



Birchanger Village Magazine

February 2023

Issue 241



Over 300 Objections to Travellers' Planning Application

Council Accused of Undermining Planning System

As we go to press, Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has received over 300 objections to the Travellers' planning application and the number is increasing daily. This huge number of objections gives an indication of the importance that Birchanger residents attach to protecting the Green Belt around the village. There has not been a single public submission in support of the Travellers' planning application.

Having failed to comply with the relevant conditions imposed by a government-appointed Planning Inspector in 2021, the Travellers should have vacated their site at the end of Birchanger Lane in October last year and reinstated it so that it could be returned to unspoilt Green Belt.

The Travellers ignored the Inspector's ruling to vacate the site but, instead of taking enforcement action, UDC decided to invite them to submit a fresh planning application for approval. Many of the objections submitted by local residents accuse UDC of destroying public trust in the planning system by disregarding the Inspector's ruling.

One local resident commented: "The site is an eyesore and it's not surprising there have been so many objections. The Travellers are riding roughshod through the planning system and our local council seems to be doing everything possible to help them do that."

UDC Planning Committee will decide the planning application on 8th March, and you can still make your views known by sending an

email to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk, or letter to the Planning Department, Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER or by phone: 01799 510510, quoting Planning Application UTT/22/3094/FUL and including your name and address.

You can also ask to speak at the Planning Committee meeting. You would need to arrange this a few days beforehand by emailing committee@uttlesford.gov.uk or by phoning 01799 510410. The meeting will take place at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden, starting at 10.00am. You would only be allowed three minutes but that can be more than enough time to make your key points.

Police Operation

In the meantime, there has been considerable speculation as to the reasons for a major police presence on the Travellers site from 3rd to 7th January, including forensic personnel in white overalls. It is understood that a vehicle was removed from the site for further examination. However, Essex Police remain tight-lipped about this whole operation.





Editors Letter Box

Dear Ed

Local residents in Birchanger are concerned about anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, and in particular noise related to unauthorised sites. Illegal traveller sites can be a nuisance for local communities and an inappropriate development of open space.

After two consultations on this issue, new measures have been introduced, through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, which increase the powers available to the police in England and Wales. The Act, which I supported in Parliament, introduces a new criminal offence where a person resides or intends to reside on any public or private land without permission and has caused, or is likely to cause, significant harm, obstruction, or harassment or distress.

In addition, the legislation amends the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to broaden the list of harms that can be considered by the police when directing people away from land; and increase the period in which persons directed away from land must not return from three months to 12 months. Amendments to the 1994 Act will also allow police to direct trespassers away from land that forms part of a highway.

The Government has taken steps to ensure that those exercising their rights to enjoy the countryside are not inadvertently impacted.

These new measures are a proportionate and necessary increase in powers for the police. The Government has made it clear that only a minority of travellers are causing problems, such as through abusive behaviour and extensive litter and waste at illegal sites. The vast majority of the travelling community are decent law-abiding people, and we must ensure that there are legal sites available for them.

With this in mind, the launch of the £10 million Traveller Site Fund for 2022-23 will support local authorities, including Essex County Council, to provide additional transit and permanent sites to meet the accommodation needs of travellers. The fund can also be used for the refurbishment of existing transit and permanent sites to improve the living conditions and environments for residents.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding illegal traveller sites in Birchanger please email me at kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk. You can also sign up to my e-newsletter to hear more about my work on this issue, in Parliament and across the constituency at: www.kemibadenoch.org.uk

Kemi Badenoch

Dear Ed,

I am writing to you in order to correct the figures given in the previous months' magazine regarding the Poppy Appeal. We actually raised much more than previously reported. The actual amounts raised were as follows:

Mick McGahan	£604.35
Birchanger Club	£61.61
Birchanger School	£164.08
Three Willows	£41.68
Total	£871.72

A very big thank you to all of you for your support at this difficult time.

Mick McGahan

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

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

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

The Hardest Month of the Year?

February is one of the least popular months of the whole year. Winter has overstayed its welcome if it ever had one. A relentless cold east wind will not stop blowing and the weather is horrible. Heating bills are high, but if you are in difficulties, tell your supplier as soon as you can so you can work things out between you. Whatever you do, do not wait until matters become out of hand. There may be help or special schemes out there which will benefit you. There are signs that this will not be going on for ever. Snowdrops abound, daffodils are starting to emerge from the ground and the nights are just a little bit lighter. Winter is coming to an end and soon. The abundant roadworks will also hopefully start to end soon and we shall see for ourselves just what a mess they have made at the top of Birchanger Lane.

Restorative Justice

This is something we may be hearing a lot more about in Essex during the coming year. Restorative justice has been around in parts of Essex for a while now, but it is not used everywhere, and it is not suitable for some crimes and victims. Yet Restorative Justice can be very effective. It shows the offender the impact of their crime, while at the same time the victims and their families have their chance to tell the offender how they feel about them and how the impact of their actions has affected them and their families. They have a real hope of getting some answers to their questions and sometimes it helps offer closure and to set a face to the crime.

Police on the Lookout for Child Trafficking

It is probably something most of us find hard to believe is actually happening in our area, but the presence of an international airport, a motorway and a service station make it all the more likely that children are being trafficked through our area and dispersed into London or to points north. We will probably never see these children. They arrive at Stansted Airport, documents in order and are simply never seen again. The children are contained in groups of people. Suspicions are not aroused by anyone as they arrive. It is a scandal which large groups of border control staff, police officers and other security agents seem unable to bring under control. It is unlikely we will see any of these children in Birchanger, but if you do, please report anything suspicious to the police.

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.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 22nd February 7.45 for 8.00 pm

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Don't Be a Potential Victim

In other words, how can we stop ourselves from becoming victims of fraud? First of all, we need to help ourselves. Think hard about any request made to you before you act on anything the proposer may suggest. Maybe you are busy and you just do it to get the requester off your back and forget that criminals love busy people. They tend to say yes quickly. This is very dangerous. Please take care before you do anything requested of you on the phone or online. Think, take care of me, before you do anything. Is it right for me? Keep those words as a mantra, a little voice in your head. Only someone of criminal intent would try to rush you into making a speedy decision. We need to up our own protective resources. Maybe we need to educate ourselves better into the behaviour patterns of a typical scammer. Police now offer Fraud Awareness and Prevention talks to all interested groups. You can learn or find out more about the current scams and their prevention online at:

www.essex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/ or at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/training/friends-elearning

Loan sharks offering help with paying heating bills? Don't go there! The Citizens Advice Bureau are able to offer reliable help. Loan sharks are just going to drag you further into the mire.

Winter Blues

Most of us would admit to having them from time to time and many people are at their lowest at this time of year. Yet it can be a very productive time. The garden may well be off limits but indoors is not and it is a great time to start all those irritating jobs you promised yourself you would do last Autumn but it was Christmas before you knew it. Now is a really good time. DIY shops often have great offers on paint as well as a lot of new ideas for all over the house. Perhaps worth a browse one dark and dull afternoon?

Try the Men's Shed Experience!

Essex County Council has been promoting Men's Sheds for some time. These are quite literally sheds, which volunteers may well have built themselves and are springing up all over Essex. Quite literally aimed at men, who do not have their own particular place at home but who would love somewhere where they will be relatively undisturbed

where they can work on their own pet or shared projects.



Currently there is one at Little Canfield where they made the stands for the art exhibition Birchanger had a few years ago. Essex County Council is keen to promote this and further the Men's Shed

project across Essex. Contact ECC to see where they are and find more about the possibilities that Men's Shed might have for you. Alternatively, log on to <https://menssheds.org.uk/>. The contact for the shed at Little Canfield is Geoff Winckle on 07768 284858.



Coffee and Pancakes

Come and join us for coffee and pancakes
Moorswood
Tuesday February 21st.
 All are very welcome

Birchanger Parish Council Supports the '20's Plenty for Us' Essex Campaign



Over 40 Essex councils, including Birchanger now support the campaign for limiting speeds in residential areas to 20 mph and more councils are joining every week. More than 100 councils have indicated their support in Essex.

20's Plenty for Us is a nonprofit organisation with over 600 local groups campaigning to make cities, towns, and villages around the world better and safer places to be. They campaign for a speed limit of 20 mph to be implemented on all residential streets in towns and village centres, unless a higher speed limit is warranted and is evidentially safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

'20's Plenty for Us' believe that "20's Plenty Where People Live".

- Most of the UK's larger cities have adopted 20 mph for their residential streets
- Wales is about to implement a [20 mph national default for residential roads](#).
- The General Assembly of the United Nations endorses [20 mph or 30km/h speed limits](#) where people mix with motor vehicles, unless strong evidence exists that higher speeds are safe.
- The UK National Government supports the Stockholm Declaration <https://bit.ly/3SG0gCG> which states 20 mph as the maximum speed limit where people and motor vehicles mix.
- Essex County Council has so far avoided adopting this initiative!

With the Welsh government already committed to a national default 20 mph limit for urban and village roads, the Scottish Government has announced that it plans for 20 mph to become the norm in built-up areas. This aligns with global best practice that 20 mph or 30km/h is the maximum permissible speed on roads used by pedestrians and cyclists unless a higher limit is evidentially safe. It is a key component of Scotland's response to the Climate Emergency and helps to support Active Travel.

Apart from saving lives, reducing speeds in built up areas will also reduce fuel consumption and our carbon footprint.

The 20's Plenty for Us campaign will focus on Essex councillors, parish councils, district and county councils with the aim reducing speed limits in residential areas throughout Essex.

Peter Sampson



Taylor Landscapes
 Landscapes For Living

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 07941 357934

✉️
mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net

📱
[@TaylorLandscapesLtd](#)

Going Out for the Evening?

In these times when the cost-of-living is rocketing and nearly everyone is struggling financially, all our homes are prime targets for grab and run cash burglaries. These often disparate people cruise around areas usually not their own, looking for signs that the occupier is out. They are looking for lighting that always remains the same. They love the unlocked doors, side gate and the easy getaway.



We can try to fool them a little. We could use lighting that changes and is never quite the same when the occupant is out.

All doors and windows must be locked and yes that open fanlight does matter. They are adept at wriggling their way through almost anything. If you are going away, try and leave a car on the drive or invite a neighbour to park there. Make sure the neighbours know you are away so that anything suspicious can be reported.

It is sad that we are still having to live like this, but there are too many despicable people out there who believe it is their right to live off others!

Volunteers Wanted For Ukrainian Refugee Support at Stansted Airport

UCAN are looking for volunteers to support Ukrainian adults and children arriving at Stansted Airport. Four hourly shifts, 7 days per week between 9am – 12.30am, two volunteers are needed per shift.

Volunteers will be led and supported by an onsite Volunteer Co-ordinator with full induction and training provided online. Free car parking. Mileage, food and drink will be provided.

To find out more please contact us:
 Tel: 01799 510525 or Email: volunteer@ucan.org.uk

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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Future Voting will Require Photo ID

In April 2022, the Elections Act 2022 was passed by the UK Parliament. The Act will require voters in Great Britain to show photo ID before being issued a ballot paper in polling stations at UK Parliamentary elections, local council elections and referendums in England and police and crime commissioner elections in England and Wales. This will also apply to a proxy voter, someone voting in person on someone's behalf.

Voter ID is designed to prevent 'personation', the crime of pretending to be someone else when you vote. The Government acknowledges levels of fraud are low but argues that every ballot matters, and that voter ID will protect voters from having their vote stolen.



Fly Tippers Strike Again

It would appear that Birchanger Lane is now the latest fly tip!

This image was taken just along by the village park!

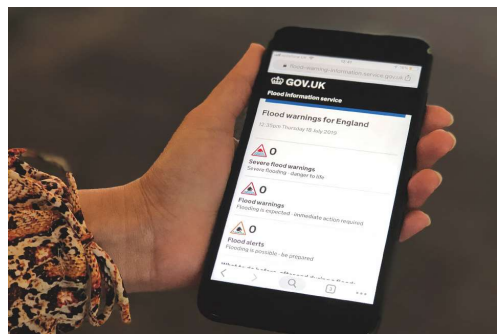
At least they had the presence of mind to dispose of their rubbish in appropriate bags!

SuYoung32

Government Emergency Alerts system Will Be Live Soon

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system will be live early this year, and you should expect to receive a test message. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data. Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.



If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound.

A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to

respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at [gov.uk/alerts](https://www.gov.uk/alerts).

If you receive an alert, read the alert carefully and follow the instructions. You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts; for more information on the new alert system or how to opt out please go to www.gov.uk/alerts.



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Our Annual Christmas Lunch was held on December 15th. Some eighty members braved the snow, ice and freezing conditions to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Bury Lodge. What a joyous party it turned out to be, full of festive fun with seasonal music playing, an enjoyable meal, some wonderful raffle prizes and convivial company. Our thanks go to Teresa and her team at Bury Lodge for their hospitality and to Gill and Bob Dean who so ably organised the whole event. It proved a fitting finale to a wonderful year for Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.



The General Meeting on 16th February is entitled "Medieval Maldon". With busy quays, substantial housing, flourishing artisan guilds and even a royal mint in the early years, Maldon in the Middle Ages was a prosperous port at the mouth of the Blackwater. Local resident and amateur historian Dennis Eraut will increase our appreciation of an often overlooked small town.

Last year our membership increased by 20% so we have been encouraged to introduce several new interest groups for 2023 including "Antiques and Collectibles", "Geography", a new "Walking" group and a "Singles Group" - a social group aimed specifically at people on their own.

The first Saturday Seminar of 2023 will be held on 25th February. Called "Old Russia to European State: a history of conflict between Russia and Ukraine", it is timed to recognise the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. David Morson will be exploring the history of the relationship between Russia and Ukraine to give some insights into what lies behind this tragic conflict. The Seminar will be held at the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AG. Members should book their tickets from Ticket Source, £7 each although a few may be for sale at the February General meeting for members without internet access.

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

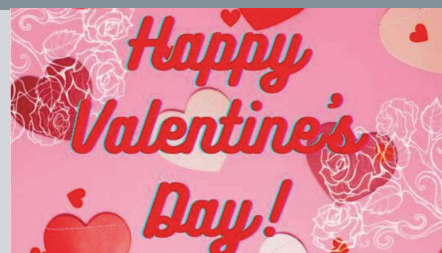
Anne White, Obo Stansted u3a

Telephone 07874 385541

What's on in the village...



February 2023



Household Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays.

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
		1 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	2 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	3 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	4 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 19.00 Quiz Night	5 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
6 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	7 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	8 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	9 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	10 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	11 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Bad Monkey Drivers	12 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
13 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	14 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	15 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	16 Black Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	17 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	18 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	19 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
20 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	21 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance Moorswood: Coffee & Pancakes	22 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance 20.00 BAGS	23 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	24 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	25 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance Studio for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Afterlife - Live	26 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
27 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	28 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance					



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



2023 FIXTURES

GUINNESS SIX NATIONS

— GMT —

ROUND 1	WAL	SAT 4 FEB	14:15	IRE	ROUND 1
	ENG	SAT 4 FEB	16:45	SCO	
	ITA	SUN 5 FEB	15:00	FRA	
ROUND 2	IRE	SAT 11 FEB	14:15	FRA	ROUND 2
	SCO	SAT 11 FEB	16:45	WAL	
	ENG	SUN 12 FEB	15:00	ITA	

Happy Mother's Day

Bookings being taken for Lunch

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership benefits

- Reduced drink prices
- FREE regular entertainment
- Live sports
- Hot food

...Plus More!..

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

WHAT'S ON

BAD MONKEY DRIVER
11th February - 9pm

AFTERLIFE
25th February - 9pm

Quiz Night
SATURDAY NIGHT - 4th FEBRUARY

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
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements





Birchanger Primary School

Now that we have started the new calendar year, we continue to embrace our vision statement 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). We have had a number of visitors already. Our first and most fluffy visitors were the chicks. They arrived as eggs in an incubator and while they were with us, the eggs all hatched and the children were delighted that chickens filled the space where the eggs had previously been. Miss Peal has found a farm local to her that has taken our chicks to look after. However, we couldn't send them to the farm without having a quick and very careful cuddle.



We also hosted a Roman day in Year 3/4. This tied in nicely to the learning assignment that the class were doing as part of their history. Among the activities the children were able to look at some genuine Roman finds. These had been discovered by one of the parents in our own village - what an amazing source to show the children. They were particularly impressed by the gold!

By the time that you have read this article we will have held our Safer Internet Week. This gives the children information about how to stay safe online. This reflects the national week which brings the country together to help educate our children to be as safe as possible online.

Our book week was held in the last week of January. During that week of storytelling, we joined the community at the Mountfitchet Care home. The children read with the residents and had a sing song too. Later in the term we shall also mark World Book Day by dressing up as a book character.

We are planning to hold another music show. The last one was held just before covid caused us to close our doors so it will be wonderful

to listen to the children once more. For this concert we shall bring together music from within the school such as our choir and some of the singing in our music lessons. We will also showcase solo musical performances on a range of instruments which reflects the learning at school and at home.



'Life in all its fullness' Claire Berry - Headteacher



Over Christmas our wonderful new Pergola has been built which is going to be used as an outdoor classroom. It will be so lovely for the children to be able to explore activities in all weathers whilst staying dry!



Our topic this half term is 'Keeping Healthy' the children have enjoyed taking part in many different activities such as yoga, exercise sessions, tasting new foods and looking at hygiene routines such as hand washing to keep the germs away! We're also looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year and Pancake Day in the next few weeks and will be trying lots of delicious food.

Since the start of term, we have welcomed many new families to the pre-school. Our spaces are filling up quickly, but we do still have some availability so please get in touch with us if you are looking for a pre-school place for your child.

Carly Richards Pre-school Manager Tel: 01279 810800



Airport in the Countryside

As far back as 1985, when the Government decided that Stansted should be London's Third Airport, there was a promise that Stansted would be the 'Airport in the Countryside'. Sprawling development, as seen around Gatwick and Heathrow, would not be permitted at Stansted. Only airport-related businesses would be permitted on the airport site and local planning policy would aim to prevent airport-related development adjacent to the airport boundary.

Stansted Airport 1970s



In 1995, the vision of an Airport in the Countryside was reinforced by Uttlesford District Council with the designation of a Countryside Protection Zone ('CPZ') around the airport perimeter. The aim was to prevent urbanisation by restricting development which could cause coalescence – i.e., a joining up – between the airport and surrounding settlements and other built-up areas. There was also a presumption that new building would generally lead to coalescence. In addition to the CPZ, much of the land to the west and south of Stansted airport is designated Green Belt, which provides stronger protection against development.

Has the policy been successful?

Compared to Gatwick, Heathrow or Luton, Stansted is undoubtedly an Airport in the Countryside but there has been some erosion of the original vision. Many airport-related businesses have located outside the airport perimeter, partly for cost reasons, and some housing and other developments have been given approval despite being located within the CPZ.

The policy has at least been successful in confining (official) airport-related car parking to within the airport perimeter. However, this has had the knock-on effect of giving Stansted Airport a monopoly on car parking (unlike Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton) and making it the most expensive airport parking in the country. Another knock-on effect is fly parking in residential areas. No-one wants to pay more for airport parking than the price of their Ryanair ticket.

Despite the imperfections, most local residents will almost certainly support the vision of Stansted as an Airport in the Countryside – warts and all. This must be better than the alternative of urbanisation. We should all do our level best to maintain the original, 1985 vision.

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We have been working hard on pruning, tree planting and other winter jobs and are now looking forward to re-opening the Gardens for the snowdrop season. In 2022 it was wet in February, and we had to cancel two of the planned snowdrop days, so we have our fingers firmly crossed for decent weather and ground conditions and for the snowdrops to be at their best on time (despite the unseasonably mild start to 2023)!

On the Sunday Snowdrop Open Days, on 12 and 19 February, we will offer our complete welcome package. Visitors will enjoy the vistas of snowdrops in the Bosquet, in the front of the Gardens, the Glade and in the Walled Kitchen Garden. The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks, bacon/cheese/hummus rolls, homemade soup, and homemade cakes. There will be a plant stall and snowdrops in the green for sale. Gates open at 11.00pm, last entry 3.00pm, gates close at 4.00pm.



On Thursday Snowdrop Days, on 16 and 23 February, the Gardens of neighbouring Warwick House are not open to visitors, but there is still lots of space for visitors and their well-behaved dogs on leads and lots of snowdrops of course! The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes; and snowdrops in the green will be on sale. Gates open at 11.00pm, last entry 2.00pm, gates close at 3.00pm.

For more information go to our website:

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Tickets will be available in advance through Trybooking.com and any not sold in advance will be available on the Gate. Advance tickets will be refunded if the Trust has to cancel the Snowdrop Day.

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Flowering snowdrops are a welcome sight in early February. Although not native to this country, these spring-flowering bulbs were planted in churchyards from the 16th century onwards. As their seeds are dispersed by ants, they have become naturalised in suitable locations such as hedgerows. Snowdrops carpet parts of Hatfield Forest and the gardens of Audley End and Easton Lodge where visitors can admire them; smaller clusters will be present in most of the churchyards around the Hundred Parishes.



Snowdrops are easily seen, but other early spring flowers will follow them as the days lengthen. Yellow-flowered primroses, winter aconites and lesser celandines appear alongside sweet violets. All these flowers produce pollen and nectar, vital food for early-foraging honeybees, queen bumblebees and other insects. Surveys of churchyards indicate they can be havens for wildflowers often supporting species which have become rare in the wider countryside.

Whilst neatly mown grass is appreciated by many, leaving vegetation uncut allows many attractive grassland plants to flower for the benefit of insects.



The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland organises a wildflower hunt to record what is in flower at the start of the year. The aim is to record how flowers are responding to a warming climate. Enthusiasts search their local area, noting what is in flower. This year, the number of species recorded within the Hundred Parishes was much reduced, almost certainly due to the wintry weather experienced in December.



More flowers will bloom as spring advances, so I encourage you to enjoy one or more of the walks or open gardens listed on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - or visit your local churchyard. If you are able, take some photos of what is in flower to share with friends or family or post them on Facebook, perhaps on The Hundred Parishes Facebook group.



Tricia Moxey – Trustee www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The Three Horseshoes

P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

Tel: 01279 813429

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

Village Services and Activities

Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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
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Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
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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	07475 092658

St. Mary's Church



Church services - 11.15 am

5 th February	Matins with Pam Lee
12 th February	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
19 th February	Family Service with LLM Jo Pratt
22 nd February	12.00 Noon Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
26 th February	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

Church News

For the past few days, I have been pondering on what I could write about this month that may be of interest to you all. Well, apart from the financial crisis that is hitting the country and being reported everywhere, the word "kindness" has popped into my mind. So here goes.

Over the festive period, my family went cruising on P and O's new flagship, Arvia. This was its maiden voyage, and you may have read in national newspapers about the problems that occurred on board. Frankly, the trip was not really of the standard that we had expected and throughout the whole two weeks passengers were complaining about everything.

Throughout our journey, staff on board did their best to solve problems, be helpful and remain cheerful. Most passengers behaved in a reasonable and respectful manner but others were aggressive and downright rude to employees that were trying to help them. It was sad to see all the frustration and was a little unpleasant at times. How I wish just a touch of kindness or understanding had crept in rather than the demands and threats.

It is too easy for us to rear up when we feel that we have been wronged but more often than not, our complaints are directed at the wrong people. I am going to try this year to deal kindly with people. To take a breath before I start to rant and rave. To remain calm and above all be KIND and I hope you do the same, because if we are all kind to each other, the world will be a happier place.

Future Events

21 st February	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
7 th April	12.00 Noon - Prayers at the Cross
30 th April	6.00 pm - Silent Communion
7 th April	12 noon Prayers at the Cross
30 th April	at 6pm Silent Communion
2 nd May	Coffee Morning - Moorswood
30 th July	Summer Lunch
10 th October	Coffee Morning - Moorswood
12 th December	Christmas Coffee Morning - Moorswood

Prayer of the Month

As we rejoice in the gift of this new year,
may the light of your presence set our hearts on fire
with love for you and all your people
Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com



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THE THREE WILLOWS

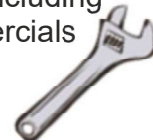


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