



Birchanger Village Magazine

August 2021

Issue 223



Birchanger Barn Housing Proposal - Update

Uttlesford District Council have now admitted that they should not have approved the planning application to convert the agricultural barn behind Harrisons into two semi-detached houses.

The Council's admission, on 29 June, was in response to the first salvo in a legal challenge to the Council's earlier decision to approve the barn conversion. This decision was made despite more than 100 objections from local residents many of whom pointed out that the barn was on Green Belt land and was outside the long-established village development limits.

The planning application tried to bypass these obstacles by using an obscure piece of legislation which allowed agricultural barns to be converted into residential properties. However, this is on condition that the barn was used solely for agricultural purposes in March 2013.

The Council now accepts that this condition was not met and the application should not have been approved. The applicant, Birchanger Hall Farms Ltd, also now admits to having made a mistake.

The Council says that it has advised Birchanger Hall Farms that the planning approval will be treated as null and void and warned that any attempt to implement or carry out any works in connection with the approval "will be met with immediate enforcement action".

Whilst this may all seem very reassuring; it has no effect in law because the Council does not have the legal powers to nullify its original decision and cannot bind Birchanger Hall Farms to treat the approval as null and void. In fact, the present council cannot even bind any future council to honour any commitments given today.

On top of all that Birchanger residents have good reason to be wary of promises from Uttlesford District Council to take "immediate enforcement action"!

For all of these reasons, a legal ruling is the only way to obtain clarity and long-term peace of mind, and so an application for a quashing order was lodged with the High Court on 7 July.

The Council has indicated that it will not oppose a quashing order and it is hoped that Birchanger Hall Farms, having admitted the mistake, will also not oppose.

Due to a backlog of cases, it is expected to be several months before a High Court Judge can consider the case and issue a ruling, which will hopefully solve the problem. None of this time, effort and expense would have been necessary if only the council had

taken the time to read, and properly consider, the information provided by local residents two months ago, in countless letters of objection.

Our Policeman Will Spend More Time in Birchanger

It is almost eighteen months since Birchanger Parish Council decided to fund their own policeman. The result was that Special Constable Sergeant Halls was funded to look after policing in Birchanger. So far though we have seen very little of him. This has mainly been due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has inevitably led to his being deployed elsewhere.



Now we have some respite from the virus he is back in Birchanger again. He is patrolling the footpaths and is genuinely concerned that they are used just as footpaths. Those on quad bikes using footpaths could find themselves stuck in the mud in more ways than one. His role is to take care of Birchanger, to get to know us and to assist where he can alongside his policing role. He will also be undertaking speed checks in the village.

Defibrillator training

Church Hall, from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on Sunday 8th August

Last month we were reminded of the location of the life saving defibrillator sited on the social club wall. This piece of equipment is actually very easy to use & requires no training. However, if you would like to acquaint yourself with the equipment and have some training in its use, this is being provided for free at the Church Hall, from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on Sunday 8th August.

The training will be run by an experienced first aid instructor who will provide you with the confidence to use this equipment should an emergency arise.

Let's SAVE LIVES. No appointment or registration necessary.

For further information please call Marion on 07930 528274.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Ed,

Bet Gilbey - Funeral Thanks

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all of those villagers who attended the funeral of my mother and those who passed on their cards and good wishes to my family and myself. Mum lived in Birchwood for 67 years and was well regarded by the many people she met and interacted with. She was a pretty unique character and will be missed by friends and family alike.

Ed Gilbey

James Reed Memorial Cricket Match

When our son, James, tragically passed away from lung cancer back in March aged only 49, the family and all his many friends were totally devastated and wanted to do something to honour his memory.

The idea quickly grew that one way to commemorate his life would be to hold an annual cricket match, complete with trophy in his name, and we are pleased to say that the cricket club has found a suitable date in its summer fixtures. The match will take place on Saturday 14th August at 1.00 pm with cricket teas for the players and an evening barbecue, and everyone is cordially invited to come along, watch some cricket, enjoy the food and drink, and swap stories about James.

I am pleased to report that well over £1,000 was donated to Cancer Research after his death and we are hoping to raise some more by holding a raffle on the day, so if anyone has something suitable which can be offered as a prize then any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Bryan or Gloria on 01279 814732 or 07880895024. The family look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Thank you.

Bryan & Gloria Reed

Tina Crossley – 1963-2021

Tina, a Birchanger resident for 16 years, has passed away, aged 57, at her home in Braintree where she moved with her family 7 years ago. Tina lost her 6-year battle with cancer, on Monday 12th July, surrounded by family and friends

She will be remembered as a great friend by many, and a hugely capable administrator for the local Birchanger nursery unit, where she organised a replacement for the old nursery building, as well as a successful wedding hairdresser with her business, 'Beautiful Hair For Weddings', and many will remember the costumes she made for the school plays

Blessed with a great sense of fun, Tina enjoyed socialising with other villagers, and was a regular visitor to both the Social Club, as a member of the Shy Ted's quiz team, and the Three Willows

Both Tina and I were most proud of our sons Matt, Dan and what they are achieving in the fields of architecture and music, as well as Ben whose ashes were scattered in the village.

Mark Crossley

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,

Peter Sampson

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



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Finding it Difficult Returning to Normal Life?

Many people have found the return to a pre-covid lifestyle extremely hard. They like the comfort and safety of their own home. They changed their shopping habits to online orders, readily accepted friends offers of help and generally found their needs catered for and hardly needed to leave the house. Online work and medical appointments now the norm. Little chance of seeing friends and family, so why bother to go out at all? Perhaps a comfortable way of life, but not exactly a healthy one, especially mentally. There is no physical benefit to staying indoors, unless for a medical condition and most people enjoy just saying hello to another human being from time to time.

For some, staying in is an easy option and a better lifestyle, but is it? We need the company of other human beings; we need to have human contact that is not of the virtual kind. A simple short walk on a daily basis will help. You might even find yourself saying hello to someone and even exchange a few words. You could even have used your smile. It will start to make you just that tiny bit more energised. And think of this, you may not believe it, but you will actually have been missed by someone and that they would be really glad to see you again.

Human beings are a sorry lot but, on the whole, we are not so bad.

Birchanger Speedwatch is Back

You have been warned. The speedwatch teams are back out in Birchanger in random areas on random days and times. What the teams have already firmly established is that many people are driving far too fast in the dangerous parts of Birchanger and putting others at risk. For the few who are driving at these silly speeds there will be a reckoning and it will not be pleasant.

Struggling With Finances?

Many of us are. There is absolutely no shame in admitting to your difficulties in these unprecedentedly difficult times when trying to run a business which is more difficult now than it has ever been. Many have been helped by Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Sadly, they have seen it all and are therefore very experienced in helping people with financial difficulties. They know who to contact for advice in your line of business, all about universal credit applications, professional debt counselling and can make referrals to many support organisations. Contact them now,

before you feel overwhelmed with problems which may not be as bad as you think. You just need someone to show you a way through. [Uttlesford Citizens Advice Hub \(uttlesfordcab.org.uk\)](http://Uttlesford Citizens Advice Hub (uttlesfordcab.org.uk))

Fraudsters Fooled by the Humble Fiver!

We have got used to our banknotes. Hardly give them a second glance except perhaps to wonder where the rest of them have gone, but there is so much more to them than you would ever think, mainly to prevent fraud and forgery. If you have a fiver, take a good look at it. No longer made of paper, the fiver is printed on a fine flexible plastic material known as a polymer. Tilt the note from side to side, you will see the word change between five and pounds. Check the metallic image over the window. There is gold foil on the front, silver on the back. Note the Queen's portrait in the see-through window. If you tilt the note the colour border around the edge of the window changes from purple to green. In the see-through window at the front of the note you will find a silver foil patch which contains a 3D image of the Coronation Crown. A further circular patch contains the word BLENHEIM. Under a UV light the number 5 appears in bright red and green at the front of the note. You may wonder at all the different features on the note. They are designed to make it difficult for the forgers. It doesn't stop them altogether but knowing the features in the note makes it easier for us to recognise the many clumsy forgeries. The forgers at present cannot reach the high design standards of our new fivers.

Remember 'Set-aside'?



They are the green strips along the side of fields which farmers get paid by the government to keep clear of crops to encourage wildlife? Well, the farmers still get paid, the strips are still there, but in the absence of notices the public at large seem to have forgotten what they are all about and are using them regardless.

This is not helping the wildlife which has faced a huge struggle this year. The notices may be gone but the strips are still there, bright green and around the edge of some of our fields. When you are out walking remember what these paths are for. They are not for you, your dogs, your kids, or your bikes, they are for the wildlife of Birchanger which right now is struggling. So please stick to the signposted public footpaths.

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.

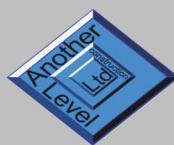
The next meeting is on Wednesday August 25th

An evening of bowling at Ace of Lanes Bishop's Stortford

For further details telephone:

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678



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How Safe is Your Child From the 'County Lines' Menace?

You have probably heard about the gangs who send out members to hang around outside school gates at home time in the hopes of recruiting children into their ranks. Menacingly they find it only too easy. The lonely child who believes they have found a new friend soon finds themselves running around delivering drugs or money on their way to and from school. Great for the gang, potentially disastrous for the child.

Police forces throughout the Home Counties are working together (called County Lines) in an attempt to stop this menace but parents can also help. If your child changes their behaviour patterns especially around going to and from school, try and find out why. It is not the child's fault. Unscrupulous gangs do not care who they hurt or involve.

There are signs which astute friends and carers may be able to spot. Exploited children frequently arrive home with new clothes and new friends who are much older than they are. An unexpected amount of cash, truancy and prolonged absence from home complete the picture as their behaviour deteriorates and their school attendance plummets. It is not just the children who are at risk. County Lines gangs are targeting vulnerable people too and tricking them into letting them use their homes for a base for their criminal activities.

If you have concerns as a possible victim or you are worried that someone you know may be a victim of these gangs, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously and submit information on 0800 555 11. If you feel you need to talk to a member of the police team, call 101. Remember drug use kills and it is not ok to be forced into doing something you do not want to do.

Census Scams Are Still Around

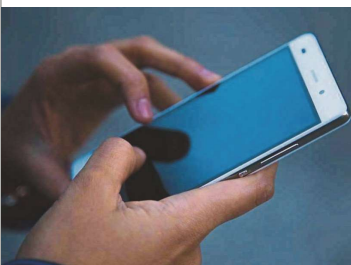
Even after all this time the census con men won't let up. They contact you claiming that you entered incorrect information on your census form and that you must pay a fine. Of course, they generously provide instructions of how to pay. Just remember that you will never be fined for something you put on your census form, and you will never be contacted by phone or email by the census people either. So, the scammers can email or call you all they want but they are not for real, so deal with the scammers in your own favourite way.

Don't Forget Saffron Walden Museum

At the time of writing Saffron Walden Museum is open between 11.30 and 4.30 pm Thursday to Saturday and between 2.30 and 4.30 pm on Sunday. Tickets can be booked at: <http://www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org/>. There is a weekly program for children throughout the school holidays called Crafts at the Castle with a different subject every week. Activity packs are also available to order online. Something different to do if you are not going away this summer perhaps.

Brighter Lights For Less Cost?

Essex County Council is hoping to save £2.2 million per annum by upgrading all the street lighting under their control in the next few months. Apparently 45,000 have already been done with a mere 82,000 to go. Sadly, I don't think we will be seeing any of their savings in the rates, but it would be good to dream that the rates might not increase? Hmmm!



Fraudsters New Mobile Scam

There is always something new in the fraudsters domain to look out for these days. This one concerns your mobile phone. You could receive a call purporting to be from your phone company offering an early handset upgrade with a new contract at a big discount.

Believing it to be from your provider you agree. You give your bank account details to the caller and await your new phone. The fraudster contacts your phone provider and places the order on your behalf but for a different phone than the one you ordered. When you receive the wrong phone, you contact the fraudster who apologises for the error and request that the handset be returned to an address (which has nothing to do with the real phone company). The fraudsters now have a new phone and all your payment details. Of course, you try to contact them, but they are long gone! You end up paying for a phone that you do not have and are saddled with a 2-year contract you can do nothing about. If you are unsure of any phone call, hang up. You can contact the company yourself using the known phone number or email address. Better still, ignore all cold calls!

Recycling in Essex

The problem is that all the sources for recycling seem to be in other parts of the county. You can try borrowing cloth nappies, but you would need to go to Chelmsford to get them. Danbury Council has a new scheme to recycle crisp packets, while recycling groups for clothing and household items are springing up everywhere. Some are to purchase unused donated items, others loan household equipment for a modest charge. There aren't any groups similar to this that I know of in this area, but you may know otherwise!

Looking For a Job?

You might as well look close to home. Uttlesford District Council have several on offer. These include Housing Officer, Website Officer, you could even be Chief Executive. That post is vacant as Dawn French is leaving her post. You can search all the Council's job vacancies and make your application online.

Garden Waste Collection

Outside Birchanger Sports & Social Club
Saturday 21st August
From 2.30 to 3.30 pm



Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
Mob: 07527227943

99 Birchanger Lane,
Birchanger,
Herts.
CM23 5QF



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Beware of the Ghost Broker!

Have you ever heard of a 'ghost broker'? No, we are not talking about things that go bump in the night – this is a lot scarier. 'Ghost brokers' are fraudsters who sell fake or invalid car

insurance policies. Victims are sold fake insurance documents for a policy that does not exist, or for a genuine policy that has been set up using false details to lower the price of the premium.

How do 'ghost brokers' operate?

Fraudsters lure victims in with the offer of cheaper insurance premiums, usually via social media or by word-of-mouth. These individuals or groups pose as middlemen for well-known insurance companies, claiming they can offer you legitimate car insurance at a significantly cheaper price.

This type of fraud is typically carried out either by forging insurance documents, falsifying your details to bring the price down, or by taking out a genuine policy for you but cancelling it soon after. Often, the victim is not aware that they have been scammed until they are involved in an accident and try to claim on the policy.



Who do 'ghost brokers' target?

'Ghost brokers' tend to target vulnerable communities, including members of non-English speaking communities who may not have full knowledge of UK insurance and laws, as well as young people looking for cheaper insurance deals. Last year, Action Fraud received 694 reports of 'ghost broking', with almost a third (29%) coming from victims aged 17-29. The reported losses for these victims alone totalled £113,500, with each individual losing an average of £559. Figures also indicate that over half (58%) of all reports in 2020 were submitted by men.

What could happen if I drive without valid insurance?

As policies sold by 'ghost brokers' are either invalid, non-existent, or fraudulent, this means that the driver is technically uninsured, meaning that you could face:

- £300 fixed penalty notice
- Six points on driving licence
- Vehicle being seized and crushed

How can I protect myself from 'ghost brokers'?

There are simple steps that you can take to spot the signs of these scams and avoid being taken for a ride by 'ghost brokers':

- 'Ghost brokers' often advertise and communicate via social media, online forums and messaging apps. If a broker is only using a mobile phone or email as a way of contact, this can be a sign of this type of crime. Fraudsters do not want to be traced after they have taken money from their victims. They may also try to sell insurance policies through printed adverts in pubs, clubs bars or newsagents.
- If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If you are not sure about the broker, check on the Financial Conduct Authority or the British Insurance Brokers' Association website for a list of all authorised insurance brokers. You can also contact the insurance company directly to verify the broker's details. You can also check to see if a car appears to be insured on the Motor Insurance Database website.
- If you think that you have been a victim of a ghost broker, you can report your concerns to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or on 0300 123 2040.
- You can also contact the Insurance Fraud Bureau via its confidential Cheatline on 0800 422 0421 or on the IFB website.



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Twelve members of the Walking and Nature Appreciation Group met on 23rd June, a lovely sunny day, for a walk from Stansted across the fields to Ugley Green, returning via Buxton's Nature Reserve. In High Lane they saw a magnificent display of poppies where the ground had been disturbed by construction work and near the old village pump on Ugley Green they watched a red kite circling overhead. They enjoyed the walk and were looking forward to the next one.

Groups have also been meeting on Zoom, such as the Literature Study Group, which this year so far has read "The Periodic Table" by Primo Levi, "The Citadel" by A J Cronin and "the Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. A number of groups, such as Yoga and Pilates, are planning to restart in September.

The General Meeting on 19th August, 1.30 for 2.00 in St John's Hall, will include a speaker, Eve Regelous, who will give a talk called "History of Tea and Afternoon Tea Destinations". We look forward to seeing you.

We aim to hold our AGM in October. Please note that the Committee is welcoming nominations from all members for posts on the Committee. We hope to hold our Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge on December 16th.



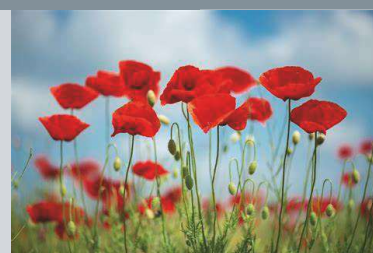
Some of the Walking and Nature Appreciation group on their walk to Ugley Green.

Anne White: 07874 385541 www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

what's on in the village...



August 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: 21st Aug, 18th Sep, 16th Oct, 13th Nov.

30 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	31 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio					1 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
2 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	3 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	4 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	5 Black Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	6 Church hall: BSSC:	7 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
9 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	10 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	11 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	12 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	13 Church hall: BSSC:	14 Church Hall: 9 am Apton Dance BSSC: 13.00 Memorial cricket match 20.00 Goat Patrol - Live Band	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
16 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	17 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	18 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	19 Black Bin # Church hall: 17.45 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	20 Church hall: BSSC:	21 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 14.30 Garden Waste Collection	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
23 Church hall: 19.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC:	24 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	25 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	26 Green Bin Church hall: 10.30 Coffee Morning 17.45 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	27 Church hall: BSSC:	28 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	29 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast 13.00 Memorial cricket match



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



Business as usual?

Now that restrictions have been lifted, we hope to get the Club back to normal as possible with a schedule of regular entertainment and events. We are continually assessing the risks from Covid and will continue to monitor the systems in place to ensure the safety of our staff and members.

Coming up...

The Club will be hosting Memorial Cricket Matches in August to remember two long standing players who recently passed away. On Saturday 14th August a game will be played in memory of James Reed and on Sunday 29th August a game will be played in memory of Paul Harris. This is a great opportunity to join BSSC and Birchanger Cricket Club in remembering the lives of two of its great friends, particularly as the restrictions meant that both had to have massively scaled down funerals and wakes. The matches will start at 1pm and of course the bar will be open to keep you refreshed throughout the day. Everyone welcome.

We have also launched a new midweek menu available Wednesdays and Thursdays - two courses followed by tea or coffee for £7.95 and of course our usual menu is also available.

We are planning on launching a regular poker night on a Sunday evening, more details to follow - if you'd like to register your interest please contact the club for more information.

The committee are always looking for ways we can improve our facilities and we are pleased to announce the arrival of play equipment for the children...watch this space!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome new members. To join you can either complete the online application or speak to a member of staff at the Club.

For more information visit
www.birchangerclub.com



WHAT'S ON GOAT PATROL



Loosen up too with the usual rocksynth classics
with some new ones thrown in for good measure!

Sat, Aug 14 @ 8:00PM

Memorial Cricket Match

James Reed
Saturday 14th August

Paul Harris
Sunday 29th August

1pm Start - ALL WELCOME



NEW MIDWEEK SPECIAL MENU

MAINS

Scampi & Chips
Fish & Chips
Bangers & Mash
Sausage and Chips
6 Bean Chilli
4oz Burger & Chips

DESSERTS

Alabama Chocolate Fudge Cake
Trio of Ice Cream
Followed by Tea or Coffee

£7.95

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

There has been a lot going on at our school this month. The children have been working extremely hard, right to the end of term and they have made the most of a term without a school or national closure. We were able to make the most of our curriculum with trips out for our classes once the restrictions were relaxed in June. The children went to venues that supported the 'Birchanger in Bloom' topic as well as learning about local geography and history.

Some of our trips were very local, as the Year 3 /4 children went to the Mountfitchet Museum and then the children walked back to school across the local fields. Some of our children who had grown up in the village had not been on this walk before and in the beautiful sunshine it was a wonderful experience.

Our younger children went on a coach for the first time in a long time to the delightful Gibberd Garden in Harlow. The staff told us how impressed they were by the behaviour and attitudes of children. It is lovely to see that our children show the school values of love, care, courage, and truth when they are out of our school as well as when they are within the school environment.

The oldest children had not had the opportunity to go on the school residential trip this year because of the covid restrictions, and so our Year 5 and 6 children went to Skreens Park in Chelmsford for a day of outdoor activities. Everyone challenged themselves as they tried events such as the 'Gladiator Run', and they all had a marvellous time.

In our school playground, we have seen a great deal of activity recently due to the building of a new classroom. Funded by the local authority, the new building has replaced the old relocatable classroom that has been there for many years. The children found the experience exciting as they watched the builders prepare the ground, move away the old classroom and replace it with a new one built off site and sent in by lorry. Once the project has been completed, the new classroom will be home for our Year 6 children,



who will have plenty of space to learn in style.

May I say a huge thank you to all of the residents of Birchanger for putting up with the extra traffic and noise whilst this project has been running. In particular, our thanks go to our neighbours on Birchwood. Once the classroom has been handed over, we shall be able to share the new room with everyone.

Claire Berry - Headteacher

St Mary's Churchyard

A few weeks ago, a resident asked me if a compost bin could be placed in the churchyard. Apart from my initial reaction that cost might be an issue, I said that I would refer the request to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for consideration. Having done so, I now understand that this is not such a straightforward matter.

It seems that some years ago there was a composting bin in the churchyard but caring for it became increasingly difficult due to various factors including vandalism, attraction of vermin, smell, and misuse. Eventually the bin had to be removed altogether. The current PCC has very limited resources and is not in a position to look after a composting bin and although I understand that some residents say they are willing to do this. For the following reasons, the PCC has decided not to install a composting bin in the churchyard:

1. Misuse - as before, people may become complacent and place in a composting bin items which are not compostable (food and plastic waste). Also, people passing through the churchyard tend to use the bin to dispose of general waste.
2. Vandalism - the previous bin was on more than one occasion broken with the contents strewn about the churchyard.
3. Vermin - Rats etc are attracted to inappropriate items placed in the bin.
4. Smell - siting of a bin would be a problem. Rotting vegetation always produces an unpleasant aroma so any bin could not be placed close to the church or pathways/entrances. The only sensible place would be at the rear of the churchyard but then it is likely that the bin would not be used as no one will want to walk there.
5. Cost - a cheap plastic bin is not an option as plastic items are not allowed in the churchyard. A sturdy, attractive bin would cost around £80. This is not an expense that the PCC sees as a priority as there are other projects that need attention.

The view of the PCC is that the best solution is for all compostable waste to be taken to a compost bin in the allotments (only a short walk from the lychgate) where the resulting compost can be put to good use by allotment holders.

Pam Lee

England's Hopes Dashed



Birchanger put on a good show of support for England's team during the European cup final as can be seen from the photo taken at 'Centuries' in Birchanger Lane. Unfortunately, despite putting up a great effort, the game ended in heartbreak for England who lost on penalties to Italy.



Give Greenwash the Red Card

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which regulates business behaviour, has finally stepped in to try to bring an end to 'greenwashing' and has asked for evidence. Greenwashing is where businesses make dubious claims in an attempt to boost their environmental credentials.

Greenwashing is all too common in the aviation industry and, last month, Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) submitted detailed evidence to the CMA relating to both Stansted Airport and Ryanair.

Stansted Airport is the largest single source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the East of England and yet it constantly boasts that it has achieved 'carbon neutral' status. How can that be? The answer lies in three clever tricks of the trade:

- The 'carbon neutral' claim only applies to the airport buildings and airside vehicles but these two elements amount to just one per cent of the airport's emissions. The other 99% is ignored - i.e., the aircraft emissions (about 90%) and the emissions from the road traffic taking passengers and freight to and from the airport (about 9%).
- Even that one per cent is not truly carbon neutral. The airport relies on "off-setting" to magic away CO₂ emissions. An example of off-setting would be to make a donation to help protect a peat bog on the Yorkshire moors. However, this does not stop the airport CO₂ going into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change.
- In trumpeting its "prestigious" award for achieving 'carbon neutral' status, Stansted Airport makes no mention of the fact that the award was given by ACI, the airports' trade association, part financed by Stansted Airport. It's a case of the airports marking their own homework.

The CMA will now review all the evidence it has received and will publish formal *Guidance* in the next few months aimed at preventing businesses from making inaccurate, untrue, or misleading environmental claims.

SAW has also provided the CMA with evidence of Ryanair's greenwashing. Due to Magazine space limitations, that will need to wait until next month.

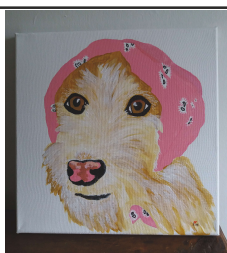
Brian Ross

Local Art for Sale

Local artist Lin Watson of 'Charlee Art' fame lives in Birchanger and sells a range of her own artwork, papier mache sculptures, greeting cards and gifts all at affordable prices.

You can find her at 30 Birchanger lane, Birchanger CM23 5QA. If her sign is on the road, please pop in and have a look at what she has on offer. There is room for parking. She prefers cash only.

Lin Watson Tel: 07796311607



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

On Sunday 22nd August we will celebrate our trees at our monthly Open Day. The variety of trees at the Gardens reflects the enthusiasm of plant collectors in the Victorian and Edwardian era. Many of the now venerable trees are not native to the UK. For example there's a sequoia in the bosquet by the car park (giant redwood, also known as a Wellingtonia Gigantea (named after the Duke of Wellington, after his death in 1852)). A huge Cedar of Lebanon, planted by Edward Prince of Wales, in the late 19th century and a Marsh Cypress, which is native to southeast America.



Peto used trees to create structure in his designs for the Gardens in 1902. He introduced formal avenues of pleached limes, which enclosed the countess' treehouse in an oak, now not so pleached. Also limes and yews lined the side of what we now call the Glade. The Countess of Warwick's son, Maynard Greville, added further trees.

Why not come and join us on 22nd August to learn about our trees. We will showcase the trees, which due to their height or girth, are county champions. You will also get to see our national champion apple tree; 'Easton Countess'. This old apple tree cannot be identified, and despite DNA analysis of its leaves there is no known match, i.e., it is unique to the Gardens of Easton Lodge!

We will also welcome the return of musicians 'Woodwind of Stortford', who are itching to get out to play again once the covid restrictions are lifted! Open Days are now by ticket, obtainable through the Gardens website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk, on our Facebook page or direct from www.trybooking.com.

If you cannot visit us on a Sunday, why not come for an Open Thursday? It is our main volunteering day, so visitors get to see the hard work underway! There is no need to purchase tickets in advance. Details of the more limited offer on Thursdays can be found on our website.

Jill Goldsmith

Birchanger Lane Closure 2nd August

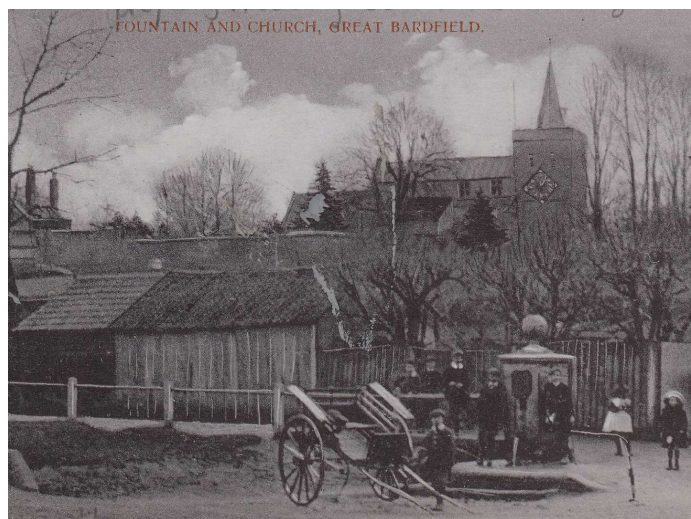
The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Affinity Water undertakes new connection. The intended closure of Birchanger Lane is due to commence On the 2nd August 2021 for 4 days.



The Hundred Parishes Society

On a recent visit to Thaxted's Tourist Information Centre, I could not resist buying their new set of postcards, featuring some of the town's well-known views. Nowadays, it is quite unusual to see postcards for sale – and even rarer to receive one in the post. How times have changed.

Picture postcards became extremely popular in the UK after the introduction in 1902 of the format with a picture on the front and a divided back - half for the address and the other half for a message. Pictures were generally black and white but sometimes coloured. Popularity waned after the First World War but it remained customary to send postcards to family and friends from somewhere visited on holiday or a day out. That custom has now almost died out, no doubt due in part to the availability – albeit only in this century - of more immediate means of exchanging messages and photos electronically.

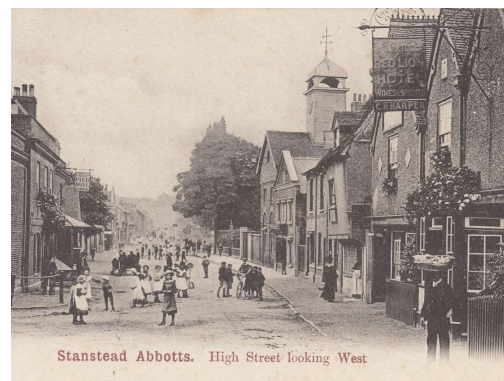


Many people used picture postcards for sending short messages. Until 1918 it cost only an old halfpenny to send a card – that's 480 cards for a Pound (today's price is 66 pence per card). In those early days, there could be as many as five postal deliveries in a day, at least in towns, so it was not unreasonable to expect a reply the same day.



It wasn't just seaside towns that sold postcards; almost every town and village had its own postcard or set of postcards. Within the Hundred Parishes, it seems that only one parish has never had a postcard – Flich Green, which became a parish only in 2008.

Many of those old cards have survived. They often provide a revealing insight into our past and into an earlier way of life, for example buildings, roads, transport and dress.



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

The Three Horseshoes



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Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

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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	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
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Holistic Therapist	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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	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	Cat Roberson	07827 685741

St. Mary's Church



Church services 11.15 am

1st August	Matins with Pam Lee
8th August	Communion with Revd Colin
15th August	Family Service with HUGH
22nd August	Communion with Revd Helen
29th August	Matins with Sue Ward

Thoughts from Rev Dr Colin Fairweather

After three and a bit months as priest-in-charge here, I think I've got Birchanger sussed. So – there is a church, a pub, a school, and a social club. Did I miss anything out?

Of course, the church is what I'm most familiar with. Second place goes to the pub, which I have visited with people from the church and also with my parents for Father's Day. I've made touch with the school, though I haven't met any children yet, and I haven't set foot in the social club, though I think I've joined through the website. (That was what the twenty-five quid I paid for, right?)

What I'm interested in finding out now is what connections there are between the four – because it's in the connections, rather than the standalone institutions, that the social character will really come into its own.

Here's to a joined-up village life, and to the mutual enrichment of all places in Birchanger where communities come together. Rev Dr Colin Fairweather - revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

Prayer for the month

God of our pilgrimage
You have led us to the living waters
Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden) Tel: 07702 171744
pam.mark2@btinternet.com



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Village Church Hall



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Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS

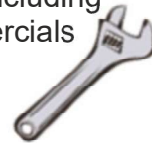


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Printers: Keeley & Lowe Tel: 020 7729 3350 - Email: info@keeleylowe.com

Editor: Peter Sampson Tel: 0781 7904333 Email: magazine@birchanger.com

Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin.

Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.