war. My parents kept chickens and grew fruit and vegetables, so despite the war, we were really well fed. Clothes were few and always homemade and everything from prams to feeding bottles was handed down. There is a great deal to tell about those years.

When D Day finally came, we had a special tea with cakes in the garden, then my parents announced they were going up to London City. This was unheard of and I wanted to go too. There would be fireworks and parties. I had little knowledge of either but I knew I wanted to be there. But I wasn't. I had to make do with the searchlight display and a few odd flashes and bangs. I nursed my sulk for days!

This year I was looking forward to celebrating VE Day in Birchanger but then Covid 19 hit us and everything is cancelled. Now we are in another kind of war – an invisible one! Unfortunately, I am in the extremely vulnerable category and life seems to be on hold. Once again lockdown strikes. Perhaps later this summer, if the virus has relinquished its grip on us, we might celebrate VJ Day, or maybe we will have to wait until 2025. Like it or not we just made another piece of history!

Are you one in a million?

If you are one of those that are under strict quarantine and are not allowed to leave your home for anything unless it is an emergency, you may be receiving a box of groceries. If that is the case and you do not use everything in the box, perhaps you could consider donating those items to a good cause. There are households in Birchanger who would be able to use those items. We have a food bank which desperately needs more stock. If you have food items or toiletries you cannot use yourself please call me on 812793 and I will arrange collection or a convenient drop off address.

Help in the community for everyone

Uttlesford has a Community Helpline open on weekdays from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm on weekdays. They have volunteers who can get your shopping and prescriptions or be a Facebook or Telephone Friend. To find out more and how the service might benefit you call 03333 408 218.

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:

Meetings cancelled due to Covid-19 Virus

Telephone for details
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678

Keeping going with Covid-19 Virus

As we move into our fourth month experiencing the unpleasant effect of the Coronavirus, people are finding it increasingly hard to cope. The long-awaited warmer weather can cause more problems than pleasure to many of us cooped up alone, especially for those who are perhaps living with fractious partners and quarrelling children. The lockdown can all seem endless.

If you are on your own, how are you coping with shopping? Some of us have managed an on line shopping slot but not all of us can stay awake until midnight or later when some stores release limited extra available slots. If you are compulsorily isolated you are still better contacting your doctor's surgery or the District Council for help with shopping, medicines collection and many of the necessities of life we cannot access on our own at present. I am stuck at home and a very kind lady is shopping for me. If you haven't used it before, Internet shopping has been very difficult to access for many people. It has made a huge difference to my confidence as well as my larder. My Volunteer came to me through Uttlesford Volunteers. You can also access help through your doctor's surgery.

I do understand how many of you can be struggling to cope, possibly alone. I would like to help if I can. Whatever it is if you need someone to talk to in confidence please call me on 812793. I can't change the world but I can listen and have plenty of time to do so now. Talking helps to find a way forward.

Thanking Those Who Are Looking After Us

Every Thursday evening, we quite rightly thank the NHS and all those who are looking after us in this difficult time. Another group of workers needs our support as well. They are the road workers who have been out in all weathers repairing and maintaining the roads even adding their own message when they are white lining as messages have appeared in places scribed by the white liners thanking the NHS. They are keeping things going for us in their own special way. As are the dustmen, local delivery drivers and long-distance lorry drivers who are still bringing our food, not forgetting the nameless thousands who are maintaining our way of life. Thank you to everyone everywhere for your dedication.



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Small business help

Small businesses are facing a major struggle right now. Not everyone has found it easy to access the many loans that are available. If you are finding yourself in need of funds, advice and support please call Uttlesford District Council and talk to someone in confidence. There is a lot of help out there, including the new bounce back loans and you may need expert help to find the scheme which suits you best. Find out more at www.uttlesford.gov.uk.

Learn something new in lockdown

A library card can open the door to so much more than simply borrowing a book. Now you can access vastly different classes in a wide range of categories to learn something new. You can build on the skills and knowledge you already have to find a way to make lockdown work for you. All you need is a library card, a phone, or computer and you can access this vast selection by logging on to library.universalclass.com. I tried the site and was amazed at all the variety of subjects on offer.

Coronavirus - the biggest event of our time

Whatever happens in years to come the events of the past few months will rank for many as their greatest life changing experience. For the few who remember World War 2 it will be something of the same storm they experienced at the start of their lives. Just as scary and overwhelming in a different way.

For many, World War 2 was totally life changing. As now, it was a time of sheer horror for many, when people did unspeakable things which are remembered and rightly so to this day. Yet in the midst of all the fear, horror, deprivation and death there was a huge community spirit. We all have heard stories about the spirit of the East End but it wasn't just there, it was everywhere.

Ordinary people did extraordinary things. Such as the lady who pulled a child over her wall and sheltered him as the pilot of a German Messerschmidt flew low down the road firing at everything he saw. The children who calmly walked to shelters when the air raid sounded. The crowds who slept in underground stations. The firemen who fought blazes night after night pulling terror-stricken people from their homes. The young men and women who were sent on terrifying missions from which everyone knew they were unlikely to return.

Today young men and women are putting their lives on the line again. Day after day they go into work never knowing whether what they are doing would eventually claim their own life. They are being shot down just the same but in a new way. People are fighting to save their businesses, facing loss of income and others are working flat out at the highest level of risk to save other people's lives. Everywhere you look someone somewhere is in crisis or fighting the battle of their life. Once again, every day, we are seeing enormous acts of courage. Those of us they serve will never be able to thank them enough for all they do and once again,

this nation will owe their lives to the many who were prepared to fight another enemy albeit in a different form. We will never be able to say thank you enough to that courageous and mostly unseen army.

Why not keep a Coronavirus diary?

Some of us are already perhaps keeping a Coronavirus diary, recording our daily lives throughout these amazing and undreamt-of times. From the shock of the initial impact, a national lockdown, ever-increasing death toll and hopefully the gradual signs that we may have passed the peak of the virus, there are a lot of real-life stories to tell.

If you have kept a diary, Saffron Walden Museum would like to hear from you. Any stories that the museum receives will be exhibited anonymously and archived safely for generations to come. Right now, we are living history and we are the only ones who can tell it all as it is. Please send your diaries either by email to museum@uttlesford.gov.uk or post them directly to Saffron Walden Museum. Every story is worth telling!

Please respect 'Set-aside' farmland

A Set-aside area is a method of enhancing biodiversity on farmland and which is often managed by cutting and/or spraying around arable farmland. In many cases, set-aside land has strips of wildflowers or grasses sown on it. You will normally find these green strip areas around the perimeters of farmers' fields.

The current Set-aside strips replace the old Set-aside fields where farmers were paid to allow a field to remain fallow for a year. This often gave rise to problems with invasive weeds when the fields were brought back into use, which is why the idea of strips around the edges of the fields came about. We should not be walking on these areas unless they have a public right of way sign adjacent.

The use of this land is to encourage wildlife to nest and make homes in the long grass and hedgerows. Unfortunately, this year with everyone self-isolating, these areas have become our new recreational areas, degraded by far too many people whereby the wild life has suffered as a result. In the coming months we have to remember what these areas are really for. They are not for us humans to use, tempting as this may be.

Can't Sleep?

Most of us sleep reasonably well in winter but with the light evenings many of us sleep less or barely sleep at all. New thinking tells us to look at our diet and that poor sleepers should try eating more protein rich food. If you worry a lot, try keeping a pen and pad by your bedside and write down those things on your mind as they crop up. This won't solve anything but it does seem to bring a sense of calm. How is your mattress? Is it lumpy or over 8 years old? Could be time for a change. If you do buy a new mattress it is very much a case of getting what you pay for. Buy the best you can afford and while you are at it, de-clutter your bedroom as this induces better sleep. Have a warm drink before you go to bed, avoiding tea and coffee with caffeine.



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Take care of your passwords

Laptops, computers, tablets and smartphones contain a lot of items such as business-critical data, customer information, personal information and details of online accounts. Passwords, when implemented correctly, are an effective way to prevent unauthorised users accessing your devices.

Things to keep in mind when using passwords

Make sure you switch on password protection - Set a screen lock password, PIN, or other authentication method (fingerprint or face unlock). • Use Two-factor authentication (2FA) for important accounts. - This requires two different methods to 'prove' your identity. • Avoid using predictable passwords (Pa\$\$word123) • Passwords should be easy to remember, but hard for somebody else to guess. If using password managers, make sure the master password is a strong one • Change all default passwords. • The most secure passwords are made up of three random words and can be further strengthened by adding numbers, capital letters and symbols, e.g. pink31Rainbowjam9!

Password 'Spraying'

One common way that online accounts are breached is through password spraying. Lists of a small number of common passwords are used to brute force a large numbers of accounts. These attacks are successful because for large set of users there will be some using very common passwords. The NCSC recently conducted a research study which allowed participating organisations to assess how vulnerable they would be to a password spraying attack.

Results from the study: • 75% had accounts with passwords featured in the top 1,000 passwords • 87% had accounts with passwords that featured in the top 10,000 Whilst account lockout policies limit attackers trying multiple passwords against a single account, the account lockout counters usually reset over time, allowing persistent attackers to try hundreds or even thousands of common passwords. One of the most effective ways to secure against these attacks is to prevent users from using common passwords in the first place. Using a password blacklist stops users choosing common passwords.

How to create a strong memorable password

Use three random words. Numbers, symbols and Capital letters can still be added, e.g. 3RedHouseMonkeys27! Be creative and use words memorable to you, so that people can't guess your password. Your social media accounts can give away vital clues about yourself so don't use words such as your child's name or favourite sports team which are easy for people to guess.

Hot topics

A new flight refund scam that attempts to exploit the ongoing coronavirus outbreak has been reported. The phishing email includes a fake refund form which if filled in would provide scammers with personal information including names and card details. Google saw more than 18 million daily malware and phishing emails relating to Covid19 last week, plus 240 million spam messages.

COVID-19 themed Email messages targeting executives and employees requesting the urgent wiring of funds to cover medical costs, purchase of gift cards to buy essentials online and the urgent update of banking details continue to increase.

Reporting

Reporting to Action Fraud can be done online or by calling 0300 123 2040. To report offers of financial assistance from HMRC, contact phishing@hmrc.gov.uk.

The Three Willows Take-Away Service



Opening Times

We are open for takeaway food from Thursday to Saturday from 5:30 pm till 8:30 pm and on Sunday from 12.00 pm till 4.00 pm.

Orders can be placed from 5:00 pm onwards for collection at an agreed time. Alternatively, leave a message at any time and Mark will call you back. You can also pre-order for the weekend if you wish. Card payments can be made over the phone or on collection.

Limited Delivery Service

For those at high risk and self-isolating, we will take your order and payment over the phone and deliver to your door step. We will ring the doorbell and step back at least 2 meters. The pub is still at a high standard of sanitising, with extra measures in place because of the virus.

Take Away Menu/Delivery

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
5.30-8:30pm Sunday 12-4pm
Tel: 01279 815913

Battered Fish and Chips £9.50
Breaded Scampi and Chips £9.50
Cottage Pie and Vegetables £9.50
Beef Lasagne and Salad £9.50
Vegetable Lasagne and Salad £8.50
Chicken Curry and Rice £8.50
Prawn Curry and Rice £9.50
Prawn and Avocado Salad £8.50
Bacon Cheese Burger and Chips £9.50
Chicken Burger with Chips £9.00
Sausage and Mash and Vegetables £8.50

Sides

Chips £2.50 Salad £1.50 Curry Sauce £2.00
Mushy Peas £2.00 Peas £1.50 Gravy £1.50

Smaller Size/ Children's Take Away Menu

Battered Fish and Chips £7.00
Breaded Scampi and Chips £6.50
Cottage Pie and Vegetables £7.00
Cheese Burger and Chips £6.50
Chicken Burger with Chips £6.00
Sausage and Mash and Vegetables £6.50

Please inform staff members of any allergies or intolerances upon placing orders. All fish may contain some small bones. We do offer gluten free options upon request. *Mark Boden*



St. Mary's Church News

turned upside down with being furloughed or have become jobless. We are certainly not through this yet and need to help and pray for each other as best we can.

Many of us have been embracing technology to get closer to the ones we love and care about. The human contact and the love we share this way cannot make up for the physical but helps us to get through this difficult time. To also support our spiritual and religious needs many of us have joined the virtual service with Rev. Paul and Rev. Helen which takes place during the week and on a Sunday and some have been watching the services on the BBC.

Many of us have also found time to read our bibles and some have logged onto our St Mary's Church Facebook page to read the daily prayer I publish. Some have just called a friend or neighbour, and some have continued to pray for God's grace and love, these are all ways we can show we care and stay connected to each other.

On another note; The lack of services is having a really detrimental effect on our income from the church. The absence of collections, and the loss of income from weekly and monthly envelope donations means we are not collecting a regular income. Even though the church is closed, most of our bills continue. Many people are resorting to donate in a different way, some by bank transfer and some through the Shop and Give website (look for St Mary's Birchanger) If you would like to help St Mary's then a standing order always gives you control of the amount you contribute, and (unlike a Direct Debit) it can only be changed by you. If you would like to do this then please let me know and I will let you have our bank account details. If you need any other help, please also contact me at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com. Here are some ways to connect:

Online Morning Prayer (Monday to Saturday at 9am)

Our Online Morning Prayer takes place Monday to Saturday at 9am here - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/459441774>. You shouldn't need the Meeting ID but if you do it is 459 441 774

The service of Morning Prayer is published on the Church of England Website and you can find it here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>.

Just follow the link to: Morning Prayer (Contemporary) for the day.

Holy Communion (Sunday at 9.30am)

Join in our worship on Sunday Morning here -

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/109066258>

Meeting ID: 109 066 258. The order of service can be downloaded and printed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/a81xqoohciyrwve/Easter%20six%20online%20HC%20%28print%29.pdf?dl=0>

And here, to use on screen -

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fcqset56rx1ve03/Easter%20six%20online%20HC%20%28screen%29.pdf?dl=0>

Helen will also be leading a Traditional Language Service of Holy Communion at 8am, which you can view on the St John's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Johns-Church-Stansted-Mountfitchet-1230567567096091>

Telephone Numbers for Zoom meetings

It is possible to join in with Zoom meetings by telephone if you don't have access to the internet. You will need the meeting ID which is the numbers at the end of the link (after the /). You can connect on any of the following telephone numbers:

0131 460 1196 - 0203 481 5240 - 0208 080 6591 - 0208 080 6592 - 0330 088 5830

Useful Links: The Chelmsford Diocese Web Site - The Church of England Web Site - The NHS Coronavirus Pages.

Please take care and stay safe. Many blessings. *Elaine Wright, Church Warden*

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

Sports & Social Club News



Help keep your club going into year 130 and beyond

Please remember to support the club shop and takeaway service as much as possible. This service is in place to help all members and Birchanger villagers and needs continued support to ensure the club can remain open for business. Open daily (except Mondays). Collection from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm at an agreed time to respect social distancing. You can place orders on 01279 813441 from 9.00 am each day.

Thank you for your support. The club needs it more than ever to continue to remain open during these exceptional times. Our shop and take-away details are shown in the link below. Please print and share this menu for others who may not use social media. Thank you.

http://www.birchangerclub.com/docum.../Menu_template_FINAL.pdf

If you have any suggestions on how this service can be improved please email club@birchanger.com

Take-Away Meals

All Day Breakfast (Large), 2 sausages, 2 bacon, beans, mushrooms, tomato, hash browns, toast or bread & butter. £5.95

All Day Breakfast (Small), 1 sausage, 1 bacon, beans, tomato, hash brown, toast or bread & butter. £3.95

Lasagne & Chips with peas & garlic ciabatta £6.95

Chilli con carne with chips or pilau rice & pitta bread £6.25

Steak & Ale Pie with chips & peas £6.25

1/4lb Cheeseburger, Beef burger or Chicken burger with chips & salad garnish £6.95

Beer Battered Fish & Chips with mushy peas & tartare sauce £6.95

Chicken Tikka Masala with pilau rice & garlic & coriander naan £6.25

Jacket Potatoes choice of Tuna Mayo, Coleslaw, Beans & Cheese £3.95

Sides: Chips £1.95, Cheesy chips £2.95, Garlic Ciabatta £1.95, Cheese Garlic Ciabatta £2.45,

Onion Rings £2.45

Kids

Fish Fingers & Chips with beans or peas £4.25

Chicken Nuggets & Chips with beans or peas £4.25

Sausage & Mash with peas or sweetcorn £4.25

Desserts

Caramel cheesecake with ice cream & caramel sauce £4.95

Apple Crumble with vanilla ice cream or custard £4.95

Sticky Toffee Pudding with custard £4.95

Trio of Ice Cream strawberry, vanilla & chocolate £1.95

Some vegetarian options are available – please ask.

Drinks

Alcoholic and soft drinks including beers, lagers, wines, ciders and cans are available to buy as take away whilst in stock. Prices are the same as sold in the club.

Essentials Shop

Subject to availability, you can purchase basic grocery items from the club; such as bread, sugar, chips, bacon, sausages, eggs, flour, milk, beans toilet paper, hand sanitiser and coffee. Below are the main essentials available, however, we have lots more items that you may need, so please ask.

White Bread (loaf) £1.19

Granary Bread (loaf) £1.30

Sugar £1.17

Teabags (20) £0.75

Chips (Bag / Frozen) £3.60

Bacon (per rasher) £0.30

Sausages (each) £0.26

Eggs (each) £0.22

Flour (500g) £0.75

Cheese (small block) £2.00

Jacket Potatoes (each) £0.67

Milk (2 ltr) £1.76

Beans (Heinz) £1.00

Andrex toilet rolls (1) £0.86

Hand sanitizer liquid refill (bring your own container) £1.00



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

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A 10th Anniversary 2019-20



I am pleased to report that Stansted Mountfitchet U3A is still alive and well thanks to the efforts of many of our members to keep going and keep in touch despite the lockdown.

Thanks to our Group Leaders, many of our groups are still active, albeit with a different format. Some are using Zoom to have regular meetings. The Art Group members are even painting and drawing together via Zoom on a weekly basis and our committee is holding its meetings on Zoom. Other groups that are having active Zoom meetings are Poetry, Literature, French, Creative Writing and the Singers. Apologies to any that have been missed out of this list. Many members are also staying in touch via email and phone and we are sending out weekly newsletters to share news and information. People have also been sharing photos of their lovely walks around the area.

Some managed to have VE Day celebrations, either with family at home or with neighbours, but always being careful to maintain their social distancing. You can see the lovely photo that Pat B sent us of her special VE Day tea that she had at home with family.



Despite the problems of getting out, over 60% of our members have already renewed this year, although we have given people until the end of July to do so, an extension of 3 months. We are still taking new members. If you are thinking of joining us, just go on to our website and download a form, or you can email us at stanstedu3a@gmail.com and we will contact you.

Our virtual Saturday Seminar for May was 'What We Cannot Know', by Marcus du Sautoy. "Is it possible that we will one day know everything? Or are there fields of research that will always lie beyond the bounds of human comprehension?" You can find this Royal Institution lecture on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reeU09R4TIA>



**A Happy day out in
Quendon before the
lockdown!**

Keep safe and well
everyone.

*Sally Rich, Vice Chair,
Stansted Mountfitchet
U3A*

Tel: 07874 385541 www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Saffron Walden Museum needs you!



The Museum has begun a contemporary collecting project to record people's experiences of the current Covid-19 outbreak and how it has affected day-to-day life in the district for future generations to understand.

If you are interested in compiling a diary now that we could archive at a later date that would be really beneficial. We're also interested in audio and video clips, as well as artistic responses to the current situation, such as artwork, poetry and music, etc.

If you are part of a community group or organisation - consider asking your members and contacts to take part in this project. These may be compiled to form an online or physical exhibition in due course. Feel free to contact us about this project at: museum@uttlesford.gov.uk and title your email "CV Walden".

Travellers appeal postponed

Uttlesford District Council Planning and Building Control Support Team has informed Birchanger Parish council that the Planning Inspectorate hearing for the Enforcement Appeal ENF/18/0195/B with regard to the travellers' occupation of the field adjacent to the A120 roundabout in Birchanger Lane has been postponed. This is due to the ongoing Corona Virus situation – the Government guidelines on stopping non-essential travel and contact in the best interests of staff and the wider public.

Why are you a bad mood bear

Most of us can be at some time or other. At this particular time anxiety may make us seem as if we are permanently cross. Some of us are worse than others but bad moods seem to be permanently with of us at the moment. Why are you in a bad mood? Apart from the situation is there something else? Don't let it linger it can become a habit.

How can you get out of it? If you can find a friend then talk about it. Alternatively, you could go for a walk, but if it is raining that is not likely to improve matters at all. In which case stay indoors, play your favourite music and think of those much worse off than you are. Don't sit in the dark, it makes things worse. Stay away from grumpy people. They won't help either. If you have a dog or a cat try stroking them if they allow it. Pets have a calming influence whatever they are. Think of happy times. Dig out some old photos to help remind you of them. Try to get out of the habit of worrying. It is only worth doing if it solves the problem, if it doesn't, forget it. Bad moods will happen to all of us, especially in these very worrying times. We just have to think them through, then throw them away and forget them. Easier said than done but worth trying.



Does Stansted deserve a bail out?

The Government is being put under huge pressure by UK airports and airlines to provide financial assistance during the current crisis. Does Stansted deserve a bail-out? Manchester Airports Group (MAG), which owns Stansted, is cash rich. It has paid its shareholders £489m in dividends in the past three years. If taxpayer money were to be provided to MAG, it would need to be on condition that no dividends were paid to shareholders until the loan had been repaid.

In terms of its importance to the UK economy, Stansted is predominantly a leisure airport. Business travel accounts for just one in every eight passengers and will decline further in the future as companies increasingly use video-conferencing as a lower risk and lower cost alternative. Leisure travel is the dominant function at all UK airports and, last year, outbound UK tourists out-weighed inbound tourists by almost two to one, generating a staggering £22.5 billion UK balance of payments deficit. In that one respect, Covid-19 is delivering a major benefit to the UK economy.



Airlines pay no fuel tax and no VAT, so there is no revenue loss to the Government in those areas. In fact the Government reimburses airlines for any VAT which they do pay. Airlines (or rather their passengers) do pay Air Passenger Duty but this is set at a level which raises just a quarter of the value of the tax exemptions on aviation fuel and VAT. A key consideration is, of course, to protect the jobs of airport workers, and about one in every six Stansted employees is a resident of Uttlesford.

The Government's furlough scheme goes a long way to protect jobs by funding 80% of wages. Despite this, airport workers have been laid off, and many are sub-contractors who don't have this protection.

Meanwhile, Stansted's management have taken a 10% pay cut, which some have described as a half-hearted gesture compared to Gatwick and Luton airport management who have taken a 20% pay cut, and Heathrow executives have agreed to take no salary for the next three months. If asked for financial help, the Government may well be less sympathetic towards a cash rich company whose management seem reluctant themselves to make meaningful sacrifices.

A time to be magnanimous

Referring to "the current unprecedented circumstances", the Chairman of Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has written to the Chief Executive of Stansted Airport asking for the airport's current planning application for the expansion of Stansted to 43 million passengers a year to be withdrawn. The background is that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) refused the Stansted Airport planning application on 24 January this year but the airport's owners, Manchester Airports Group (MAG), almost immediately announced that an appeal was being considered. Legally, six months is allowed for a planning appeal and three months of that have now passed.

An appeal would trigger a Public Inquiry which would mean that the final outcome might not be known for possibly another 18 months. Meanwhile UDC has considered it necessary to set aside £1.7 million to cover the potential costs of a Public Inquiry, allowing for the risk of UDC being forced to pay MAG's costs if its appeal were to be successful.

SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "SSE has called upon MAG to show magnanimity in the current circumstances by announcing that it will respect the decision made by UDC earlier this year. It's time to end the uncertainty." Peter Sanders continued: "Ending the uncertainty would allow UDC to release the £1.7 million currently held in reserve and to use this money to assist local businesses and local residents, including airport employees who have been laid off, during the current crisis."

Mr Sanders concluded: "It's not only a question of magnanimity, it's also about common sense. The aviation sector worldwide has been decimated by the Covid-19 crisis and it will take a very long time to recover. It is highly unlikely that Stansted Airport will need permission for any further expansion at any time soon."

SSE is hopeful that MAG will respond positively to this plea. MAG has always insisted on its planning application being dealt with locally rather than nationally. Now more than ever, MAG should respect the UDC decision.

Brian Ross

Lockdown Lives and Stansted Airport

The substantial reduction in Stansted Airport's operations during the Covid-19 lockdown has brought many changes to our community. We would like to capture details of whether and how these changes may have affected your quality of life. We are particularly interested to hear from those across Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, but would also like to hear from you if you are based further afield but within Stansted's catchment.

We are therefore inviting you to email Stop Stansted Expansion with your experiences and perceptions with a view to capturing them for posterity and for potential use in the future. Your email can be as long or as short as you wish, but please identify your lockdown location with the first part of your postcode so that we can map the responses we receive. If you wish your contribution to remain anonymous, please make this clear in your email.

Please send your email to info@stopstanstedexpansion.com and mark the subject 'Lockdown Lives and Stansted Airport'. We would be pleased if you would also share this request with others who you think may be willing to respond. Wishing you good health,

Carol Barbone



The Hundred Parishes Society

One of the features of The Hundred Parishes website is a section on famous people from our area. There is a short account of each of 21 past and present celebrities, from Dick Turpin to Jamie Oliver. Gustav Holst is one of these and I make no apology for repeating The text from our website here:

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

While teaching and composing in London, Gustav Holst began a love affair with Thaxted after a walking holiday in the area led to his taking a weekend cottage nearby. A great attraction must have been its cathedral-sized church with spacious, white-painted interior, where he became involved with local music-making, encouraged by the town's socialist vicar, Conrad Noel. Holst himself was an active socialist.

In 1916, Holst invited some of his London pupils to spend four days of music-making in Thaxted in the town's first Whitsuntide festival. Sadly, this was repeated for only two more years before being moved to London to avoid Holst's pupils, especially those from St Paul's School, becoming associated with Noel's controversial extremist left-wing sermons. It was 1980 before the highly successful Thaxted Festival was re-established.



Holst stayed in Thaxted for several years working, amongst other things, on his acknowledged masterpiece, The Planets. He adapted the big melody from "Jupiter" to accompany the poem "I vow to thee, my country". This became a popular hymn and Holst named the tune "Thaxted". It has since been used for no fewer than fourteen other hymns worldwide as well as the anthem of the Rugby World Cup. Holst also composed the music for a popular Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter".



During these days of social distancing we are not able to travel and enjoy our beautiful area as much as before, but we can remind ourselves of what is out there and read about our rich local history on the Society's website <http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk/>
Ken McDonald, Secretary

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Although we have had to close the Gardens during the lockdown, we remain hopeful that we will be able soon to welcome visitors, with appropriate social distancing and biosecurity. Please keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for the latest news.

www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

Keeping up with maintenance

In the meantime, a few local volunteers have been managing to do some basic maintenance and planting at the Gardens, so there will be lots of interest when we can open the gates. Last June the lovely pink rose with red leaves, rosa rubrifolia, and stray foxgloves framed the bizarre black dragon/voodoo lily in the Italian garden border.



We have planted more roses each of the last few years and they will carry on giving colour and lovely scents right through the summer months. In the walled kitchen garden, new salvia, anisodonta, penstemon, dahlias and the stunning titonia (Mexican sunflower), raised again from seed, have been added to the flower border. Vegetable plants, soft fruit and herbs are thriving and bulking up. You can find a whole host of lovely pictures of the Gardens if you look at Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/thegardensofeastonlodge/>

or our Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/eastonlgardens/>

In early May we were able to supply our rhubarb and herbs to locals through the Isolated Shop at Little Easton Manor and we will continue to make our new season vegetables and fruit available as they come on stream. Every little flow of income will help, as we aim to place an order for the restoration of the lilypond balustrade in the Italian garden this year. Best wishes from us all & stay safe. *Jill Goldsmith*

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Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Police Special	Martin Halls Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk	
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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



**The lighter side
of Coronavirus**

**Cartoons from
Brian Gough**



Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact;
Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243
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The Birchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the magazine or any organisations or institutions represented. Material sent to the editor will generally be printed as received providing it is considered suitable by the magazine team. The editor reserves the right to edit content if considered unsuitable or where insufficient space is available. All material should be submitted by the 16th of the month to be published the following month.

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

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