

Birchanger Village Magazine

June 2021

Issue 221



Travellers Update



Following recent discussions between the Parish Council and Nigel Brown, Development Manager at

Uttlesford District Council, a statement concerning the travellers appeal has been issued as follows:

The planning inspectorate have now formally confirmed that the planning appeal will be handled through written representations with no need for a hearing/inquiry. The principal issue is the fact that the land is green belt. There is no dispute over the status of the travellers and as such these matters do not need to be tested through cross examination. The agents for the travellers is continuing on that basis.

The lack of progress on this appeal has no reflection on the likelihood of its success. This was lack of progress by the planning inspectorate to administer the appeal. Fortunately, intervention by UDC has allowed the appeal to gather traction, and subject to a site visit by the inspector in the next few weeks a decision should be made on this before the summer.

Part of the appeal is regarding the period of compliance for the enforcement notice, which is currently set as six months from the decision if the appeal should be dismissed. The planning inspector does have the option to extend this period should he feel fit.

The primary consideration of the appeal is whether the change of use of this land to a travellers site is appropriate in the green belt. Whilst it is accepted that the travellers have made changes from tourers to statics with the consent of the High Court, these changes do not alter the primary consideration of the case, i.e., should the travellers be there at all. The local planning authority are clearly of the view that they should not and the priority at the moment is to win the appeal.

The local planning authority remain confident that the appeal will be dismissed, and that enforcement notice will be retained (subject to any changes to the compliance period). Should the matter be dismissed then the travellers will have a finite day in which to move on. Whilst it is noted that the travellers own the site, the land has always been green belt, and they bought this land with that knowledge. The council has no obligation to afford any use to this land, and if the appeal is dismissed, they have in essence bought land that cannot be used, that is of no concern to the local planning authority.

In effect if the appeal is dismissed and notice upheld, if the travellers continue to be in occupation beyond the compliance period, then a criminal offence has been committed, and the Council would have various options through the courts to seek their removal. The notice would be equally relevant and any action would be the same if they left and returned sometime later.

The notice is also clear that the land would have to be reverted to its former state which includes the removal of hard standing etc. If that isn't done then the council is free to remove the items through default action and recharge the landowners for the work. Obviously, the council would continue to work with the travellers and is confident that the travellers would fully comply with the Enforcement Notice if it is upheld.

At this stage we do have to wait now for the formal decision on the appeal from the planning inspectorate.

Garden Waste Collection

From Saturday 29th May, the mobile skip for garden waste will be parked adjacent to the social club for one hour from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

The skip will return every 4 weeks on Saturday; 26th June, 24th July, 21st August, 18th September, 16th October, and finally for 2021 on the 13th November. UDC Apologise for the incorrect location given previously.



Editors Letter Box



Saffron Walden Dementia Café Re-Opening at New Premises

Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia / Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat? Why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, and advice and of course refreshments. We will meet weekly every Wednesday from 7th July 10am-12pm at Faircroft House, Audley Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3HD - Onsite parking available. If you would like to find out more, please call 07900123917 or email saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com



Volunteers - We Need You!

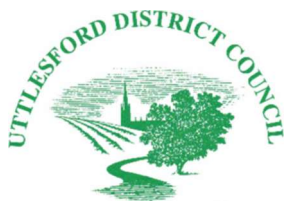
Home-Start Essex is looking for volunteers to provide support to families who need a bit of extra help. Can you spare a few hours a week? Would you like to help your local community?

We are looking for volunteers within the Uttlesford area to join our new online volunteer preparation training course, which consists of 8 sessions held from 10-12.30 once per week on Zoom. If you are looking for a volunteering opportunity and would like to make a difference to the lives of children and families, then please get in touch. You do not need to be a parent to volunteer, any experience of working or volunteering with children is welcome also.

Our volunteers know how tough parenting can be and they do not want anyone to go through it alone. As a professionally trained volunteer you will make a lasting difference to families who need a helping hand. The benefit to children is long term: reducing the risk of problems escalating in the future to ensure they have a happy and secure family life.

Recent studies have highlighted the enormous benefits for people of volunteering. When you volunteer, your ties to the community improve, so does your own support network and mental health. So, while you are generously helping others, you are also helping yourself. Volunteering allows you to support your community, make friends for life, and gain new skills and experience. Volunteering will not only change families lives, but it will also change yours. For more information, please email info@home-startessex.org.uk, telephone 01245 847410 or visit our website: <https://home-startessex.org.uk/volunteer>.

Thank you - Madi Wilkie, Coordinator, Home-Start Essex



Essex Business Adaptation Grant – open for applications

The Essex County Council Business Adaptation Grant can help make a change to operations and premises, in response to Covid-19. The grant can be used to make businesses Covid-safe, enable home working, set up virtual operations, or improve the area for customers or visitors. This is a new round of funding and therefore businesses that successfully applied previously are eligible to re-apply.

Restart Grants

The Restart Grant scheme supports businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care and accommodation sectors with a one-off grant, to reopen safely as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. You must apply even if you have received payment from us under a previous grant scheme.

For more information including full eligibility criteria and how to make an application for these grants, please go to our website: business@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchanger/

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Getting Back to Normal, or Have You Lost Your Job?

I'm not sure just what 'normal' means these days? The old way of life is not materialising for a great many of us yet and for some it may never be back to the old familiar pattern. We may have lost our jobs, have no idea where to find employment and may find ourselves contemplating a totally different future to our pre-pandemic past. Finding a job which is in any way akin to our old job has proved impossible for many people. They cannot find work and the debts are mounting. This is where Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) may be just the right place to help people to get started again. At the CAB they know about all the grants you have never heard about but which you could be entitled to. They know where to go for re-training, they have skilled counsellors who can help you choose the right career and they know what support you need to help you get back into work again. They will put you in touch with your nearest food bank as well. Call them on 01799 618840. They have helped thousands of people already and they could help you too. How about a change of career? There are many new start-up businesses who might really welcome the experience you have to offer.

Coffee and Cakes at the Village hall

The tearoom in the Village Hall reopened again on May 19. A very welcome return it was too. It is a place where you can pop in to buy some homemade cake and relax over a cup of tea and a chat with friends and neighbours. It has been much missed in the past few months. There are gluten free options available as well. Whatever your choice, stay, or take cakes home, you will find a very warm welcome. The tearoom is open in the village hall on Wednesday Afternoons between 2 and 4pm. Come and see what is on offer.

Coffee Morning



Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Coffee at Moorswood starts again on June 29, from 10.30 am to noon. Everyone is welcome and if the weather is fine, it could even be in the garden. Other planned events include a Summer Lunch, either at Moorswood or in the Village Church Hall if the weather is bad. Further Coffee Mornings are on September 21,

and December 12. Time to get the diary out again.

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women of all ages to join them on the last Wednesday of every month in the village church hall. The next meeting will be notified soon.

For further details telephone:

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Essex Roadworks Due to Cause Delays

There are several major road improvements around Essex. Most of us are familiar with the work creating the M11 Junction 7a and work has now started on the slip roads. Roads in Harlow are also suffering from the necessary junction changes whilst the roads are being prepared for new traffic patterns once the junctions are open. There are some difficult months to come before that happens. In the meantime, we await the construction of the new A120 junction with Birchanger Lane which will take a different path from the existing single carriageway and may be open later in 2023. Chelmsford is also due to have a new by-pass around the new development at Beaulieu Park, where a new railway station is also expected to be built. A new Army and Navy roundabout is also planned.

It won't be easy travelling on our roads for a while yet.



Don't Let Them Steal Your Dog!

Dog theft is on the rise all over the country. Owning a dog became extremely popular during the pandemic and soon there could be a surge in unwanted dogs. Meanwhile all dogs appear to be fair game for the

thieves and sadly many dogs are never recovered. There are simple things you can do to try to keep your pet safe. First of all, make sure your pet has been microchipped and that your contact details are up to date. Don't always take the same route when you walk your dog. Vary the route and vary the times if you can. A lot of dog theft is planned and thieves don't like unpredictability. Varying times and places make it difficult for thieves to track your route. Never leave your dog unattended. Most dog theft is from their owner's car, garden or from outside a shop. Make sure your home is a secure place. Use things like smart doorbells, motion sensor lights, and cameras. Sadly, they may not prevent the theft, but they will help. Should the worst happen inform Essex Police and contact your microchip company, they know a lot of the theft patterns, and might be able to help.

Help in Paying Your Water Bills

At the end of a difficult period when family finances have been stretched in so many different ways, there could be help for some in paying their water bills. Those on low incomes as well as those with long term medical conditions could find themselves eligible for a reduction by way of a special lower rate water tariff. Go to Affinity Water to discover whether this could apply to you.



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The New “Fleeceware Apps”

These are apps you are enticed to download to your phone or tablet, only to discover later you have signed up to a lengthy and expensive monthly subscription until you manage to find a way of dumping the contract you have inadvertently signed up for. Quite often the targeted individual is offered a free trial which actually lasts less than a week, although that may not have been easily spotted when the app was downloaded. Before you actually download any app make sure there is no hidden recurring fee. Beware of viral advertisements for an app. Read the small print before offering any payments with a password or a biometric check. The best solution is not to accept an app that is offered to you. Instead, use well known platforms like the App Store or Google Apps etc.

Solar Panels Are All the Rage

It seems that firms persuading us to buy solar panels are certainly having a moment right now, but this is something we are strongly advised to check out first before we find ourselves sucked into some pretty useless schemes. There are a few individuals out there causing a lot of grief to their customers by selling sub-standard panels and worthless maintenance contracts. If in doubt, check whether these individuals are registered on the Uttlesford District Council or the Essex County Council’s list of accredited suppliers or maintenance contractors. It could save a great deal of expense and grief later if you do.

Trying to Get Ahead in Your Own Business?

After all businesses have been put through in over a year it is not surprising that many are feeling the pressure while others are struggling to start up. Help is very close in the form of advice on a wide range of topics from Uttlesford District Council where there are both Start Up and Restart schemes available. The council offers crime protection advice, Business Start Up Courses, Training, Digital Updates, links to Volunteer organisations and much more including Free Google Business Listing. Discover more at www.uttlesford.gov.uk. You could save a lot of money.

As a Woman Do You Feel Safe?

There have been a great many high-profile attacks on women who were simply going about their normal routines. They were not dressed provocatively; they were not looking for trouble and most were simply out for a walk or on their way home. Frequently the attacker is known to the woman and physical violence may have been used before but the women concerned are usually too scared or too embarrassed to seek help and try to conceal their injuries from friends and family. This should never be the case. Women have the same right to feel safe as everyone else. They should not feel ashamed to talk about it either. It is happening everywhere through all strands of society. As individuals or as a couple they need help and counselling for all couples either individually or together is available. The contact is just a simple phone call away and the confidentiality of the call is secure. Call now for help and advice if you are in this situation. Whether you are victim or perpetrator help is out there on 0300 003 7777.



My Turn to Face the Scammers!

The phone started ringing about 7.00 am. “Are you all right my old friend” my friend from Holland was saying. “Yes” I say, surprised as to why she would be calling so early in the morning. “But your email said you were in trouble” she explains - and then the penny drops. Apparently, I had sent a begging letter asking for money to be paid into my non-existent PayPal account as I was in deep trouble. Well, I was in trouble, just how deeply I had yet to discover. In the course of the day, it emerged that a travel company who I had used four years ago had suffered a break in and client data had been stolen, including mine.

This charming character who engineered the break-in, messaged everyone on my mailing list, including many people whom I had not seen for years, asking for money as according to the data thief, I was in dire straits. While it would normally be great to talk to old friends, the frequency of the calls meant that remedial work could not even begin, and I found my fuse was getting shorter. Finally, I managed to close down one damaged account and created a totally different one, new passcodes and email addresses for relevant accounts doing as much remedial work as I could think of at the time. I went to bed worrying about possible new horrors to discover on the next day and some very mixed feelings. The scammer had invaded my privacy and done a lot of, as yet, unknown damage, but at least over 40 old friends had been in touch with me in some cases for the first time in months.

Has Your Diet Stopped Working?

Remember the resolutions we made way back at the start of the year? For some of us this included dieting. Now it is possible that the results are just not that impressive. What has gone wrong? Think, are you getting enough sleep? Most of us aren’t and if this applies to you, your metabolism has slowed down which increases your appetite so without realising it you are eating more. How is your alcohol intake? Ok you are good all week but what about the weekends? Time to relax but try to stick to spirits such as vodka or gin. Leave the beers, ciders, and sweet wines alone. The so-called healthy fruit juices can be full of sugar as well. Fizzy drinks are out for the same reason. Remember portion control?

Not everyone will lose weight eating the same size portion. Remember your weight and size and adjust your recommended portions accordingly. You may think you are eating healthily but you can still put on weight eating too much healthy food. Are you drinking enough water? It is easy to mistake dehydration for hunger. A glass of water before a snack or a meal will help and it will lessen the sugar cravings as well. Eat a good breakfast. A healthy well-proportioned breakfast after sleep is a good way to stop cravings for the rest of the day. It also helps to lower cholesterol.



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what's on in the village...



June 2021



Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. **Garden bin collections marked with #**

Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - **Open to the public.**

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Garden Waste Collection Mobile Skip outside Social Club 2.30 - 3.30 pm: 26th Jun, 24th Jul, 21st Aug, 18th Sep, 16th Oct, 13th Nov.

	1 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	2 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	3 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	4 Church hall: BSSC:	5 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	6 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
7 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	8 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	9 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	10 Black Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	11 Church hall: BSSC:	12 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	13 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
14 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	15 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	16 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	17 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	18 Church hall: BSSC:	19 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	20 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
21 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	22 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	23 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	24 Black Bin # Church hall: 1 17.45 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	25 Church hall: BSSC:	26 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Skin Tight Party Band	27 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Communion - BSSC: Sunday Roast
28 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	29 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 10.30 Coffee Morning Moorswd	30 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	Events subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Please contact event organisers for latest information. (Contact information on Page 11)			



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



By the time you read this the May 17th lockdown deadline for Indoor hospitality will have been passed and our Club should be fully reopened.

From Monday 17th May the Club will be able to trade with our members allowed inside the building again, at last. We will still be restricted to the old Tier 2 rules ie :- six people OR two households at one table. Table service only. With ordering done either on the mobile App or directly to one of the serving staff. The one way system will still be in place. It will still be required to sign in either on the APP or on the form provided.

Members who wish to continue to use the outside seating have a limit of 30 per group which allows us to host events like weddings, private parties and wakes. There are already some dates in the diary.

We are allowed to reopen access to the Snooker and pool tables (limited to 2 players) as well as the gambling machines, the dart board and Juke box.

We will of course continue with our food provision and takeaway service.

We now have a resident Petanque team at the club and we will be able to supply a set of boules to any member who wishes to have a go.

April was a challenging month to trade in. Despite being the coldest April in 90 years, our members returned to support us, and the staff coped well, serving members in the Garden and marquee.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Find out more
on our website at
www.birchangerclub.com
or ask a member of staff.



WHAT'S ON

Live Music
Entertainment

26th June
'SKIN TIGHT'
PARTY BAND



11 JUNE - 11 JULY
2021



**WATCH ALL GAMES LIVE
ON BIG SCREENS**



OPENING HOURS

Monday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Tuesday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Wednesday	12-3pm/5-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Thursday	12-3pm/5-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Friday	12-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Saturday	12-11pm	Food 12-9pm
Sunday	12-11pm	Food 12-3pm

For all general enquiries

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements





Birchanger Primary

School News

The children have been working really hard since their return to school in March with lots of learning across the curriculum. When the children first returned to school, we held our half termly wellbeing day where the children got to know each other once more and when the summer term began the focus was to work on our serenity garden. This garden has been possible with the generosity of our PTA and services of Wendy from Wellbean gardening. The children and Wendy have already dug over the ground, removing weeds and roots that have been there for many years. Our next phase will be to plant up the area, and the work for this starts this week. When the garden has been completed, it will provide a tranquil space in our grounds where the children can sit and reflect. Once the planting is complete, we shall include a picture in our next newsletter to show you how we're getting on.



This planting links with our future learning as next term our topic focus will be 'Birchanger In Bloom'. During the last half term of this year, we are hoping to plant up lots and lots of tubs to brighten up our school. We would love to fill our playground with colourful plants and vegetables so if you have any spare plants, pots, or compost we would be really grateful to receive them. This learning will culminate with a Country Fair on July 17th and if we are very lucky we may be able to invite the community to attend. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the covid restrictions are lifted to allow us to open our gates to all.

In the classrooms over the school there has been lots of hard work too! The children in the KS2 classes have focused their learning on the ancient cultures of Greece and Egypt. Our older children are working with Linda Morris, the local potter, to make pots worthy of ancient Greece. Currently these pots are under construction, and once they have been decorated and fired, we shall be able to show you how wonderful they are.

In KS1 our younger children have been learning about the Great Fire of London as part of their learning of significant people from a past era. Our children have loved this learning. They have made cakes (which happily didn't burn the school down), they have made pictures and have become Samuel Pepys in order to write their diary of the events that unfolded. Once the children learnt about Stuart England, they had learned about the plague that had happened just a short time before. This has meant that the children have filled the classroom with plague masks and singing Ring a Ring of Roses. The children have been talking about their learning at school. Milly told us that it was 'inspiring' and at home our parents are being taught about the Great Fire too!

Claire Berry - Headteacher





Aviation Emissions Face Tighter Controls

In a surprise Government announcement last month, carbon emissions from international air travel will in future be subject to legal limits. For the past 24 years they have been excluded from the Government's Climate Change targets. The legislation will be introduced by the end of June.

This major shift in Government policy is in line with advice from its independent Climate Change Committee that the UK targets for tackling climate change could not be achieved unless aviation emissions were brought under control.

As a result of this change in Government policy, the Inspectors who presided over the recent Stansted Airport Public Inquiry asked the three main parties (MAG, UDC and SSE) to submit further evidence on the impact of new legal limits on aviation emissions. As expected, MAG has argued that this makes no difference whereas SSE and UDC have pointed to the further recommendation from the Climate Change Committee that there should be no more expansion of UK airports unless and until there is clear evidence that aviation emissions are brought under control. As matters stand, that's a very distant prospect.

In 2019, Stansted Airport was the largest single source of carbon emissions in the East of England and Heathrow was the UK's largest single source of carbon emissions. The Climate Change Committee was merely stating the obvious when it advised Government that radical action was needed to tackle aviation emissions.

Whether the Government has the courage to implement a moratorium on future airport expansion is questionable. Up until now the Government has always supported the unfettered expansion of air travel. It is, however, increasingly difficult to reconcile continued growth in air travel with the Government's legal obligations to tackle climate change. Regardless of the result of the recent Stansted Airport Public Inquiry, the days of unlimited growth in air travel appear to be numbered. The result is expected by the end of June.

Photos needed for 2022 Community Calendar

Following the success of our 2021 edition, despite the strange year that 2020 proved to be, we would like to produce a Community Calendar for 2022. As you know, SSE has been producing an annual Community Calendar since 2003 so this would be our 20th edition! The photographs are donated to SSE for no fee, but the chosen photographers are given a credit and receive a complimentary copy of the calendar.

As usual we will be looking for interesting features such as landscapes, buildings, nature, people at work, people at leisure and community events within 15-20 miles of the airport. Please note that we need landscape shaped photos covering all the 12 months for the inside pages as well as a portrait shaped image for the cover. And we are sometimes short of good images taken south of the airport.

Please send your images to us as .jpg files giving details of where and approximately when they were taken, ensuring that if they feature private homes that authorisation from the homeowner has been obtained. The deadline is the end of June but, where possible, send us your images before then so that we can start making an initial selection. info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

I like to look back when I write these news pieces. This time last year we were beginning to welcome volunteers back into the Gardens but couldn't be sure when we could have visitors. We had our first visitors on our April Open Day, which was a lovely sunny day and enjoyed by all. On the first few open Thursdays, visitors came and saw our volunteers at work but without the usual frills of catering and children's activities.

By June, hopefully lockdowns will be a distant memory and we will have our normal, beautiful late spring weather. We will be joined at the 27th June Open Day by Jono Forgham, the local naturalist, who will show visitors the bugs in the Gardens. We will also have a visit by the RSPB, Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust, and the Woodland Trust. Our beekeepers, local coppicers, and a local woodturner will also visit us.

Assuming we have a bit more rain by June, the Gardens should be looking gorgeous and we may have some early produce from the walled kitchen garden on sale, as well as the usual plant and jam stalls. Key plants around the Gardens in early June are common orchids, the philadelphus, allegedly planted by the Countess, and on good years the lovely false acacia, although they may be late this year! Towards the end of June there should be roses and waterlilies and in the walled kitchen garden, we might expect the squashes to be starting to spread out and perhaps climbing up the hazel A-Frames erected for them. At this time, we may be able to harvest potatoes and the first dwarf green beans.

Open days are now by ticket only, obtainable through the gardens website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk or on our Facebook page.

You can also book direct from Trybooking.

Open Thursdays do not currently require tickets and details of the more limited offer on Thursdays can be found on our website.

Jill Goldsmith



Public Right of Way to be Cleared

PROW number 15, the walkway between the barn conversion on Birchanger Lane and the horse paddock and stables by the sand track has been almost impassable and quite dangerous according to several Birchanger residents.

A number of locals, especially dog walkers, have complained that brambles and thorn bushes have overgrown the path and to make matters worse, rain water running from the newly laid concrete base and/or a broken drainage pipe at the stables have turned the pathway into a quagmire. This has been reported to the authorities by Birchanger Parish Council. However, the clearance of the obstructions and drainage issue could take some weeks, possibly months, before being cleared. In the meantime, walkers should avoid using the path.



The Hundred Parishes Society

As summer arrives, we hope that readers will continue to enjoy the walks listed on the website www.hundredparishes.org.uk. These varied routes provide a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the variety of wildflowers growing in field margins, hedgerows, verges, churchyards, and village greens.

After this season's chilly start, the warmer days have encouraged an abundance of flowers to provide essential nectar and pollen to support visiting pollinators. With the increasing concern about the alarming reduction in insect numbers, many of those caring for green spaces have adopted the 'NO MOW IN MAY' approach to grass maintenance, where the uncut grassy places can support a surprisingly large number of different native species. Their flowers add variety to these areas and the bees benefit as well!



Wayside plants such as Stinging Nettles, Goosegrass (the long, hairy plant that sticks to your socks) and Cow Parsley thrive alongside lanes and tracks. Cow parsley, with its splay of tiny white flowers, can grow as high as a person. A touch of pink is often added by the

flowers of Red Campion, also known as Bachelor's Buttons as it might have been worn as a buttonhole by unmarried men.

Common bright yellow flowers include Dandelions and the shiny golden petals of a great variety of Buttercups. The tall Ox-eye Daisy is often present where wildflower mixtures have been sown. In recent years these have become a common sight beside new roadways.

The types of wildflower I have listed can be seen and enjoyed almost everywhere in the Hundred Parishes. There are many more varieties to



be seen and occasionally something quite rare. For smart phone users there are apps to help with identification, but we do not have to be experts to appreciate and enjoy nature's abundance.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee - www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Action for Family Carers

Supporting Carers Across Essex

Popular Dementia Activity Group Reopens in Dunmow

People living with dementia can once again benefit from a hugely popular weekly Activity Group in Dunmow run by Essex-based charity Action for Family Carers which has reopened following 4 months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than a dozen people attend the Dunmow group and a further 50 in West Essex attend similar groups mixing with others and participating in a variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities ranging from seated exercise, indoor bowling, reminiscence discussions and games often including music.

The Groups are led by a small team of professional and caring staff and a large number of dedicated local volunteers. Morning sessions, called Keeping Active, focus on physical activity and afternoon sessions, called Active Minds, focus on activities to stimulate the mind.

Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle and can help overall wellbeing. It can give opportunities to spend time with others, reducing isolation and loneliness and support people to continue being independent.

Cognitive stimulation involves activities and exercises that stimulate thinking, concentration, communication and memory in the person with dementia. It involves talking about day-to-day interests, reminiscence and information relating to the current time and place.

Group Activity Support Manager, Clare Savva, said "There's never been a more important time for groups such as ours which help stimulate minds and bodies and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. The group also provides a much-needed break for carers who are often close family members."

The Activity Group takes place in Great Canfield Village Hall near Dunmow on Mondays 10.00-12.30pm and 1.00-3.30pm and new members are welcome.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining the groups and for more information, please call 0300 770 80 90 and ask for Clare Savva or email clare.savva@affc.org.uk.



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Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
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BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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	Steve Hopkins	01279 813441
Car Service	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
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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	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
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

St. Mary's Church



Church services Sundays 11.15 pm

6th June Matins service with Pam Lee
 13th June Holy Communion with Revd. Colin Fairweather
 20th June Family service with Pam Lee
 27th June Holy Communion with Revd. Colin Fairweather

Church News

Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Coffee Morning at Moorswood starts again on Tuesday 29th June at 10.30am

Revd. Colin Fairweather

Allow me to introduce myself – I'm Rev Colin Fairweather, and I'm the new priest-in-charge (i.e., vicar!) of St Mary the Virgin Church in Birchanger. I am very excited to be licensed here and I'm looking forward to getting to know both church and village communities in the coming months.

My patch is a newly created one, covering Stansted Mountfitchet, Farnham, Takeley and Little Canfield as well as Birchanger. Birchanger has the distinction however of being the very first church in which I conducted a service (a memorial one for Prince Philip), on my very first day on the job. Since then, I've taken two further services at St Mary's on a Sunday morning, touched base with the head teacher of the school, and also visited The Three Willows pub on 17th May, when some of the lockdown restrictions were lifted.

I actually live in Stansted, but my job is to serve the whole of Birchanger, and not just the churchgoers – so if there is anything I can do for you, or even if you just want a chat, my number is 01279-816721. I look forward to seeing you around!

Rev Colin Fairweather

Prayer for the month

Trust in him at all times
 Pour out your hearts to him
 For he is our refuge and our salvation
 Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
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Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:

Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243

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