



Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2022

Issue 231



The Passing of a Delightful Character

The village lost one of its genuine and well-liked characters recently in the form of artist Brian Gough who passed away peacefully on the 11th March 2022 aged 80.



Brian, or 'Goughie' as many knew him, was born on the 8th March 1942 in Shropshire and grew up to be a prolific artist selling many examples of his work in Birchanger and throughout the area.

Paul Ferret, who knew him well in his later life, had this to say about him. "Although I only knew Brian for nine years, it's with a heavy heart that I'll miss our drinks and chats together. He would come to my house for a drink and tell me about his life growing up in

Whittington, Shropshire, (mainly with his mum as during his childhood his dad was often away in the army). He told me that later in life his favourite pub in Whittington was called 'The Boot', run by a chap called Charlie Fat, Fat being his nickname because of his size."

"Brian first started selling paintings to people in Whittington and he made enough money to buy himself a push bike. However, one day during a bike ride, he was struck by lightning. When he came to his wits, he found himself lying in a ditch surrounded by strangers. Luckily, a passing bus had stopped, and the surprised passengers asked if he was ok. Thankfully, he was."

"Brian was a very talented artist who could paint in many styles, I once asked him how he chose the style he was going to paint in and straight away he replied, 'it depends on how much I have had to drink'! He moved to London to pursue his career in advertising where he mixed with many celebrities and could tell some great stories, like when he gave Tommy Cooper a sketch to use on his show."

Later in life he moved to Birchanger with Annie and as we know he continued to draw and paint. He will be a greatly missed character in the village. I'll especially miss seeing Annie driving through the village in her convertible Morris Minor with Brian in the passenger's seat with his straw hat on. Rest in peace my friend."

Another good friend, Brian Ross, spoke of a few of his memories about Goughie. "I had the privilege of knowing Goughie for 36 years and yet I never really knew him at all. He would prefer to listen to others rather than to himself and he seldom shared his emotions except through his art. If Goughie knew just how exceptional he was, he certainly didn't admit it. As they say, the strongest eagle always hides his claws."

"Goughie's rare talent enabled him to paint and draw landscapes, portraits, murals and cartoons with equal ease and confidence. He was particularly outstanding as a cartoonist and humorist, developing his own ideas and creating characters as delightfully eccentric as himself."

"Brian's talent didn't stop at art. He could bash out a respectable tune on the piano and sing like Frank Sinatra on occasions. One of my fondest memories of him was when he played an out of tune piano at a nearby hostelry, entertaining a joyful audience to a rendition of 'The Autumn Leaves.' There was total audience participation, even though no one knew more than the first three lines of the song!" With repetition, our singing of 'The Autumn Leaves' became even louder and more passionate. The pub camaraderie was what really mattered. Play it again Goughie! Birchanger will miss you."

The service for Brian will be held at Saffron Walden Crematorium at 3.00 pm on the 1st April and afterwards at the club. A date that Brian would no doubt appreciate!





La Bontá Restaurant, Canfield's Little Gem

by Gordon Blue

Hidden in the depths of the new estates in Canfield, in the unlikely position on a parade of shops by Priors Green Community Centre you will find La Bontá. What a gem this small independent Italian restaurant is. A group of friends

from Birchanger visited La Bontá on a Thursday evening. We were warmly greeted shown to our table and our coats taken. The restaurant only seats about 30 people and once the 7 of us arrived the restaurant was full.

We were immediately impressed by the ambience and style of the place, marble type tables, shiny silver cutlery and crystal glassware. It is family run and the staff were smartly dressed serving the tables wearing white gloves! Whilst waiting for our meal we were served with some delicious complimentary mini bruschetta appetizers. There is quite a large menu, but we all went straight into the mains, secondi, and everyone was delighted with their choices.

There is a pizza oven which is in full view and one of our party chose a pizza, another a pasta dish, the others chose Zuppa di Pesce which looked and tasted amazing and included calamari, clams, monkfish, mussels, sea bass and langoustines, while some chose a very tasty saltimbocca di pollo; chicken breast wrapped in parma ham in a wine sauce. Fortunately, we saved room for their delicious desserts, and I would definitely recommend the crostatina ai frutti di bosco, a warm frangipane tart with gorgeous fresh fruit and some really creamy pistachio ice cream. Sharing a bottle of wine and having two courses and coffee our individual bills were around £36. However, you could easily spend quite a bit more. It was also nice to see that service was not included, maybe as they know their excellent service will result in generous tips anyway. It is well worth the 10 minute drive for a special meal or celebration. They are open 7 evenings a week and from 12.00 midday Fri, Sat and Sun.

Bookings 01279 871989. reservations@labonta.co.uk Unit 6,
Priors Green local centre, Bennet Canfield, Dunmow,
CM6 1HE.



Lower Rissington - Cotswolds - by Brian Gough

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

Planning Attack on the Barn Again!

A new planning application has been submitted for the barn on the sand track behind Harrisons. At first sight this application for "flexible commercial" use may seem less concerning than last year's application for two semi-detached houses which we successfully defeated. However, if this new application is approved, it would reduce the Green Belt protection around Birchanger, possibly the thin end of a wedge.

Also of concern is the wide range of uses that could be permitted if approval was granted. The barn could, for example, be used for a business activity which had significant noise impacts and/or significant traffic impacts – possibly operating 24/7.

UDC intends to decide this application by 19th April 2022 and so, if you wish to object you should send an email to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk as soon as possible, quoting application reference number UTT/22/0539/PAR3. Remember to include your name and address and to send separate emails from each member of your household rather than a joint objection. For more information about this application, go to <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/planning> and search for UTT/22/0539/PAR3.

Tai Chi in Birchanger

Did you know that April 30th is World Tai Chi day? There will be a wave of Tai Chi going round the world at 10am in each time zone in the hope of spreading some peace and kindness in this rather mad world. We have not been able to do this for 2 years during the Pandemic and this year we could all do with some peace! A group of us practice Tai Chi in the Village Hall every Wednesday morning and we hope to be able to demonstrate what we do on the Cricket Field at 10am on April 30th.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese practice developed by monks in Buddhist Monasteries. It consists of a slow series of stretches and turns which takes about twenty minutes to complete but years to learn. In Birchanger we are part of Essex Tai Chi Academy which practices Tai Chi for Health, a form developed by Master Moy Lin-Shin – a monk who moved from Hong Kong to Canada in the 1970's and modified Traditional Chinese Tai Chi for Westerners paying particular attention to the health benefits. It is an excellent work out for both body and mind. You do not need any special equipment – comfortable clothes and shoes only. The whole set is done standing up – so there's no struggling to get up off the floor!

Come and watch us on April 30th behind the Sports and Social Club – or 10am in the Village Hall on Wednesdays. We're a friendly group who welcomes newcomers. Our instructors are all volunteers. More information from Cait Goddard on 07415 628935 or online www.essextaichiacademy.org

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Escaping Sewage Due to Wet Wipes

Birchanger Residents are reminded not to put wet wipes and baby wipes down the toilet as they are clogging up our drains & the pumping station in the village. Thames water had to be called out again in March due to untreated sewage, toilet paper etc., flowing down the lane and being spread by traffic. Thames Water came very quickly and confirmed that the blockage was due to these wipes. Please be considerate to your neighbours and dispose of them in your black bin.

New School Signs Installed

Yes, after almost 4 years of lobbying, Birchanger finally got their new Electronic, so called, 'Wig Wag Signals' for the school. The Parish Council tried many times, without success, during this period to get electronic speed signs for the village but Essex Highways would hear nothing of it! Eventually, Highways reluctantly allowed us to install the School Wig Wag Signals, providing the council paid the £10,000 cost. Fortunately, the council had enough reserves to pay for them and so installation started early March. Only one problem, Highways installed one of the posts in the wrong place! Hopefully they will correct their mistake in the next few weeks.

Essex Police Force Growing Again

At the turn of the century, Essex Police numbered some 4000 full time police officers. After that, numbers declined, and policemen disappeared from the beat. In the meantime, crime patterns changed and developed so we now have to contend with county lines, organised drug crime and a rising number of attacks and murders. Officer numbers are finally increasing again, and future policing will see a more visible police presence on our streets, but whether this helps to stem the increasing rate of violent crime, we shall have to wait and see. It could be too little too late.

Dining Out

The Dog and Duck in Stansted is only a moderate walk away across the fields. Or a more roundabout way by car. There is limited free car parking on site and further parking around the pub which can be tricky. There is usually room at the main car park nearby if all else fails. On the day we visited, the food was delicious. Sea bass on noodles, steaks, fish and chips and much more were all available, along with a good selection of all too tempting desserts and a good range of coffee completed some of the treats on offer.

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 27th April.

Bowling at Ace of Lanes Bishop's Stortford. Meet at village church hall at 7.00 pm.

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Birchanger Church Jubilee Flower Show

There are many plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Most of them are centring around the anniversary of the coronation itself but that won't be the end of it as far as Birchanger is concerned. There will be a big flower show in the church for three days from July 29th to July 31st. We would very much like you to join us with your own special floral arrangement. The show will have the Jubilee as its main theme and will highlight all the major events throughout the Queen's long reign from her early years right up to the present day. There is a lot to choose from; her early work in the army as the war drew to an end through her coronation, her visits to countries all over the world, the large amount of pageantry in which she has played a part, her expanding family, her quieter life now in Windsor and very much more. Details of how to choose and plan your exhibit along with any enquiries you may have and how to register your place in the exhibition, call Rosemary Saward on 01279 813820. Maybe like me you are not an expert in flower arrangement. That doesn't matter. Colour block is easy to do with great effect, we can move on from there. You could alternatively volunteer to be a steward while the exhibition is open between 10 am to 4pm, help to serve refreshments or even make a few? We have a lovely Saxon Church which you can appreciate at your leisure as well. More details to come.

The Motorcycle Menace Is Back!

Despite the mud, the motor bike menace has returned. These bikes are not welcome in our fields by pedestrians and dogs alike as they make footpaths unsafe and impassable. Neither are they welcomed by the police. Interestingly they are usually not there in school hours. Even if you only hear the bikes, their presence should be reported to the police using the 101 number. Eventually the police will investigate.

Getting 'Scam Smart'

A few years ago, nobody worried about scams. They just didn't exist. Now everything we do is controlled by overriding worries about hacking, internet safety and worrying about accessing anything online. Confidence once lost is not that easy to regain. There are organisations which can help, such as the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) which regulates all financial services. FCA has created 'Scam Smart', an online tool which helps you to identify whether your proposed investment is a scam or not. Firms providing financial services must be registered with the FCA. Check any proposed investment with the FCA first. You should assume that any details a caller gives you online are false until you have checked them out with the FCA.

Contacting the Police

The old familiar 999 emergency number is still there for anyone that has an ongoing situation and requires immediate police assistance. But there are other ways to contact the police if the individual has a problem which worries them and they just need to talk to someone or report an issue. The 101 non-emergency number can be used to speak to someone. There is also a new chat facility on www.essex.police.uk on which you can chat to the police and voice your concerns for others to hear as well. You may find you are not alone with your particular problem and the police can still act on the matters which concern you.

PROTECT YOUR POOCH



Is Your Dog at Risk?

Pet ownership rose dramatically during lockdown. People felt lonely and isolated and needed an incentive to go out for exercise and to see other people from a safe distance. With more time at home and less time on the daily commute there was more time to train a puppy.

Trouble was the prices of dogs rocketed, criminals became interested and started to steal the most desirable dogs from parks, gardens, cars, and streets. The stolen dogs were either sold on or used for breeding. We can try to stop this. First, secure your house and garden to keep intruders out. Install sensor lights and fit locks to your garden gates. Your dog may be gorgeous but these days it is not safe to put pictures of them on social media unless your dog is lost. Make sure your dog is microchipped and your contact details are up to date. Neutered dogs are less inclined to stray. Lots of dog owners like to let their dog off the lead but make sure your dog will come back when called and never leave your dog alone in a public place.

Covid – Here to Stay?

So, we have been set free again. Covid restrictions for the majority are scrapped, so too are free test kits, which are now no longer free for the majority of people. We must once again take responsibility for all our own health matters. This means that as well as being responsible for our health we also have a responsibility to others. Their health depends upon our behaviour in maintaining our own with honesty. If we are testing positive, we know what to do, but the onus is on us to do it. There have been a rising number of Covid cases reported but in most cases the symptoms are mild.

There are still groups of people out there with underlying health conditions for whom Covid could be fatal. They need our care and respect too. The nature of Covid means that they have to isolate until a vaccine is found which will work for them. For the rest of us it is time to wake up, go to work or home office and get down to work there. Like it or not we have to get on with it and live with it. Covid has not gone. It is still here and it will mutate and change many times in the years to come. We need to remember that the health of others depends on our own responsible behaviour. We have our freedom. Many don't. We need to use it wisely. At the time of writing there are a lot of new Covid cases in the village.

Booking Slots at Uttlesford Waste Sites

From February it came as a shock for many vans who came to use any waste site in Uttlesford that they had to book a slot two weeks in advance to use the site. This also includes cars with large trailers and if you are unsure whether your trailer falls into the larger category it is best to check first. This does not apply to cars without trailers at present. There is a special refrigerator dumping area as well. Not surprising that fly tipping is so prevalent.

Can't Get to Your Covid Inoculation?

The vaccine centres can be very difficult to access if you haven't got your own transport. At last, this difficulty has been recognised and free transport can be arranged once you have booked your vaccination appointment through the 'Essex Well Being Service' on 0300 303 9988 between 8 am and 5 pm on weekdays. You will need your appointment reference number when you book

The Muddiest Winter Ever

It certainly seemed like it with footpaths impassable, fields flooded, lawns a soggy mess, endless winds, and seemingly extra wet rain. Even the dog hoped we'd forget the drag which the daily walks had become. We seem to go from one weather extreme to another. Lack of rain, then too much of it, strong winds bringing trees down all over the village and cold nights with their unexpected frosts. We could just say that is what winter is all about and that the run of mild winters has softened us up. At least here the expected snow failed to arrive, so we had to expect something else and just get on with it, that's winter! Well spring is here officially now. At least the daffodils are as good as ever, for now anyway, anyone heard of climate change?



Max Wall by Brian Gough

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1st Elsenham Guides Need Volunteers!

Spring term is in full force at Elsenham Guides, and we're delighted to be back to in person Guiding after a stint of virtual sessions. The girls have been having great fun this term thinking about their aspirations for the future, learning about brilliant role models, and celebrating International Women's Day and we're excited for what next term has to bring.

We are currently looking for some willing volunteers to help look



after the unit whilst our current leaders go on maternity leave in the summer. The unit has lots of lovely, dedicated girls, and a couple of young leaders who are an incredible help each week. We are keen to keep the unit running so the girls can benefit from a wonderful space where they meet likeminded girls, go on adventures, learn new skills, make new friends and most importantly have fun!

If you are able to support our wonderful unit and volunteer any of your time over the coming months, we'd love to hear from you, so please do drop us an email. We can't wait to hear from you, and tell you more about our incredible unit!

Gemma Schafer & Jemma Smyth, 1st Elsenham Guide Unit Leaders
Email: elsenhamguides@gmail.com



In February our monthly General Meeting was held on the 17th and the largest number of members since before the pandemic attended it. The talk, a

fascinating and entertaining history of Stansted Hall, was given by Tanya Fern-Smith to both our members and, thanks to Zoom, to members of the Town Twinning Association in Rungis, France. Thank you to Richard Haywood and Bob Dean for their joint technical expertise and to Liz Johnson for giving the introduction to the meeting in French. Tanya lives at the Hall and is its manager. She spoke with considerable knowledge and evident enthusiasm. Her talk was greatly appreciated and we are hoping to follow it up with a conducted tour of the Hall, perhaps when friends from Rungis visit in the Summer.

Before the meeting Jo Brooks showcased the Art House Film Group with a display of some of the films from different periods and cultures which are presented and discussed each month.

On Saturday 19th February Touchpoint opened to coincide with Stansted Library's "Love your Library" event. Stansted Mountfitchet u3a joined the event to promote the benefits of u3a membership. There was a fun display of work from the Knitting and Crochet Group as well as some beautiful examples of the Card Makers work, all of which provoked much interest.

At the April General meeting on the 21st we will again be visited by Peter Regelous who will give his talk "A Funny Thing happened on the Way to Life". Peter recalls some of the colourful characters he came across during his past life in Showbiz.

If you are retired and are looking to have some fun by learning something new, pursuing an existing interest and/or socialising with a friendly group of people, then why not join us.

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What's on in the village...



April 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
 <p><i>Abstract by Brian Gough</i></p>				<p>1 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 15.00 Brian Gough Service at Saffron Walden Crem.</p>	<p>2 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 The Brit Invasion - Live</p>	<p>3 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast</p>
<p>4 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night</p>	<p>5 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance</p>	<p>6 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group</p>	<p>7 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</p>	<p>8 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons</p>	<p>9 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Grand National on the Big Screen</p>	<p>10 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Palm Sunday BSSC: Sunday Roast</p>
<p>11 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night</p>	<p>12 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance</p>	<p>13 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group</p>	<p>14 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</p>	<p>15 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons St Mary's Church: 14.00 Good Friday Service</p>	<p>16 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw</p>	<p>17 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast</p>
<p>18 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night</p>	<p>19 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance</p>	<p>20 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group</p>	<p>21 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</p>	<p>22 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons</p>	<p>23 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Scam 69 - Live</p>	<p>24 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast</p>
<p>25 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night</p>	<p>26 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance</p>	<p>27 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 20.00 BAGS</p>	<p>28 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo</p>	<p>29 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons</p>	<p>30 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Cricket B'hanger - V - Ltl Shelford</p>	



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

EVENTS

In April we have more live entertainment scheduled at the Club alongside other events – don't forget we have live sports showing at the club!

2 nd	The Brit Invasion
4 th	Quiz Night
7 th	Bingo
9 th	Grand National
11 th	Quiz Night
14 th	Bingo
18 th	Quiz Night
21 st	Bingo
23 rd	Scam 69
23 rd	Boxing – Fury v Whyte
25 th	Quiz Night
28 th	Bingo
30 th	Cricket - Birchanger v Little Shelford

JUBILEE

Our plans for the Jubilee Weekend are going well - 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

The Family Sports Day planning is busily underway – events such as Rounders, Tug of War and many more. Information and signups will be available soon! Get your teams together!

Don't forget our BIG LUNCH – this will be a community event – you can bring your own – Drinks, Food and of course seating – we hope the whole village will join in and we won't have enough tables! The bar of course will be open for those wanting to use it – but it isn't compulsory!

CAMRA AWARD WINNERS

Hot off the press! We have been tipped off as Winners
Come along and try the Real Ale!



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



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 School

Reading is at the heart of our learning at our school. Recently we celebrated World Book Day with many schools from all over the country. Here is a brief outline of how we marked the event with a 'Word Week'.

During Word Week our children enjoyed playing word games in the mornings having scrabble and phonics games, pencils and books out in the playground and working on their own genres of writing which were to the rest of the school in our Friday Celebration Worship.

The children particularly liked having parents and different teachers reading stories to them in Book Share as well as joining 'Snuggle Poetry Club' in the library, in fact so much so that the children voted for these two events to continue after Word Week!

On World Book Day, we had the pleasure of a personal visit from the poet Valerie Bloom. The children loved hearing her poems and learning some of the words from Jamaican Patois. Valerie also visited the children last year, albeit virtually due to the Covid restrictions, so it was lovely to see her in person this year.

Please look out for details of how our 'Scrabbleathon' Day that went in the Buzz which you can find on our website. Our thanks go to Mrs Vesey for her hard work in bringing the event together and for our parents with their support with their letter costumes at the end of the week. Also, a big thank you for the support from the Word Week parent volunteers, the teachers, and our regular reading volunteers, for making this week such a success.

Claire Berry - Headteacher





Slow Recovery at Stansted

As most local residents will have noticed, the days of relatively quiet skies are coming to an end as air travel slowly recovers, in line with the relaxation of Covid restrictions.

It's worth recapping just how badly the industry has been affected by the pandemic. Stansted handled just over 28 million passengers in 2019 but this fell to 7.5 million in 2020 and to just 7.1 million last year – barely a quarter of the pre-pandemic number.

Airlines were predicting a rapid post-Covid recovery, claiming that there was enormous pent-up demand from people who had not had a foreign holiday for two years. However, it seems that many people are still cautious about overseas travel. With almost all restrictions lifted, Stansted's passenger numbers in February were still 40% below pre-Covid levels. Meanwhile, the huge increase in the price of oil has increased ticket prices and the conflict in Ukraine has dampened the demand for flights to Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, many people are convinced that there are more night flights than ever before. The statistics don't actually show this, but a large proportion of night flights are cargo freighters and these have been largely unaffected by the pandemic. They have remained steady at about 900 a month.

Cargo airlines tend to use large noisy aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and these are often older models, which are noisier still, especially when taking-off and when landing using reverse thrust. Night flying compounds the noise impacts on local residents and causes sleep disturbance because we live in a rural environment where ambient noise levels (apart from the airport) are very low.

If you are disturbed by a noisy aircraft, you should always try to report this because it can lead to the airline being fined and, longer term, it can lead to the phasing out of the noisiest aircraft and even to the realignment of flight paths. It only takes a few minutes to register an aircraft noise complaint. Simply go to <https://stanstedairportwatch.com/take-action/report-noisy-aircraft/>

Brian Ross

Forget Me Not @ The Touchpoint Cafe



Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia / Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat?

In partnership with The Forget Me Not Café in Saffron Walden we are pleased to open every Friday morning 10am-12noon at Touchpoint, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AQ

Why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, advice and of course refreshments.

For more information contact Jennifer on 07900123917

saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com.

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

April 24th is our first full season Open Day at the Gardens of Easton Lodge and we are hoping for fantastic weather and joyful visitors, to help us put the dark, windy and wet days of winter fully behind us. Last year the April Open Day was the sunniest we had, so get our date into your diaries!

Since the new year, it has been one step forward, two back at the Gardens. Dry weather in January allowed us to work steadily through our winter jobs, prepping for snowdrop open days. But once again, snowdrop season was also storm season, so in March we have been clearing up all the dead wood, when it has not been too wet. We know that trees can have limited lives and some of those planted in 1902, when the Countess of Warwick had her Gardens at Easton Lodge remodelled by Harold Peto, are now becoming frail. So over recent years we have been planting new trees to add different specimen trees and ensure succession.



This last year many interesting specimen trees were given to us by the widow of Henry Girling, who was a renowned arboriculturalist. Visitors in April will be able to seek out all the new trees and the county champion trees in the Gardens; and there will be a tree trail and craft activities for children.

April is a lovely month in the Gardens. The fresh leaves on the trees, particularly the acers, are stunning and there is blossom on the plum trees in the walled kitchen garden. The daffodils are usually still massed in flower in the Lime Wood and provide a carpet of yellow in the Glade; while the tulips look vibrant against the lime green of the euphorbia in the Italian Garden.

The Trust's volunteers will stand ready to welcome visitors from 11.00 and to provide the usual excellent fare at the Gardens: local bacon rolls, or cheese or hummus, and homemade cakes, hot and cold drinks. And there will be stalls too – plants, crafts and homemade jams. For more details go to [What's On](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) on our website:

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

I would like to remind readers of the walk routes on the Society's website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk. All routes can be download and printed. They include route instructions and information about the places you will pass. Each of the hundred parishes is included in at least one route and there are walks for all abilities. The routes have been designed to take you through interesting places and lovely countryside.



Before setting off, you might like to check the relevant parish introductions on our website; there, you will find details of local tea rooms and pubs, etc. It's best to check with the pub to see if it will be open on the day and time that you will need it.

Most of our routes include footpaths or bridleways where good footwear will make life more comfortable. A modest investment in a good pair of walking boots is recommended. Carry boot covers or plastic bags to put on before visiting a pub or church – or leave boots outside. Check the weather forecast and be prepared - with waterproof top, woolly hat or sunscreen.



Whether or not you are using one of the Society's routes, please be sure to follow the Countryside Code. I summarise a few points that are mainly common sense:

Respect everyone • be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside • leave gates and property as you find them • do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking • be nice, say hello • keep to marked paths.

Protect the environment • take your litter home • do not light fires • always keep dogs under control and in sight • pick up your dog's poo • do not cause damage or disturb wildlife.

I hope you will join many others who already enjoy our routes.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

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

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

Village Services and Activities

Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
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 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



Services:

3 rd April	11.15 am Matins with Pam Lee
10 th April	11.15 am Palm Sunday with Hugh Mascetti
15 th April	2.00 pm Good Friday – Hour at the Cross with Hugh Mascetti
16 th April	6.00 pm at St Mary's Farnham – Easter Eve vigil
17 th April	11.15 am Easter Day Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
24 th April	11.15 am Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather followed by our Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting.

On Saturday 17th April at 6.00 pm there will be a United Benefice vigil service at St Mary's Farnham. Everyone is welcome to attend any of these services.

On the 24th April we have our Annual PCC meeting when reports for 2021 will be presented by our Priest-in-Charge, Churchwarden and Verger. Financial reports will also be presented together with budgets for the hall and church for the coming year.

We really could do with more people getting involved in the everyday care of the church and hall. The church archives hold a wealth of information about the history of this place and the people who have lived here, and the hall is a great community resource. If you are interested in getting involved, please speak with either Pam Lee, Sue Warr or Rosemary Saward as soon as possible.

We need someone to play the organ or keyboard during our Sunday morning services. Could you be that person, or do you know someone who may be interested? If so, please get in touch with either Pam, Sue or Rosemary or come along to one of our services.

We are well underway with our preparations for decorating the church and hall ready for the Jubilee celebrations and with your help, we hope to be able to decorate some parts of the village too. A few people have come forward offering to help making red, white and blue cellophane roses. We shall be using these to decorate the lychgate and hedgerow outside the hall. We want to make the village look as colourful as possible so spares will be fixed to hedges throughout the village. If you want to help, then please come to the hall tearoom at 2pm any Wednesday and join in the fun.

Celebrations for the Jubilee will be going on throughout the summer and we shall be holding our Flower Festival over the last weekend in July. We will need assistance in setting things up and volunteer stewards to be present in church during open hours, servers for refreshments etc. If you have not already done so, please speak with Sue or Rosemary about ways you can help.

Future Events:

12 th April	PCC Meeting
15 th April	2.00 pm Good Friday service
16 th April	6.00 pm St Mary's Farnham Easter Eve vigil
24 th April	Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting
17 th May	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
11 th July	PCC Meeting

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



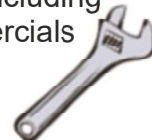
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