



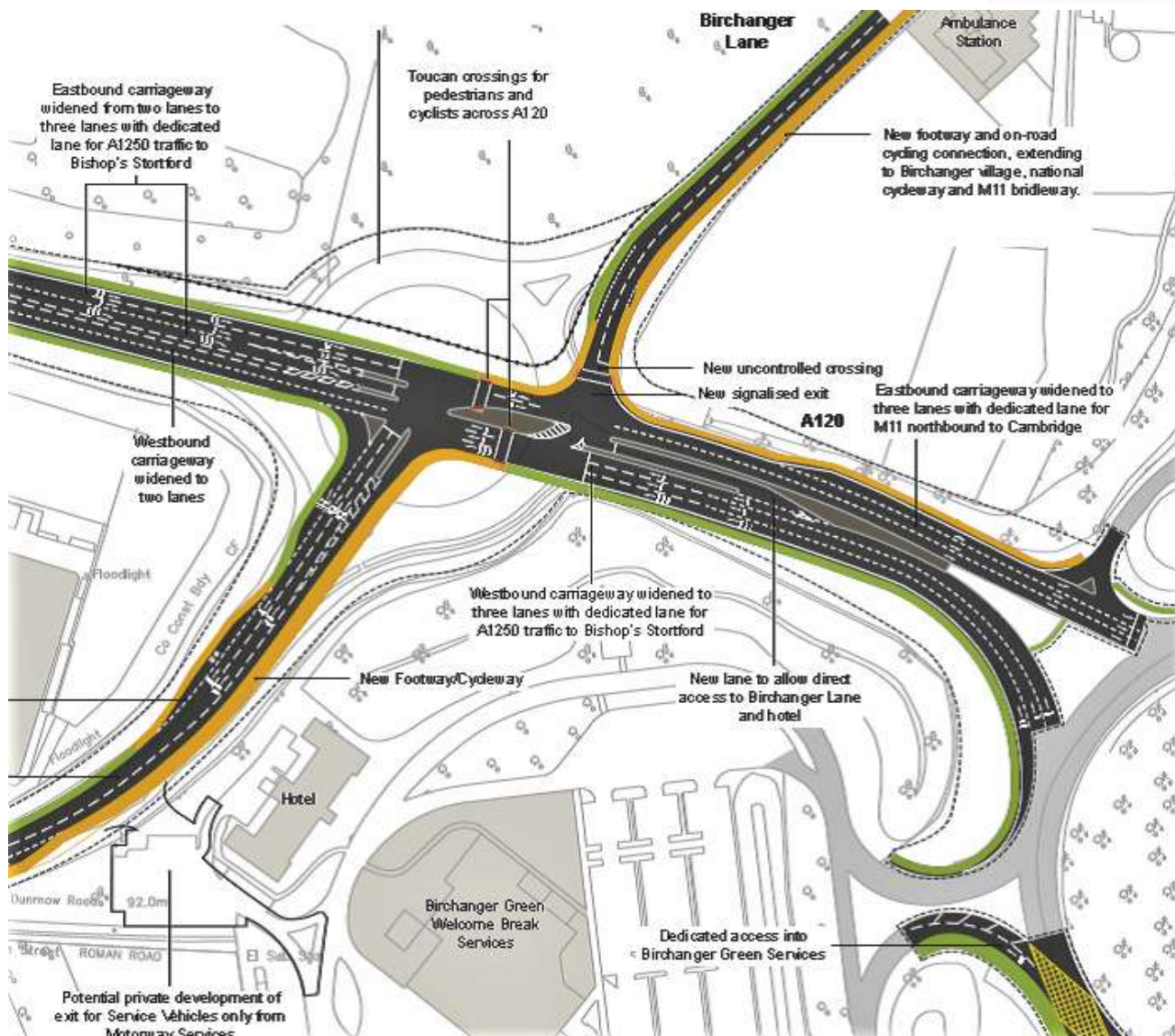
Birchanger Village Magazine

February 2022

Issue 229



Birchanger Lane A120 Roundabout Changes Underway!



Following the presentation at the village hall a few years ago by Essex Council and Highways, plans for the new crossroads have now been changed according to residents wishes which will allow vehicles exiting Birchanger Lane, driving towards Bishop's Stortford to cross the A120 into Dunmow Road rather than go round the J8 - M11 roundabout. There will also be a pelican and cycle crossing over the A120.

This will be accomplished by retaining the present exit from the lane and the installation of traffic lights. There would be another left turn exit for traffic wishing to go to J8 – M11. It remains to be seen whether this improves the traffic flow, but one thing is certain, we will have months of disruption throughout the lane whilst work is going on which is due to start very soon.

On the plus side there will be a clearway along Birchanger Lane from its junction with the A120 down to Duck End, which will stop fly parking and taxis etc., using the lane as a car park.



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

Here at the Club, we are working on a full Fun Packed Weekend of Celebrations. We would like your help and support with one of the events!

Whole village Street Party!

We hope to host a party on the 5th June in line with the Queen's Big Lunch. We want everyone in the village to come along and share in Friendship, Fun and Food! Everyone welcome!

If you are interested in helping to co-ordinate this event, please do come along to our meeting at the Club! Please be assured we won't make you join the Committee – unless you want to!

MEETING 15TH FEBRUARY 2022 – 7.30PM

Also planned that weekend is lots of other FUN! We are hosting a 4-day Beer Festival, Family Sports and Fun Day, Bounce Day, Cricket and of course Live Entertainment!

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



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Glad to Say Farewell to January

Some people manage to be very positive about January. They are really glad to see the back of Christmas for reasons which frequently include loneliness, which is a catalyst for negative feelings. Others find themselves doing most of the work at Christmas and are completely exhausted when it is all over. The rest of us just dislike the cold, the long nights, and the feeling that Spring is still very far away. With February comes hope. The evenings are a little lighter, you might even get home in daylight, the snowdrops start to peak and there are signs that the daffodils will come soon.

But there are many for whom February is just a continuation of winter, with its attendant isolation and ongoing loneliness. It is those people who need help and encouragement to venture out, perhaps join friends for tea or coffee and make contact with others instead of being stuck in front of the TV or computer screen. Birchanger may be out of town, but it does have a pub, club, and a Saxon church for a start.

Getting out after a long time takes an effort, something it may not be easy to do on your own. The rest of us need to remember this and perhaps start inviting people to join them in their homes or at the local venues we have in the village. There are benefits in this for everyone.

Dining Out with Children

With uncertain weather, the norm for most February half-terms and no holidays planned, parents may be looking at treats closer to home for their children's half term break. One place close to home where the burgers are a cut above the norm is Wood Grill in Stansted. Open from noon they offer not only delicious burgers of all sorts but offer a variety of different pizzas as well. Run by cheerful European staff they make all ages feel welcome and their service is efficient, and customer orientated.

This is not a place just for burgers and pizzas. There are steak dishes, lamb dishes and fish dishes on offer, in fact so much choice, that we spent a long time lingering over the menu with a reasonably priced glass of wine in hand. When the food arrived, the only criticism was that it was slightly over cooked. Some dishes appeared a little dried out. Rare steak approached medium, but it is all cooked over a barbecue over a high heat. As in all good

pizzerias there is a proper pizza oven, but the barbecue dishes were too enticing this time. The restaurant is not exactly cheap, but the food on offer puts the usual half term fast food into the shade. For the parents, the wines by the bottle or by the glass are well worth trying. Just remember you can have something undercooked cooked more, but over cooked food is a big disappointment, and that was our main disappointment when we visited.

It Didn't Take Long

Yes, the scammer's were back before the decorations were down. They never seem to give up! This time they were trying to tell me that someone was taking more money from my bank account than I had ever had in it. Had to try to stop myself laughing but I put the phone down and never divulged any information. There was a comeback though, the scammer's were obviously using my identity because a complete stranger called me a few hours later in response to 'my so called call' to him a few hours earlier, which of course never happened. My name and number were both correct and we agreed it was yet another example of these people's artifice. When will this ever end? Stay cautious and safe.

Help Against Scammer's at Last

We have waited a long time for some kind of help to protect us all from becoming a scammer's victim. It has happened to most of us at some time or other, but many people seem to be too embarrassed to talk about it. Don't be. You are in good company. 'Friends Against Scams' Scamnesty Campaign are encouraging us all to send any unwanted or nuisance mail to the NTS Scams team.

The more letters the team receives the easier it will be for them to track down the perpetrators and start to stop these horrible people in their tracks. Many people feel ashamed when they are scammed, don't be, it happens to everyone, and it is not your fault. If you would like to join the fight against scammer's, you could volunteer to become a Scam Marshall, who is someone who has suffered a scam and would like to fight back and take a stand against these criminals. You can get more information on their website at:

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

Note! Friends Against Scams is not a reporting or advice service. To report a scam, you will need to contact Action Fraud on 0300 223 1133 You can send any scam letters you receive to NTSST, Freepost, Mail Marshalls.

Trying to Stop Violence Through Sport

New projects are being set up in Essex in a bid to stop the violence rife among some young people all over the country. Essex County Council has set up Active Essex in an attempt to engage more young people in a variety of sporting activities. The project is funded by the National Lottery and the aim is to bring the project eventually across the county to show the young people a variety of sports they might like to try. I think the county will come to regret the loss of so many sports fields to the developers. These were supposed to be replaced but most were not. Replacing them now will be very costly.

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. If you are interested in joining please call or email us on:

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Events last December included welcoming Steven Geller to our monthly General Meeting. His talk was billed "A Career in Music". He played the banjo and sang, mostly songs from the 60s and 70s, whilst voices, muffled by masks, were raised, bodies swayed, and feet tapped. His enthusiasm was infectious and the event most enjoyable.

In December, the Stansted U3A Singers performed at the Great Hadham Golf and Country Club and the Strummers performed at St Mary's Church. The Art Group was visited in December by a local artist, Bill Morris, whose demonstration they found inspirational, and sixty-five members came to the Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge with entertainment provided by Stansted U3A Singers. It was a lovely meal, and a good time was had by all.

At the General Meeting on February 17th in St John's Hall, 1.30 for 2.00pm, Tanya Fern-Smith will be speaking about the long and varied history of Stansted Hall. Stansted was gifted by William the Conqueror to a nephew in 1066 and by the 16th century there was a Tudor Hall whose owners included the de Vere family, the Earls of Oxford, and the Duke of Norfolk. This was later replaced by a Jacobean Hall and the grounds redesigned by Repton.

Following a fire in the 19th century a new hall was commissioned in 1876 which was purchased by Arthur and Gertrude Findlay in the 1920s. During the war it was loaned to the Red Cross as a convalescent hospital. It is now a training college and headquarters for the Spiritualists National Union. It is hoped that this talk will be relayed to Stansted's twin town, Rungis in France, as part of the Town Twinning Association's programme for 2022.

Anne White obo Tel: 07874 385541

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home



Light Winners Receive prize

Winners of the 2021 Christmas light up competition, Jason and Annette Grunwell, receiving the prestigious Silver cup from Elizabeth Godwin at Birchanger Sports & Social Club in December.

Worthy winners for a great light display.

Festival of Flowers to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

St Mary's Church is planning to hold a Festival of Flowers on Friday 29th July – Sun 31st July to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

There are a number of activities already planned in the village for the Jubilee weekend, by holding this festival later in the summer we hope to prolong the celebration. The festival will depict, in flowers, events from the 70-year reign

You do not have to be a flower arranger to take part, if you can put a bunch of flowers in a vase then you are more than able to contribute to the festival. However, we will also need people to help during the festival days.

Come to St Mary's Church on Tuesday 8th March at 2.00 pm to hear more about our plans and to share your ideas. It would be lovely to make the Birchanger Festival of Flowers as stunning as our village Christmas lights. Please can we make this another successful village event?

If you are able to offer your support in some way but can't come to the meeting, then please contact either Rosemary Saward on 813820 or Sue Warr on 815427

Beating County Lines

Essex police have been making strides in their struggle to rid the county of County Lines Gangs. The gangs target vulnerable elderly and youngsters alike. They befriend the elderly so that they can find a safe house from which to run their illegal activities.

The elderly person becomes a prisoner in their own home, totally at the beck and call of the gang. Action is needed on two fronts. Firstly, to find the elderly who have been targeted and then to rid them of the unwanted gang which has imposed themselves on them and now rules their lives. With the youngsters it is more difficult. Their life has revolved around the gang. They are couriers for the gang in most cases, they have a good lifestyle and more money than they could have dreamt about. They only want to leave when the gang turns nasty. Then they are terrified.

We can help eradicate this in our own small way. If you know an older person who suddenly has a lot of young visitors and seems to be stressed, you could mention this to your local police and ask them to make sure the individual is all right. Let them take it from there. Do the same if you are concerned about a youngster. Tell the police of your concerns then it is up to them. These gangs are dangerous, and you have done your bit by noticing incidents and reporting. Now it is up to the experts to do the rest.

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com



DANIEL ROSS
07703484090

City & Guilds Qualified
Part P Registered
DBS Checked

Friendly, Professional electrician with over 20 years experience based in Bishop's Stortford, offering all domestic electrical solutions in Herts & Essex



Taylor Landscapes
Landscapes For Living

07941357934

mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net

[@TaylorLandscapesLtd](https://www.facebook.com/TaylorLandscapesLtd)



Crime Prevention

Bogus Callers/Distrraction Burglaries & Rogue Traders

Although it is believed the elderly are the most likely victims of these types of crime, that is not always the case. However, if you have elderly relatives or friends you may wish to pass on this advice. You may also have elderly or vulnerable neighbours that you can help protect by watching out for suspicious activity. It's handy to have a list with telephone numbers of your water, gas, electricity, telephone etc., suppliers by the phone should you need to make contact at any time.



If you have a caller – STOP. Are you expecting anyone, is the back door locked, sometimes while you are at front door someone will slip in the back. Have a look out of a window by the front door and if possible, speak to them first from that window or through the closed door. If you are on your own, pretend you are not by calling over your shoulder that you will answer the door. There is no longer a “Water Board or Electricity Board” they now have particular company names so if this is stated that should “ring alarm bells” – CHAIN. If you decide it's safe to open the door, put the door chain on before you open it – CHECK. Ask for an ID card, if in doubt ring a telephone number from your relevant correspondence from that company to verify the identity (not a telephone number from their ID card as it may be false).

If in doubt keep them out

Call the police on 999 or if you have a carer alarm, activate it and speak to your control room. If you do let someone in your home, always make sure you close the door behind them so that no one else can get in while you are busy with your visitor. With most of the utility companies you can now set up a password with them so that when one of their employees calls you can verify that they are genuine, speak to your relevant company.



Rogue traders may call at your door claiming to be qualified tradespeople offering to do work on your home. These people may claim you need services like repairs to your roof, lawn or fences, your driveways power washed, repaired, or replaced, garden services, or waste clearance. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable, elderly people.

A genuine trader won't:

- call without an appointment.
- ask you to go to a bank to withdraw cash or make a money transfer.
- offer to take you to the bank to withdraw cash for payment.
- insist that you make a decision about work they're offering to do on the spot.
- bully or scare you into doing the work.

It's your doorstep so you can choose if you want work carried out or not. If you do need some work doing, ask a friend for a recommended trader or contact a Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' accredited trader www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk. Get a number of quotes and get a written estimate detailing exactly what work will be carried out, how much it will cost and what the terms of payment are. Take your time to make sure you're happy with what you're undertaking and ask a trusted friend/relative for advice.

If you believe a crime is being committed, please dial 999, otherwise dial 101 or report it online or by the 'Live Chat' at www.essex.police.uk.

Organist Wanted – St. Mary's Church - Birchanger

The church organ is a unique instrument at St. Mary's. It is the only one of its type left in the world in original condition. The organ is maintained regularly and played at all of our services. Sadly, our current organist is needed elsewhere so she will shortly not be able to be with us every Sunday.



If you have musical abilities (particularly organ, piano or electronic keyboard) and would like to try playing this beautiful historic organ please step forward.

Call Pam Lee on 07702171744

What's on in the village...



February 2022



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
	1 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 19.45 Apton Dance Studio Salsa/Latin	2 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 20.30 Apton Dance Studio Line Dance	3 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	4 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance, Private lessons	5 Church Hall: 10.30 & 12.00 Apton Dance Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Redonizm Live	6 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
7 Church Hall 19.00 Apton Dance Studio Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	8 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 19.45 Apton Dance Studio Salsa/Latin Moorswood: Coffee Morning	9 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 20.30 Apton Dance Studio Line Dance	10 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	11 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance, Private lessons	12 Church Hall: 10.30 & 12.00 Apton Dance Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Special Valentines Menu	13 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
14 Church Hall 19.00 Apton Dance Studio Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	15 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 19.45 Apton Dance Studio Salsa/Latin	16 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 20.30 Apton Dance Studio Line Dance	17 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	18 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance, Private lessons	19 Church Hall: 10.30 & 12.00 Apton Dance Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Me & Him Live	20 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
21 Church Hall 19.00 Apton Dance Studio Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	22 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 19.45 Apton Dance Studio Salsa/Latin	23 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 20.30 Apton Dance Studio Line Dance 20.00 BAGS	24 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	25 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance, Private lessons	26 Church Hall: 10.30 & 12.00 Apton Dance Kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	27 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
28 Church Hall 19.00 Apton Dance Studio Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night						



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

Plenty of events going on at the Club this month beginning with the fantastic band Redonizm playing a mix of Pop, Rock and party anthems, its their first time at the social club so lets give them a great Birchanger welcome!

Next up we have Valentines day, which unfortunately lands on a Monday this year so we will be running our special Valentines menu this year on Saturday 12th February, make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

This month we are happy to welcome back some old favourites with the band "Me and Him", ever popular here at the club and were sure you will all be keen to come show your support for the lads as ever.

Lastly, don't forget that the following month will be Mothering Sunday, usually the busiest Sunday of the year so make sure you book in early to avoid disappointment!

We would also like to thank all our members who have supported the club and we would like to extend the following offer to you to claim 20% off of your food bill, valid any time in February except Friday and Saturday nights, simply present the below voucher upon ordering.

FEBRUARY VOUCHER

20% Discount on Food

Not Valid Friday and Saturday Evenings
Expires 28th February 2022

OPENING HOURS

Monday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Tuesday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Wednesday	5-11pm	Food 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	12-8.30pm	Food 12-3pm



REDONIZM

POP • ROCK • PARTY ANTHEMS

**BIRCHANGER
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

SAT 5TH FEBRUARY

8.30PM TILL MIDNIGHT



**Me
him**

★★★★★
It's time to dust of your party pants with our range of songs from the 50's to modern chart music!

19th February 8.30pm

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



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

Life in All its Fullness

Hello, by now the joy and sparkle of Christmas has all been packed away for another year and we are engrossed in the new term. For this term, our topics will focus on the skills and knowledge of history. Our younger children in KS1 are learning about the Victorians and in particular they are looking at the lives of Sarah Bonetta and Queen Victoria. Sarah Bonetta was taken from Africa as a child and given to Queen Victoria. She lived in this country for many years before returning to Africa with the support of Queen Victoria and the Royal Household.



The children in Years 3,4 and 5 are throwing themselves into the Ancient Egyptians at the moment. This exciting topic always enthral children, and this year is no different. We started the topic by inviting Portals to the Past who spent a day working with the children on many aspects of the life of an Ancient Egyptian. The children really enjoyed the experience and one of the children in Year 5 said "I liked it. It was fun and also educational."



Our oldest children in Year 6 are learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. This area of learning is particularly relevant for this area as there are several areas in the Eastern region that were established by them. We are hoping that the end point of this learning will be for the children to visit Sutton Hoo in Suffolk where they will be able to see the burial mounds and treasure that were left there.

Our clubs have also got under way this term. Staff run clubs for the children at lunchtime and some of the children run clubs for others during this time too. These clubs cover areas such as sport, wellbeing, drama and reading. After school sport will start once we get to next half term and library club has continued in the warmth of the school.



This term we have introduced a choir which is led by Mrs Hammond from Essex Music Services who delivers our music lessons. The children are clearly excited about this as the club already has a waiting list! We are hoping to hold our music concert at the end of term as we were not able to hold it before Christmas. It would be lovely to hear the choir sing at that event so we shall keep our fingers crossed that the concert can go ahead. We have other projects planned this term, not least the nature garden so please look out in future editions to see how well we are getting on there.

Claire Berry - Headteacher



Is Air Travel Losing its Charm?

An article in the Financial Times on 14th January highlighted the decline in air travel caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and reported that a quarter of business travel will not be coming back.

If true, this is very bad news for airlines because, on average, business flights account for about a quarter of all air travel and they are highly profitable. For major airlines such as British Airways and Lufthansa, it is estimated that business travel generates almost half of their profits.

The likelihood of a long-term decline in business flights chimes with our own evidence. Last November, as part of our 'Fly Less' campaign, I wrote to the Chair of each of the UK's largest 100 companies. My letter didn't request a reply, but I was pleasantly surprised to receive a large number of replies. And there was a common theme: I was pushing at an open door.

Major companies are happy to support a 'Fly Less' policy because this makes perfect business sense. The pandemic has forced a reduction in business air travel and shown that much of this can easily be replaced by 'Zoom' meetings.

Business leaders also point out that reducing business flights helps protect employee health and wellbeing and improves productivity, as well as generating substantial savings in travel budgets.

Finally, almost all major UK PLCs now have a commitment to help tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions, and one of the best ways of reducing your carbon emissions is to fly less. The Financial Times article reported as follows:

"If you want to spend £100 in the most polluting way possible, buy an airline ticket. That's because the ticket price includes virtually none of the true cost: the UK subsidises flights by more than £8 billion a year, just by not charging VAT or fuel duty."

However, major UK companies now have so many good reasons to reduce business flights that even an £8 billion annual subsidy may not be enough to protect the aviation industry from a long-term decline in business travel.

Brian Ross



**Coffee
Morning
Moorswood**

**Tuesday 8th February
From 10.30 to Noon
Cakes etc., Available
Items to buy as well**

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Welcome to the new horticultural year of 2022

Happy New Year! Well, we have made it through Christmas, New Year and January, so we can now celebrate the days getting longer and the new horticultural year, starting with the snowdrops. It is two years since we had a proper snowdrop season, without storms or the pandemic, so this year we are spreading the joy. With four days available for visitors to see the snowdrops, with capped numbers and pre-booking there won't be too many people.

Our normal booking policy is that if the day has to be cancelled, there will be refunds. So, the snowdrop Open Sundays are on 13th and 20th February, and we will have our normal catering, with soup, bacon/cheese/hummus rolls, homemade cakes, and hot and cold drinks. As usual, snowdrop Sunday hours are 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, last entry 3.00pm and we will have a plant stall as well as snowdrops in the green for sale and our own Gardens merchandise.



Additionally, this year we are planning two Snowdrop Thursdays, on 17th and 24th February, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, last entry 2.00 pm. On Thursdays, the Gardens of Warwick House are not open, but this year we will be providing catering; homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks (not filled rolls though). Tickets for all four snowdrop days will be on sale through www.Trybooking.com and with links from our website and Facebook pages.

There is lots of work underway to tidy the Gardens for visitors. We have also made a start on preparing the West Wood for new planting. There won't be much to see there this year, but it is good to have a new project underway.

Please go to our website for more information

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Natural England can designate any area of land considered to be of special interest by virtue of its fauna, flora, or geological features as a "Site of Special Scientific Interest" or SSSI. This designation ensures that the area is appropriately managed and protected. The Hundred Parishes has more than twenty SSSIs. I will mention a few that can be visited.

In the parish of High Easter, Garnett's Wood comprises twenty-five hectares (62 acres) of ancient, coppiced woodland (meaning the trees have been regularly cut down to ground level). Mentioned in the Domesday Book, this wood, in which the lime is the dominant tree, was given in the 12th century by Henry II to a knight called Geoffrey Garnett. A stump of a tree has been carved to depict the knight, still watching over his wood.



Amwell Quarry, formerly an area of gravel pits, has been transformed into a 37-hectare wetland environment, important in particular for wintering wildfowl and regarded as England's premier site for dragonflies.



Patmore Heath in Albury parish is an 8-hectare grass heathland, now a scarce habitat in South East England. It is managed by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. A variety of native grasses grow here, and the heath's ponds are home to all three native English newt species: great-crested, smooth and palmate.



Best-known and by far the largest of our SSSIs is Hatfield Forest which covers more than four hundred hectares, around 1.5 square miles. It was a royal hunting forest from around 1100 AD until the 15th century. It has never been ploughed and has been managed for centuries by coppicing and by pollarding (cutting trees to a height above which livestock and deer cannot reach the new shoots). It has been owned by The National Trust since 1924.



Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

Tel: 01279 813429

Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

Village Services and Activities

Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
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
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
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	07527 227943
Holistic therapy/Reflexology	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Launderette	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

6th February - Matins with Peter Odrich
 13th February - Communion with Revd Helen Flack
 20th February - Family Service with Jo Platt
 27th February - Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

Church News

Well now we have come through Epiphany, the period that follows our celebrations for the birth of Christ but what does Epiphany mean to you? Traditionally the season of Epiphany refers to the Magi, wise men who travelled to Bethlehem following a star to find the new born Christ.

Today, Epiphany is not a word that is in common use; perhaps one of the reasons is that this season of the year is largely overlooked. Most people have no idea that there is such a season and nor do they have any knowledge of the exciting and dangerous times that lie ahead. Herod is trying to kill the baby, so Mary and Joseph are running away trying to keep Jesus safe. But look deeper at the whole Christmas story and you will come to realise that Epiphany is about new beginnings, a new way of life and the promise of better things to come.

Think for a moment about waking up at the crack of dawn and watching the sun rise, gradually scattering the darkness of the night and heralding a new dawn. The world is bathed in light and warmth, a fresh start, a new day full of promise and life. That's an epiphany moment.

Sometimes when we are struggling with a problem, we get a light bulb moment when we "see the light;" the answer to our problem becomes clear just as if a curtain has been removed from our sight. The way ahead suddenly is clear, a miraculous moment. That's an epiphany.

At Christmas we celebrated the birth of the "Light of the World," when God, as Jesus, stepped out of the shadows to join us in this world. This was just the start of his journey from Jordan to Jerusalem, from Jesus's birth to baptism and then his death on the cross. It was a journey full of danger, but which eventually brought light to our world.

Future Events

8th February Coffee Morning at Moorswood
 17th April Easter Lunch in the Hall (to be confirmed)
 24th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Prayer for the Month

Lord, wherever hatred divides, pain destroys and evil defiles
 Bring new beginnings Illuminate our minds
 Transform us and make us whole
 Reach out to those in need
 Guide the lost and give justice for all
 Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com



Village Church Hall

Modern hall, superb kitchen and additional meeting room available for hire



Tearoom open every Wednesday from 2.00 pm

For bookings or further information please contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07827685741

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07827685741

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS

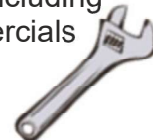


Fine dining & good beers. Children and dogs welcome. Bookings: 01279 815913
Monday to Friday: 12 to 3pm & 5 to 11pm
Saturday: 12 to 11pm Sunday: 12 to 6pm

B.K.AUTO'S

Fully Qualified And Insured
Mobile Mechanic

Located within Birchanger,
all makes and models serviced
and repaired, including
4x4 & commercials



Contact: Ben
07786461813

D. Bonney & Sons



Motor
Engineers

MOT Testing - Servicing - Diagnostic
Mechanical Repairs
Selection of New and Used Cars

Yew Tree Corner, Manuden
Ring Malc or Niel on
01279 813315 or 01279 815946

State Registered Chiropodist

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Home Visiting Practice

Est 1994
Tel: 01279 873492
Mob: 07916075451
Dunmow Road
Takeley CM22 6SH

Painting & Decorating



Bring new life to
your home
Interior - Exterior
General
Maintenance
No job too small

David Debnam
Tel: 01279 815214 Mob: 07973861268

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Therese of Lisieux
High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

www.sttheresasstansted.org
<https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaStansted>

Priest Father Lee Bennett
Tel: 01279 814349
Email: frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org



WASH & IRON SERVICE
CLOTHES - BEDDING - DUVETS

Opening Times
Mon - Fri 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
Sat - Sun 9.00 am - 6.00 pm

Hockerill Lights, Bishop's Stortford
Large car park at rear
Tel: 01279 866183



Aerial Satellite AV Security

- Aerial Installations
- Sky Installations & Subscriptions
- CCTV & Security Alarms
- Freesat Installations & Receivers
- Audio Visual Installations
- Multiroom Music & TV Distribution
- Wireless & Wired Networks
- TV Wall Mounting Services
- Family Run Business



01279 656 983 - 0800 587 2556

Unit 1, Suite 1 Peak Business Centre, Woodside Industrial Estate, Bishops Stortford CM23 5RG

Wireless Security



Intruder alarms have never been so
simple to install,
operate, maintain and clean.

Mediacoms uses the latest
technology to keep you & your
property secure.

YOUR HOME AND COMMERCIAL SECURITY INSTALLER
ALARMS CCTV DOOR ENTRY GATE AUTOMATION

www.mediacomms.co.uk

info@mediacomms.co.uk



Perfectly Pampered

Complementary & Holistic Therapies
By Shelley Williams MGHT

07476 279262

Birchanger CM23 5QT

The natural approach to the wellbeing of
women, focusing on relaxation, improving
sleep, relieving stress, fatigue and anxiety
through reflexology, facial and body massage
therapies.

MGHT Accredited & Insured



Friendly, Professional & Reliable
Sustainable Garden Services Provider
Gardening, Landscapes & Tree Works

Tel: 01799 543483 Mob: 07866 752713

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| One off Garden Tidies | Regular Garden Maintenance |
| Hard & Soft Landscaping | Tree Pruning, Felling & Reductions |
| Hedge Cutting & Trimming | Fencing & Timber Structures |
| Advice & Planning | Traditional Countryside Crafts |
| Planting and Plant Sourcing | Leaf & Snow Clearance |
| Log Splitter & Operator Hire | Soil, Log & Aggregate Delivery |
| Chipper & Operator Hire | |

Free No Obligation Quotes
www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk

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

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

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

Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin.

Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.