

# Birchanger Village Magazine

December 2022

Issue 239



## UDC Allow Planning Application for Caravan Site on Green Belt Land!

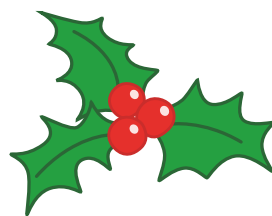
Once again, protection of our Green Belt is in question due to Uttlesford District Council's (UDC) decision allowing the travellers to submit a retrospective planning application for their caravan site. The Travellers were originally required to produce a Site Development Scheme (SDS), approved by UDC within 11 months – i.e., by 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – setting out their plans for the layout, lighting, drainage, and landscaping of the site.

The Inspector's condition allowed for the possibility that UDC might not approve the SDS and ruled that in such circumstance, the Travellers had to appeal to the Secretary of State by 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Neither of these requirements took place prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> September deadline. The Inspector was clear as to the consequences of the Travellers failing to meet this condition:

*"The use hereby permitted shall cease and all caravans, structures, equipment and materials brought onto the land for the purposes of such use shall be removed and the land restored to its condition before the development took place within 28 days of the date of failure to meet any one of the requirements"*

The 28 days allowed for the Travellers to clear the site expired on 6<sup>th</sup> October!

Despite objections from Birchanger Parish Council and several Birchanger residents, UDC has decided to ignore the Inspector's directive and have allowed the Travellers to retrospectively submit a planning application and site development scheme.



A spokesman from UDC stated that it is very likely that once the UDC had used resources to draft and serve notices to the Travellers, carry out an equalities assessment and complete the process, that the applicant would either simply appeal and submit the SDS or submit an identical planning application but with an SDS.

The Inspector's last decision would be a material consideration in both scenarios and would carry significant weight in any future decision taken. In short, seeking a retrospective planning application was considered the most appropriate response.

Birchanger Parish Council continue to be in contact with UDC and voice their objections.

If you want your say or wish to object, you can send your comments to UDC by email or letter:

- Email to [planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk)
- Writing to Planning, Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER

If you are sending your comments by email or letter, you'll need to include:

- The planning application reference number: UTT/22/3094/FUL
- The address of the site: Travellers Site, North on Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QA
- Your name
- Your address

You can see the planning application using reference ref: UTT/22/3094/FUL here:

<https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Aapplication>



# Editors Letter Box



*Dear Ed,*

## Knife Trauma Kit Refused

Following a suggestion by Elizabeth Godwin in last month's magazine, we thought our village should have a 'Blood & Knife Trauma Kit' in case of serious injury in the village, so we decided to go ahead and buy the appropriate trauma kit and donate it to the village. Through Peter Sampson, we approached Birchanger Parish Council to offer the lifesaving kit for the village but were surprised at the negative reaction from the council. They refused to take on the responsibility of the kit because it was for indoor use only and suggested that we talk to the club or pub to see if they would keep it on their premises. No constructive ideas of how we could best use the kit and no official thank you. As a last resort we offered to spend £400 to buy an outdoor cabinet, as the one we bought was for indoor storage only. The response from the council was that WE should find a place to install and maintain it - probably at the club or pub - and ask their permission. In this difficult time, we spent our Christmas money on a gift to the village to make us all feel safe, the result is that Birchanger does not have a knife trauma kit. We tried!

*Disappointed - Glyn and Maria Williams - Birchwood*

## Response from Birchanger Parish Council

*We certainly feel that this was a kind and thoughtful idea. We did ask Mr and Mrs Williams through Peter Sampson to attend our monthly council meeting to discuss the trauma kit, but they decided not to attend. The Parish Council does not own any buildings. So, as with the defibrillator outside the club, permission would be needed from the club, or pub. If installed outside, the kit would entail the extra cost of an external cabinet which Mr Williams offered to purchase. However, the materials inside would need to be maintained and replaced periodically. If the kit were kept indoors, this would require the steward or pub manager being available 24 hours/day and being prepared to answer the door at any time of the day or night to hand over the kit. After considering all the factors, the council decided against taking responsibility for the kit. Our apologies to Mr and Mrs Williams if they thought they were treated unfairly.*



## Poppy Collection 2022

Despite everything, the Poppy Appeal in Birchanger raised a total of £872. An increase of £263 on last year.

The school collected a staggering £164. A big thank you to them, the club and the pub who also contributed large amounts.

A heroic door to door collection by Mick McGann through what was probably the wettest week of the Autumn raised over £230.

*Thank you Birchanger*

The Remembrance Day service led by lay minister Jo Pratt was well attended this year.



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,

*Peter Sampson*

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



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07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger





# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## Christmas in Birchanger

It seems to have been a long time coming but with December comes Christmas and Christmas in Birchanger is a very special time. It is made special by those who live here, who contribute in their own differing ways to the Big Light Up, whether they construct an intricate display, or light a simple candle in their window. It's all part of the Birchanger Christmas scene. And it is us who live in Birchanger who visit the displays, that keep the Big Light Up going by their encouragement and admiration of all who help make a very special Christmas scene.

The Big Light Up will officially commence on Friday December 2nd at Birchanger Club when children from the school will sing Christmas songs and carols. The lights will be switched on at 7.00pm and there will be Christmas treats available in the club. The winner of the Big Light Up will be announced on Friday December 16th at around 9pm in the club. As in previous years there will be no voting but the winner will be chosen by a group of Judges who will have visited every road in Birchanger looking at the lights before they meet to decide the winner. Sadly, the voting system when every resident could vote for their favourite became inoperable and had to be abandoned. Enjoy Birchanger Big Light Up 2022. It is something which really does give you the feel-good feeling on a cold winters' night.

## Say No to Expensive Presents This Year?

Christmas is nearly here and some of us may be approaching Christmas with more trepidation than usual. In many cases, it is the females who bear the brunt of making Christmas actually happen and hope that the men will contribute somewhere along the way. That's a trifle hard on men but it's a fact. This can be at some cost physically, mentally, and financially. Some women just love it, others hate it and seethe with resentment. This year, when prices have shot up for food and electric etc., our money won't go as far as previous years, we must try to do things differently and make Christmas work for everyone with less money.

Nobody should feel left out at Christmas time, but no one needs lots of expensive presents. Some would be happy just to spend their Christmas with family and friends and not being on their own. Children want toys to last longer than a day and the younger ones simply can't cope with too many presents all at once.

## Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month at 8.00 pm in the village hall.  
No meeting in December.

**Next meeting:**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 7.45 for 8.00 pm**  
[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

**Olivia: 07568 574703**

**Rosemary: 01279 814678**

I used to hide some for another time, but the cheaper plastic ones often ended up in the dustbin on Christmas Day and someone had completely, but with all good intentions, wasted their money. This is not the year that most of us can risk that. Maybe we need to take more ownership of the matter of present giving. It is the one year when agreeing to curb our presents could be the right decision. It need not last for ever, and instead we would perhaps be able to give presents which people really need rather than ones we think they might like. If you simply can't afford to give everyone a present this year, don't! and just say so, after all we are all in the same boat this year.

## Tough Winters



We can all remember them and they can be tough due to prolonged cold weather, heavy snow falls, heavy rain with flooding and fog which hangs around for days.

Elderly people ended up in hospital and so many died. Hard to imagine now after the mild weather we have experienced. We can't control the weather yet, but we can try to prevent illnesses which can rapidly turn to tragedy as loved ones pick up flu or covid with sometimes disastrous results. We can't prevent a lot of nasty things that happen but we can try to help ourselves by strengthening our own defences against illness. Taking vaccines not only protect you but will also protect someone you know or have yet to meet for whom covid or flu could prove fatal. Not everyone can take a vaccine. Some people really want a jab but cannot have one because their condition makes the vaccine a risk to them. They cannot leave their homes because without the people around them being vaccinated, it simply is not safe for them to go out. Set your own problems aside, you don't want your hang ups to seriously damage the health of those around you do you?

## Living With the Roadworks

By now most of us are getting used to the roadworks on the A 120. But certainly not to the truly appalling noise that has been experienced most by houses at the south or west ends of the village. The vibrations shake houses, frighten children and have gathered many complaints but not enough to stop the work. The major work will last at least to the end of January depending on the weather but hopefully not the noise and vibrations. At the time of writing, the noise has been reduced a little, but is still loud in some parts of Birchanger. Not ending anytime soon.

When closed, the roadworks in the lane operate a check point. You cannot go through unless to access the hotel or the travellers' site and there are checks both ends.

At the moment the work is conducted between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm and you should be able to access the route through at other times.

### The Rat Runners Take Advantage

Charging down Tot Lane into Birchanger Lane, driving fast and seemingly oblivious to anyone having the misfortune to be going the other way and despite the check points, horror drivers have been taking over the lane. They usually travel in fours, nose to tail and above the speed limit, hell bent in getting to the barrier before it closes. You see them again in the evening as well, doing their best to avoid the traffic lights on the A 120. We never wanted this but we've got it anyway and we have to live with the consequences.

### Roadwork Hell for Everyone

It is difficult to understand why in this day and age with supposedly the best communication systems ever, the various authorities appear to forget how to use them. We know all about this having suffered in Birchanger for months and will continue to suffer until some point in February at least. What possesses a council to permit work at crucial traffic lights and other access roads into Bishops Stortford at a time when major road works are going on the A120, and traffic is already taking diversionary routes anyway they can. To add insult to injury we often get differing closure dates on a weekly basis and find ourselves taking all manner of unnecessary diversions costing time and money!

### Remember the Scammers Never Rest

Scammers don't take time out just because it is Christmas. In fact, they are particularly active, on the phone, online, or accosting the unsuspecting in the street. We are all trying to save money and are particularly vulnerable to the unscrupulous who are offering us what seems to be a good way to boost our incomes. One of the new kids on the block are the gangs who persuade people to let them use your bank account to move money in and out of the country or bank accounts. They manage to convince their victims that there is no risk to their own money and the large amount of money the victims are told they could make are more than a little tempting. The fraudsters ask their victims for access to their bank accounts to move money in and out of the account, convincing them that this is safe, risk free and bank approved. What they never say is that doing this is a serious crime and those who allow their bank accounts to be used in this way face long spells in prison, loss of their bank accounts, credit cards, mobile phones and much more. In truth, it is not the victim who is the criminal but the fraudster who of course very rarely gets caught. This Christmas never ever let anyone use your bank account, access your credit cards, mobile phones, loan providers or indeed any of your personal details. Have a safe Christmas.



### Christmas Coffee Morning

This will be as usual at Moorswood on Tuesday December 6th at 10.30 am complete with mince pies and all the Christmas trimmings. Come and enjoy and invite a friend.

## ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

[enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com](mailto:enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com)



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**07703484090**

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DBS Checked

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

### Scams Update

It didn't take long for someone to think up a plan around the governments fuel subsidy payments. Beware of anyone offering help with already discounted bills under the energy support scheme. If you receive one of these texts forward it to 7726 for further checking and possible blocking.

### Are You Eligible for a Sustainable Warmth Grant?

You might be if you live in a home with a low energy rating and have an income of less than £30,000 a year, are unemployed or receive a health or disability benefit. If this looks like you, call 0808 1968 255 Monday to Friday 9-5 to discuss your eligibility. If you are eligible, the agency known as Warmworks will contact you to discuss the way forward to make you an energy efficient home. You will need to provide evidence that your household income is under £30,000. The work will be carried out by a registered approved contractor and you will be supported by the Warmworks team throughout the process. You can visit their website at: <https://www.warmworks.co.uk/>.

### Don't Lose Your Dog



Sadly, many people do and most will never know the fate of their pet. Even if the dog only disappears for ten minutes it is very upsetting. Dog theft is on the rise and all dogs are particularly vulnerable in these dark evenings. The law is hopefully about to change making dog theft a specific offence but not just yet. New cross border police operations

aim to track down and prosecute all dog thieves where they can, but it is up to owners to keep their dogs as safe as they can. All dogs should be microchipped. And when your dog is outside, make sure they are in view all the time. Never tie them up and leave them outside a shop. Many dogs have disappeared by owners doing just that. Use a dog tag with your surname and contact details only, preferably just a mobile number, but not your dog's name. Make sure you have plenty of good pictures of your dog from all angles, clipped and unclipped for identification purposes and try and train your dog to come when called!

### Scam Spotting

Become an expert. Some of the latest tricks include pretending to be your energy provider, then telling you that they need your details as they owe you money. Rubbish! The real energy provider has them already, hang up. Someone claiming to be from your bank asking for your passcode. Banks will never do that. This is a criminal trying to use a stolen card who needs a pass code. Banks don't contact you in this way. One way which might help is to set up payment alert for unusual transactions. Check the cash machine before using it. Does it look alright? Do you think it might have been tampered with? Unsure? Move away. Christmas time is bonanza time for criminal types. Everyone is busy or rushed and hassled by crowds. We are just not as careful as we should be. Just remember we are all at risk!



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# Another Trip to Ukraine

Following on from my humanitarian aid trip to Ukraine in June, my next two-week 'mission' saw me returning in October. For this trip I wanted to up-the-ante. Rather than flying, I wanted to drive over and achieve more – to collect and deliver aid on the outbound leg, and to bring those in need back to the UK on the return part.

The preparation and planning for this turned out to be immense. I needed an appropriate car plus I needed a trailer. Consultation with learned colleagues narrowed down the type of vehicle needed, and by luck I found one for sale locally in Bishops Stortford. So, the 7-seater 4x4 was sorted and now I needed the trailer. A friend heard about the planned trip and kindly donated his own trailer to me. Result!



With the incredible help of my own community here in Birchanger I departed with around a metric tonne of donations, plus the funding needed to make the trip happen. A very special thanks must go to the ladies of 'BAGS'. Your kindness and generosity are incredible.



After posting on some Ukrainian social media groups, I recruited a wonderful volunteer called Natasha who is a refugee now living in Chicago, USA. She helped by interviewing and assessing those who responded to my offer of a free ride out of Ukraine. Our criteria was that this offer was for

those struggling to get transportation because they refused to abandon their pets. Also, that they had UK sponsors ready and waiting and that all their paperwork was in order.

Whilst in Ukraine we delivered the aid to charities in Lviv, Vinnytsia and Kiev. It was further distributed to Kharkiv and Donetsk. Things were 'lively' and our base town of Vinnytsia was shelled twice whilst I was there. We wanted to fill the car for the return, and we did. A family of three (Anna, a mum and her two daughters plus their cat, Austin) and a young lady called Luidmyla with her Labrador called Binny. The family had survived Kharkiv, and Luidmyla had survived the horrors of Mariupol. The three-day journey from Ukraine to the UK was partly filled with their stories and experiences. Some truly terrible anecdotes that will stay with me forever.



Anna and family are settling into their kind sponsors' home in Chester, and Luidmyla is in the countryside on the outskirts of Glasgow. When the war is over, they (and Natasha) will return home to rebuild their lives. We achieved this as a community – you should all be proud!

*Steve Sommerfeld*



I cannot believe we are now on the half term leading up to Christmas, where has the time gone! We have welcomed lots more new children into pre-school and there is a real buzz and fun filled atmosphere around the school which is wonderful.

We have enjoyed learning about different events over the last couple of weeks. We learnt about Halloween and held a dress-up day, (there certainly were some very scary outfits!) we also discussed Guy Fawkes night and Remembrance Day. The children showed a lot of interest in our Remembrance Day activities, they especially enjoyed making a wonderful large poppy by painting and printing on it and it now holds pride of place in our playroom.

The children have also been exploring many activities which gave them the opportunity to discover cause and effect, such as making playdough and ice-play. They were particularly fascinated when the ice started to melt and asked many questions.

This half term is always a busy one and we have a trip to Audley End coming up, where we will travel on the Christmas train to see Father Christmas. We also have a Christmas party arranged for the last day of term ending with a sing song from the children in the Village Hall.

*Carly Richards - Pre-school Manager*

# What's on in the village...



December 2022



**Bin Collections:** Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #

**Birchanger Parish Council Meetings:** Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - **Open to the public.**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			<b>1 Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>2</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons <b>BSSC:</b> 19.00 Big Light Up!	<b>3</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>4</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
			<b>8 Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>9</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>10</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Big Light Up Winner	<b>11</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>5</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>6</b> <b>Moorswood</b> 10.30 Coffee Morn <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>7</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing  19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>15 Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>16</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>17</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>18</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Matins Service <b>BSSC:</b> Kids Christmas Party
<b>12</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>13</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>14</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing  19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>22 Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line Dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>23</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>24</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>25</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Whisky Draw
<b>19</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>20</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>21</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing  19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>29</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line Dance  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>30</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	<b>31</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw New Year's Eve Party	
<b>26</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	<b>27</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>28</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00 - 21.15 Apton Dance				





## BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

# NEWS FROM THE CLUB



### WORLD CUP SPORT



**FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022**

**CATCH ALL GAMES ON OUR BIG SCREEN  
20th November - 18th December**



### WHAT'S ON



**18th  
DEC**

**Members Only Kids  
Christmas Party**

**Fun filled  
afternoon  
of Games and  
Entertainment**



**Whiskey Draw  
\*\*\*RAFFLE\*\*\***



### Christmas Menu

December 1st - 24th ~ 3 Courses £25.95

#### Starters

Smoked Salmon with Honey Mustard Dressing  
Melon and Parma Ham on a Bed of Pomegranate Salad  
Smoked Paté Served with Onion Marmalade and Croûtes  
Deep fried Brie Wedges & Gooseberry Compote

#### Main Course

Roast Turkey with all the Traditional Trimmings ~  
Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Carrots, Sprouts, Roast Potatoes & Parsnips  
Oven Roasted Salmon & Bernaise Sauce with Vegetables and New Potatoes  
10oz Rump Steak and Grilled Accompaniment with Chips & Peas £3.00 surcharge  
Cranberry & Nut Roast Puff with Traditional Trimmings ~  
Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Sprouts and Parsnips

#### Desserts

Raspberry & White Chocolate Roulade  
Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Custard  
Profiterole Paradise  
White Chocolate & Limoncello Cheesecake  
Cheese & Biscuits £2.00 surcharge

Mince Pies, Tea & Coffee \*£1.95  
\*Book before December to redeem FREE

### 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

**For all general enquiries**

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Website: [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

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For all news and announcements







## Birchanger Primary School

Our school is very proud of its status as a Church of England School. This year the head boy and head girl joined those people who took time to mark Remembrance Day at St. Mary's church. Marcus and Jennifer read out the names of those members of our village who gave their lives in defence of this country. Children from our school have been honoured to take on this role over the last few years and they take it very seriously. Marking this occasion is one of the ways in which we support the British Values within our school.



A few days after Remembrance Day we hosted a visit from the Bishop of Chelmsford. Bishop Guli had been invited to the school in the summer and so we had been looking forward to her visit since we returned to school in September.

During her visit, Bishop Guli talked to our refugee children about leaving their home country and establishing a new life somewhere new. She was able to talk to the children with authority as she had left Iran as a child when her family had fled persecution. The bishop joined the children as they created pictures to represent their travels and the many countries that they travelled through.

After this activity, the bishop led a worship session for our children. She talked about her role and brought some of her robes of office which Amber tried on. The children learned the name of the



mitre and the cape which was embroidered with Persian words. She also talked about her crosier, which is the tall staff that a bishop holds as a sign of office. Bishop Guli explained how some of the wood from this had come from her father's crosier who had been a bishop himself. We felt very lucky to have the bishop visit our school and we hope that she will come back and visit us again before too long.

*Claire Berry - Headteacher*

## THE *Harmonaires* CHOIR

**Jingle All The Way!**  
**A Family Christmas Concert in aid of Shelter**  
**Saturday 10th December 11am**  
**St. Michael's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford**



Take an hour out of Christmas shopping in Bishop's Stortford to pop into St Michael's Church to enjoy a family friendly, whistle-stop tour of many of your favourite carols and Christmas songs. Plenty of audience sing-alongs, together with jingle bells, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed! Tickets from [www.theharmonaireschoir.com](http://www.theharmonaireschoir.com) are available at £5 for adults, £3 for children.





## Aircraft Noise - Summer 2022

In recent months, many people have asked whether flight paths have been altered or whether aircraft are flying lower since they have experienced more noise. However, flight paths haven't changed nor are aircraft flying lower. What has happened is that we have experienced unusual weather patterns in recent months and, since aircraft take off and land into wind, this affects the runway direction in use and hence the amount of noise annoyance and sleep disturbance experienced by local residents.

The prevailing winds are mainly from the south-west and so, on most days, aircraft take off and land towards the south-west. This is known as runway direction 22. The other runway direction is when aircraft take-off and land towards the north-east. This is known as runway direction 04.

The long-term average usage of runway 04 (north-easterly) is 27% and runway 22 (south-westerly) is 73%. However, in recent months the average usage has been as follows:

Month	Runway 04 %	Runway 22 %
April	60	40
May	22	78
June	29	71
July	31	69
August	58	42
September	44	56

So, except for May, the usage of runway 04 has been relatively high, especially in April, August and September. The result has been a higher incidence of noise annoyance under the 04 flight-paths.

Other factors that affect perceived aircraft noise are atmospheric conditions, such as humidity and inverse temperature gradients, again more pronounced this summer. These have the effect of holding noise down so the perceived level is higher. Additionally, the airport is now back to 90% of pre-pandemic levels so traffic levels have been increasing.

Birchanger is not directly under a flightpath but is affected by airport ground noise. This is more pronounced when the runway is operated to the north-east (runway 04) and there has been more of that in recent months. The main sources of airport ground noise are the use of reverse thrust on landing and excessive revving of engines before take-off. During warmer weather, people often want to keep bedroom windows open at night and so these noise impacts are more noticeable.

Brian Ross

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

After a wet and warm October, the Gardens have recovered a bit from the dry summer, but it is now very difficult to guess how any month is going to pan out. What we do know is that Christmas falls in December and so our volunteers will get a welcome break from gardening, and Gary, our volunteer who provides talks about the Gardens, will let his laptop cool down! We will all get right back into action in January. The talks programme is filling up, but still has spaces. If you think one of your local groups would welcome a talk, contact Gary through the form on our website or by [emailing\\_groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:emailing_groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk).



Last December after we had tidied up all the leaves and trimmed a few trees, we had lots of new trees to plant that had been donated to us. After such a difficult summer, this year our winter

focus is more likely to be on care and maintenance: lots of mulching to look after the plants and new trees that have made it through the year and work on our infrastructure too.

By the end of December, we will be starting to think about snowdrops! We have set the dates for two Snowdrop Sunday Open Days, on 12th and 19th February and two Snowdrop Thursdays, on 16th and 23rd February. As for this year, our Open Sundays should be bigger affairs with access to the Gardens of Warwick House as well as "our" part of the Gardens and a full catering offer, including savoury rolls. Snowdrop Thursdays are restricted to "our" side, and we will provide drinks and homemade cakes. This year we only managed 2 of the four days, so we hope to improve on that record in 2023! Details will go onto our website in due course, but why not save the dates?

So, wishing you all the best for a happy festive season. And, if you are beginning to think about your new year's resolutions, you might like to



consider joining us as a volunteer gardener, baker, or front of house person? Or perhaps as a Trustee? We are always happy to add to our happy team!

Jill Goldsmith

<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>





## The Hundred Parishes Society

Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

“Stands the church clock at ten to three And is there honey still for tea?”

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary’s clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words “Time Flies, Mind Your Business”. One wonders what prompted those words to be included.

The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to “Work and Pray” whilst the west-facing proclaims “Today Is Yours”.

The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.

Hinxton possibly has our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.

Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.

I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes.

Photos:

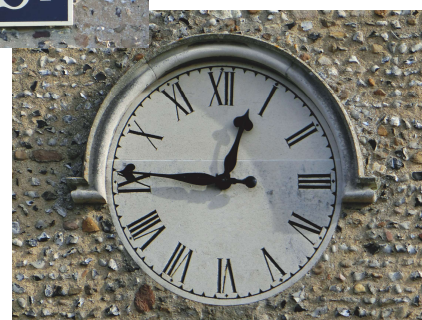
Top L	Furneux Pelham
Top R	Sheering
Middle L	High Wych
Middle R	Hinxton
Bottom	Great Bardfield



The Hundred Parishes Society’s trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.

*Ken McDonald, Secretary*

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



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## Village Services and Activities

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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
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810800
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
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	07485 092658

## St. Mary's Church



### Church services - 11.15 am

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Family Service with Jo Pratt
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion with Revd Fairweather
16 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm Evening Carol Service
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Matins with Hugh Mascetti and Pam Lee
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack

### Church News

When I can, I love to share good news about our church and that is what I can do right now. Some months ago, we noticed that white staining had appeared on the underside of the roof trusses in the main aisle of the church and for a time we were worried that some sort of rot had set in. As you can imagine, potential cost of any repair needed was a major concern. However, the good news is that the trusses have been closely inspected and the result is that no repairs are required. The staining is thought to have been caused by the extreme weather that we have all been experiencing but we have been assured that the roof is as sound as it ever was. On the flip side, we have an outbreak of woodworm in the parquet flooring and some of the pews. The recommendation is to spray all the woodwork in church to prevent any further damage but because we have bats roosting in church, we must get authorisation from Natural England for chemicals to be used. Arrangements for an up-to-date bat survey are in hand

Christmas is just around the corner. Last year we served lunch in the hall (turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding) and any children that came along with a parent received a gift from Santa. It was a great success. Santa is joining us again this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If you would like to join us, be quick and call Pam on 07702171744 to see if there any available places left.

As usual Liz and Pim Godwin will be hosting their Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. They always make this event special so please come along and join in.

Please don't forget to come along to the Evening Carol service. This nostalgic event is usually well supported by the village, some of whom have wonderful singing voices. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to reading through the Church News each month. I wish you and your family a happy, healthy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

### Upcoming Events

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christmas Lunch in the Hall. Adults £25 (accompanying children £5 each includes gift from Santa)
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Moorswood Christmas Coffee Morning
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening Carol Service

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

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



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## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:  
**Manager:** Cat Roberson  
**Telephone:** 07485 092658  
**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## THE THREE WILLOWS



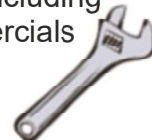
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