



# Birchanger Village Magazine

March 2022

Issue 230



## Government strips UDC of powers to deal with planning applications

Story By Hollie Ryder – Bishops Stortford Independent

The Government has stripped Uttlesford District Council (UDC) of its powers to decide major planning applications in a move that has placed the district on the verge of "environmental disaster".

In an announcement made on Tuesday morning (Feb 8) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, with immediate effect the Residents for Uttlesford (R4U)-led authority will no longer be able to determine schemes of 10 or more homes. It is believed to be the first time since 2014 that a council has had control over planning seized from its grasp and follows a failed bid to stop expansion at Stansted Airport, which ended with an award of costs against Uttlesford. The 'Notice of Designation' means all future applications will now bypass the authority and be decided by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

UDC will remain in 'special measures' indefinitely in response to what the Government deemed was poor decision-making over major planning issues, which has seen the number of schemes overturned on appeal exceeding the 10% target set for local authorities.

Reacting to the news, R4U said that it was undertaking a widespread 'improvement plan' of the council's planning department and intervention was not merited, and that Saffron Walden Conservative MP Kemi Badenoch's Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had stepped in to stop the council refusing too many planning applications. A spokesperson for the DLUHC said that Mrs Badenoch, who is minister for levelling up communities, had not been involved in the decision-making process.

The notice was issued by MP Christopher Pincher in one of his last acts as housing minister, before his appointment as deputy chief whip in the Commons in yesterday's Cabinet reshuffle. The notice said: "The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990... considers there are respects in which the local planning authority are not adequately performing their function of determining applications for planning permission for major development under Part 3 of the Act."

Opposition groups claimed the notice would effectively result in a "total loss of democratic control". With no Local Plan yet in place – UDC's third attempt is currently being drafted – a criminal investigation under way and its accounts still not signed off, they accused the authority of "failing" residents. "This is another significant failure that R4U have caused the district," said Cllr George Smith, speaking on behalf of Uttlesford Conservatives. "They will undoubtedly blame everyone else, including the

Government. But it is the decisions that they have taken that has led the Government to conclude that Uttlesford District Council should be placed under Designation Status."

Since May 2019, the council has refused 43 major applications against officer advice and 39 of those have gone to appeal, costing the district £200,000. "It is under R4U that the planning function at Uttlesford has become dysfunctional," said Cllr Smith, the Tory member for The Sampfords. "R4U councillors have to accept they cannot ignore planning law for political gain – that's what's led us to where we are today and why we have the worst-performing planning function in the country."

As a result of this decision the council can no longer decide major planning applications but will have to pay for the privilege of the Planning Inspectorate to make those decisions instead. What impact this will have on the Local Plan remains to be seen, but if the council cannot decide the future vision of our communities, all residents will suffer. Carefully considered development brings cross-generational benefits and this blanket 'no' approach that R4U have adopted is damaging to all of our communities."

He added: "Having presided over a failure to get their accounts signed off, critical governance failures and a criminal investigation into one of their own, this is further evidence that R4U are not able to govern the district effectively. Our communities are suffering at the hands of the incompetence of this administration. Uttlesford deserves better."

UDC's Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr Melvin Caton, of Stansted South and Birchanger, said the situation reflected poorly on both R4U and the previous, Tory-led administration as the review covered its last year in office and the arrival of R4U.



"It is an environmental disaster for the district with a total loss of democratic control over major planning applications and we do not know how long it is going to last," he said. "Data shows that between April 2018 and March 2020 we were exceeding the criteria of 10%, at 16.5%. The Government expects only 10% of decisions on major planning applications to be upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. (Cont. P2)

Cllr Melvin Caton continued, "In the last two years from 2019-2021 that figure has gone up to 17.65%, so we're going in the wrong direction. But that poor performance was something which was happening over the previous administration as well. "R4U are currently in a reorganisation of the planning department which has backfired because it wasn't done early enough. We are shortly to have a fit-for-purpose planning department which will be circumvented by developers who will go straight to the Planning Inspectorate from now on.

"R4U were elected to sort out the planning debacle but haven't done it quickly enough and, with the first draft of the Local Plan expected in the summer, the timing is not great. Not having an up-to-date Local Plan is a major contributory factor, I am sure."

Fellow Lib Dem Cllr Alan Dean, of Stansted North, said the move had "damaged Uttlesford's reputation really badly". He added: "I put that down to R4U hiding its head in the sand with bad planning decisions and now we're really in a bad state. I do think the administration needs to be called to account, we cannot drift along like this. It is taking away both local knowledge and local democratic control."

The R4U administration at UDC claimed it had inherited an under-performing planning function from the Conservatives, which included two failed Local Plans at a cost of £6 million. Cllr Petrina Lees (R4U, Elsenham and Henham), leader of Uttlesford District Council said: "We've all seen the reports in the national press of huge donations to the Conservatives by property tycoons. We don't 'dance with donors' – we stick up for residents. But for a decade Boris Johnson and his predecessors have said 'Build, build, build.' Residents have repeatedly said no to unsustainable development and locally voted the Conservatives out. So now they've decided that instead they want to be able to approve thousands of new houses via the back door."

She added: "To be clear, this intervention is by the department of which our MP is minister of state. The excuse they are using to seize control comes from their claim that UDC isn't winning enough planning applications on appeal – but poor development in our towns and villages must be fought for residents. "In truth the vast majority of applications today are approved, with just the poorest being refused, and fewer going to appeal for further review. This removal of local decision-making is an unwarranted and cynical political move by the Conservatives.

"They have decided that civil servants from an agency of our MP's department will now decide what gets built in Uttlesford and where. This brings the very real fear that the developers, who under the previous Conservatives' proposals looked to put large new towns on the outskirts of Dunmow, Chesterford and Stebbing, will this time go right to Government for approval. It is an appalling betrayal of local democracy."

A statement on UDC's website this afternoon said: "The letter of designation is very disappointing, although not surprising – the council has commissioned its own independent expert peer review of the planning service, published in October 2021, and

has already put in place a thorough and comprehensive improvement plan. Progress against this plan was reported most recently to the council's scrutiny committee last week (3 February).

"The council will put together a response to the Government's letter over the coming days and will recommit to making the substantial improvements necessary to its planning function as set out in the peer review report. "Councillors and planning staff are hard-working and passionately dedicated to delivering an effective planning service that supports quality development. Both the ongoing improvements to the planning service and the emergence of a new Local Plan are critical to the successful future of the district, and the council is already making steady and welcome progress in the right direction."

## Birchanger Lane A120 Roundabout Concerns

Residents of Birchanger will all, no doubt, be aware that the works on the Birchanger Roundabout and the links to Junction 8 of the M11 are now underway and the last edition of the magazine set out some of the basic elements of the design. People have raised some concerns about the control of traffic leaving Birchanger Lane and whether it will be possible to travel across the A120 and go straight into Dunmow Road to access Bishops Stortford. Hopefully, those issues have been answered but, just to confirm, there will be traffic signals controlling the Junction and yes direct access to the Dunmow Road will be part of the scheme.

Having said that we now move on to the details of how this will all be constructed and what the impact will be on residents of Birchanger whilst the work is being completed. I think we have all been aware that at certain times during the day there has been an increase in traffic with people trying to avoid any delays on the A120 and that is a concern that I have made very strongly to the Contractor (John Sisk and Son Ltd) who are completing the works.

One of the proposals is that for a time there will be a closure to Birchanger Lane, in part to allow the civil works to be carried out, but also to prevent the rat running that will otherwise occur. At the moment the Contractor is detailing the final programme of their works, so we await the timing of that. It must be hoped that the significant inconvenience of having Birchanger Lane closed will, in part, offset the issues of excessive traffic speeding through the village.

I am currently arranging for the Contractor to meet with myself and the Parish Council so that we can be provided with the details and programme of the works and we will be holding them to account to ensure that any impact on the village is properly mitigated. I will be asking them to provide a website and other means by which residents can directly access the information they need and most importantly, receive updates on progress.

If, in the meantime there are any questions, then please contact me: *Ray Gooding* [Cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk)

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16<sup>th</sup> 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,

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# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## A Village Victory

Well done everyone who went to the village meeting in 2020 to protest about the planned removal of the roundabout at the end of Birchanger Lane, but in particular the access to Birchanger Lane. The highways planners never anticipated the Birchanger turnout. Everyone there, the Parish Council and all who attended the consultation or wrote a letter all helped to make a difference.

In accordance with Birchanger residents wishes, we are going to have traffic lights at the end of the lane entering the A120 bypass and crossing over into Bishops Stortford. They lights were never in the original plan, but they are now. If there are any objections it is too late. The work has started. The scheme is going to cost Essex County Council a lot more money. New plans had to be drawn up and approved never mind the material cost. Perhaps they should have thought a bit more about the needs of the people who actually live here in the first place.

What we didn't consider was the rat running in Birchanger Lane. A lot of motorists use the lane as a short cut, driving at high speeds and sending children, pedestrians, bicycles and dogs in all directions. Perhaps the new layout, with potential delays at the traffic lights, will help to dissuade rat runners from using the lane in future?

In any case something needs to be done to stop these idiots before there is a tragedy. Perhaps Speed watch, or our own special constable with his speed gun, if he can be contacted that is! They probably will never read this, but for those living outside the village and using Birchanger Lane as a short cut, please think of the people and children who live here and keep within the speed limit, please?

## Making Roses for the Queen's Jubilee

One very enterprising lady has started making many cellophane roses in red, white, and blue which she hopes to place all around the hall and if there are enough covering lots of other areas as well. It is an idea we can all take up. The materials are all biodegradable and people in Birchanger can all get involved as the roses are amazingly attractive and easy to make. Want to find out more? Call Pam on 815938.



## Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month at 08.00 pm in the village hall.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March**  
**7.45 for 8.00 pm for Easter/Spring Wreath Making**

[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

**Olivia: 07568 574703**

**Rosemary: 01279 814678**

## A Story of a County Lines Kid

"It seemed ok hanging out with my new friends. They seemed to understand me and we got on fine. They knew life was a bit tough at home. Mum and Dad worked all hours and we kids looked after ourselves most of the time. But my new friends gave me the trainers I had always wanted, then there were the jeans which were great. My dad asked me where they had come from and how I could afford them? I didn't mind taking the little packages to Stortford at first. But it happened more and more often and I didn't like it. I knew it was wrong and it was taking up too much of my time. I didn't get to hang out with my new friends anymore. It was deliver this here, take that up there. If I complained they just said I was an ungrateful little b\*\*\*\*\*. And would threaten me. Mum and Dad started to ask questions. I was running out of lies. I didn't know what to do."

If you know someone with a story similar to this one, they are probably handling illegal substances. Call 08001111 and talk to someone who will be able to help whether you are seeking advice for someone you know or for yourself. There is a way out of this. Just make that call.

## Need Transport to Get Your Covid Jab?

Don't miss getting your Covid jab because you cannot get to the venue. The Essex Wellbeing Service is now offering a taxi service which is free of charge for those unable to get to your first or second vaccine appointment. You need to book your appointment first, then contact the provider on 0300 393 9988. You will need to have your booking reference to hand. The phone line is open from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm on weekdays and from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturdays.

## What is the Matter with Some Dog Walkers?

The Parish Council provide dog poo bins for owners of dogs throughout Birchanger. They are not for the use of dog sitters, multi dog walkers or breeders. Uttlesford District Council allows everyone to put dog mess in their domestic black bins. So why dump used poo bags by the bin when it is already full? Those who empty the bins have no onus to pick up the mess left in the surrounding areas. If the bin is full you have to take it home. If you walk several dogs for other people your dog waste must go in your own black bin, if not you could find yourself with a hefty fine.

## Cybercrime is Financially Devastating

Cybercrime is devastating to its victims, whether they are big companies or an individual who owns a device with personal and or financial details in it. Cybercrime attacks businesses and homes everywhere. Even the most inept criminal can purchase off the shelf software and hardware so that he can make huge profits from illegal activities using his devices and the software at home.

Make sure you secure all your devices with the best protection available. Change your passwords regularly, particularly if you bank online. I had lost my email account after a break in at a holiday company's office abroad. The only action I could take was to shut down my email account immediately. Total nightmare! Firms are supposed to destroy your financial details a year after your trip, but this was not done. My trip was some 6 years ago. I always pay my holidays by cheque, firms don't like it, but it has proved to be safest option.

### Eating Out in Birchanger

Not many villages can boast of having both a pub and a club in their village, but lucky Birchanger has one of each, both offering meals, facilities for children to play and good food as well. The food each venue serves is different and there are plenty of choices to suit everyone. Dietary needs are catered for and in the club well behaved dogs and children are welcome. The club also offers a three-course meal for under £8 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. More Birchanger people are to be found in the club these days and an increasing number of visitors travel to the pub from outside the village. Recently I visited the club for Sunday lunch. It was well patronised by local village people most of whom had booked. I had some delicious roast pork with proper crackling followed by an extremely naughty pudding which I thoroughly enjoyed. The diet was set to start on Monday, maybe. So, remember if you are tired, lost the urge to cook, help is here and it is local.

### A Home for Your Old Phone



Quite often we find ourselves with a lot of old mobile phones which we thought might come in useful but simply remain in the cupboard

unloved and unwanted for years. There are people not so far away who would love your old phone as they need them to help run a business start-up, or for those who simply cannot afford to buy a new one. The Uttlesford CAB has a home for your old phone. If you do have a phone or even more lurking around in a cupboard, which you no longer use, take it up to Saffron Walden's CAB at their office in Barnard's Yard, Saffron Walden on Monday to Friday or call 01799 618840 to find out more about this project.

### More Police Officers in Essex

It is good to hear that Essex has increased its police force by some seven hundred more police officers since 2018. This total includes PCOs as well as special constables. There are also opportunities for 13-year-olds to become volunteer police cadets.

More volunteers in various categories are still needed. Older volunteers are invited to register to support specialist digital and forensic teams in the world of cybercrime. There are also opportunities to join the Witness Care Scheme or even to become a special constable. Essex



police are growing but there is room for more full-time officers, and volunteers are definitely part of the plan in further expansion.

### Green Homes Grants

If your income is less than £30,000 per annum, or you are in receipt of any benefits, it may be that you are eligible for a grant of up to £10,000 to insulate your home and improve your central heating system. Application is made to the Green Homes Grant Scheme which is usually delivered by the local authority. The online form is available through the Green Homes Grant Scheme or Essex County Council.

### How Safe Are Your Household Appliances?



If like me, you do not always register your household appliances with the manufacturer, either because you simply forgot to do so or may be worried that you may be bombarded with another ton of unwanted Junk Mail, there is another way to find out just how safe your appliances are by registering them with your local fire brigade. You will find out quickly just how

safe your appliances really are. Ovens, hotplates and toasters are among the worst cooking appliances found to be unsafe, but other non-cooking appliances have the potential to catch fire as well. 11% of household fires were caused by fridge freezers, tumble dryers, washing machines and dishwashers. When you get a new appliance the best thing to do is to register it with the manufacturer as soon as possible. That way you will get notice of any safety issues with your appliance directly. For the 49% of us who have not registered their appliances, this scheme offers another opportunity to secure your home's safety.

### Knife Amnesty in Uttlesford

Hopefully, nobody in Birchanger needs this, but if you do have a knife that you think is illegal or is very sharp and you need to dispose of it, you can wrap it up and take it to a knife amnesty travelling centre which is travelling around the villages in Uttlesford. The nearest collection to us is on March 3rd in Farnham Church car park between 2.00 and 3.00 pm and at Manuden Village Community Centre also on March 3rd between 12.30 and 13.30. Knives must be well wrapped and if you have one you can also get rid of your telescopic truncheon, flick knife well wrapped and knuckle duster as well. The items are simply dumped anonymously.

### Levelling Up in Essex to Prevent Crime

Essex County Council has a new strategy to help reduce criminal behaviour across the county by improving housing and neighbourhoods to promote community spirit. They want to design places in a way in which crime can be reduced. No more dark, unused car parks, unlit areas, but better designed housing which tend to look outwards onto the street scene rather than inwards. Trying to bring communities together more and not to create areas where people do not want to go to at night. The idea of the creation of more open, resident friendly safer communities has been around for a long time. The developers may actually plan them but somehow, they get lost in the process and never seem to materialise. There's no point telling families to ditch their cars and to use public transport instead when the bus service is so poor.

### ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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## How Safe is Your Password?

Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, Email, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.



Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices, and money at risk - by using the same password across

multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers. Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than 23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password. You can read more about it here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/most-hacked-passwords-revealed-as-uk-cyber-survey-exposes-gaps-in-online-security>

Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

### 1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

### 2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

- make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
- protect you against some cybercrime, such as fake websites

It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

### 3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business.

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>.



Learn, Laugh and Live  
Stansted Mountfitchet

We would like to encourage more people to join us, to reap the benefits that shared activities, knowledge and passions can bring. For those who are no longer in full-time work, the prospect of having time to make new friends, develop new interests, share experience and knowledge, is an exciting one. Stansted u3a already offers a wide range of groups enjoying the benefits and friendship of sharing activities and interests and we aim to increase the scope of these still further in this 40<sup>th</sup> year of the u3a movement.

We also have the benefit of monthly talks and at the January meeting Brian Carline gave a warm and interesting, illustrated talk on Life in the 40's and 50's. The Speaker in February, Tanya-Fern Smith took us through the long history of Stansted Hall, from Tudor times, through being rebuilt as a Jacobean Hall and following a fire, being re-built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At our next meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we will have the pleasure of a talk from Toni Neopard and Kate Broad who will take a light-hearted look at marriage and relationships in Victorian times, "For Better or Far Worse"

Joe Brooks 'showcased' the Art House Group in February and at the March meeting Patricia Powell will be showcasing the Card-Making Group. Hopefully, April will put a spring in your step, and you will be there to welcome Peter Regelous who will chronicle his life in Showbiz and showcase his book "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Life."

**Brian Carline – Life in the 40's and 50's**

Do come and join us for a cup of tea and biscuits and settle down for an informative and interesting afternoon. We meet in St. John's Hall every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 1.30pm. (We even have a raffle!)

Eileen Quinn [stanstedu3a@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedu3a@gmail.com)  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted)

## Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Essex <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Essex (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

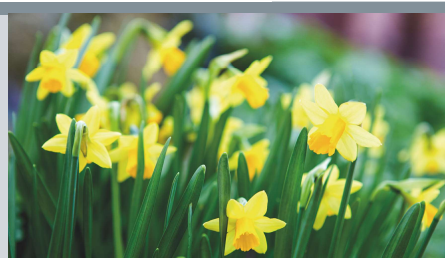
John Harris [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

# What's on in the village...



March 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
	<b>1</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	<b>2</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	<b>3</b> <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>4</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>5</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids  <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>6</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>7</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>8</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	<b>9</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	<b>10</b> <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>11</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>12</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Bad Monkey Driver	<b>13</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>14</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>15</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	<b>16</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	<b>17</b> <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo St. Patricks Day	<b>18</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>19</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Silhouette	<b>20</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Family Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>21</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>22</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	<b>23</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	<b>24</b> <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line Dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>25</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>26</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 The Time Warps Live	<b>27</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast Mothering Sunday
<b>28</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>29</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	<b>30</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 20.00 <b>BAGS</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line Dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo			





BIRCHANGER SPORTS  
AND SOCIAL CLUB

# NEWS FROM THE CLUB

## EVENTS

In March we have a busy entertainment schedule at the Club.  
We have 3 weekends of live music and other notable dates:

12<sup>th</sup> March – Bad Monkey Driver  
17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patricks Day  
19<sup>th</sup> March – Silhouette  
26<sup>th</sup> March – The Time Warps  
27<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday



Have you booked for Mothers Day yet?  
Lovely Set Menu to treat mum!  
Call the Club!



## JUBILEE

Our plans for the Jubilee Weekend are well underway all of  
the below with our Annual Beer Festival all weekend.

Thursday – Bounce Day / Jubilee Singers / Lighting the Beacon  
Friday – Family Sports Day / Live Music  
Saturday – Cricket / Live Music  
Sunday – The BIG LUNCH / Entertainment

Sundays Big Lunch – will be a BYO Picnic on the field to share  
some time and fun with all our neighbours

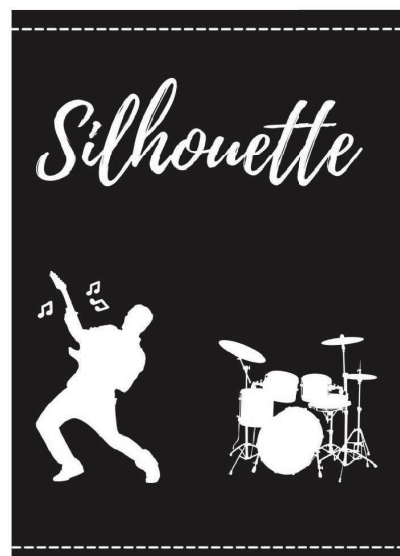
Lots more details to follow – Watch this space!

## SPECIAL OFFERS

This month will see regular special offers – please see the  
club for more details – or follow our facebook page!

### 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



### 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](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



**For all general enquiries**

Telephone 01279 813441 Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)  
Website [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

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## Birchanger Primary School

### 'Life in all its fullness'

During each academic year we have focus weeks or days to highlight areas that reflect our vision statement of 'Life in all its fullness.' This always includes wellbeing as we believe that in order for children to fulfil their potential, they need to be healthy and happy.



The first morning at the start of each half term is dedicated to wellbeing. These sessions are used to highlight the NHS programme '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. These mornings are a great way to remind the children of how to keep themselves healthy. We also use our weekly newsletter, 'The Buzz,' to give parents information and links to useful websites that support children's wellbeing and mental health.



Just before half term the staff and children celebrated Children's mental health week. Mrs Cook, our mental health and wellbeing lead, organised a 'Walk and Talk' session. This initiative has been set up by Essex County Council and it is designed to encourage people, young and old, to go outside and notice the beauty of their environments. As well as the health benefits of being outside, Walk and Talk encourages people to talk to each other as they walk as a good way of getting to know another person and maybe share a worry or two. This was a perfect time for this activity following two years of class bubbles and social distancing. All of the children in KS1 walked the school grounds and all of KS2 walked the grounds and the areas around the school talking to others outside of their classes.



Mrs Cook also spoke to the children about what they would like to do during Children's Mental Health week. The children told her that they would like to be able to express themselves in a way that was personal to them. This led to our 'Great Create' where



some children created junk models, wrote songs or made-up dance routines. Other children chose to make jewellery, to draw, or paint a picture, many of which went home to their families as a present for mum. The children worked in groups, either on a

joint project, or whilst everyone completed their individual activity alongside others doing the same thing.

The children loved this week and we loved watching them having such a lot of fun which is at the very heart of strong wellbeing.

*Claire Berry - Headteacher*





## Are We Serious About Climate Change?

Aircraft emissions are amongst the fastest growing causes of global warming and yet the Government continues to support airport expansion projects all across the UK.

In the past year, the Government has approved major expansion not only at Stansted Airport but also at Bristol, Southampton and Leeds Bradford airports. In addition, expansion proposals for Gatwick and Luton airports are at an advanced stage and they also have Government support.



And the biggest airport expansion project of all, at Heathrow, also has Government support, endorsed by MPs in the House of Commons, voting 415 to 119 in support of a third runway.

Taken together, the airport expansion proposals that have been approved in the past year, and those in the pipeline, will increase UK airport capacity to over 500 million passengers per annum. This compares to 297 million passengers handled in 2019, before the Covid pandemic.

In December 2020, the Climate Change Committee, recommended that there should be a total freeze on UK airport expansion until such time as the aviation industry could demonstrate that it was on track to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, the Government has decided to completely ignore this advice from its own independent experts.

Covid has had a huge impact on air travel. UK airports handled just 74 million passengers in 2020 and 65 million in 2021 – less than a quarter of the pre-pandemic level.

No-one yet knows when - or even whether - the demand for air travel will return to its pre-pandemic level of 297 million passengers per annum. However, it seems safe to say that airports will struggle to find the demand to utilise the planned annual capacity of over 500 million passengers.

Covid has dramatically reduced aviation's impact on global warming over the past two years, but both are damaging to human health. We need to find a better way of reducing aviation's impact upon climate change. We need to fly less.

Brian Ross

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### Daffodil Season is With Us

March at the Gardens is daffodil season. A number of years ago, I learned that we had thirty-three varieties of daffodil, including wild and cultivated varieties in the Lime Wood and the Glade. Since then, I know for sure we have planted others, including a host of Tete-a-Tete to frame the Italian garden. So why not visit us and see how many varieties you can count? Dogs on leads are welcome and they will enjoy their visit too!

Our weekly Open Thursdays run from the beginning of March to the end of November. We are open from 11.00 to 3.00, while the volunteers crack on with the gardening. The Archive building is open, so visitors can learn more about the Gardens' history and the projects undertaken by the Trust. This year we will also be providing hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes for visitors on Thursdays.



As the season develops, there will be produce for sale – starting with rhubarb and then veg, hopefully mangetouts first, then dwarf beans and spinach and gradually the rest of the range. There is no need to book for Open Thursdays. If you get a season ticket or become a Friend of the Gardens you can pop in regularly at good value. These can be bought at the Gardens or there are application forms on our website [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk).

On 17<sup>th</sup> March we also have a special new volunteers' day at the Gardens. We welcome new volunteers all year round, but on the new volunteers' day we show potential recruits the range of work we do, including gardening, maintenance and carpentry work, catering, and other visitor experience roles. If you are interested in joining us on that day, it would be helpful if you could let us know, on 01371 876979. *Jill Goldsmith*

### Reminder - Festival of Flowers Planning Meeting

Please come to St Mary's Church on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm to hear more about our plans and to share your ideas for the Festival of Flowers. St Mary's Church is planning to hold a Festival of Flowers on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Sun 31<sup>st</sup> July to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

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

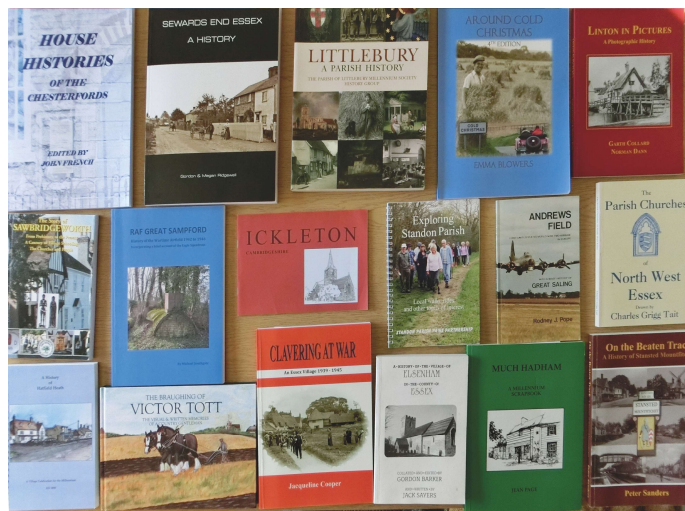




## The Hundred Parishes Society

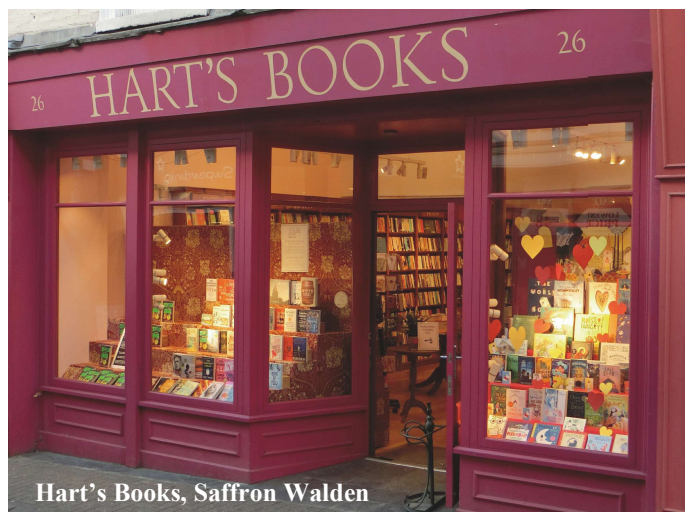
### Hundred Parishes book completely sold out

The Society has now sold all 800 copies of its first hardback book *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There will be no reprint, although we have open minds on the possibility of a second book. Preparation of our first book took several years and was only possible because of the vast resource of what had already been written, in far more detail, about individual places, people and events. The Society holds more than 300 local books and pamphlets.



The Society's website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) has recently been updated to ensure, amongst other things, that individual parish introductions include references to their share of available literature.

A good number of local books are available, in person or online, from the four excellent outlets that each sold many copies of the *Hundred Parishes* book: Harts and the Tourist Information Centre in Saffron Walden, the TIC in Bishop's Stortford and Between The Lines bookshop in Great Bardfield.



Hart's Books, Saffron Walden

A few parishes, as yet, have no book of their own, or perhaps just a pamphlet available in the church, whilst other places have extensive coverage. One of the Society's trustees, Peter Sanders, conducted research for 30 years before compiling a definitive history of Stansted Mountfitchet. Another easy-to-read classic, *Littlebury: A Parish History*, was produced by a team of authors.



Tourist Information Centre, Saffron Walden

I have recently been absorbed by a largely pictorial history of Swards End and by the 4th edition of *Around Cold Christmas*, not least because the latter has frequent references to my wife's distant relatives. Clavering's Jacqueline Cooper always seems to be working on yet another book about Clavering or Saffron Walden. Several local history societies have generated books or booklets, or have work in progress. So rich is our local history that there is no shortage of reading material or potential subject matter.



Between The Lines, Great Bardfield

Ken McDonald, Secretary [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



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## 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
Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
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
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814773
Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Police Special	Martin Halls	<a href="mailto:Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk">Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk</a>
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 March	Matins with Pam Lee
13th March	Communion with Revd. Helen
20th March	Family Service with Pam Lee
27th March	Communion with Revd. Colin

### Church News

As we enter the season of Lent, for a few, responding to the call of Christ means renouncing the world and turning their backs on its pleasures. But is that really what we are being asked to do? Surely not. A monastic and contemplative lifestyle may be fine for some but most of us like to enjoy ourselves from time to time and if all of us pursued that way of life this world would soon find itself in trouble. Society would be unable to continue in any recognizable state.

For all the faults and ugliness in our world, as Christians we believe that it is God's gift, still capable of leading us to joy, awe and thanksgiving. Jesus warns us against losing perspective and tells us to focus not too much on earthly things but to look forward to heavenly blessings. He tells us that the world matters to him and then calls on us to look deeper than things that enrich our lives; not to confuse the gift with the giver.

On the 8th March at 2.00 pm we will be meeting in church to discuss plans for the Festival of Flowers planned for 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July. You are invited to join us as we plan this weekend continuing the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We are making flowers to decorate the church, church hall and as far through the village as we can. If you are a crafty person, please join us on Wednesdays from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm at the Church Hall Tea Room.

### Prayer for the Month

Lord, help us to celebrate the world you have given us

To enjoy and share the blessings of this life

To make use of the abundant resources that you have provided but not to abuse them.

Teach us to rejoice in all that we have received and to set our hearts above all things

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

### Upcoming Events

15th April	Good Friday Service 2.00 pm
24th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
17th May	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
29th to 31st July	Festival of Flowers

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

[pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com)



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## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:  
**Manager:** Cat Roberson  
**Telephone:** 07827685741  
**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## THE THREE WILLOWS



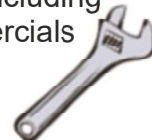
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 Saturday: 12 to 11pm Sunday: 12 to 6pm

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