



Birchanger Village Magazine

August 2020

Issue 211



Keep Safe!

As the Coronavirus recedes, more and more freedoms are being allowed. The country is opening up again slowly but cannot be rushed. With more freedom comes the need for extra care and additional responsibilities for us all. This prolific pandemic is so widespread it affects just about everything we do. It is now time for everyone to take responsibility for their own actions, as no government, council, school, or hospital can completely do it for you. The ending or return of the virus is mainly up to us.



Even those classed as vulnerable have been given more freedoms back, but to keep them we are going to have to abide by the rules. Everyone will have to wear masks where instructed for the safety of themselves and for others.

Everyone needs to carry a sanitiser to clean their hands at regular intervals when away from home. Sanitiser may be freely available in many public places but it may not always be available everywhere you go. Children's parks, playgrounds and play equipment are particularly susceptible to the spread of the virus and although councils try to keep them clean, some forces in our community appear to have other ideas. Take sanitiser to the park, even here in Birchanger. Use it frequently and avoid touching the face, especially the mouth and eyes. It is your responsibility to keep you and your family as safe as possible as nobody else can do it for you.

Coming Out of Corona

At least for the time being!

We need to heed the lessons of other countries which have realised that this virus may not have done with us yet. We still need to avoid air travel as much as possible, crowded spaces and public transport. We need to ensure good hygiene and preparation practices with food including washing all fruit and vegetables. Everything is changing, the way we shop, travel and socialise and sadly until there is an effective mass vaccine available, things may have to stay that way.

Throughout the past few months, due to social distancing, we have learnt a lot about ourselves and have had to change the habits of a lifetime with regards to our friends, family, work and travel. All things have changed to the point where nothing will really be quite the same again. Many of us are socialising and eating out much less than before the virus, even after many restrictions have been lifted.

We have come to realise the strange benefits it brought along the way. We have been forced to relearn the value of everything and have been surprised at what we found. Many people are very grateful for the unstinting help from those they never knew before the crisis and we have to remember those whose lives have been changed for the worse, whether it is from the loss of work, business or the illness of someone close.

It is hard to know what the coming months will bring. Some of us may embark on new careers. Many of us may move to a house, where it is easier to work from home, or construct an office in the garage or garden. Some of us may find we do not need so many cars in the family, whilst schools may need to be a lot larger in future to give the children more much needed space. Hopefully a vaccine will be found soon and life will settle to a new routine, but what we have individually learnt will remain with us forever.



Editors Letter Box

Letters to the Editor

Patient Panel Granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Dear Birchanger Residents

I am writing to you in connection with the Patient Panel of Princess Alexandra Hospital. Panels were established seven years ago following national concerns about the experience of patients in many regions. At that time hospital users were not listened to and there was a culture of non-disclosure throughout the NHS.

The Harlow panel was set up and consists of about twenty active members who represent wide-ranging professions and interests and who are entirely voluntary. Thus, there are many divergent characters and it is their diverse thinking that has led to much innovation and achievement. We represent the patient voice and we work alongside the hospital to achieve the best possible experience for its many users. We have organised several conferences to raise awareness, have worked with end of life providers and last year held a summer tea party for lonely or long-term patients which was a great success. We represent patients in numerous clinical teams and now have considerable influence on best practice.

I am delighted to say that in recognition for this work the Patient Panel has just been granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and is the only panel nationally to win such an award. We have been asked how we have achieved this. Firstly, we are very fortunate to have an outstanding Chairperson and a very dedicated team who devote many hours to hospital service. Secondly, we have developed a unique relationship with the management of the hospital which is based on mutual respect and trust. We have complete autonomy as a group and we are one of the few panels nationally to be allocated a modest budget by the hospital to use for patient benefit.

Many of you will be aware that a new hospital has been promised. The Patient Panel is pleased and excited to know that they will play a key role in this project which will be the main focus of the staff in the next few months. Once construction begins in the next year or so, our members will be asked to contribute to workshops to shape delivery of various services in the new hospital. The final site has not been decided yet, although for various reasons the optimum location is near to the new M11 junction. No doubt it will be a lovely building but it will remain a relatively small hospital and may not offer all specialisms. If you have any thoughts about new provisions, I would welcome your ideas and you may contact me by email on deedeebee@btinternet.com. This is a unique time for the local community to express their ideas for their new hospital which many of us use either constantly, or periodically, so we have a vested interest in the best possible outcome.

No doubt one of the major issues will be parking as there is already much discussion of this. A challenge for the planners is that they are building a service for the next half century and none of us knows what personal transport will look like then. There is significant housing development in the Harlow area and there are some radical transport proposals including a tram system. There is a designated team at the hospital looking at ideas at the moment, but it is not certain what the final transport infrastructure will look like as this is dependent on local authority spending.

In recent weeks many of us have been clapping for the NHS, even when we were unable to see our neighbours. I am sure each one of us is aware of the extraordinary dedication of hospital staff in recent months. The Patient Panel were not able to visit the hospital but we sent support letters to key staff as a small token of appreciation for their efforts for patients. We are so relieved that for the moment all staff are working in a less traumatic environment and are able to recuperate. These are exciting times and we are very fortunate that a new hospital is finally coming.

Diane Deane-Bowers

Vice-chair Patient Panel PAHT (Birchanger resident)

PAH Patient Panel

Second Floor, Galen House,

Hamstel Road,

Harlow, Essex CM20 1QX

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

Think How You Dispose of That Face Mask!

Apparently, there are a lot of people who are simply just chucking their face masks anywhere! Already they have ended up in the seas around our islands and are being found stuck in the stomachs of large fish and sea mammals. There is absolutely no excuse for this. Don't forget, your mask may be contaminated with the virus, so remove it carefully without touching your face, pop it in a plastic bag and take it home with you. Dispose of it in the black bin in the usual way. Reusable masks can be washed in your washing machine.

Welcome Back to the Pub

The easing of lockdown restrictions and allowing pubs to re-open with the appropriate distancing arrangements meant that many enjoyed a pint and a meal at the Willows for the first time in 16 weeks. Regulars got a big welcome back and appreciated all the work that Mark and his team had put in to make sure that the pub was a safe place and that the old Willows welcome remained.

The whole garden was used for tables with umbrellas to protect customers whatever the weather. There was a completely different layout inside the pub which ensured that all the safety guidelines were in place. Plenty of staff complete with visors were on hand to help, taking orders, bringing drinks and food to the tables. There can be no orders at the bar for now. Service was efficient, pleasant and always there when it was required.

This kind of planning and preparation must come at a cost. The future survival of both the pub and the club depends on us. We need to use what is there waiting for us on our own doorstep, because if we don't, Birchanger will have lost valuable assets which can never be replaced. Congratulations and thank you to Mark and the team at the Willows for making it all work in an unprecedented and very difficult situation.

Libraries Update

All Essex Libraries are now open. There are changes in place in an attempt to keep staff and customers safe. You may find yourself in a queue to get in. Time allowed in the library will be limited to 15 minutes and where possible there will be separate entrances and exits. Sanitiser will be available but you will be asked to visit the library on your own, except in the case of children or vulnerable persons. All books will be quarantined before being used again.

What Happened to Summer Holidays?

Here we are supposed to be officially in the holiday period. July and August should be a time of rest and relaxation, perhaps on a warm sunny beach somewhere and a time to shed cares. The trouble is that for most of us this year that is not going to be happening. Although we may still be at home, virtually redesigning the house, garden, or kitchen for the umpteenth time without the materials with which to do it, the scammers have been increasingly active and many more of us are receiving phishing calls.

The first rule is, if you receive a suspect call, hang up! Call your bank or whoever has your cash from another phone but whatever happens take no action. Treat every call regarding your money or asking for personal details as suspect. Never ever transfer any cash requested by telephone, email or phone message. It is absolutely necessary to ignore these. Only criminals will try to rush and panic you into parting with your money. If you do suspect that you have been scammed, call your bank immediately and also report the scam to Action Fraud on www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Fed Up with Queues at the Tip

There is a new way of recycling clothes and unwanted items which you would normally take to a charity shop or rubbish tip (sorry, 're-cycling centre'). The problem is that charity shops have overflowing stock rooms and are finding it difficult to take any more goods, whilst the rubbish tips have long queues. Across the country people have been setting up their own recycling groups to help people find homes for their unwanted goods and clothing and perhaps save you buying new.

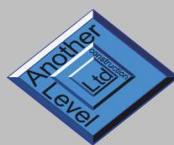
The groups are known as Freegle. They actually find people who would like to take your used goods from you. In some cases, they can arrange to collect your items. The items must be in reasonable condition and usable. Anything else can simply go into the black bin if it is not suitable for recycling in the green or to the tip. You might consider using the tip at Saffron Walden. It has more space and although it is further to drive to, the queues are shorter. Freegle may not be for everyone but it does help families in particular with rapidly changing needs. Find out more by searching Freegle then putting in your post code to access Freegle in Uttlesford to discover how Freegle might help you get rid of unwanted items in a sustainable way. You can also often find items which you may need through this service.

Birchanger All Girls Society

All ladies are welcome to our first meet up since lockdown!

**Come and join us for our Summer Garden Party
Heather's Garden, Wood Lane,
Wednesday August 26th from 6.30pm**

Telephone for details
Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678



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Use Water Wisely

Covid-19 has put an unprecedented demand on our water supplies. Add to that the fact that we experienced the driest May on record since records began, combined with heat waves in June, water resources were already under pressure. Then we all started using a great deal

more water as children were mainly home from school and a great many people were working from home so demand rose steeply. This leads to the strong likelihood of another hose pipe ban but water boards are trying to avoid this if at all possible and are working round the clock to check pipes and junctions and to prevent unnecessary water loss where they can. They do however need some help from us.

We are asked to switch on our dishwashers only when they are full. To avoid the use of sprinklers and hose pipes.

To use watering cans and to consider installing a water butt. For those of us on meters this could also save a great deal of money. Turn off the tap while actually brushing your teeth, that can save six and a half litres and even more money. Too much use of water results in water pressure reduction which can impact on your boiler and hot water systems.

Why is My Water a Funny Colour?

Some of us notice a change in the colour of our tap water, especially in times of drought. Some common colour changes are as follows. Cloudy water means that due to low supplies air has got into the taps which might affect our heating systems. Brown water is more commonly seen in older properties where the water may be passing through old iron pipes and there could be sediment. Blue colour means that water has been standing too long in copper pipes. Something you might notice on return from holiday, that is if you do ever manage to get away this year. You might see pink water if you have a water softener.

Coronavirus Diaries

Many people have been keeping a diary in the last few months. Maybe not daily, but as events occurred or they were feeling very strongly about what was happening on a particular day. Perhaps they were totally unaware that they were writing history and generations to come might be interested in their writings. The people at Saffron Walden Museum have realized the importance of what you are writing as a very valuable record of the period we are currently living in. They value the importance of what are eye witness accounts at the time free from the distortions of time. If you have been writing a diary or keeping videos of incidents through this period the museum would love to hear from you. Contact them in the first instance at museum@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Have You Room for a Child in Need?

In the last turbulent weeks family relationships have been torn apart in many cases irretrievably. As so often happens, it is the children who collect the flak when their parents split and quite often there is simply no place for them to go. The need for foster careers is always high, but in times of crisis the situation gets much worse.

Many people think about fostering for years but never actually do it. They have a lot of concerns one of which is that they might be rejected and are afraid to take the first steps. There is a number you can call for advice and where to go if you are considering fostering. There is no bar to same sex couples either. All you need is a spare bedroom and the groundwork is there. Find out more by calling 0800 801 530. Remember that if you do this you will be supported.

Elizabeth Godwin Resigns from Parish Council

Sadly, due to health reasons, after 25 years, Elizabeth Godwin has decided to resign from the parish council. Liz has a wealth of experience both from being a parish councillor and a district councillor and I'm sure no one will ever fill her shoes! Fortunately, she has agreed to continue in part as our planning consultant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the help and advice she has given to me over the last 7 years since I became Chair of the Council. In fact, you can blame Liz for that as it was her idea, and persuasion, that made me take on the role!

Liz's departure leaves another vacancy for the parish council, we now have three vacancies. The vacancies will be advertised but, in the meantime, if anyone is interested in taking a role in the village, please contact our parish clerk Keith Williams on 01279 814773.

Angie Driscoll (Chair - Birchanger Parish Council)



Emma Marks
Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
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Corona Holiday Scams

Consumers are being urged to be on the lookout for holiday scams including fake caravan and motorhome listings, refund offers and travel deals, as criminals take advantage of uncertainty around coronavirus travel restrictions and cancellations to target their victims and commit fraud. Criminals are

experts at impersonating trusted organisations such as airlines, travel agencies or banks. They will use a range of methods to approach their victims, including scam emails, telephone calls, fake websites and posts on social media and auction websites.

Caravan scams

Criminals are taking advantage of growing demand for 'staycations' in the UK this summer, by advertising fake listings for caravans and motorhomes on auction sites and citing lockdown restrictions as the reason vehicles can't be viewed in person. These vehicles are advertised at attractive prices to tempt people into believing they're getting a good deal, when in reality they simply don't exist or don't arrive once paid for. Always remember:

- Be suspicious of any "too good to be true" offers or prices – if it's at a rock bottom price ask yourself why.
- Do your research before making any purchases and ask to see vehicles over video if you're unable to see them in person.
- Use the secure payment methods recommended by reputable online retailers and auction sites and don't accept requests to pay separately via a bank transfer.

- Where possible, use a credit card when making purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75.

Fake refunds for cancellations

The current travel restrictions imposed due to coronavirus have meant thousands of customers have applied for refunds for cancelled flights or holidays. Criminals may exploit this situation to defraud people via phishing emails, 'spoofed' calls or social media posts and adverts claiming to be offering refunds from airlines, travel providers or banks. Often emails and posts will include links leading to fake websites used to steal personal and financial information that can infect a victim's device with malware. Always remember:

- Don't click on links or attachments in social media posts or emails.
- Question uninvited approaches and contact organisations directly to confirm requests using a known email or phone number.
- Only give out your personal or financial information to services you have consented to and are expecting to be contacted by.

Cheap travel deal scams

Criminals will set up fake websites offering 'cheap travel deals' which are used to obtain your money and information. Websites may look similar to the genuine organisation's but subtle changes in the URL can indicate that it's fraudulent. These websites may also seem professional and convincing, using images of luxury villas and apartments that don't exist to convince victims they're trusted and genuine. These are offered for rent, often at discounted prices and require a deposit to be made which is never returned. Always remember:

- Be suspicious of any "too good to be true" offers or prices – if it's at a rock bottom price ask yourself why.
- Where possible, use a credit card when booking holidays over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75.
- Use the secure payment options recommended by online travel providers and don't accept requests to pay separately via a bank transfer.
- Read online reviews from reputable sources to check websites and bookings are legitimate.
- Access the website you're purchasing from by typing it in to the web browser and avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails.

Remember, if it's too good to be true, it usually is!

Scamwatch - Pets & Romance!

This new column is an occasional roundup of some of the scams currently circulating. This edition looks at scams that have been prevalent during the lockdown.

Many people have suffered from loneliness recently so it's no surprise that sales of pets have soared. Increased demand means increased prices which in turn leads to a greater incentive for criminals to get involved. It's not illegal to bump up the price of your goods when supply outstrips demand, although you might have your own opinion on whether you want to give your business to the worst offenders, but it's certainly illegal to offer puppies for sale at vastly inflated prices when the puppy you've set your heart on doesn't actually exist!

It's easy to set up a website, steal some adverts from someone else, then start to take orders. Even if you can't persuade your ~~victims~~ customers to pay the entire cost up front you can still wring a large deposit from them. The end result is that someone is not only out of pocket but disappointed that they have been cheated out of welcoming a new family member. Even if the puppy you've just ordered exists, it may be from an illegal breeder with poor conditions. Commercial dog breeders need a licence, so ask for their licence number and which local authority issued it. If in doubt check with that local authority.

Even nastier than the sale of non-existent puppies are romance scams, also known as catphishing. The way they work is that the victim gets befriended by somebody online, often on a dating site but it could be anywhere people interact. Things escalate quickly from a casual acquaintanceship to romance. The criminal uses phrases such as "I've never felt like this before" and professes love quite early on. They usually claim to live or work overseas, for instance in the armed forces, the oil industry or for an aid charity. They'll have a plausible life story and they'll send you a photo. They're desperate to meet you, but for some reason they never quite manage to make that journey. And they will, of course, need some financial help at some stage. Perhaps they've been taken ill and they need money for health care? Maybe they need to borrow the plane fare to come to the UK?

These people are callous and will take the victim for their last penny if they can. It's made worse by the shame the victim suffers, making them reluctant to report the fraud once they recognise it for what it is. Often the victim desperately wants the person to be genuine. Even though they may smell a rat they don't want to believe the criminal is who they say they are, and some victims simply refuse to believe it when told they're being defrauded.

How can you protect yourself? Look for the signs. Poor spelling and bad grammar are frequent in most online frauds as the culprits may not be native English speakers. Another sign of danger is when the relationship seems to move very quickly, and/or where the other party is overseas. Perhaps they're quick to ask you questions but poor at replying when you ask them about their personal or work life? Sometimes they may ask you the same thing several times, as different members of the gang interact with you.

Above all, just be aware that these people are out there, and keep your wits about you. And always use a reverse image search site such as tineye.com to check if the photograph they sent you is theirs. If you find that the photo you were sent is actually stolen from the Facebook page of someone with a completely different name and location you know you're being played. Just cut all communication immediately.

Keep aware and stay Safe, Ken Wheatley



A new free service for Uttlesford residents who need some help to stay safe at home

We have a small team available to help residents feel safer in their homes, by undertaking tasks such as installing key safes for secure carer access, handrails and making sure steps at entrances are level and safe. We want to reduce trips and falls, which can have a huge impact on a person's well being, as well as helping them to be better connected to the community through using digital equipment such as video doorbells and computer tablets to make calls, buy shopping and order repeat prescriptions.

What help is available?

Our handyman can come to your property and install a key safe, check that pathways are clean and clear, add grab rails at entrances and also conduct an in home fall assessment to look for other potential hazards – such as trailing wires, worn carpet, loose rugs, insecure stairs etc.

We also encourage residents to use the range of digital devices available such as video doorbells, voice controlled lights and computer tablets that can make video calls, book GP appointments, order shopping and place repeat prescription requests.

Safer at Home includes our popular "Green Matters" garden rescue service aimed at the vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents of Uttlesford who have lost control of their gardens.

We are recruiting neighbourhood volunteers to help with routine maintenance such as grass cutting, weeding, hedge trimming, but also have a specialist team who can help with larger tasks such as removing shrubs and hedges and repairing fences.

How to make a referral

To request help please make a referral online at <https://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk/> and then searching for "Safer at Home"

Become a Safer at Home Volunteer

Watch our "Green Matters" video on CVSU Website for a better understanding of how a simple thing like tidying someones garden can improve their mental health and wellbeing, and then if you would like to volunteer in your community please email us with your expression of interest to – gardenvolunteers@cvsu.org.uk or Call 01371 878400 for more information



Drinks with Community Links is back

A grant from the Communities Initiatives Fund (CIF) and support from UDC Community Safety Partnership has enabled us to purchase a mobile café. The converted horsebox is a fully equipped mobile community hub, offering barista style coffees, teas, soft drinks and biscuits.

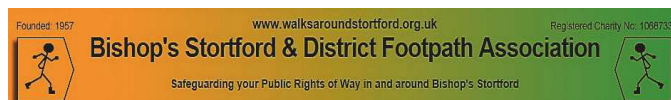


We have everything we need to come to your community and set up a one-stop-shop for meeting and getting to know neighbours, access services that address rural isolation and disadvantage and both signpost and refer people to other agencies able to support them. You will find us at all the major events across Uttlesford and Essex, as well as popping up in outlying villages to

support community events.

To request a visit to your community, or invite us to attend your established group

Contact: christine.chester@cvsu.org.uk mobile: 07841 632 085



Due to the lock-down, self-isolation, and other limitations over the past few months, all walks have been cancelled for the time being. Also, our walk leaders have not been able to check out the walks for some time. We are however hoping to bring you a revised walks programme for September, so please continue to check our website and Facebook page (see below).

During the lockdown, the BSDFA has continued to protect our local public rights of way (PROWS) including footpaths, bridleways, and certain tracks etc. The BSDFA is also involved in the Herts CC initiative to improve walking and cycling routes in Bishop's Stortford:

<https://www.widenmypath.com/suggest/#14/51.8627/0.1490>.

This includes the longer-term establishment of a 'super highway' (Sustainable Transport), for cycling and walking from the Lee Valley Cycle Corridor into Stansted Airport. So far, there appears to be no similar plan to link Stansted Mountfitchet into this Connectivity, which is a shame and thereby appears to be a missed opportunity.

The BSDFA continues with its involvement to save and improve our local PROW's which are at risk of disappearing owing to the many local large developments underway or proposed.

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

Sports & Social Club News



Open at Last!

At the time of writing, the Club planned to re-open on the 24th July. That being the case, the committee and staff look forward to welcoming members old and new, together with their guests.

Now that we have some clearer guidance from the government and some easing of the earlier lock down restrictions, it is possible to reopen the club, albeit operating in not quite the same way as members may remember. Social distancing, limiting numbers, cashless payments, table service and extra cleaning are just some of the new modes of operation that will greet members when they return.

Unfortunately, many of the club's traditional activities will not be possible. For although cricket has been allowed to restart, all indoor sports have yet to be given the go-ahead. All entertainment other than background music is also not permitted.

We are however able to provide food and drink and we hope that as many as possible of you will return to enjoy these in your club.

Initially the hours and days of opening will be limited to:

Friday	3.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Saturday	12.00 noon to 10.00 pm
Sunday	12.00 noon to 5.00 pm

Of course, we hope to extend these times as soon as we are confident that we can do so safely and viably.

These last few months have not been an easy time for club. The forced closure due to the pandemic meant we received virtually no income but at the same time, some costs and expenses still had to be paid.

Despite the sterling work of the bar and finance sub-committee under the guidance of Neil Hornsby to cut all non-essential costs and to defer much of our other expenditure, the slender reserves that we were gradually rebuilding prior to lock down are now having to meet our outgoings. Therefore, until such time as our income stream (that's you the members) comes on line, the club's viability will very much depend on your support as we slowly emerge from the impact of the covid-19 pandemic. The next six months will be crucial for the club, so please come and help us preserve this great village facility for the future.

Thank you John

Sadly, after twelve years sterling service, John McArthur decided in July to resign from the club committee. John has been an enthusiastic and energetic servant of the club undertaking a number of roles, most recently as Club Secretary. The committee and the membership owe John a great debt of gratitude for all the work he has so diligently undertaken on their behalf. So, thank you John for all you have done and we look forward to seeing you enjoying a pint in the club unencumbered by the burden of office!

Welcome Sarah

Following John's resignation, Sarah-Jane Wellard has kindly agreed to undertake the role of Acting Secretary until the next AGM. Sarah comes with a wealth of business experience which eminently suits her to this position. We wish her every success in her new role.

Best Regards, Steve Hopkins

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

Birchanger Parish Council
12 July 2020

In line with UK Government guidelines, the Birchanger play area is open. Regular safety checks are being carried out but, continuous sanitisation is not reasonably practical. Please follow the guidelines below for your own safety and that of others.



Do NOT use the play area if you or a member of your family have coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating

Be aware of social distancing and give other play area users space to use the facilities safely



**Sanitise
your hands**

Use hand sanitiser regularly and consider wiping high touch areas with sanitiser before and after use

Remind children NOT to put their mouths on equipment or put their hands on or near their face

Wash hands thoroughly as soon as possible after you leave the play area



Minimise your stay at the play area and if it is busy, please come back later



Do NOT consume food or drink in the play area



Do NOT use the litter bins

Take your litter home with you including PPE and used sanitisation wipes

STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES



Airport to appeal against refusal of its expansion plans!

Background

In June 2017 Manchester Airports Group (MAG) submitted initial proposals to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for further expansion at Stansted Airport. A formal planning application was then submitted in February 2018, seeking an increase in the permitted annual passenger throughput at Stansted from the present limit of 35 million to 43 million. Stansted's actual throughput last year was 28 million passengers and will be much lower this year due to the impact of Covid-19.

On 24 January 2020, after more than two and a half years of consideration, the UDC Planning Committee voted (by 10 votes to nil) to refuse MAG's planning application.

Latest Developments

Legally, MAG had six months to appeal and, after five and a half months of silence, announced on 10 July that it will submit an appeal "later this month" – i.e. at the last possible moment. This means that there will now be a costly and lengthy Public Inquiry to reconsider all the evidence. The outcome might not be known for another 18 months.

MAG now alleges that UDC did not give proper consideration to its planning application and is asking the Secretary of State to overturn the local decision. However, immediately before the vote was taken on 24 January, Stansted CEO Ken O'Toole, thanked *"the UDC members and officers for the time and effort they have devoted to carefully and professionally considering our application, particularly over the past few months"*.



In addition, MAG had insisted from the outset that its planning application should be determined locally rather than nationally, and that UDC was the "competent and appropriate authority" to deal with its application. A Public Inquiry could cost UDC up to £1.7 million, which it can ill afford, especially in

the current circumstances with tremendous pressure on local finances and far more important priorities.

SSE will seek to prevent this Public Inquiry with its ongoing legal challenge but if, despite its best efforts, it is unable to do so, SSE will offer every assistance to UDC in defending its position. This will include extensive expert evidence highlighting the unacceptable impacts of the proposed expansion in relation to climate change, noise, air pollution and health impacts, and the inadequate capacity of the local road and rail infrastructure. In addition, the impact of Covid-19 raises fundamental questions about the need for any airport expansion at this time.

Stop Press!

A project to increase capacity of the M11 junction 8 near Stansted Airport has been shelved. Essex County Council was leading the project to improve the junction with the A120. Works were anticipated to cost about £9m but tenders have come in above budget and the funding partners – South East England Local Enterprise Partnership, Essex, housing developer contributions, the DfT and Manchester Airport Group – do not have the cash to close the funding gap.

Brian Ross

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A 10th Anniversary 2019-20



Still Ticking Over

Our face to face meetings remain cancelled until further notice. However, many of our 300 or so members are managing to keep in touch via Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, email and telephone. The Singers have been enjoying YouTube rehearsals coupled with Zoom get-togethers. Art Appreciation have been chatting and watching talks together on Zoom, there are weekly Zoom yoga sessions, the Art Group have been painting together on Zoom and there are others.

The more than 90% of members with email have been receiving regular weekly newsletters too, with news, photos and stories – many of these from our own Creative Writing Group. Tony, who normally leads our Walking and Nature Appreciation Group, has been sending emails out to the Walkers giving them ideas for walks and you can see here a photo of some lovely bee orchids that he found near to Wades Hall, Ugley.

In light of government information regarding the number of people able to meet both indoors and out (which although it has been eased, at time of writing is still very restrictive); information published by the Charities Commission regarding AGM's; and our own constitution, it was decided to postpone the AGM until such time as it is safe and within government guidelines to hold it. Our constitution states that an AGM must be held every calendar year, therefore on or by 31st December 2020. Meanwhile, existing Committee members remain in place.

Monthly General Meetings have had to be cancelled too, but, behind the scenes, Gill, our speaker secretary, has been busy re-arranging the speakers that were previously booked. Once we get back to meetings there will be, thanks to her efforts, a full programme of speakers. We can't wait!

We are still open to new members. Just go to our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted for details of how to join, or email us at stanstedu3a@gmail.com.

Sally Rich, Vice Chair Stansted Mountfitchet U3A T e l : 07874 385541



Bee Orchid at Wadws Hall - by Tony



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Society's website has been expanded to include a new series of interesting walking routes. The website already has 20 walks that start and finish at railway stations but their attraction has been severely reduced by the advice to avoid public transport during the coronavirus pandemic. Now the Walks area of the website has two sections: Station Walks and Other Walks.

The new walks are all 'circular', starting and finishing at a location where there is normally space to park. The routes have been chosen for their attractiveness and level of interest, something which is not too difficult within the Hundred Parishes. The number of Other Walks is increasing all the time; in due course we hope that each of the hundred parishes will feature in at least one walk.



Thaxted

All walk descriptions can be downloaded and printed. Each includes clear instructions to help you find the way and there is also an outline map of the route. Within the description there is a short introduction to some of the places you will pass. The new walks range in distance from 1 mile to 10 miles.

We hope you will be able to try them out and we would be pleased to receive any feedback. If you particularly enjoy a walk, do please encourage others to enjoy it too. Please bear in mind that the usual pubs and tea rooms may not yet be open or may offer only a limited service. Walking boots or stout shoes are generally encouraged, although during dry periods they may not be needed.



Descending into Braughing

appreciate in the Hundred Parishes.

Ken McDonald, Secretary. www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Now that most of us can get out, please take the opportunity to explore new parts of our attractive countryside, villages and small towns. There is so much to

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Last August we celebrated our Japanese gardening heritage. This year we will be celebrating being open to the public! Our Open Day is on Sunday 16th August, with gates open from 11.00 and with our usual catering. We are now also opening on Thursdays, for walkers and cyclists only. Sorry but car parking and catering will not be available. However, picnics will be welcome.

Details for all open days are on our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk and on our Facebook page. Our arrangements are being regularly updated as we get more experience of operating with social distancing and following the latest rules.

In July the Gardens have looked gorgeous, with the rain finally washing the dust from the leaves and allowing the plants to grow. The Italian garden has its summer hues where the central beds are a beautiful blend of yellows from the achillea, day lilies and Oenothera, oranges from the kniphofia and helenium and purples from the nepeta and salvia. The dahlia bed and flower border in the walled kitchen garden are growing apace and provide a riot of colour. The greens of the ferns in the stumpery and the trees in the glade are refreshed, and the lavender borders are a mass of colour from the flowers and the butterflies and bees feasting on their nectar.



The fruit and veg in the walled kitchen garden have loved the mix of sunshine and rain and so we have a steady flow of produce for sale and jams and jellies for our tombola's. We hope you will find time to come and visit and support us throughout the summer.

Jill Goldsmith

Become a Parish Councillor

There are three vacancies in Birchchanger! If you are interested in helping your village, please contact our parish clerk Keith Williams to find out more. You can call Keith on 01279 814773.



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Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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	Charlie Moore	01279 813441
Car Service	D. Bonney	01279 813315
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Dance	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
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Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
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
Police Special	Martin Halls	Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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 Events:
Temporarily closed. Due to reopen in September

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



Over the past five months, a wealth of advice and guidance has been given to clergy, churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils on how to manage the Covid situation and implement them in our church surroundings. Whatever we decide to do, the guidance will be taken seriously and without risk.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on the 2nd July to discuss the Church of England guidance on re-opening churches and decided that more time was needed to make sure that we are doing things appropriately. Although the word guidance may be to some very loose, if we do not adhere to the guidance, we could be liable if someone caught Covid due to our negligence. This is even more important considering the age of our congregation and we must make sure that we do everything in our power to make it work. Therefore, the PCC decided to keep the church closed for 4 weeks. This decision was taken on the basis that St Johns would run a Communion service at 4pm every Saturday for all parishes to attend. This would give the clergy time to see how this works and to also see whether there had been a downward curve of cases. Since then we have seen increased outbreaks across the UK with areas imposing lockdown instructions again.

The church will remain closed for Sunday services until a further meeting of the PCC that will take place on the 3rd August, with the opening of the church on the 9th August at 11.15am. The church is still open on Tuesdays between 10-12md for silent prayer. With Churches opening many have said what do we do about the zoom services we have been having? I for one have enjoyed the service and have felt a sense of community and belonging, at the end of the service we go into chat rooms and talk to each other, this we rarely seem to do when we are in church. I believe that there is a place for both services, we have made connections with people in a different and new way, and this is surely what our mission is about, connecting with people and sharing God's love.

Church hall update

To support the school, the church hall has been used as two classrooms to aid social distancing. The children have fully embraced this change and have decorated the walls in the hall with their work, which makes a nice change from the plain walls. Once the end of term has been reached, the hall will undergo a deep clean and be prepared for our usual hirers from the beginning of September. Once again, the guidance from the Government and the Church of England has to be adhered to and this will be reflected by the use of posters and the addition of hand gel etc. Subject to social distancing rules, we still hope to have our fashion show on 22nd October.

Here is a prayer for those who have died and for the future:

Lord Jesus Christ, when fear and anxiety besiege us and hope is veiled in grief, hold us in your wounded hands

and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God. Amen

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Elaine Wright (Church Warden)

stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact;
Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243
st.johns.church@btinternet.com
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