



Birchanger Village Magazine

May 2022

Issue 232



92 year old swindled out of £1000!

In mid-April, a 92 year old Birchanger resident was contemplating the repair of his damaged chimney breast when a person approached him and said he could repair the chimney for £1000 providing he did it that same day.



Archive picture (Not connected to this event)

The so called 'workman' was very charming and persuasive and convinced the pensioner to start the work immediately. However, there was one proviso, as he would start the work straight away, the scammer would need the cash up front. He suggested that they went to the bank together to withdraw the cash whilst his 'Gang' carried out the repairs. The workers looked the part and arrived in a small blue van with the company name CS Solutions on the side.

After payment was collected at the bank, the swindler showed the pensioner a photo on his phone of the work being done on his chimney breast and promptly left 'to do another job.' When the pensioner returned home, he realised that the repair had never been started, and that the photo of the chimney wasn't his chimney but must have been an image of another house.

The resident said he felt a fool for allowing himself to be scammed like this. He had seen a number of TV scams and couldn't believe he fell for it but that the scammer was very charming and persuasive and it happened so fast.

Be on your guard, don't let this happen to you!

Prior Approval For Change Of Barn Use Refused

Well done UDC, Birchanger Parish Council and all the local residents who thankfully took the trouble to make representations and made all the right points against allowing the 'Harrisons' barn to be converted for industrial use. Let's hope that Savills don't appeal.

The planning officer's report shows that UDC planning officers - based on the representations made by the parish council and local residents, concluded that the building was not being used solely for agricultural purposes during the relevant period. The fact that Savills made a false declaration about this last year - resulting in the approval being quashed by the High Court - undermined their credibility and gave greater weight to the evidence of local residents.

UDC Notice

14th April 2022 - Ref: UTT/22/0539/PAR3

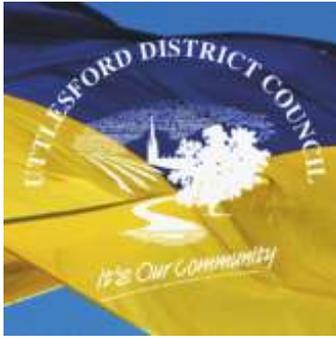
PROPOSAL: Prior notification of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a flexible use within Storage or Distribution (Use Class B8), Hotels (Use Class C1), Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), or until the end of July 2022, uses previously classified as Assembly and Leisure (Use Class D2). Location: Barn at Birchanger Hall Farm Birchanger Lane Birchanger.

Letter from UDC

I refer to Birchanger Parish Council's recent letter concerning the development proposal referred to above. Your representations were considered as part of the decision-making process of the council, and you will wish to know that the decision on the application was: 'Prior Approval Refused.' Details of the decision may be viewed on the council's web site:

<https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=R7PWTGQN01000>

Mark Sawyers – UDC Planning Officer



Ukrainian Refugee Support

Information from Peter Holt - Chief Executive -UDC

Many more families are now arriving via the Government schemes. We have been provided with a list of addresses of those hosting families and we completed 6 accommodation inspections yesterday, as this is one of our duties at the district council level. There are currently 136 host families expected in the district, though of course this number has considerable potential to grow. Well done to all our colleagues carrying out this work – I imagine that there are a lot of questions being asked by both the guests and their hosts, and in many cases, we won't have detailed answers yet.

The conflict in Ukraine is an emerging situation, and we all have great sympathy for those coming to our district to escape the conflict. We are working closely with Essex County Council, and other agencies, to accommodate and support refugees being resettled within Essex. To answer some of the questions about the Homes for Ukraine scheme, Essex County Council has the following pages on their website:

[Welcome to Essex: packs for sponsors](https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/welcome-to-essex-packs-for-sponsors?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/welcome-to-essex-packs-for-sponsors?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

[Information for sponsors welcoming a Ukrainian person or family](https://www.essex.gov.uk/information-for-sponsors-welcoming-a-ukrainian-person-or-family)

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/information-for-sponsors-welcoming-a-ukrainian-person-or-family>

[Essex stands with Ukraine: what you can do to help.](https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-stands-with-ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-stands-with-ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Businesses wishing to help can find resources on the [Essex Chambers of Commerce](https://www.essexchambers.co.uk/ukraine_crisis_guidance.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) website.

https://www.essexchambers.co.uk/ukraine_crisis_guidance.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Further information on how you can get involved, donate and show your support is available on the

[Essex is United for Ukraine Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1661205490889449) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1661205490889449>

I know that Parishes, like many others, are asking how best they can help. As more of these 136 (and climbing) placements around our district are filled, there will be more of an opportunity to provide wrap-around support for those in your area. I'm sure it may be frustrating when there is so much energy to help, but these local efforts need to wait to be called on by either our new guests and/or their hosts, rather than running the risk of overwhelming them, as often people will need some quiet and time to decompress.

Readying initiatives that can be stood up quickly when needed and focusing on providing a visible welcome in your community would be a sensible approach, as well as encouraging individuals keen to help to register with CVSU (<https://cvsu.org.uk/>) as a volunteer is also a positive action to take, although as we found with the overwhelming number of volunteers during the early days of the pandemic, not all will be called on. I hope it's helpful to explain also that we don't currently need big empty buildings identifying as potential rest centres, with rows of camp beds laid out in big draughty halls – what is needed is quiet homes with longer term living facilities for families fleeing for their lives and often leaving many behind to cope in dignity with their trauma, and this is being provided through the Government schemes, and then (in due course) practical wrap around support from professionals and volunteers alike to both the refugees and also to a degree their hosts.

I do hope that is helpful to you as Parishes in understanding how things are playing out across our district as together we rise to the occasion.

Peter Holt - Chief Executive - Uttlesford District Council

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Peter Sampson

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



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Coffee Morning



Coffee Morning At Moorswood

**Tuesday May 17th from 10.30 to noon.
Everyone Welcome.**

Jubilee is Just Around the Corner

After all the difficulties and anxieties of the last two years the time to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne is very nearly here. The second May Bank Holiday has been moved back so we can start celebrations from Coronation Day on June 2nd. Some people in Birchanger have been busy already. Throughout the winter, people started making cellophane roses which will shortly adorn hedges around Birchanger. Made of biodegradable materials they will hopefully not be overstaying their welcome after the celebrations are over. That is just the start.

Many people have events planned to celebrate the Jubilee. If you are organising something, you may well be eligible for a grant from the council. Check it out soon on 01799 510553 as the expiry date is early May.

Community Grant Scheme Open

Many will remember the Community Grant Scheme as in some way or other many organisations in Birchanger have benefited from one of these grants over the past 20 odd years. The good news is that they are back on the table again from now until June 8 and are available to all properly constituted organisations such as Community Associations, Clubs, Sports, Leisure and Culture Groups, Hall Committees as well as Parish Councils, and Nurseries. To clarify that your organisation meets the criteria or to obtain an application form call Sue Hayden at UDC on 01799 510563.

Don't Miss Out on a Warmer Home Offer

That is if your income is below £30,000 per annum or you are in receipt of benefits, unemployed and you live in a house with a low energy rating. Perhaps you receive an income, health or disability benefit or someone in your household does. If so, you could find yourself a great deal warmer next winter perhaps with a new boiler, insulation efficient double glazing and more. The new grant scheme known as the Green Homes Grant Scheme is government funded, managed by Warm Works and administered by Uttlesford District Council. When making an application you will need details of your

household income or benefit receipt. Installation is by approved sub-contractor at no cost to the householder. Worth a try maybe? Check online. You can find out straight away if you could be eligible. Just Google Green Homes Grant Scheme to find out.

No Art Show in Birchanger Again This Year

The group who run the Birchanger Art Show sadly decided that it would not be possible to run an art show in Birchanger this year. It is not the work involved but the plain fact is the team that do the work for the Art Show need more help. They are simply not getting any younger. Taking and fetching heavy stands, collecting then erecting them, is taking its toll on the dwindling members of the team. Without an injection of a younger stronger workforce, it simply is not possible to have an Art Show. The original team could remain to help with the administration and to be on hand for the less arduous jobs. They have all the contacts and can impart their help and expertise to those who just might be tempted to give a hand in years to come. If you are interested call me on 812793. All of those who have worked on the show down the years have found it an interesting and rewarding experience. They just need more help. And to those who have contributed to the success of the art show through the years, a very big thank you and hopefully we will be back in business one day.

So, You Thought You'd Cracked it Birchanger

After two years of low infection, Covid cases in Birchanger suddenly shot up in March. Covid managed to visit the majority of households in a matter of a few weeks and even the club was affected causing the kitchen to close. There may be many reasons for the cause of this high rise of cases in the village, but the illness in many cases was not the mild infection we were told about. Many people were really ill. As one of them who believed we were through the worst, it was quite a shock to me. Strangely some individuals in affected households managed to escape Covid entirely. Something in their genetic makeup perhaps? Hopefully Covid will stay away from us next time around and let's hope that we come out of this just a little bit stronger and more resistant to next year's virus.

Don't Have an Accident if You Have Covid

Hopefully, you won't because you may not be able to get treatment at your doctor's surgery or at A & E. I managed to injure a leg, which was hard to stop bleeding. It was a case of trying to sort it out for myself because there was no room for a Covid case at the surgery or local hospitals. Harlow and Addenbrooke's seem to have a 'sin bin'. At Addenbrooke's it takes the form of a metal like container, freezing cold and nobody to be seen hours on end, even if you press the bell. Not an experience anyone would welcome. Nobody could tell me if it was functioning or not on the day. In the end I tried to cure myself, until I was finally cleared to re-join the human race. Just in time as I had exhausted my stock of bandages. The mess of my leg resulted in long appointments and two different antibiotics while the team at the surgery tried to repair the damage. There must be thousands of people having minor accidents like me which need professional treatment at the time. Lack of care when most needed directly after the incident costs additional money and surgery time just to clear up the ensuing mess.

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 May 25th. 7.45 for 8.00

Members Sharing of Skills Night

A variety of activities will be on offer!

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Time to Get into Summer Shorts

Hopefully yes to that. However, you may not look quite the way you hoped to look. Well not like the pictures in the magazines exactly but then who does? Time perhaps to look at what you are actually eating? Diets sometimes don't work on some individuals no matter how hard they try to keep to them. You have to watch what you are actually eating. Don't force yourself to eat things you don't like just because they are supposed to be good for you. Don't cut out carbohydrates altogether. Your body actually needs a balanced diet. Limit eating out to once a week if you can and choose from the menu carefully. You must limit alcohol, caffeine, and refined sugars. Sorry but sausages are off for now. As are burgers' They all contain far too much fat. On the positive side, you can eat snacks as long as they are healthy ones. These include fresh and dried fruit, rice cakes, cereal bars, low fat yoghurt, pitta bread and hummus. When you go shopping write a list and stick to it or you could try shopping online? The old advice of not to shop when you are hungry still applies as you will probably end up with a bag full of junk if you do. Always eat breakfast. Porridge with blueberries is a great way to start the day. If you can't eat



fruit, try fruit juice, or dry fruits instead. It is time to get back to drinking loads of water. Try to drink 1.5 litres of water during working hours. If you can try and walk at least a mile a day.

Hate the Gym. Head to the Fields Instead

As the long days arrive, so many people start complaining about the tyranny of the gym. What started as a good idea to shed the Christmas pounds has now become a boring chore. So why do it? The countryside around Birchanger is at its best so why not use some of the many footpaths around Birchanger and try walking them instead. If you don't normally use a gym, start walking at a normal pace. Your muscles need to get toned up for the new exercise. After a while you will find you are going faster and further, have made a lot of new friends and discovered pathways you never knew existed before you actually got out there. You can cycle on the specially made track to Stansted Airport, but if you do, please look out for other footpath users. We are learning the hard way that cyclists, pedestrians and horses are not a good mix.

Rough Ride Out of Covid for Some

Almost everyone welcomed the lifting of restrictions but this came at the time of yet another version of Covid. Although less severe than its predecessor this version targeted those who had managed to avoid previous viruses. Unfortunately, they had lower immunity, so they were more vulnerable to this latest attack. The illness was slight for most but not all and many of the elderly succumbed. A nasty little sting in the tail for many living in Birchanger.



Tougher Driving Laws Against Mobile Phone Use

The new laws came in at the end of March. If anyone is driving and using a mobile phone without hands free, they will receive heavier and harsher penalties. The only way you can be safe from these penalties is to stop and

switch off the engine to make or take that call. No taking photos, checking maps or even picking the phone up, as that will see your wallet considerably lighter. Everyone thinks these laws do not apply to them. It is very expensive now to discover that premise is wrong. Rely on your passenger or allow one of the talking sat nav guides to get you on your way.

Teaching Airport Staff How to Spot the Signs of Child Exploitation

It seems to be a serious failure of society that we now have to train Airport staff to spot the signs of child exploitation. It is also a relief to know that our airport staff are at least alert to this noxious form of child cruelty.

We like to think that child exploitation doesn't happen in our neck of the woods, and it is a shock perhaps to recognise that it is among us and that young girls pass through the Airport in our patch on their way to a terrifying future and then almost certain abandonment. We may not work at the airport but if we do believe that a child is being exploited in some way, tell someone else of your concerns or call social services. These things will be handled carefully and discreetly without disclosing the identity of informants or victims alike and perhaps some young person could get their life back.

Ride London is Coming to Essex

This year one of the world's largest cycling events is coming to Essex for the first time. Although it won't be visiting Birchanger it will go through Dunmow on the way to Felsted before heading back towards Chelmsford to finish in London at Tower Bridge. If you are not interested in cycling best keep clear of Dunmow and Felsted on May 29th. The race starts on the Victoria embankment, full maps will appear later but the race is expected to go past Dunmow and nearby villages excluding Birchanger.

Grant to Help Prevent Violent Crime

Essex Police have received a five million pound grant to help them in their attempt to stop drug, violent and county lines crimes. They aim to seek out vulnerable groups for support including young people and vulnerable families. They intend to provide early intervention and targeted programs for all the groups of people who for whatever reason are at risk of being drawn into county lines or violent crime. This will involve seeking out the vulnerable young people and families to help with early interventions and tailored targeted programs for all the vulnerable groups. They aim to stop the grooming of young children and will offer support to youth and activity groups. A hard task but hopefully it will help at least some of those at risk.

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

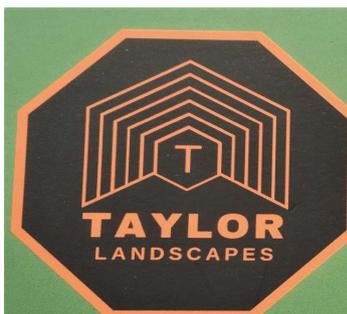
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Human Roots need your help

It's that time of the year again when we bring some brightness to Stansted by planting some beautiful sunflowers. We have sown 350 sunflowers already in anticipation of this year's annual Human Roots summer fundraiser. Just to be very clear, 50 of those sunflowers are for the hungry slugs! Gotta give back right? Last year we were able to raise a whopping £8725 which enabled us to help secure and build 3 local school gardens. Can you help us do better this year?



This year will be slightly different to last year's attempt at flower bombing Stansted. In the summer of 2022, we will be inviting local businesses to take part in helping us

not only raise funds, but we will be hosting team building sessions for those that wish to get out and drip our village in the golden sunflower sunshine. But no one will be left out. If you don't have a team of volunteers to help us, then we have more options for you.

- For every £5 donated we will plant a sunflower for you.
- For £10 we will send you a Sunflower in a pot for you to plant at home. Sadly, we can only offer this to people living within a 10-15-mile radius of Stansted.
- For corporates, if you can raise £1,000- £10k; we will host an event for you and your teams.

We would love for you to get in touch soon to arrange your team building days – slots will fill up quickly. We are aiming to plant all our sunflowers in the 4 weeks of May & June, so stay tuned for updates! If anyone would like more information on how you get involved, please contact us directly or check out our social media for further updates.

Keiran Olivier founder and crazy plant lady of Human Roots
keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk Tel: 07946783039

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Stansted Mountfitchet u3a

Our March General Meeting was very well attended and all enjoyed Toni Leopard and Kate Broad's light hearted and quirky look at marriage and relationships through the eyes of the Victorians – 'For Better or For Worse'.

It was also the time of year for renewing the annual subscription, so that may also have added to the throng.

Pat Powell put on a wonderful display of her card-making group and gave a short presentation on the different types of greetings cards it is possible to make. Judging by her infectious enthusiasm for what they do, Pat's group must have a thoroughly enjoyable time when they meet.

The Garden Group were most disappointed when at the last minute, thunder, lightning and torrential rain prevented them from visiting The Gardens of Easton Lodge to see this year's display of snowdrops. The gates were closed to all visitors as the ground underfoot became too dangerous and slippery to navigate. French Group 1 who meet on Zoom had more luck when they visited Yeomans for a coffee and planning meeting and also enjoyed a lovely sunny morning in the garden. French Group 2 meet twice a month in each other's homes or at the Dog and Duck (that could have more appeal to some!) and they are looking for new members.

The next two u3a meetings will take place on Thursday April 21st and Thursday 19th May at 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Hall, Stansted. Restrictions on parking in St John's Road will be lifted for the period of the meeting. If you are not yet a member but would be interested in joining one of the many groups, please come to one of our meetings, introduce yourself and we will be very happy to talk with you.

Eileen Quinn - Stanstedu3a@gmail.com
www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

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what's on in the village...



May 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
30 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	31 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance					1 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
2 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	3 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance	4 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	5 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	6 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	7 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
9 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	10 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	11 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	12 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	13 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	14 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Afterlife - Live	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
16 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	17 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Street Dance 10.30am Coffee at Moorswood	18 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 - 22.00 Apton Dance 12.45 Takeley Art Group	19 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	20 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	21 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 08.30 DJ Sarah B - Live	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
23 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	24 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance 18.45 Teenage Street Dance	25 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	26 Green Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo St Mary's Church 19.30 Communion	27 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	28 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	29 St Mary's Church: 09.30 am Holy Communion 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

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

- 2nd Quiz Night
- 5th Bingo
- 7th Meat Draw / CC - Birchanger v L Shelford / Pyramid Party Band
- 9th Quiz Night
- 12th Bingo
- 14th Meat Draw / CC - Birchanger v Ickleton / FA Cup Final / Afterlife
- 16th Quiz Night
- 18th Europa Cup Final
- 19th Bingo
- 21st Meat Draw / CC - Birchanger v Audley End & Littlebury / DJ Sarah B
- 23rd Quiz Night
- 26th Bingo
- 28th Meat Draw / CC - Birchanger v Cambridge / Champions League Final
- 30th Quiz Night



JUBILEE WEEKEND

DON'T FORGET!!! FUN PACKED WEEKEND / BEER FESTIVAL / LIVE MUSIC / BOUNCING FUN / SPORTS DAY

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

Over to you!

Have you got your teams ready for our Sports day? More info coming very soon!

Get your picnic ready for the BIG LUNCH and come spend the afternoon with your family, friends and neighbours at the Village Jubilee Celebrations.

Bring Your Own / Bar will be open / Beer Festival / Entertainment

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

We embrace our vision statement 'Life in All its Fullness' with a large number of events each year. Over the last few months, we have shared some of the ways that we have shown this through our curriculum and the broader range of school life. In this edition I thought that you might like to hear about some of the other featured events that we show on our website.

Mothers' Day afternoon tea

Before Covid affected us all, we held regular events for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day and this year we were able to reinstate our great tradition yet again. Mrs McArthur and Mrs Field combined their considerable expertise to create an afternoon tea second to none! Our hall was full of mums and nans who were served by our Year 6 children, all dressed in black with white waiter's aprons. We received lots of very positive feedback from our guests and we all agreed that it was great to be able to hold this event again.



Visit By Kemi Badenoch MP

In previous issues of this magazine, I have told you about the work of our anti bullying ambassadors from Year 5. Last term, Alyssa and Laura from the community group, wrote to our local MP and invited her to visit our school and she said yes!



Despite a busy diary, Ms Badenoch came to visit us on the 25th March. Alyssa and Laura welcomed her to our school and showed her around the buildings and into the grounds, including our new nature garden.

Following that, Ms Badenoch talked to all of the children in an assembly and answered their questions. Some of our children wanted to know how many votes she had received in her election and how hard it was to be an MP. After that it was time for her to listen to the children in the antibullying ambassador groups, taking time to listen to the children and ask them about their work.

The children agreed that they had enjoyed Ms Badenoch's visit and you never know she may have inspired one of our children to be a future Prime Minister.

Claire Berry - Headteacher

Birchanger Parish Council News

Planning

UTT/22/0539/PAR3 – Barn at Unit 1 Harrisons. Request for prior approval. An objection to this application has already been submitted. Prior approval refused. This can be viewed on the Highways Planning Portal.

UTT/22/0791/HHF – 8 Bradley Common, Birchanger. Proposed single storey side extension and alterations including rendering to front elevation. No objections.

UTT/22/0792/HHF- 8 Bradley Common, Birchanger. Proposed timber car port. No objections.

20 mph School Wig Wag Signals

Both signals have been installed. However, one is in the wrong place and the other has no speed or school signs. The incorrectly placed wig wag signal will be moved and the other reparation work will be done in the near future.

Allotments

All allotment holders have paid the new amount of £15.00 for the year for each plot. A new allotment holder has paid the increased deposit of £75.00. Two allotments are currently vacant.



AVIATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ('IPCC') has just published its starkest warning yet that urgent action is needed to avoid the risk of catastrophic climate change.

Many of you may stop reading at this stage: "It's scaremongering. We've heard it all before and we don't believe it!" But perhaps you should believe it.



The IPCC, established by the UN and comprising 195 member states, is the international authority on climate change. It includes the best climate scientists from around the world – thousands of them – who advise governments on how to tackle climate change.

The IPCC's advice is that *"without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach.* The figure of 1.5°C is the internationally agreed temperature rise that governments around the world agree should not be exceeded. On present trends however, we are heading for a temperature rise of over 3°C. The scientists unanimously agree that the consequences of that would be catastrophic.

So, what has aviation got to do with all this? Whilst good progress is being made with electric cars and renewable energy, aviation emissions continue to grow apace. Stansted Airport is already said to be the largest single source of CO₂ emissions in the East of England.

The Department for Transport ('DfT') recently published proposals for tackling aviation emissions but envisages only a 5% reduction by 2030. Stansted Airport Watch ('SAW') has sent a highly critical response to the DfT on its proposals, describing its approach as "hoping for the best whilst continuing with business largely as usual".

The DfT's approach towards aviation emissions ignores the IPCC advice and also ignores the advice of the independent Climate Change Committee, which recommends no net expansion of UK airport capacity until the industry can show a significant reduction in emissions.

However, instead of following the expert, scientific advice, the DfT has bowed to pressure from the aviation industry to allow business as usual. It seems that the power and influence of lobbyists outweighs all other considerations, including the need to tackle climate change. *Brian Ross*

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

May is a lovely month in the Gardens. In the Italian Garden the Solomon Seal is stately, while the tulips, alliums and early roses bring rich colours to contrast with the fresh green leaves. The banks of the Glade are covered with bluebells or cow parsley and the walled kitchen garden apple trees are covered in blossom. The vegetable plants and herbs are also greening up. This year we are looking forward to seeing additional varieties of tulips and whether any of the wildflower seeds we have sown will bring colour to the mini orchard at the top end of the kitchen garden.



The Gardens are open every Thursday and our monthly Sunday Open Day is on 22 May.

We will have nature-based activities and stalls on the 22 May Open Day. Jono Forgham, local naturalist, will lead bug hunts and help children dissect owl pellets, to see what the owls have been eating! We will also be joined by Uttlesford Badger Group and the Essex Wildlife Trust as well as others and there will be plant and craft stalls. Bishop's Stortford Camera Club will be displaying their pictures and local folk duo Karen and Tony will be with us.

Tickets are available in advance through the Trust's website www.eastonlodge.co.uk or direct from www.Trybooking.com or on the Gate. Refreshments available.

Gates open 11.00, last entry 4.00pm. Regular visitors will know the Trust prides itself on the quality of the catering we provide from Daisy's, our catering kiosk. The Trust is currently looking to recruit a Catering Supervisor – if you are interested, please take a moment to look at the advert and job description on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/become-a-volunteer/

Jill Goldsmith



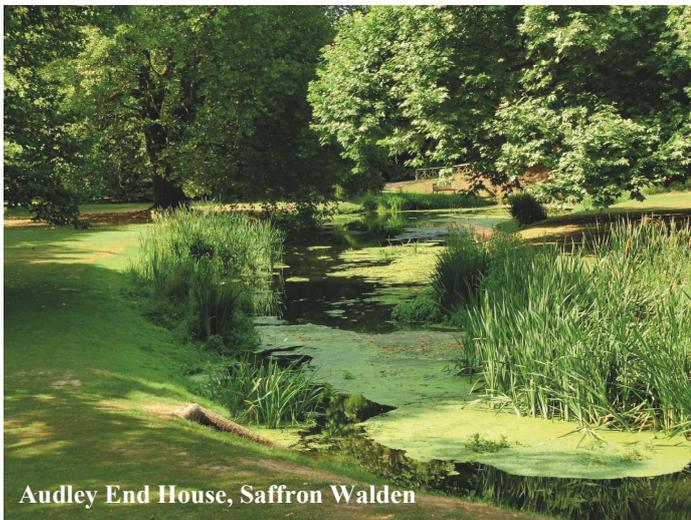
The Hundred Parishes Society



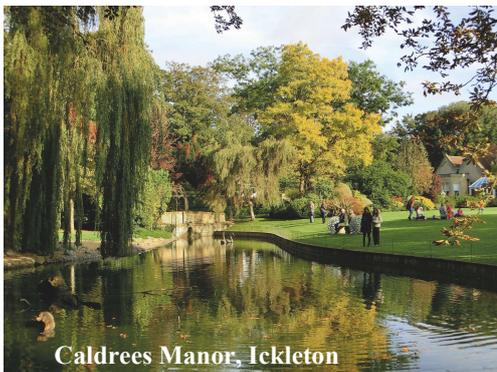
Bridge End Garden

Public and private gardens provide opportunities for pleasurable exercise and social interaction. Our local sunny climate and fertile soils have encouraged those with green fingers to hone their design and horticultural skills to create some outstanding flower-rich gardens for their own delight. Some, like Bridge End Garden in Saffron Walden, are free but entry charges do apply at others.

Many delightful gardens are listed in the current National Garden Scheme handbook and website www.ngs.org.uk. This is a major showcase for owners who are willing to share their gardens with others; last year £3 million was donated by visitors to help nursing and health charities. Some gardens have limited opening days, others more frequent opportunities to appreciate seasonal changes; some offer opportunities for booked group visits.



Audley End House, Saffron Walden



Caldrees Manor, Ickleton

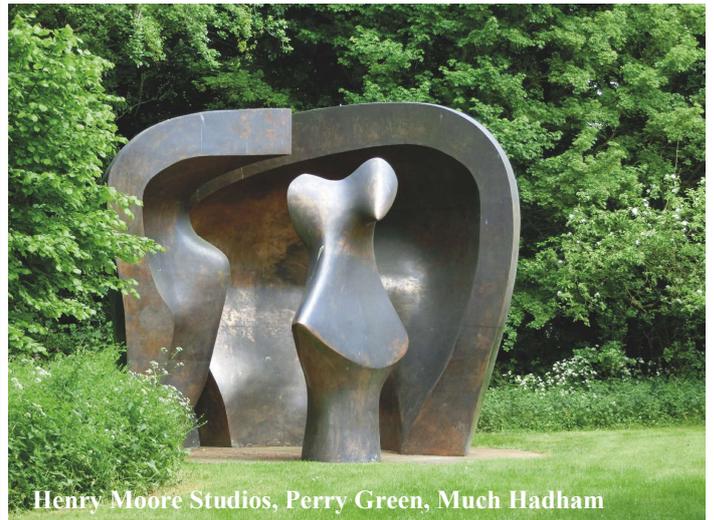
Some gardens open early to showcase spring flowers but as spring gives way to summer, more are opened to show off the variety of brightly coloured blooms and intense floral fragrances, especially from roses. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners may specialise in growing cottage garden flowers, others in designing hidden features or ponds and all are willing to share their passions with visitors.

With so many varied gardens to visit it is a challenge to decide which one should top your list! I would recommend including Easton Lodge, where Harold Peto's Italian garden is always colourful and recent restoration works to the balustrade have enhanced this area.



Gardens of Easton Lodge, Little Easton

Throughout the summer at Henry Moore Studios & Gardens at Perry Green, many of Moore's sculptures are displayed in a garden setting and an exhibition focuses on his work in the Sixties.



Henry Moore Studios, Perry Green, Much Hadham

The What's On listing on the Hundred Parishes website includes dates for individual open gardens and also where a village has organised a group of open gardens, sometimes with added attractions like cream teas. Enjoy!

Tricia Moxey - Trustee www.hundredparishes.org.uk

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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



Village Church Hall

Tearoom open every Wednesday from 2.00 pm
For bookings or further information please contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07827685741

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

Churchyard Notice

Regulations relating to St Mary's do not allow for any artificial flowers or other decorations to be placed on graves in the churchyard. Only fresh flowers or one small pot plant per grave is permitted.

In June we shall be tidying up the churchyard and at that time all non-regulation items will be removed and will be thrown away. If you want to keep any item that you have left on a grave you must remove it now.

Birchanger PCC

St. Mary's Church



Church services - 11.15 am

1 st May	Matins with Pam Lee
8 th May	Communion with Revd Helen Flack
15 th May	Family Service with Hugh Mascetti
22 nd May	Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
26 th May	at 7.30pm Farnham Ascension Day Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
29 th May	9.30am Benefice Communion with Revd Helen Flack
29 th May	Matins with Peter Odrich

Church News

Although the period of Lent only lasts for a few weeks it always seems to me to go on for a longer period of time, a reflective season when we think about Jesus and his ministry, his relationship with the disciples, the fanfare that surrounded his entry into Jerusalem and finally, his death on the cross followed by Easter celebrations. Lots of highs and lows.

All this reminds me of a story that I was told at Sunday school many years ago and it went something like this:

Lazy Jack decided not to bury the grains of corn and wheat that he had but to keep it instead. His laziness endangered the lives of a whole community because, of course, by not planting the seed, no new plants grew so that there was no grain to harvest for food. Seeds need to be buried so that they can grow into new plants to produce more grain.

The strange thing about humans is that we are dying every day and in our death is the newness of life. We all begin life as a single cell which has inbuilt power to multiply so that by the time we grow to adulthood each of our bodies has about sixty million cells all of which are alive with their own force field. Each cell is recognisable as our own and cannot belong to anyone else. Every second of every hour of every day of every year of your life, approximately five million cells in your body die and, the good news is that your body renews itself and replaces each one of these cells. We are all miracles. Jesus died on the cross but before this happened, he told his disciples to continue his ministry so that more and more people would spread his word, just like planting a seed in the ground. His word spread throughout the world; some people hear it and others choose not to.

Upcoming Events

17 th May	10.30am Coffee Morning at Moorswood
29 th to 31 st July	Jubilee Flower Festival

Prayer for the Month

May we find in Christ a sure ground for our faith,
 a firm support for our hopes,
 the assurance that sin is forgiven
 and the promise that life is eternal
 Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:
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Telephone: 07827685741
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