

Birchanger Village Magazine

November 2021

Issue 226



Travellers Win Appeal

Travellers – Where Next?

The short answer is that, as matters stand, the Travellers aren't going anywhere! Following a ruling by a Government Planning Inspector, the Travellers have been granted permission for permanent residence on the site at the end of Birchanger Lane, where they have been for more than three years. The Travellers won their case despite the site being designated Green Belt and despite having unlawfully moved onto the site in July 2018 without residential planning permission.

In reaching his decision, the Planning Inspector attached significant importance to the fact that this was Green Belt and, as such, development could only be approved in exceptional circumstances. However, he concluded that, in this case, there were very special circumstances. The Inspector pointed out that Uttlesford District Council ('UDC') had not fulfilled its duty to maintain an up-to-date assessment of the need for sites for Gypsies and Travellers, and failed to show that it had made adequate provision.

UDC has a legal duty to identify and update annually a supply of suitable, affordable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. However, UDC has not assessed or reviewed the need for such sites since 2017 and did not provide the Inspector with any evidence to indicate that there were any suitable alternative sites in the area. Accordingly, he concluded that: "Eviction from this site would necessitate a return to a largely roadside existence." The Inspector is required by law to treat the best interests of the children as "a primary consideration". That is what ultimately persuaded him to grant planning permission.

UDC is entitled to appeal but, to date, seems reluctant to do so, despite pressure from our two local councillors and many local residents who believe there is scope to appeal, at least to seek a variation of the conditions imposed by the Inspector. For example, the Inspector has granted permanent permission but circumstances may change in the future which could enable a restoration of the Green Belt.

Protection of the Green Belt is a central issue in this case, particularly at a time when developers are encircling Birchanger with speculative housing proposals. A shortlist of potential sites is expected to be published next March.

A Public Meeting for Birchanger residents has been arranged for Friday 5th November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall to discuss all of the above issues and consider options – see page 4.

Parish Council Response

The Planning Inspectorate have decided that the travellers can remain on their site on Birchanger Lane. The Travellers originally arrived in July 2018 having purchased the land by the A120 roundabout and obtained planning permission to keep horses and build stables. As the site is part of the Metropolitan Green Belt it is not unusual for permission for stables to be granted. However, the travellers moved caravans on the site with no intention of keeping horses.

In November 2018, Uttlesford District Council (UDC) took out an enforcement notice requiring the travellers to leave. The travellers immediately appealed but it took the Planning Inspectorate almost 3 years to reach a decision, despite a number of requests for information by the UDC.

The pandemic may have played a part of the delay but the decision was eventually reached on a written appeal whereby the inspector decided that the human rights of the travellers, including their right to healthcare and education, overruled the fact that the site is within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

In reaching this decision the Inspector made several conditions which, if they are not met, will mean that the travellers will have to leave. Amongst the conditions it states 'that only those named individuals and their dependents who are presently on site are allowed to live there'. The full appeal decision document can be found in the Parish Council website at www.birchanger.com. The appeal decision is extremely disappointing and the subsequent decision by UDC not to challenge this by requesting a judicial review is a further blow.

Residents deserve an explanation and UDC have been invited to attend a public meeting to explain their decision but have declined. They have also been asked to make a statement for this magazine to explain how their decision was reached but this has not been forthcoming. As you will no doubt be aware, whilst the Parish Council are notified of planning applications and can make comments, they cannot make any decisions. The District Council, as the planning authority, make such decisions.

Birchanger Parish Council Chairman Angie Driscoll reported that she has been in constant touch with the district councillors who have in turn been in contact with UDC planning officers, the legal team and the new CEO, Peter Holt, in an effort to get them to change their decision for a judicial review. The time to request a review is extremely limited but so far UDC have been unresponsive.



Editors Letter Box

The Mysterious Disappearance of Birchanger's Phone Box



A story by Birchanger's undercover reporter Ed Gilbey

In an audacious mid-morning raid on Friday 15th October, "Isolate Britain" terrorists, masquerading as BT Engineers, removed Birchanger's much loved but neglected phone box.

The phone box is unlikely to be missed as it has been mostly unused since the advent of the iPhone4. Residents were said to be outraged due to the illegal clearance of the cultivated weeds that had been growing there for the last 3 years.

KFC's advertising agency is said to be at their wits end. The terrorists inconsiderately sowed new grass seed to cover up their crime before leaving. The Phone box had reportedly been designated a hot line for reporting illicit helicopter landings on the adjacent social club field.

No spokesperson for the club or the parish council was available for comment!

Letters to the Editor

Success for Bethan's Fund Raising

Dear Birchanger residents,

Thank you so much for your kind donations. The amount raised for The Bridge Build was £790! I cannot tell you how much I am grateful for all your kindness towards this amazing cause! I completed my marathon on the 4th September, which I was able to do in five laps and took 6 hours! Needless to say, I have been resting and recuperating since then.

Please do take a look at the Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church website: www.stortfordbaptist.org if you wish to be kept updated about the Bridge Build, or if you are in need of the services provided (as they are still very much up and running!)

All the very best - Bethan Buck

Information on Step House

Dear Birchanger residents,

Although I live in Kent, I grew up near Takeley and then in Heath Row, just the other side of Birchanger Wood. As part of family and history research, I am trying to find out where "Step House" was in Birchanger. I am also interested in its occupants between 1937 and 1945. Step House is hardly mentioned anywhere, except in the 1939 national register.

I have seen the 1939 national register entry which suggests that Step House was near to Sion House. Living there was a Violet Vincent, a number of her children, as well as a probable partner to Violet, a Mr Percy Tant who was a thatcher. Violet and her family lived at Step House until about 1945. Reportedly, she was a housekeeper, presumably either in Sion House or Step House. I wonder if anyone would be able to shed further light on Step House and its wartime occupants? Any information would be appreciated.

David Martin dmart7@clara.net

103 Darland Ave, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3AH

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



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

The Travellers Win the Right to Remain in Birchanger

Against all planning expectations the Travellers have found themselves a permanent home in Birchanger. The decision was all the more incomprehensible as Essex appears now to have sufficient traveller sites to cover their legal obligation. It seems that residents' views are no longer valid and have been set aside. No doubt we shall get used to living with the decision one way or another, but will local views again count for nothing for future planning decisions? Even though local councils have virtually no say in planning decisions, we will have to fight harder in future. It may be costly and we will have to learn to make our case with strength and clarity. At least we see things now as they really are.

Time to Get Ready for the Big Light Up

It is time to make Birchanger the most magical place to be again this Christmas. It really is a case of every light matters, so it is time to check your lights in time for the Big Light Up at the Club at 7.00pm on Friday December 3rd 7.00pm. A good time for everyone to come together and celebrate the start of the Christmas Season. Would you like to be involved in the big light up this year? Instead of asking people to vote for a favourite display, we are inviting people from as many parts of Birchanger as possible to become part of a Birchanger Village Lights Panel to visit every area in the village and to finally come together to debate on and to choose the 2021 winner.



It is hoped that people from all over the village will come forward to be part of the panel. If you would like to take part, please call me on 812793. As the winner will be announced on Friday 17th in the club, we are looking at the panel meeting one evening in the week prior to the announcement.

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.

Next meeting: 24th November 7.30 pm
is an evening to get into the Christmas spirit with
entertainment from the Birchanger Voices

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

How Not to be a Victim of the Christmas Pet Scam

Unless we have been asleep it is hard to claim we are unaware of the rapid approach of Christmas. Time to buy all those presents again, which possibly the recipients never wanted, and which will probably be thrown out with the Christmas trash. Some of us might be thinking of something a little bit different. Is this the year you might be considering a Christmas pet?

Just a small warning. Although the bulk of people who sell puppies, kittens and all the other pets are straightforward and honest, the market in the recent months has suffered from fraudulent sellers who advertise pets of all sorts for sale which they do not own or that do not even exist. These fraudsters invite the buyers to secure their pet with a large deposit having not seen it first. Further demands for money follow for inoculations, pet insurance and even pet delivery. Needless to say, you see neither hide nor hair of the animal.

There are things you can do to protect yourself. Look up the website of the person you are buying your pet from. Check the reviews and feedback history. If you cannot view your prospective pet in person, ask for a video call. If the seller declines, ask them why. Whatever you do don't pay a penny until you are sure the sale is genuine. If you do finally decide to buy, don't pay by bank transfer. Use your credit card or PayPal which give you more of a chance to get your money back if you have been a victim of fraud. If despite all your precautions things go wrong contact your bank immediately and report the crime to actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. Remember if something is too good to be true, it probably is.

My Shocking 2.00 am Phone Call

A few weeks back I was awakened at 2.00 am by the phone ringing. Expecting someone was perhaps ill or in hospital, I answered it. The dry recorded voice at the other end told me that there was illegal activity on my account and I needed to take action. What account? What action? Another scam? I got nothing from that cold recorded little voice, so I went back to sleep, cursing the scammers again. Except this time, it wasn't a scam! The next bank statement showed that a number of items had been purchased (not by us), all below the value that requires a pin code. That meant somehow our card had been cloned and all our bank cards were now useless and our accounts frozen until new cards could be issued. Thankfully, the bank in this case, compensated us for the loss. You can't win can you!

Be suspicious of every email, text and call you receive when it is about money. Remember legitimate organisations will never ask you to transfer money to a safe account. Never download software or share your details with someone who calls you unexpectedly. Check callers' identities before committing yourself to anything. My latest call was about washing machine insurance which I have never taken out. Easy to spot and to deal with but they are rarely as simple as that! Take five to protect yourself. Stop and think before parting with any money or information. Challenge the caller if you suspect it could be fake. It is ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush and panic you. If you think you have fallen foul of a scam, contact your bank on a number you know to be correct and also call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or alternatively online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

Another Online Hazard

This one affects anyone who uses online banking. A harmless looking little email from your bank arrives asking you to take a satisfaction survey with the promise of a prize draw on completion. It is printed in the bank's usual colours and has the familiar logos etc. It looks genuine. However, it is unlikely to have come from your bank. Some nasty little tribe out there has been running a very successful little scam for a while now. The request looks genuine, and people respond to it, but hopefully not for too much longer. If anyone feels they may have been conned in this way tell your bank immediately. By replying to this questionnaire, the victims have given a lot about themselves away and the scammers will be reaping as many benefits as they can. Remember if in doubt about anything check with your bank as soon as you can.

A Perfect Storm in Stansted

One Saturday in September, Stansted was brought to a halt, to the irritation of the usual Saturday shoppers. Having fought their way into the village through a chaotic queue for fuel at the garages, they then found the car park full up. That is if they could even get there through the line of octogenarians blocking the entrance as they queued to get their third coronavirus jab.

The Stansted Surgery was a hub for all the surgeries up to and including Elsenham and Dunmow. The car park was full and despite the many disabilities the patients were cheerful and orderly. However sick they were, they were determined to get their protection. Their love of life apparently undiminished by all their various handicaps.

Good to know that the fighting spirit is still there despite what must have been some very difficult months.

As for inside the surgery everything ran smoothly. People talked and were mainly cheerful. After all who wouldn't be with what was a way of keeping their freedom this winter.

Helicopters Over Birchanger



We've been fighting helicopters over the village for years. If there is one thing that annoys Birchanger residents collectively it is helicopters over their houses at all hours of the day and night. Years ago, a route over the village was agreed with the Stansted Airport and other agencies, although this

cannot be legally enforced. It is therefore understandable that people in the village were annoyed at the helicopter landings at the club sports field in September which did not involve any Birchanger resident. Perhaps there should have been more communication from the club about the event in September beforehand. Air ambulance helicopters save lives, pleasure trips only serve a limited number of participants. Hopefully, the use of the club field in this way for someone who was not even a resident will not have set a precedent. It is also a reminder to us that the club needs member support to survive and perhaps we are not supporting it enough.

Essex Embraces 21st Century Technology

In an effort to become greener, Essex County Council has vigorously embraced new, quieter technology. In Basildon, Chelmsford and Colchester you can try one of the new electric scooters that are available to hire at strategic points throughout the centres of these towns. If the scheme is successful, their use could spread to some of the smaller towns, but sorry Birchanger, I think we have to buy our own when they get legalised, or we could be waiting a very long time for the scheme to materialise here.

As the County Council moves towards quieter mechanical equipment it means that we may never notice that they are digging up the road outside. Smart move on behalf of the County Council, but what about all the other agencies and their subcontractors who also dig up our roads, usually when we have just had them resurfaced. Most of them will not be able to afford the new technology anytime soon.

This year sees the final roll out of LED energy saving lighting throughout the roads of Essex. Not only are these lights saving Essex a great deal of money, even before the completion of the rollout programme but there will be less light pollution as well. We might even see the stars again! Now we need a county wide insulation programme for all our houses. The cost of home insulation is beyond the reach of most homeowners. Listed buildings and older dwellings are not easily insulated effectively. A problem which will have to be faced sometime soon.

PUBLIC MEETING Travellers Planning Approval & Village Green Belt Issues

**Birchanger Village Hall
5th November – 8.00pm**

It's now clear that the Travellers won their case because of abject failings (yet again) on the part of Uttlesford District Council ('UDC'). Despite this, council officers are currently saying that they won't appeal the decision and they won't even hold a public meeting to explain the position. We've therefore decided to hold our own public meeting to hear residents' views and to consider our options. We also need to consider the implications for the Green Belt around Birchanger which is intended to provide long-term protection against development.

All Birchanger residents are welcome, subject to the 120-person capacity of the village hall. Let's aim for the best possible turnout to show UDC that we care about our village even if they don't!

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Homes For Afghanistan Families by Christmas



There are many Afghanistan families staying in hotels and other accommodation throughout Essex. Some 14 homes have so far been made available to the families but a lot more are needed. Council Housing stock is limited or simply not available at such short

notice. Afghan families tend to come in larger units and understandably need to be housed together as one unit. They also want to find a long-term home, a job and to restart their lives here. If you know of any property which might be suitable for an Afghan family, please tell the housing department at Uttlesford District Council. Hotel accommodation is expensive and not suitable for any family long term.

Idiots Seen at the Pumps

Some people have made complete idiots of themselves at the pumps. Here are a few I have seen or have been told about from reliable sources. You probably have seen more? A motorist reversed his car in front of someone who was about to fill up, grabbing the nozzle from him, while shouting obscenities. The rest of the queue just laughed at him, which did not help. He had to pay for a lot of spilt fuel as well.

A man paid for his petrol as normal at the petrol station after a half hour queue. The amount of petrol he bought cost him £1.50 and no, he wasn't just filling up a can for a lawnmower either. Why did he bother?



The infamous Facebook video where a woman was seen filling a plastic bag with fuel. When the obvious happened and the bag leaked, she tried stuffing it into another bag she pulled out of her boot, petrol flooding everywhere. At least nobody lit a match. Elsewhere there were fights, attempts to dodge payment and threats throughout. Not Britain at its best. The gimme gimme society rules now!

Mysterious Fencing!

Birchanger Parish Council and County Councillor, Ray Gooding, have been trying to stop the parking of vehicles at the top end of Birchanger Lane next to the A120 roundabout for a very long time. However, no one wants to take responsibility and as usual, dealing with Essex Highways is like wading through treacle. You may have noticed and wondered why the 'Heras Fencing' has been erected there. Could it be a part of the parking measures we have long asked for? The truth is we do not know! Ray Gooding is trying to find out but in the meantime, at least the fencing is preventing taxis and other vehicles parking and leaving their rubbish there.

Birchanger Win Essex Pétanque Summer League

Congratulations to the Birchanger Pétanque team who in its first year at the BSSC won the Essex Pétanque Summer League. Formed in 1976 as Thorley Petanque Club, the club had a number of home bases, the most recent being at the Marne Inn, Thorley. But in May the club relocated to the BSSC and rebranded itself as Birchanger Petanque. The club meets every Thursday evening throughout the year and extends a warm welcome to all who wish to come along for a game.



In September, five members were selected to represent Eastern Counties Region in the National Regional Championships played over two days at Melton Mowbray. More recently, the club hosted the Brigit Donegan Plate Competition. It was pleasing to note that twenty members turned out for this first post lockdown club competition. The winner was Jon Sellar who defeated Mark Cooper 13 - 12 in a thrilling final to claim his fifth win of this annual competition. Afterwards, members met in the former bowls pavilion at Birchanger Sports & Social Club for an excellent buffet provided by Terry.

Ken Kilby

Nitrous Oxide Canisters Found at Duck End

20 + nitrous oxide canisters were found in the lane near Duck End last month. This is not the first time such canisters have been found in the village and is of real concern to residents and police alike.

Nitrous oxide sometimes nicknamed "laughing gas", is a colourless gas used by dentists as a sedative and anaesthetic agent. When inhaled, it can make people feel euphoric and relaxed but can make some people hallucinate. The effects are caused by the drug slowing down the brain.

Nitrous oxide is normally bought in pressurised canisters. It is then transferred to a container such as a balloon to be inhaled. The drug causes dizziness, and affect the user's judgement, creating a risk of accidents. In large quantities it can also cause the user to faint or pass out. If nitrous oxide is inhaled through the mouth from a pressurised gas canister or in a confined space it can cause sudden death through lack of oxygen. Heavy, regular use of the drug can cause a deficiency of vitamin B12 and a form of anaemia. Severe vitamin B deficiency can cause serious nerve damage.

Villagers are asked to keep an eye out for people using the canisters or where cars are seen in odd places who are possibly supplying the users. Any such suspicious actions should be reported to Essex Police on 101 or online at <https://www.essex.police.uk/>

what's on in the village...

November 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
Last Garden Waste Collection of the Year - Mobile Skip Outside Social Club 2.30 - 3.30 pm: 13 th Nov.						
<div>1</div> <div>BSSC: Quiz Night</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Green Bin</div> <div>Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</div>	<div>5</div> <div>BSSC: 19.00 Firework Night at the club</div> <div>Church hall: 20.00 Public meeting on travellers appeal & green belt Issues</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw</div>	<div>7</div> <div>St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins</div> <div>BSSC: Sunday Roast</div>
<div>8</div> <div>BSSC: Quiz Night</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Black Bin #</div> <div>Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Afterlife - Live</div>	<div>14</div> <div>St Mary's Church: 10.45 Remembrance Service</div> <div>BSSC: Sunday Roast</div>
<div>15</div> <div>BSSC: Quiz Night</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Green Bin</div> <div>Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw</div>	<div>21</div> <div>St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service</div> <div>BSSC: Sunday Roast</div>
<div>22</div> <div>BSSC: Quiz Night</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio 19.30 BAGS with Birchanger Voices</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Black Bin #</div> <div>Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div> <div>BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio 13.00 Xmas Festive Lunch</div> <div>BSSC: 20.00 Main Offender - Live</div>	<div>28</div> <div>St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion</div> <div>BSSC: Sunday Roast</div>
<div>29</div> <div>BSSC: Quiz Night</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio</div>					




BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



Remember Remember
The 5th November
Fireworks
7pm start



SAT 27th Nov 8pm
MAIN
OFFENDER
CLASSIC ROCK & POP COVERS

SAT 13th Nov 8pm



AFTERLIFE

THE
KENNY
WARD
EXPERIENCE
THE MAN
THE LEGEND
SAT 4th DECEMBER



Kids' Christmas Party

19th DEC **Members Only Kids Christmas Party** **Fun filled afternoon of Games and Entertainment**

Every Thursday at 8.30pm



BINGO

Birchanger 'LIGHTS UP'



Our traditional village lights up will take place 3rd December

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



NEW Christmas Menu
Available now to take bookings



Christmas Menu
December 1st-24th - 3 Courses £24.95

Starters
Tuna & Beet Soup Garnished with seasonal Cream
Prawn & Crab Cakes
Pork and Cranberry
Red Onion & Port
Sautéed Salmon & Caramelised Onion
Pumpkin Soup & Croutons

Main Course
Traditional Roast Turkey
with all the Seasonal Trimmings
Sautéed Brussels Sprouts
Red Onion & Port
Baked Potatoes
Giant Beef Steak served with Creamy Potato & Mushroom Sauce
Individual Beer & Malton 20oz

Dessert
Classic Bûche de Noël
Strawberry & Panna Cotta
Minted Bûche & Irish Cream
Pudding served with Brandied Sauce
Pumpkin, Vanilla Ice Cream
Pumpkin, Vanilla Ice Cream

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

Hello From Birchanger C of E Primary

At our school we aim to give 'Life in All Its Fullness' to our children, and this means a wide range of different activities for the children to enjoy.



We are settling into the late autumn at school now and all of the children have settled into their classes well. 'Forest Schools' has begun twice a week. On one day it is our youngest children who visit the wood and on the other it is our Year 3 children who have a turn. We give all of our children some time at Forest Schools as we believe that the skills of being outside, exploring and working with others are very important no matter what age you are. When our older children leave us for secondary school, it is one of the aspects of school life which always get a mention.

We have also been able to develop the leadership of our children across the school as the relaxation of bubbles means that we can have groups from across classes. The worship council are shaping the way that we join in assemblies, and they have lots of good ideas. The school council are looking to groups beyond our school to see who they can influence and improve the lives of children, not only in our school but beyond our gate. All of our Year 5 children are anti bullying ambassadors. This is in partnership with the Diana Award Charity and they are creating friendship buddies for children at playtime.

Our 'Eco Council' continues the great work to limit our human footprint on the planet and is at the heart of our recycling initiatives. This will include being a 'plastic clever school' whilst the group will also help



look at our nature garden and to suggest how to improve it.

Some of the children who are house captains are also sports ambassadors. They organise activities for the younger children at lunchtimes which includes dodgeball, football, and dot to dot. They are going to set up an obstacle course along our new KS1 trim trail for our younger children to enjoy.



The leadership that the children learn helps prepare them for the future. They have a happier experience at school, and it readies them for secondary school and life beyond our gates.

If you are looking for a place for your child, we are holding an open morning at our school from 09.10 am on 4th November. Please call the school if you would like to come and have a look around and talk to our wonderful children about life in our school.

Claire Berry - Headteacher



Airport in "Shameless" Bid for More Night Flights

Last month I reported that Stansted Airport Watch ('SAW') had sent a detailed submission to the Department for Transport ('DfT') in response to a consultation on the future arrangements for night flights at Stansted Airport. Briefly to recap, SAW questioned why Stansted is allowed 13,700 night flights per annum, more than twice as many as Heathrow, and we advised the DfT that our three main priorities were:

1. An unequivocal commitment to phase out all night flights at Stansted, starting next year, and with a complete ban in place by 2030, except in the case of genuine emergencies.
2. The restrictions on night flights to apply, not just from 11.30pm to 6.00am, but from 11.00pm to 7.00am, so that 'night' truly means 'night', as defined by the WHO; and
3. An immediate ban on all night time aircraft landings at Stansted using reverse thrust, except in the case of genuine emergencies.

We have now seen the submission made by the Manchester Airports Group ('MAG') replying to the same DfT consultation. In stark contrast to the SAW submission, MAG is proposing that the limit on the number of night flights at Stansted should be completely removed. MAG has also told the DfT that it opposes the proposed night time bans of the noisiest aircraft types.

In making this submission, MAG has shamefully disregarded the terms of a planning agreement which Stansted Airport signed with Uttlesford District Council in 2003 "...not to seek any relaxation of the night flight restrictions currently in force ...".

This raises questions about the level of trust we can have in MAG honouring its planning conditions, including the conditions attached to the recently approved planning application to grow Stansted to 43 million passengers a year. This is 50% more passengers than have ever been handled by Stansted in a single year. Whether it can achieve this level of growth in a post-Covid, highly competitive world, remains to be seen. It may prove to be a hollow victory. *Brian Ross*

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

The days are drawing in now. Outside, there is still joy to be had from being in the peaceful Gardens but it is also a time to be inside and enjoy pictures of the Gardens. You can learn about their fascinating history from Gary, one of the trust's volunteers, who provides talks to community groups.



The Gardens remain open to visitors on Thursdays until the end of November. Opening hours are from 11.00 to 3.00, last entry 2.00. In November most of the leaves come down from the trees so the views open up (there's fun to be had kicking through the leaves) and we sometimes get beautiful early frosts. Visitors will see the volunteers starting their autumn jobs in the Gardens – planting bulbs and trees, pruning perennials and roses and tidying up the pond, flower and vegetable beds for the winter. Visitor information can be found on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

Gary's talk, entitled **A History of Easton Lodge – the Countess and her Gardens**, tells the story of the estate from the late 1500s to the present day, focusing primarily on the period since 1865, when three-year-old Frances Evelyn Maynard inherited the mansion and lands and the vast fortunes that came with them. Little Frances, known as "Daisy," went on to become the Countess of Warwick. The talk outlines Daisy's life at Easton Lodge and in the wider community – including her intimate friendship with King Edward VII and then becoming a fully paid up Socialist. Gary also speaks about the work being done today by volunteers to maintain, restore and renovate these Grade II registered historic Gardens. If you are interested in arranging a talk for your community group, contact Gary on 01279 718979.

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

*"Please to remember the Fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.
We know of no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot."*



This traditional rhyme appeared soon after the failed plot to ignite barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords on the occasion of the state opening of Parliament by King James I on 5th November 1605. The man found with the gunpowder was Guy Fawkes, one of a group of English Catholics whose intention was to assassinate the Protestant King James so that one of his young Catholic children could assume the throne, thereby restoring a Catholic monarchy. Some four hundred years later, the preservation of the monarchy and parliament is still celebrated by many with a bonfire and the burning of a Guy.



Like other major events in British history, there is a link with The Hundred Parishes. In this case, the primary link is Sir William Waad (pronounced Wade) of 17th-century Battles Hall in the parish of Manuden. Waad, who lived from 1546 to 1623, had pursued a distinguished career in the service of the Crown and in 1605 held the position of Lieutenant of the Tower of London, responsible for those held prisoner there and specifically for the interrogation of prisoners. The king gave permission for the use of torture, including the rack, to assist in this questioning. It was not long before most of the plotters were rounded up, interrogated, tried and executed by being publicly hung, drawn and quartered for their involvement in the Gunpowder Plot.

Manuden's most famous former resident is remembered on a tablet inside the parish church. There is a second local link to the Gunpowder Plot. It is believed that Tiptofts, a 14th-century house in Wimbish, may have been used as a meeting place by the conspirators.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk

u3a

Stansted

At the end of September about forty of us set off for Weymouth on a 5-day trip arranged by Nigel Johnson through 'Just For Groups'. We had fabulous weather and so were able to enjoy lots of time out with our buckets and spades.... Only joking! On the way down we visited Mottisfont House, an 18th century building with a medieval priory at its heart and the largest plane tree in Britain. On the way home we visited Kingston Lacey, a lavish family home re-imagined as a Venetian palace in the rural Dorset countryside. In between we visited the market towns of Dorchester and Bridport, Corfe Castle and the model village and then on to Swanage and the Heritage Steam Railway.



In October we visited Knowle which has the last dedicated deer park. Originally an archbishop's palace, the house passed through royal hands to the Sackville family – Knowle's inhabitants from 1603 to today. It is also home to some of the last surviving furniture from Whitehall and Hampton Court Palaces and to splendid 17th century tapestries. It was a most enjoyable day and they made really good scones there too!

As part of the u3a's 40th Anniversary in 2022 the trust is creating a u3a anniversary woodland situated in the Brecon Beacons. This will benefit the environment, wildlife and climate for future generations. The target is to plant five thousand trees by March 2nd. You can buy a tree at the u3a Brand Centre online.

At our next meeting, our speaker is Deborah Brady who will tell us all about being 'A Female in Fleet Street' which no doubt will be quite an eye opener.

Meetings take place in St. John's Hall, Stansted at 2.00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Eileen Quinn www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home



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Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
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BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
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Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
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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

7 th Nov	11.15am	Matins with Pam Lee
14 th Nov	10.45am	Remembrance Service with Pam Lee
21 st Nov	11.15am	Family Service with Hugh Mascetti
28 th Nov	11.15am	Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

Church News

Festive Lunch in the Church Hall

On the 27th November at 1pm we shall be providing an early Christmas treat suitable for all the family. Pre-dinner drinks then Turkey with all the trimmings followed by pudding. A surprise visitor for the children and a Christmas quiz. Advanced bookings only. Adults £20 (includes pre-dinner drink and a glass of fizz at the table), children £10 (includes soft drinks and present). Gluten free options. Unlike our Bingo night, this event is already being well supported so if you want to join in the fun, call Pam Lee now on 07702171744 to book your place.

Church Hall Car Park

We need your help with problem parking at the hall. In the past few weeks someone has been turning up in a shuttle bus to pick up people who are leaving their cars in the hall car park. As you can imagine, our regular hirers are not impressed when they turn up to find that there is no room for them to park their vehicles. If you know who is operating the shuttle service, then please let us know. It would also help if you could take a picture of the vehicles including their number plates. Alternatively, if you see the shuttle bus at the hall, please call either Cat Roberson on 07827685741 or Pam Lee on 07702171744 straight away. We want to stamp out this practice as soon as we can otherwise it is likely that others may start using our car park as free parking for them and this will be a great nuisance to us and our hirers.

Future Events

27 th November	13.00	Festive Lunch at the Church Hall
7 th December	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
17 th December	7.00pm	Carols in Church + mulled wine
19 th December	11.15am	Christingles in Church
25 th December	11.15am	Christmas Day service

Prayer for the Month ahead

Jesus, our Lord, let us be near you
By your own word let us hear you
Yours we will be, caring for others
Hearing your words and learning your story
Help us to show kindness everywhere
Lead us, guide us, remove our blindness
Jesus, our Lord, our friend, our Saviour
Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com



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Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:

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Telephone: 07827685741

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS

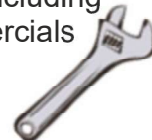


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