



Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2023

Issue 243



New Police Officers for Essex

905 new police officers have completed their basic training and are now in their posts across Essex. This brings the total of officers employed in Essex to 3755. Apparently, the biggest force in Essex in 182 years of policing.

As ever, this increase in police does not come for free and someone has to pay. You've got it, it's us the council taxpayers. In the big scheme of things, with the increased costs we are facing this Spring, this one is better than most. We shall have to find another £1.67 in council tax band D to cover policing alone. Could be worse! However, the fuel reckoning for the winter will hit us soon, if it has not already done so, and other winter costs are not far away. Remember, talk to your fuel provider if payment is a problem. They can help and sooner than later works best.

Police to Visit Birchanger Tea Room

Our new local Police officer - PCSO Keeley - will visit the Tea Room at the village church hall between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on Wednesday 5th April and Wednesday 3rd May. She looks forward to meeting you and answering your questions.

Have You Room for a Ukraine Refugee?

We may not have heard quite so much lately about refugees from Ukraine needing to find somewhere to live while they are guests in our country but the need for accommodation here has not gone away. More and more Ukrainians are feeling insecure and somewhat battered by the long cold winter war they have suffered with all its additional privations and feel the need to move temporarily somewhere safe. If you have a room to spare for a guest from Ukraine, please email to the Communities Team at Uttlesford at: communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk

Apply for Energy Bills Support If You Do Not Get it Automatically!

Households that have not yet received their £400 energy bills support may now be eligible to apply via the government's Energy Bills Support Scheme: Alternative Funding. The following people may be eligible to apply:

- care home residents
- residents of park homes
- tenants in certain private and social rented homes
- homes supplied via private wires
- residents of caravans and houseboats on registered sites
- farmers living in domestic farmhouses
- off-grid households.

To find out more about the support scheme and to apply:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Households that do not have online access or need support in completing their application can contact the helpline on 0800 1753287.

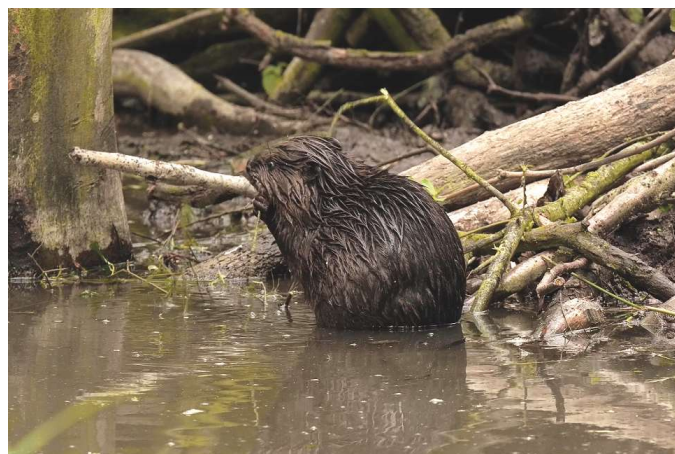
Recycling by Appointment Only!

The Essex County Council recycling centres in Saffron Walden and Dunmow may have been spruced up for spring but now you can't just "pop in" at your own convenience anymore. You must book a time slot, giving your name and contact details online. Just another inconvenience to have to put up with!

It is also rumoured that Herts non-residents could be barred from the county's tips under new proposals. Hertfordshire County Council said more than one in five users at its sites came from outside the county. It said the plan could save £433,000 in the 2024-25 financial year if adopted. Under the new system, visitors would need to bring proof of address when visiting a tip, or staff would do a postcode check. Seems like a sure way of promoting even more fly tipping!

Beavers Introduced in Essex?

Unlikely you might think, but a pair of beavers are about to be introduced to a specially constructed beaver enclosure at Spains Hall in Finchingfield as part of a national flood management project. The idea is that the beavers will create their own dams in the watercourse which will hold back flood water and so reduce the flood risk to the neighbourhood. Good idea for now, but no mention is made of what might happen to the beavers in a season of drought.



Birchanger Needs You!

Do you want to help your village community?
Do you want to be a part of the decision making?
Are you up for a small challenge?

If the answer is yes, then why not become a parish councillor. You would spend only a few hours each month of your time.

No special training or experience is needed.

If you are interested, please email our council clerk for more information: clerk@birchangerpc.org.uk



Editors Letter Box



Essex Campaign 20's Plenty for Us Continues to Grow

Last month, Birchanger Parish Council pledged their support for the '20's Plenty for Us' campaign in Essex. Since then, the parish council has sent a letter to Essex County Council requesting that they reduce the current speed limit default in built up and residential areas from 30 mph to 20 mph, something our village has been asking for at various times during the last decade. As expected, the parish council received a non-committal answer from Cllr Lee Scott at ECC who stated "Our officers are currently working through the Place and Movement Strategy and the Speed Management Strategy. As such we are not yet able to say whether we can or cannot support this approach, but your request is noted and it will be considered as part of our review". At

the time of publication, nearly 70 Parish councils have already pledged their support for 20 mph limit in residential areas and have made their views known to ECC. More councils are expected to join the campaign.

The 30 mph speed limit hasn't changed since 1934 – but cars have!

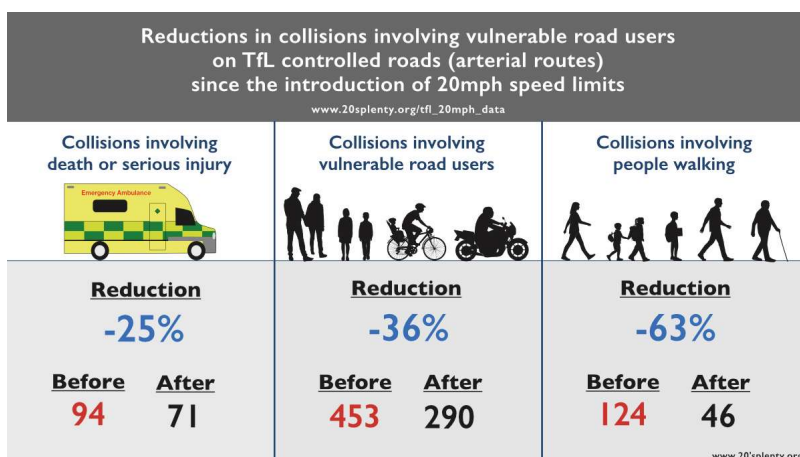
Bigger, high performance cars mean more danger for pedestrian and other vulnerable road users. For many reasons, including occupant safety but also convenience and increased profits, car manufacturers continue to make and sell vehicles that are bigger, heavier, and faster. For example, here is a 1960's Mini; 603kg, max speed 92 mph 0-60 mph 11.2 sec (in some discomfort) and a 2023 equivalent 1,282 kg, max speed 130 mph 0-62 mph 6.9 sec (in much greater comfort). There is also a trend away from ordinary cars towards SUVs which are even bigger and heavier. For example, a typical Range Rover today is 4 times as heavy and twice as fast as a 1960 Mini (2,300kg, max speed 155 mph (in absolute comfort!)).



Car suspension engineers continue to make ride and handling better, which improves comfort and enables drivers to drive faster and in greater comfort. Car engine engineers continue to improve performance, efficiency, and economy but also acceleration and speed. Trendy SUVs are specifically designed to provide occupant comfort over rough terrain. On country roads, these very large 4 wheelers often have to drive over kerbs or on to soft verges in order to pass oncoming vehicles. Their excellently engineered suspension means drivers hardly feel the bumps, so they don't need to slow down. All this combines to increase the risk of serious injury or death on impact with a pedestrian, especially a small child on the way to the playground.

The reduction from 30 mph to 20 mph saves lives!

Reducing the speed limit will reduce the risk to pedestrians in our communities. The degree of harm caused by an impact of a car on a human is directly proportional to its kinetic energy. The stopping distance at 20mph is about half compared to that of 30mph and where visibility is limited, or approaching a bend, the risk is even higher. The risk that a pedestrian is fatally injured in a crash if they are hit at 30 mph is about 7x greater than at 20 mph (ref. www.20splenty.org/). Lower speed also reduces the 'fear' of a road accident, thus making streets and village roads more attractive for people to walk, jog or cycle. Reduced speed also support efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. For more information go to 20's Plenty's website: <https://www.20splenty.org/>



Peter Sampson

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

Keep Safe

Keeping safe from street robbery can be helped if you follow street rules. First of all, look confident wherever you are. Move with confidence even if you are in a horribly dark and scary area. Plan your route and keep to busy and well-lit streets as much as you can. Need a cab? Make sure it is a licensed one and book by phone.



Don't make your phone conspicuous. It is far more likely to be snatched while you are using it as you are not paying attention to your surroundings.

In a restaurant or pub? Keep your bag, phone, and wallet out of sight - not on the table. If you are wearing jewellery, make sure it is not conspicuous. If you are threatened don't try to be a hero. Phones cards and cash can be replaced but the same does not apply to you.

Fast Tracking Drink and Drug Abusers

The police tracked down 48 drink and drug abusers recently. To their amazement the perpetrators found themselves in court and sentenced just 24 hours later. Rather a shock to their system when it turned out for some to be a custodial sentence. If they can do it for drug offences why not for other crimes like shop lifting, assault gun or knife offences to name but a few?

Keeping Safe Online

Most of us think we are reasonably safe online and perhaps don't pay much attention to our safety until a hacker strikes. Could we do more? What is my child really doing online? You must do your best to protect their identity and your own. Think before you post anything online, especially on social media sites. Check your privacy settings. Once online you never know who is following you and collecting data. Remember games apps have age recommendations for a very good reason. Your child may not like it but where necessary use parental controls applicable for the age of the child. Change your passwords regularly and make sure they are known only to yourself.

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 - A Pub Games Night
Wednesday 26th April 7.45 for 8.00 pm
bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703 Rosemary: 01279 814678
Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Solar Together

Thinking about installing solar panels this year? Most of us would not know where to start to find the best deal and might tend to accept the first offer which comes through the door. You don't have to do that as Essex County Council in association with 'Solar Together' and 'iChooser' offer a solar panel group buying scheme. This is a safer and cheaper buying method for customers to use. Solar Together has been in operation for some time, and helps buyers navigate the tricky business of finding the best price and quality deal from a trusted contractor for their particular property. Purchasing your solar panel system in this way will ensure you are offered a reliable system at a lower than market price. All you need to do is to register online at Solar Together for a personal recommendation.

<https://solartogether.co.uk/uttlesford/home>

Is Loneliness the Biggest Scourge of Our Time

Having been through a period of time myself when the best things in life and the worst things in life happened in equal measures, it seems that one of the worst things humankind can do is to ignore other human beings around them.

How many people in Birchanger are going through (or have been through) a difficult time, unknown or unnoticed by friends, relatives or neighbours? And how many people actually bother to help and support such vulnerable people? Most of us first experienced real loneliness during Covid. We were simply not allowed to mix with other people. Some of us got used to it, some even enjoyed it, but some retreated into themselves and stopped going out and have ceased to socialise. They continue their daily lives on their own without outside contact! For some people this is just fine, but others dislike this isolation and have now retreated so far into themselves they have become hard to reach, have built a cocoon on their own which they seem unable to leave.

Most of us do not know who they are, but their immediate neighbours may have an idea. A quick visit wouldn't hurt anyone but at least you will know what was happening with the person next door. You might not be able to do anything for them, but you might be able to persuade them that there are other people who can. There may be things they need and perhaps you can help with these as a start. Remember people who have lived on their own for a long time can lose their social skills. It will take more than a quick hello to restore normal human contact with some.

Somewhere to go in the School Holidays

Easter holidays can be tricky. The weather can vary by anything from a snow storm to a heatwave. Occupying the children on holiday in this uncertain season can be a challenge. For children, Saffron Walden Museum has many items of interest and workshops on various subjects. You can check them out online at:

<https://saffronwaldenmuseum.swmuseumsoc.org.uk/> Currently the theme is meteorites, with several meteorites on display including one which fell in Ashdon. There is an opportunity to make an Easter bunny in a special session which can be pre-booked (sessions run between 10.10 am until 2.30 pm). It's best to book as popular times get very busy. Saffron Walden has amazing resources for such a small town. To find out more, visit:

<https://www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk/what-to-do/>



Have you Heard of the Amazon Refund Scam?

I hadn't heard of this one, although scammers using the Amazon name have tried various schemes to defraud us in the past. This new one starts with an automated phone call purporting to come from Amazon.

If I receive one of these phone calls I usually hang up. However, if I were to stay on the line, I would be invited to press a button to talk to a person. Doing this will lead you to someone who tells you that money has been taken from your account for an Amazon Prime subscription by mistake. The person apologises profusely and asks you how you would like this money repaid. They agree to return the money and suggest a bank transfer asking for your bank details.

The fraudster then goes through the motions of making a payment to you using the details you have given. Suddenly they say that they have entered the wrong repayment amount (normally by adding a nought or two) and by mistake have paid you far too much and that you need you to transfer the money back to them. The amount of money involved can be large. If you transfer the requested amount, the scammer will be delighted, and you will have lost a lot of money which you are unlikely ever to see again. Amazon has nothing to do with the scam and will never contact you or ask for money in this way. If you think you might have been a victim of this type of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report the incident to your Internet provider.

Mental Health Hubs Opening in Essex

It looks like they are going to ask you to visit their charity shop and to buy something. That is not however the case. The hub is primarily an open centre during working hours where you will find advice and support for all the mental health problems which you or someone close to you may be experiencing. You can talk freely and confidentially, and the team will assist you in finding the right direction for recovery.

As you get better, the centre hopes to equip you for a return to normal life. It aims to help assist you through the illness and for your eventual return to work with the confidence to cope with normal life. It will help you find employment and even the possibility of retraining you along with everything else you might need to get going again. The hub runs a small shop and visitors often to their return to normal life from there. The first hub has opened in Tendring and is already proving to be a big success. It is hoped others will open across Essex soon. A positive approach to mental illness at last.



Our topic for this half term is 'Around the World'. The children will be learning all about different countries including their flag, language spoken, traditional food eaten as well as the similarities and differences to Great Britain.

We are fortunate to have a diverse range of ethnicity at the pre-school and will be focusing on countries such as the UK, Ukraine, Russia, Poland and the

Caribbean to celebrate our families.

We are now taking bookings for September 2023 so if you would like your child to attend our lovely pre-school please get in touch.

Clare Brace - Birchanger Butterflies Preschool /
01279 810800 - email: admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk



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Company of Merrie Folke,



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STORY**

Open Day: Sunday 23 April

- Lord Burleigh & entourage visit Easton Lodge
- Archery & armour • Tudor games • Quill writing
- Pottage making • Net making & weaving
- Craft & Plant Stalls

11.00am - 5pm (last entry 4pm)

Entry fees: Adults £6.50, children under 16 free

Bacon, cheese or hummus rolls; homemade cakes

• Picnics welcome • Dogs on leads welcome

See website for details

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

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Wellbeing Hub – Hospice brings specialist services to the heart of Saffron Walden

West Essex and East Hertfordshire charity, St Clare Hospice, is expanding its services into the heart of Saffron Walden with a new 'Wellbeing Hub'.

St Clare Wellbeing Hub – Saffron Walden, delivers a range of specialist services directly to the people of Saffron Walden and surrounding villages. Meaning those living locally with life-limiting conditions can be helped to live well, with the weekly drop-in hub taking place every Thursday from 10am – 3pm in the Salvation Army Hall. The Wellbeing Hub runs a rolling schedule of sessions, bringing the current wide range of specialist support offered at the Hospice site in Hastingwood, to the town. This will include therapies support, social work support, and specialist nurse input. People with diagnoses including (but not limited to) cancer, heart, lung and kidney conditions, and neurological conditions, will benefit.

Support includes information on finances, benefits and future planning; emotional and spiritual support; fatigue and breathlessness management; mindfulness and relaxation; a drop-in café and dedicated fortnightly Bereavement Café.

Tracey Hall, Head of Community Engagement, is running the project and said: "We're delighted to be bringing our specialist Hospice services straight to the people of Saffron Walden. We know that the distance to the main Hospice site is a challenge for many local people. We hope that the new weekly Wellbeing Hub will mean more people with life-limiting conditions can get the support they need and deserve."

Tracey continued, "If you have been recently diagnosed with a life-limiting condition, for example cancer, heart failure, COPD, or Parkinson's, we are here to support you and help you to live well. The Wellbeing Hub's aim is to be there for more people, from an earlier point in their diagnosis. We want more local people to get the advice and support they need, as early as possible. Being told that you have something that cannot be cured comes with so many questions and fears for people. From how to get benefits and financial support, to having conversations with their family, and planning their future care. Our expert professionals can also give advice and run sessions to help people to stay well for longer, and to keep doing the things they love. This can include tips for fatigue management, breathlessness workshops, and advice on managing nutrition and medication."

As well as a schedule of specialist sessions, the Wellbeing Hub also includes a fortnightly Bereavement Café for local people looking to connect and find support from others experiencing grief and loss. There is also the chance for anyone to drop-in, every single Thursday, during the Café Clare session from 1pm – 3pm. You don't need to pre-book, and it is open to all people wishing to find out more about St Clare Hospice. The Saffron Walden Wellbeing Hub takes place every Thursday, 10am – 3pm, at the Salvation Army Hall (Abbey Lane, CB10 1AG). Parking at Swan Meadow Car Park. The Wellbeing Hub officially opens on a weekly basis from Thursday 2nd March 2023.

For information, contact Tracey Hall, Head of Community Engagement, on 01279 773700 or info@stclarehospice.org.uk or visit: <https://stclarehospice.org.uk/>



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

On a lovely day in February the Garden Group made the first of their visits for 2023 by visiting Grove Lodge, Saffron Walden. The owner, Chris Shennan, introduced them to his half-acre, semi-woodland garden where hellebores, aconites, snowdrops, crocus and winter-flowering shrubs have been allowed free rein to create a beautiful, natural scene, high in biodiversity yet close to the town centre. There was plenty more to see with two ponds, topiary, an orchard and fruit and vegetable garden. They went the day after the garden opened under the National Garden Scheme and so delicious cake and cups of tea and coffee were available following their tour. A great start to the year.



Nearly 80 people attended the February Saturday Seminar at which David Morson talked about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. They were taken back to the 9th century to discover the founding of Kievan Rus by Swedish Varangians, the forerunner of modern-day Ukraine. They learnt about the frequently moving borders and the famines imposed on Ukraine by Stalin, bringing them up to the fall of the USSR in the 90's. Russia signed a treaty guaranteeing the borders of the countries formed out of that collapse. They were left with a much clearer idea of the history leading to this terrible war, helping them to see through current Russian propaganda.

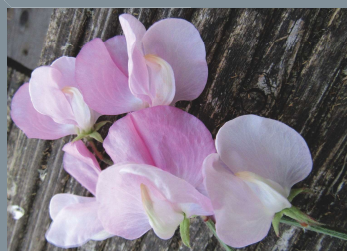
Please see the Events page of our website for details of our next Seminar on 29th April and future Seminars in 2023. www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home



Our speaker at the General meeting on April 20th will be Lindsay Whitehouse, who has been the Governor of several prisons including Chelmsford prison. He was also the first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex and has written particularly for professionals involved in the Youth Justice System. His talk is called "My Life in Prison".

Anne White obo Stansted u3a Telephone 07874 385541

What's on in the village...



April 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

Garden Waste Skip 3.00-4.00 pm outside social club: Apr 15, May 13, Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 5, Sep 2 & 30, Oct 28, Nov 25

					1 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 RedOnizm - Live Band	2 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Palm Sunday Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
3 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	4 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	5 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	6 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	7 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons St Mary's Church: 12.00 Prayers at the cross	8 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Karaoke Night	9 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Easter Day Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
10 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	11 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	12 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	13 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	14 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	15 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	16 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
17 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	18 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 1 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	19 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	20 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	21 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	22 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Josh's Quiz Night	23 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
24 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	25 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	26 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	27 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	28 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	29 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 The Brit Invasion - Live	30 St Mary's Church: 18.00 Silent Prayer BSSC: Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



REDONIZM

POP • ROCK • PARTY ANTHEMS

SATURDAY 1st APRIL

REDONIZM.COM



The Brit Invasion

29th April

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome new members. To join you can either complete the online application or speak to a member of staff at the Club.

For more information visit
www.birchangerclub.com



WHAT'S ON



22nd April

8PM START. FREE ENTRY. MUSIC, PICTURE & WIPEOUT ROUNDS. PRIZES TO BE WON.



8th April

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

Hello from Birchanger C of E Primary School 'Life in All Its Fullness'

This term we have had a number of 'special times' where the children looked at their learning from a different perspective. In February we celebrated children's Mental Health Week and during this week the children continued to report their wellbeing to their class teachers twice a day. We spent some time together when the school took part in a 'Walk and Talk'. This approach took the children outside the class together with members of the staff.

The younger children walked around the grounds of the school so that they could take time to look at the beauty around them. Whilst the children walked, they were encouraged to talk and listen to others. Our older children ventured further from the school and they enjoyed the Birchanger countryside by walking some of the footpaths that criss-cross our village.



After half term, the children used their wellbeing morning to think about how they would like to support communities outside the school so that they could show the school's Christian value of love as well. The classes varied in the type of action that they wanted to take. Litter picking proved to be very popular and enjoyed by the children. In Otter class, the children scoured the school's grounds for any bits of paper and plastic and then they extended their work by carrying out 'litter picks' in their home areas.

Whilst all of this has been going on, our Year 5 children were working their way through the Young Leaders' programme. This programme is run by the Archbishop of York and the children have split themselves up into a number of groups to support others, so look out for more community projects.



In between all of these events, we marked World Book Day at the start of March and our school was flooded by lots and lots of costumes. One of our chairs of Governors came to school and awarded prizes to the children which was a very tricky job. Our thanks to all the parents and families who supported the children to get ready and bring reading to life.

Claire Berry - Headteacher

Calling all artists, makers, and creatives!

An exciting opportunity to submit your artwork to the 'Uttlesford Open 2023'. This is Saffron Walden Museum's first, open call, judged art exhibition and will open to the public on Saturday 22nd of July. The exhibition aims to showcase artistic talent from across Uttlesford. Open to anyone, from complete beginners to seasoned professional, the exhibition will give local artists the chance to have their work exhibited in the historic museum building.



Artists, aged over 18 who are living, working, or studying in Uttlesford or within 20 miles of Saffron Walden Museum are invited to submit artworks on the theme of "A Sense of Place: People, Places and Landscape of Uttlesford". Entries will open on the 3rd of April and close at 11.59 pm on 20th of May 2023. After the closing date, a panel of judges will select work to go on display in July at Saffron Walden Museum. The artworks will be judged on both their artistic merit and their response to the theme. Unsuccessful submissions will still be displayed digitally. More information can be found at:

<https://www.swmuseumlearning.com/uttlesfordopen23>

Submissions can be made from 3rd of April 2023. If you need help to apply or have access needs, please contact museum@uttlesford.gov.uk



Gradual Recovery in Passenger Numbers

The Civil Aviation Authority has just published its final airport statistics for 2022, showing that Stansted handled 23.3 million passengers last year. This is three times more than in 2020 and 2021, both these years having been severely impacted by the Pandemic. A more meaningful comparison is to 2019, prior to the impact of Covid-19, when Stansted handled 28.1 million passengers.

Other UK airports are also gradually returning to pre-Covid levels of business. Last year, Gatwick handled 70% of its pre-Covid business level, Luton 73% and Heathrow 76%. Perhaps unsurprisingly, expansion plans which were shelved during Covid are now being dusted down and prepared for submission.

Luton recently submitted a formal application for an increase in its current cap of 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 32mppa. Luton is Stansted's main competitor and has ambitious growth plans. It has just opened a new automated shuttle train (the "Dart") connecting the airport terminal to Luton Airport Parkway station in just over three minutes, replacing the previous bus transfer service. The journey between London St Pancras and Luton Airport terminal now takes under 35 minutes, compared to around 50 minutes to/from London for the Stansted Express.

Stansted's other main competitor, Gatwick, will soon submit an application for permission to convert its existing stand-by runway for use by scheduled flights – effectively making it a two-runway airport. If approved, this would enable Gatwick to handle 75mppa. This compares to its pre-pandemic (2019) level of 46mppa and 33mppa handled last year.

Meanwhile, Heathrow remains tight-lipped on the timing of its proposed third runway. This obtained Government backing in July 2018 and cleared various legal challenges in the Supreme Court in December 2020. Heathrow appears to be waiting for stronger evidence of a recovery in the air travel market before committing to this £15 billion project.

But even without Heathrow expansion, it is clear that Stansted will face stiff competition from other competitor airports, if it wants to grow passenger numbers in the coming years.

Finally, how can all this planned expansion be reconciled with climate change policy and, in particular, the Government's statutory duty to achieve 'Net Zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050?

You might want to write to your local MP and ask that question!

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We are looking forward to April, as the Gardens open for visitors on Thursdays from 6 April and we have our first ever Tudor Day on 23 April.

The volunteers have been working hard over winter on a range of projects. So, by April there should be a new path, a refreshed rill, more freshly planted trees and a new planting area behind the croquet lawn. The daffodils and cowslips will still be flowering, and bluebells and tulips at the end of the month. There will be the first roses, cherry blossom, and lots of fresh green leaves. Just some of the highlights to see in the Gardens in April.



On 23 April visitors to the Open Day will learn about the Tudor beginnings of the Easton Lodge house and estate. Henry Maynard was granted the estate by Elizabeth I in 1590 to add to the local lands he had already bought in Tilty. He subsequently bought land in Broxted and Great Easton. Maynard decided he wanted a large new Elizabethan house, on the site of the existing hunting lodge, and so what was known as Easton Lodge was built.

At the Open Day there will be a range of Tudor activities. The Merrie Folke will show the story of Maynard's relationship with Lord Burleigh, his patron, and Elizabeth's right hand man and give a flavour of a Tudor St George's Day. Our archivist will display relevant records, so lots of fun to be had and very educational too!

For more information on our open days please follow the links to our website as follows:

From 6 April, Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00:
<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/open-thursdays-3/>

23 April Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00:
<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/april-open-day-our-tudor-beginnings/>.

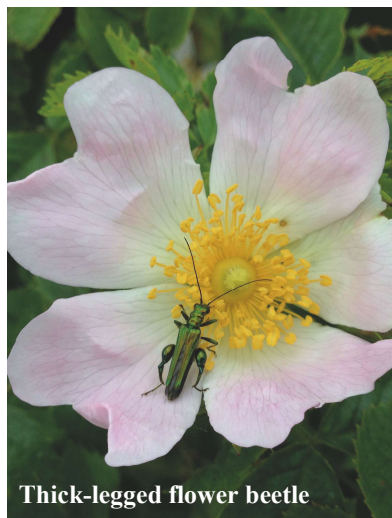
Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Insects in Decline?

As the weather warms, we look forward to an abundance of flowers offering food for bees, hoverflies and butterflies. A report by the Essex Wildlife Trust indicates that such sightings may be much reduced. During 2022, members of the trust participated in the UK citizen science 'Bugs Matter Survey', recording 'bug splats' on vehicle number plates to monitor flying insect abundance. The numbers of insects recorded on 277 journeys across Essex suggested that insect numbers have declined by 60% since 2004.



Thick-legged flower beetle

This is a worrying trend as it has implications for the survival of many other organisms. The majority of plants rely on insect pollinators to set seed including wild and garden flowers and three quarters of our food crops. Many song-birds feed on insects, and seed eaters such as skylarks and house sparrows nourish their young on insects.

Green grasshopper



The reasons for this decline are complex, but as most arable crops are grown without any weeds this reduces the variety of food supplies for caterpillars, aphids and bugs. Fewer flowers mean less food for bees, adult butterflies and moths.



Dragonfly

Gatekeeper butterfly



Fortunately, many insect species are resilient, and we can help with the survival of some. I encourage you to plant up your gardens with native hedgerow shrubs, a tree or two and install a bug hotel as these provide many habitats where insects can over-winter. Accepting flowery lawns and planting a wide selection of flowers is not only attractive to us but provides nourishment for an abundance of insects too.

There are many helpful guides to creating a wildlife garden; the RHS website is helpful as is *Gardening for Wildlife* by Adrian Thomas published by Bloomsbury in 2017.



Bumblebees

To get involved with the survey see <https://www.buglife.org.uk>. Visiting local gardens for helpful tips is fun too - see the What's On page of www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

The Three Horseshoes



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Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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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

2nd April	Palm Sunday Matins with Jo Pratt
7th April	12.00 noon Prayers at the Cross with Jo Pratt
9th April	Easter Day Communion with Revd Helen Flack
16th April	Matins with Hugh Mascetti and Pam Lee
23rd April	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather Followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting
30th April 6pm	Silent Prayer service with Revd Colin Fairweather

Easter is fast approaching but are we ready to go through all the emotions that this season of the Church year evokes and do we truly know or understand what is going on? Reading a story that we know well is never quite the same as reading it for the first time simply because we know what is going to happen. But digesting the same story for a second or third time often brings to light things that we might have missed on the first reading and as a result our understanding of the story can change, or better yet, develop into something deeper. The Easter story is no different. Just think of the account of the Last Supper when Jesus said, "one of you will betray me". We understand full well who he is talking about and from that point on we are waiting for Judas to stand up and do the deed. But, of course, the disciples who were present at the Supper did not know who Jesus was talking about for they were part of the story and the events as they unfolded. We can imagine how stunned they were, possibly indignantly say "it won't be me".

As we move forward through this season there will be lots of highs and lows where we get to see that Jesus gives his all for us and we are asked what we are ready to give in return. Jesus cares for everyone whether they want him to or not and he wants to make real change to our broken world. The question is, do we care enough to do as he asks?

People living in the Dunmow and Stansted Deanery walk together on a regular basis to visit local churches, share refreshments and make new friends. Some people take their pets too. Anyone can take part. Each walk, not too strenuous, is led by a local volunteer and lasts about an hour. Families are particularly welcome. Each walk ends with refreshments in a little out of the way church that you would probably never think to visit. The dates for the coming months are:

15th April	The Salings
20th May	The Rodings, Easters and Great Canfield

Future Events

7th May 2pm Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall commemorating the Coronation of King Charles with Prize Bingo. Adults £10, children £5. To book call Pam on 07702171744

9th May Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Prayer for the Month

Lord Jesus Christ, we mean to stay true to you, to stand up for what we believe but when put to the test we are weak and afraid. Forgive us for our weakness and give us deeper faith, deeper courage and truer commitment. Have mercy Lord, for we are truly sorry.

Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

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THE THREE WILLOWS

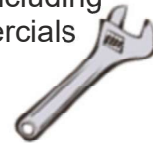


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