



# Birchanger Village Magazine

August 2022

Issue 235



## Local Animal Rescuer Helps Save Dogs in Ukraine

### My Ukraine Experience

My name is Steve Sommerfeld and I live with my wife Nadine in Birchanger Lane. I recently returned from Ukraine where I was a humanitarian aid volunteer for two weeks, with a further two weeks on the border. This was specifically to do with dog and animal rescue from the front lines.

Like so many others, my wife and I sat and watched in disbelief as Russia launched a vile and barbaric invasion of Ukraine in February. We hopped from news channel to news channel, glued to the TV, and as the weeks went by more atrocities emerged - each one more shocking than the last. We kept donating to humanitarian aid charities but for me somehow it just wasn't enough. I was restless and had to get my 'boots on the ground', to get in there and help somehow, some way.

As keen dog rescuers (we have three dogs plus two cats) my wife was closely following some UK charities that had gone into the war zone, to help the forgotten dogs of war. She brought the various charities to my attention, and I answered a call for help at the border with Romania to help build a shelter that was to temporarily home the Ukrainian rescued animals. I jumped on a plane and helped at the site for a couple of weeks. It was extremely rewarding, and I met a great team of people from many countries including the USA and Canada.



On my return home it wasn't long before a plea for volunteers to come into Ukraine itself emerged, and after positive support from both my wife and my employers, I was back on a plane and into Ukraine at the start of June.

After meeting up with a dear Canadian friend I had made at the shelter build, we were collected and the experience really began. Our initial 6-hour drive from the Romanian border to the organisation's compound half-way to Kyiv was surreal and surprisingly calm. The Ukrainian countryside is beautiful - it could be compared to provincial France - and as the miles passed our appreciation of this incredible country grew, with only the sand-bagged checkpoints to remind us that we were actually in a country at war. The 'compound', as it was called, was run by an ex-military team who had arrived deep into Ukraine almost immediately the war had started. They are called 'Breaking the Chains', and their unique operation saw them risk their lives on an almost a daily basis - going right up and into the 'red zones' to rescue and collect stray, starving, traumatised and sometimes severely injured animals of every description.



The BTC compound was a place of refuge, where the animals could decompress, heal, and be nursed back to health whilst being given all the love and support humanly possible. Once again, the full timers and the part time volunteers like my friend and myself were from all over the world. But we all shared the same drive; to give the innocent and defenceless pets a second chance of life and to bring them to safety where, in time, they could be reunited with their owners or rehomed with loving adopting families. Some of the wounds I witnessed there were truly shocking, yet somehow the care given by the volunteers meant that the dogs (and cats) seemed unaffected by their new disabilities.

The Ukrainian people are friendly, proud, strong and resolute. Their country will prevail. Being back home now in peaceful Birchanger Village seems like a world away. Breaking the Chains rely entirely upon charitable donations. If you feel you wish to help them, please donate what you can to:

<https://www.patreon.com/breakingthechains> or reach out to them on Facebook for information on volunteering, or contact me - Steve Sommerfeld [stevesomm@gmail.com](mailto:stevesomm@gmail.com).



# Editors Letter Box



## Step Up or Shut Up!

I often hear of people complaining that things never get done in the village, or they are not done to their satisfaction. For example, “why doesn't the council do something about vehicles speeding in the lane” or, “why haven't the pathways been cleared, or why does the lane always flood in heavy rain?” etc. etc. Most of the tasks and services in Birchanger village are planned and conducted by the same old small band of volunteers. These volunteers have been doing it for years and some are getting older and past their ‘best by date’. Most villagers are quite happy to stand by and let others do the work but unfortunately, the current band of volunteers can't continue for ever, they are human and dare to grow old or sick.

The fact is, village organisations are finding it difficult to continue without new volunteers coming in. For example, Birchanger Parish Council, Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, the church, the school, and magazine all need new volunteers. Most volunteers spend no more than an hour or two a week on their tasks so please don't just sit back and let others do all the work. Get involved in village life and offer your help where you can. Please think about what you could do and contact the organisation where you feel you can help. Alternatively, you can email or call me, Peter Sampson, on 07817 904333 – [magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com). The magazine team will help you get into contact. If we don't act soon, village life as we know it could change irrevocably. So step up or shut up!



## Beware of Phishing!

### What is phishing and how does it work?

You wouldn't let a thief enter your home, but what if the thief was masquerading as someone familiar, such as a postman, and tricked you into opening the door? Phishing works in a similar way - criminals impersonate trusted organisations by creating legitimate-looking messages and websites in order to trick people into opening the doors to their personal information. Once criminals have this information, it can be used to perpetrate fraud and cyber against you, or in your name.

### How big is the problem?

Phishing attacks are a common problem faced by both individuals and businesses on a daily basis.

As of 31st May 2022, the National Cyber Security Centre received over 12 million reports from the public, and removed over 83,000 scams and 153,000 malicious websites.

### How can you protect yourself from phishing scams?

Most of the phishing scams reported to us have one thing in common, they started with an unexpected email or text message. Whether it's an email asking you to “verify” your bank account details, or a text message claiming you've been in close contact with someone that's got COVID, the goal of a phishing attack is usually the same - to trick you into revealing personal and financial information.

1 - If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly.

Don't use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

2 - If you think an email could be a scam, you can report it by forwarding the email to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Send them copies of emails that you believe are suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam.

3 - Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report suspicious text messages for free by forwarding it to 7726. If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender if it's found to be malicious.

4 - If you've lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) For more advice on how to protect yourself online, visit: [cyberaware.gov.uk](http://cyberaware.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,

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/birchanger/](http://www.facebook.com/birchanger/)

*Peter Sampson*



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# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin



## An Extra Coffee Morning

Up to now there has never been a coffee morning during summer at Moorswood. This year will change all that when the first Summer Coffee Morning will be held in the garden on Tuesday 9th August. Hopefully, we shall have a fine day but if not, there is always plenty of space around the table indoors or out. Everyone is very welcome, so come and relax for a little while.

## Trying La Bonta

La Bonta is a small cosy family run Italian Restaurant in the middle of the Priors Green Estate, Bennet Canfield in what was supposed to be the village centre. Access is through the housing estate but by following the main route the centre is not hard to find. On the night we were there early in the week parking outside was easy. There has been a lot of expectation and hype about La Bonta and we anticipated a very special meal. All members of our party were used to enjoying Italian food and wine.

The menu was more limited than I had assumed. There was no gluten free pasta which meant all the pasta dishes were off for me. I chose a fish casserole type of dish, adequate but I was not exactly blown away by this. Pasta dishes were pronounced good and the main courses reasonably



priced, even if they were not as inspirational as I had hoped. Service was prompt and friendly, I have to say that after the build-up, my personal experience was disappointing. The food was good but not amazing. There were two wines at £25 but the rest were upwards of £50! The food prices were as expected in any other higher end restaurant. This restaurant has some way to go to become the good food hub it aspires to be. I wish the enterprise well and hope to be back with more success in a few months' time. *(Editor's note! I have dined here twice with others and all parties agreed the food was excellent. I guess it's a matter of opinion.)*

## 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 31st August from 7.30 A social evening at Birchanger Social Club. Join us for Fish and Chips or just a drink and a catch up  
[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

## Keeping Stansted Airport Safe This Summer



If you are travelling through Stansted Airport, you will find both uniformed and non-uniformed police looking after passenger safety this year. They will also be collaborating

with drone pilots, dog handlers and firearms officers to detect and disrupt anyone who causes trouble or harm to anyone using the airport. Their presence will be unpredictable but for bona fide passengers, or anyone seeking assistance they are there to help. They are trained to be very approachable and are ready to answer questions and to give advice. This is not all one way as they rely on passenger help to report anything they see which might be suspicious. Talk to them or any one of the airport staff. They are there to try to help with difficult situations which might arise this summer. Have a good holiday.

## August - Holiday Pleasure or Nightmare?

August is the month when the whole country is trying to get away at once. You are guaranteed problems at airports, in fact some airports are extremely unwelcoming towards their customers simply because they cannot cope with their numbers. Insufficient staff they claim. Why do airlines arrange flights at times when even if the passengers have made it to the gate their slot has long since gone. When the passengers finally manage to struggle into their seats everyone is faced with hours of waiting, with no refreshments and not being able to leave their seat. Then when you finally get to your destination your room has gone! Is this a holiday? Families need holidays, so do school staff. Surely, we can produce something better than this. Unfortunately, whole groups of people, not just those with children have no choice other than to stick to the six-week rule. In these days of OFSTED and School comparison tables your children should be in school during term time, otherwise you will get a hefty fine. Some factories close in August and employees with or without children have to take their holidays then. Does this mean that the rest of us should avoid holidays completely in August? By the look of things, it might be better if we did. At the time of writing Stansted is the best performing airport. That was in July, what will August bring?

## School Summer Holidays Are Here

A testing time for all parents and if you are working, it's even worse. Childcare for many can be unaffordable, and employers unsympathetic. Time out is special but perhaps a few parents relax their guard just a bit too much.

The behaviour of some children at both pub and club this summer has caused distress to fellow customers and neighbours alike. In some instances, children have damaged hedges and ended up in neighbours' gardens. The noise some children make is unacceptable to others with or without children. For neighbours it can be a complete hell. Summer is here for everyone to enjoy and it isn't right that a few selfish people spoil this for the majority.

## Airport Fly-Parking

This menace has caused all who live around Stansted Airport endless problems for years. We are all aware of incidents in the village. The offenders simply park their cars, call a taxi, and head off to the airport for a couple of weeks holiday. Under the MAG group with their high parking costs, this practice has only got worse in recent years. There is very little the authorities can do. It is not unusual for these parked vehicles to be vandalised by angry residents which means the fly-parker will end up with a hefty repair bill. The police will not be interested unless the vehicle causes an obstruction. With an uncooperative airport and no help from the authorities, this nuisance will continue for yet another holiday season.

## Don't Put the Wrong Items Into Your Recycling Bin

Did you know that placing the wrong item into your recycling bin can render the whole load in the recycling bin useless? The contents of the lorry are then just sent regardless to landfill. A huge waste of time, money, and resources. Please be careful what you put in your bin and if in doubt check on the council website. If you can't find it there use the old adage, when in doubt don't. The most common nasties are nappies, electrical items, and food waste, (we have the food caddy for that). Please help to reduce these costly mistakes.

## Getting Emergency Police Help to Those Who Need It Most

We often forget to use the 101 service to report activity which is suspicious or a crime that has already happened. You can also use the 101 service when you need to speak to a police officer or to share information. For emergencies please call 999 if you, or other individuals are at risk of harm, or there is an ongoing incident which may need police help, such as a Road Traffic Accident. Use 999 to report a crime where life or property is at risk. There have been occasions when the 999 call-line has been blocked by non-emergency calls, causing real emergency calls to go unanswered.



### Beware of the sun.

Yes, you want that golden brown tan but do it gradually! Five or more sunburn episodes and you double your risk of melanoma. Start your sun exposure gradually, 10-20 minutes max on the first day then slowly increase sunbathing a little more each day using plenty of protective sunscreen. There are sunscreen swimsuits around now for everyone not just for babies and children. Most people these days are very clued up, but I have known some suffer burns and scarring after too much exposure early on. Avoid exposure between 10 am and 3 pm if you can when the UV rays are the highest. Apply sunscreen 20 minutes before you go out using a minimum of factor 30, even on cloudy days. Use a waterproof sunscreen when swimming before you start. A few basic ideas, but hopefully you will all have a brilliant holiday. We have all seen the lobster red sunburn sufferers feeling sick with splitting headaches or the leather skinned turtle backs. Not exactly the best look!



## Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, eight members of the Garden Group travelled to Boyton Cross to visit the garden created by Mrs Margot Grice. It is a beautifully crafted garden with something to admire and enjoy at every turn and Margot was constantly on hand to answer all their questions. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> the Garden Group will be visiting the RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> a coachload of members travelled to Runnymede where they boarded a boat to cruise gently up the Thames to Windsor Bridge and back. They passed the Frogmore Estate, saw, from some distance, Windsor Castle, and much birdlife including herons and a red kite. Then they travelled to Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park where they spent a couple of enjoyable hours wandering through these lovely, themed gardens.

At the monthly meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June the talk was one of very local interest, the Gardens of Easton Lodge, given by Gary Matthews, one of the volunteers who have over recent years rescued these lovely gardens from chronic neglect and near ruin. Gary described the life of Daisy, Countess of Warwick, who oversaw the creation of the gardens. Members of the u3a will be visiting these Gardens on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. This talk was followed by the AGM at which three more members joined the committee, one of whom, Louise da Costa, is taking on the role of Secretary. The committee is indebted to the outgoing Secretary, Allan Love, and wish him well with many thanks for his time and efforts over the last few years.

However, looking at gardens is not all that we do! So, we would like to invite you to our forthcoming Open Day to show you what we have to offer. If you are approaching retirement, contemplating semi-retirement, or are already retired and wondering what to do with your spare time, come along to the u3a Open Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September in St John's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet from 2.00pm. We would love to show you our wide variety of interest groups, from singers and strummers to pilates and pub lunches. We walk, go to the theatre and to concerts, take day trips and holidays, read books and poetry and philosophise.

We are creative, musical and enjoy practising language skills. You will find tea, coffee, cake and a very warm welcome from all of us who already benefit from the fun, friendship and joy that membership of the u3a brings. Why not make the most of life and join us as we explore new ideas, skills and interests with Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.

[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home)

Tel: 07874 385541

## ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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## A Step in The Right Direction

Maxine Williams, or Max as she is more commonly known in the village, is a local dance entrepreneur. Her love of dancing from an early age culminated in her becoming the proud owner of Apton

Dance Studio, a popular and well-established dance school. The studio was originally founded in 1986 by Grahame Mizen in Bishops Stortford as a school for Latin American and Ballroom dancing. Max began dancing there as a student at the age of seven and has been there ever since! I asked her to tell me about her life as a dancer and as a business owner.

“Well let me think” answered Max. “I used to help out at Apton in the kiddies’ classes aged 13, worked part time at 15 and was taken on full time aged 18. I became the manager of the studio at 24 and then in January 2020 my ‘dancing dad’ Grahame, retired and I became the owner and managing director of Apton Dance Studio”.

“I trained under the ‘International Dance Teachers Association’ (IDTA) which is a leading dance qualification awarding body and membership association for professional dance teachers. Whilst there, I gained an associate qualification in Latin and Freestyle and became a fully qualified teacher in Latin and Freestyle. I won the Scholarship in Freestyle when I was 20 and attained the examiners nominate associate candidates for the John Dilworth Scholarship Awards in the four core subjects of Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle. Nominees must be outstanding candidates attaining a mark of Distinction or above.”

Today, Apton teaches Latin, Ballroom, Salsa, Swing, Rock’n’roll, Street, Line-dancing, Chart video and Sequence. They teach children from as young as 3 and adults up to 93 years old. They teach wedding first dances, flash mobs, school productions routines and private lessons for small groups or 1:1.



“Classes are held at Birchanger, Hertford and Great Chesterford. In Birchanger, group classes are held in the evenings and children’s classes on Saturday mornings in the village hall. Private lessons are offered in the evenings and on Friday mornings also in the village hall. Adult classes are 45 minutes and just £8 pp. We host social and dinner dances throughout the year as well as dance weekends away and afternoon tea dances.



Every other year we arrange a cruise with dance lessons and this year’s cruise to the Norwegian Fjords include dancers from Birchanger. I’m so lucky to have a job that I love. I get to meet so many people and have made many friends through dancing. It’s actually how I met some of my closest friends and my husband. If I can help people to dance and have fun, make them laugh and help them forget their troubles for 45 minutes a week, I consider that a job well done,” concluded Max.



You can find Apton Dance Studios on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AptonDanceStudio/>), Instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok or for general info on upcoming classes please call Max on 07854 251528 or email [maxineapton@gmail.com](mailto:maxineapton@gmail.com).

### Allotment Available

Do you like getting your hands dirty? Love fresh fruit and vegetables? Prefer to be outside rather than in, then you need this!



Come and join us on the Birchanger allotments for all the above and more. What can be more satisfying than growing your own fruit and veg and staying fit at the same time. We are a friendly mixed bunch, from young to old including families with children who love to help and get muddy. If you are interested in a plot, please contact Zoe on 07903 925681 for more information.

# What's on in the village...



August 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

**GARDEN WASTE SKIP** - Outside the social club between 2.30 and 3.30 pm on the following dates:  
August 20, September 17, October 15, November 12

|                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                 |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>19.00 - 20.30<br>Apton Dance<br>Latin/Ballroom<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Quiz Night  | 2<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>12.00 Tap Dance<br>16.45 Ballet<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>18.45 Teenage<br>Street Dance                           | 3<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>10.00 Tai Chi<br>12.45 Takeley Art<br>14.00 Tea Room<br>14.00 Fencing<br>18.00 - 22.00<br>Apton Dance                       | 4 <b>Green Bin #</b><br><b>Church hall:</b><br>11.00 Line dance<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>20.00 Bingo  | 5<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 12.00<br>Apton Dance -<br>Private Lessons  | 6<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 13.00<br>Apton Dance for<br>kids<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>13.00 Meat draw                                     | 7<br><b>St Mary's<br/>Church:</b><br>11.15 Matins<br>Service<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Sunday Roast                                       |
| 8<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>19.00 - 20.30<br>Apton Dance<br>Latin/Ballroom<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Quiz Night  | 9<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>12.00 Tap Dance<br>16.45 Ballet<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>18.45 Teen Dance<br><b>Moorswood:</b><br>Coffee morning | 10<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>10.00 Tai Chi<br>14.00 Tea Room<br>12.45 Takeley Art<br>14.00 Fencing<br>18.00 - 22.00<br>Apton Dance                      | 11 <b>Black Bin</b><br><b>Church hall:</b><br>11.00 Line dance<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>20.00 Bingo   | 12<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 12.00<br>Apton Dance -<br>Private Lessons | 13<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 13.00<br>Apton Dance for<br>kids<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>13.00 Meat draw<br>20.30 Repertoire<br>Dogs - LIVE | 14<br><b>St Mary's<br/>Church</b><br>11.15 Holy<br>Communion<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Sunday Roast<br>10.00 - 14.00 Car<br>Boot Sale     |
| 15<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>19.00 - 20.30<br>Apton Dance<br>Latin/Ballroom<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Quiz Night | 16<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>12.00 Tap Dance<br>16.45 Ballet<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>18.45 Teenage<br>Street Dance                          | 17<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>10.00 Tai Chi<br>12.45 Takeley Art<br>14.00 Tea Room<br>14.00 Fencing<br>18.00 - 22.00<br>Apton Dance                      | 18 <b>Green Bin #</b><br><b>Church hall:</b><br>11.00 Line dance<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>20.00 Bingo | 19<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 12.00<br>Apton Dance -<br>Private Lessons | 20<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 13.00<br>Apton Dance for<br>kids<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>13.00 Meat draw<br>20.30 Parallel<br>Covers - LIVE | 21<br><b>St Mary's<br/>Church:</b><br>11.15 Family<br>Service<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Sunday Roast<br><b>Moorswood:</b><br>Summer lunch |
| 22<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>19.00 - 20.30<br>Apton Dance<br>Latin/Ballroom<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Quiz Night | 23<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>12.00 Tap Dance<br>16.45 Ballet<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>18.45 Teenage<br>Street Dance                          | 24<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>10.00 Tai Chi<br>12.45 Takeley Art<br>14.00 Tea Room<br>14.00 Fencing<br>18.00 - 22.00<br>Apton Dance                      | 25 <b>Black Bin</b><br><b>Church hall:</b><br>11.00 Line Dance<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>20.00 Bingo   | 26<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 12.00<br>Apton Dance -<br>Private Lessons | 27<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>09.00 - 13.00<br>Apton Dance<br>Studio for kids<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>13.00 Meat draw                             | 28<br><b>St Mary's<br/>Church:</b><br>11.15 am Holy<br>Communion<br>Service<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Sunday Roast                        |
| 29<br><b>Church Hall:</b><br>19.00 - 20.30<br>Apton Dance<br>Latin/Ballroom<br><b>BSSC:</b><br>Quiz Night | 30<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>12.00 Tap Dance<br>16.45 Ballet<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>18.45 Teenage<br>Street Dance                          | 31<br><b>Church hall:</b><br>10.00 Tai Chi<br>12.45 Takeley Art<br>14.00 Tea Room<br>14.00 Fencing<br>18.00 - 21.15<br>Apton Dance<br>19.30 <b>BAGS</b> |                                                                                                 |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |



**BIRCHANGER**

**SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

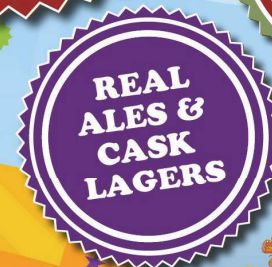
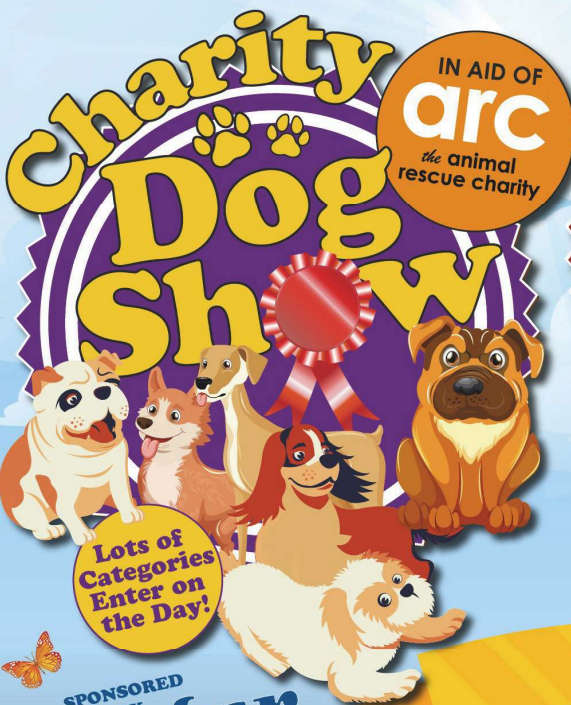
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## Birchanger Primary School

### Life in all its fullness

By the time that you read this our school community will be having a well-earned rest. We will have said a fond farewell to all of our Year 6 children and a member of staff, and we wish them well for their collective futures.

As we came to the end of our school year, we received our report following our Ofsted inspection in May. The two inspectors had spent the day with us on the 5<sup>th</sup> May and during their visit they watched lessons, looked at the books and they spoke at length to the children, staff and governors. We have a small school, so we felt by the end of the day, the inspectors had come to know the school very well. We received our report before the end of term, and you can read it in full if you visit our website. However, if you would like a quick overview of their findings, I have included some of their major comments here.



Clay pots that we created in 2020 that reflect our school's values

Pupils are happy and feel safe at school.  
They care for each other and enjoy learning together.  
Pupils agree that lessons are calm, and pupils can concentrate on their studies.  
During breaktime and lunchtime, pupils move around the school sensibly and demonstrate the high levels of responsibility that the staff expect.  
Pupils told us that bullying does not happen at the school.  
Pupils appreciate the work of the Year 5 'anti-bullying' champions.  
Pupils learn well about their own emotional needs and how to regulate their responses to social situations.  
They confidently identify the emotions they are feeling.  
When pupils' negative feelings get 'too big', they know to share with staff, who provide effective help.  
Pupils work hard and learn well. Pupils enjoy the regular celebrations of success that they experience at school.  
Pupils are very proud of their work.  
They are being well prepared for life when they move on from primary school.

In September we shall be excited for our new school year. At the start of the year, we shall be joined by sixteen wonderful children who will form the reception class and on November 3<sup>rd</sup> we shall hold our New Parents' morning for those people who are looking for a school place in September 2023.



Above Left: Our anti-bullying shield.



Above Right: The Gold award from the Woodland Trust that we have gained to reflect our commitment to our natural environment designed by one of the children.

During the next academic year, we shall continue our approach of 'Life in All Its Fullness' which combines good progress in class along with a wide range of enriching activities. Our commitment to wellbeing will continue and we have plans to embed our vision and values further. We are very excited about the future of our school.

*Claire Berry - Headteacher*

**Sunday 14th August**

**Summer CAR BOOT SALE**

**10am until 2pm**  
(Sellers from 9:00am • Buyers NOT BEFORE 10:00 am)

**FREE ENTRY**

**Pitch Prices**  
Cars £10  
Small Vans £14  
Large Vans £18

**Refreshments Available**  
Tea & Coffee  
Bacon/Sausage Rolls

**To book a pitch please**  
email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)

**You are advised to book early to ensure you get a pitch -**  
**No tables provided for pitch - CASH ONLY for pitch to be paid on arrival**  
**Please note: This event might be postponed at short notice if ground is too wet**

For all general enquiries 01279 813441  
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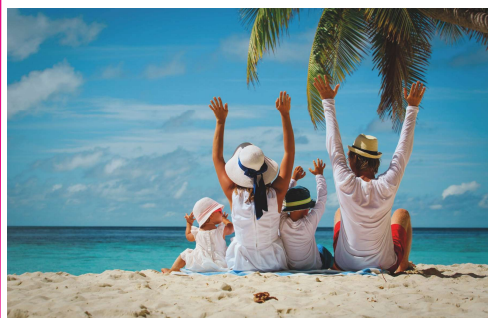
### Garden Waste Skip

The skip will be positioned near the social club between 2.30 and 3.30 pm on the following dates:  
August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 12  
Don't forget - 'Use it or Lose it'





## Holiday Tips



As local residents, we mostly speak about the negative aspects of having Stansted Airport on our doorstep. However, when it comes to booking a summer holiday, there's an obvious

advantage in being able to travel from your local airport. We put up with a noisy neighbour all year round, so we're entitled to the upsides now and again.

Stansted is the UK's third largest airport. It's also the UK's most expensive airport for car parking, shops, food and almost everything else.

Ryanair, which accounts for four out of every five of Stansted's passengers, wants its landing charges kept to a minimum. This means that the airport has to make its money in other ways, so watch out! Here's a few tips to avoid being ripped off at the airport.

If you're being dropped off at the airport, the basic charge is now £7.00 but local residents can apply for a discount card. If you live within 5 miles of the airport, you'll pay just 50p drop-off charge, and within 10 miles it's £1.00. To obtain an application form, send an email to [DD\\_Carparking@stanstedairport.com](mailto:DD_Carparking@stanstedairport.com).

The next tip is never buy your foreign currency at the airport. A spot check of the exchange rates (on Friday 15 July) found that £500 would buy you €469.40 at Stansted Airport but €629.50 euros at Tesco, Bishop's Stortford – a difference of €161.10 (34%). For US\$ the difference was even greater. £500 would get you \$472.40 at the airport and \$643.50 at Tesco – an extra \$171.10 (36%). And if you shopped around, you might well find an even better rate than Tesco's.

When it comes to food and drink at the airport, the best advice is not to arrive hungry or thirsty. WH Smith will charge you £2.59 for a bottle of water. Costa Coffee charges £3.50 for a medium latte and you won't get much change out of £10 for a burger at Burger King.

You might spend two hours or more at the airport waiting for your flight, so when you're packing your passport before leaving home, perhaps you should also pack a sandwich and a bottle of water.

Finally, when you arrive back at the airport at the end of your holiday, there's yet another potential pitfall to beware. Stansted allows only one taxi company to have a desk inside the terminal and taxi stands on the forecourt. That company pays a small fortune for the privilege, which is why the fares are exorbitant. For example, the fare from the airport to Birchanger (4 miles) is a staggering £28.50. Happy Holidays.

*Brian Ross*

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

July started hot, hot, hot and we have been doing our best to keep key plants and veg watered, but it is always a struggle, as we have to rely on a single well and rain filled water butts. Even so, the Gardens have been looking great, particularly the roses despite being parched. We have regularly had a hummingbird hawkmoth and lots of bees supping from the lavender and the butterfly numbers have picked up a little.

Hopefully by August rains will have refreshed the plants, but we will still have warm days for our visitors to enjoy a relaxed stroll, tea, and homemade cakes. It is a lovely place to bring the children in the summer holidays as they enjoy the space to roam the treehouse and the elephant statue (which remind us of the countess's baby elephant Kim). There is no entry fee for children up to the age of 16 and we also welcome dogs on leads.



Our 21<sup>st</sup> August Open Day should be fascinating as our Archivist is going to help us all understand more of the lives and legacy of the Maynards before Daisy, Countess of Warwick. The first Henry Maynard was given the 10,000-acre estate for his loyal work for William Cecil, Queen Elizabeth I's Spymaster in Chief. But what is the family's connection with Wicklow and Walthamstow?



As you drive around the local area you can see the family badge on many houses, either a stag, an M, or a W. Some of the houses state their date, but many don't. Who had them built? Why? When did the family sell them? So many questions will be answered, and you may challenge Maggie with more of your own!

Woodwind of Stortford will be playing on the open day and there will be a range of stalls. Our Daisy's team will provide our usual fayre of local bacon rolls, hummus or cheese rolls and homemade cakes. Tickets are available in advance through our website [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) or on the Gate after 12.00. We are also open to visitors on Thursdays through August from 11.00 to 3.00, with refreshments and garden produce on sale.

*Jill Goldsmith*





## The Hundred Parishes Society

I make no apology for talking again about walking routes. During school holidays, they can provide a framework for family outings and also a slightly structured opportunity for children who like an adventure on their own or with friends. A hundred local walk descriptions on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) can be freely downloaded and printed. They offer outings throughout the Hundred Parishes and for distances from 1 mile to 17 miles. If you have access to the railway network, many of our walks start and finish from stations; all these have been reviewed in 2022 and descriptions updated or expanded to talk more about what can be seen along the way.



Hundred Parishes walks are certainly not the only routes available; our area is particularly rich in footpaths and bridleways and anyone with an Ordnance Survey Explorer map can devise their own routes. A number of long-distance trails offer challenges that will take more than a single day. These trails knit together established rights of way and are often well signposted, with maps or descriptions available from Tourist Information Centres, bookshops or online.



### Photos:

- 1 - Elsenham - Alsa Wood
- 2 - Great Dunmow - Railway bridge over Flitch Way link path
- 3 - Great Waltham - path beside wild garlic near Ford End
- 4 - Sawbridgeworth - beside the River Stort



The Walks section of our website provides links to other walk routes and walking groups, while specific organised walks appear in the What's On section of the website. When exploring our lovely countryside, please be sure to follow the Countryside Code.



I summarise a few points that are mainly common sense:

**Respect everyone** • leave gates and property as you find them • be nice, say hello • keep to marked paths.

**Protect the environment** • take your litter home • keep dogs under control and in sight • pick up your dog's poo • do not disturb wildlife.

Finally, be prepared for the English weather with layers of clothing, rainwear, sunglasses, sun cream and sun hat. Enjoy!

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 |
| 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

|                         |         |                                  |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> August  | 11.15am | Matins with Pam Lee              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> August | 11.15am | Communion with Revd Helen Flack  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> August | 11.15am | Family Service with Pam Lee      |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> August | 11.15am | Communion Revd Colin Fairweather |

### Church News

Even if you are not a regular visitor to St Mary's, the Flower Festival at the end of July will provide you the ideal opportunity to visit this historic building, to admire the floral displays and have a look at the many treasures that are housed there. It will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July and the same time on Saturday and Sunday. At 5.30 pm on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> July, there will be a choral evening service. Refreshments will be available (including gluten free options).

August will also be a busy month as on the 21<sup>st</sup> August we are holding our annual Summer Lunch at Moorswood. The final menu has not yet been decided but typically we provide a three - course lunch with a wide choice of mains and desserts followed by cheese and biscuits. Wine and soft drinks are included and all for £15 per person. Advance bookings only so if you would like to join us, please contact Pam Lee on 07702171744 or [pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com)

We have been thinking about organising another Prize bingo evening in the hall and would like to know how many people would be interested in attending such an event in either September, October, or November? Please let Pam know as if there is sufficient interest than we shall get a date set.

Last year's early Christmas Dinner was such a success that we are going to do it all over again. The date is 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Santa is already booked to attend so please come along and enjoy the feast. Bookings now being taken – Adults £20. Children (must be accompanied by an adult) £5. Call Pam to book your place or speak to Rosemary Saward/Sue Warr.

### Church Hall

The hall floor has been repaired, sanded and polished so it looks wonderful. Just like new. We hope you all like it.

### Future Events

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> August  | Summer Lunch at Moorswood           |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> October | Moorswood Coffee Morning at 10.30am |

### Prayer for the Month

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

*Amen*

Pam Lee (Church Warden)  
Tel: 07702 171744

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



## Village Church Hall

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**Telephone:** 07827685741

**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## Village Church Hall



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

## THE THREE WILLOWS



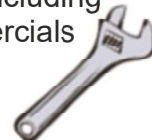
Fine dining & good beers. Children and dogs welcome. Bookings: 01279 815913  
 Monday to Friday: 12 to 3pm & 5 to 11pm  
 Saturday: 12 to 11pm Sunday: 12 to 6pm

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