



# Birchanger Village Magazine

May 2023

Issue 244



## Birchanger Parish Council Issues 2023 Annual Report

There have been three important issues. Firstly, the road works on the A120 to remove the roundabout. Work started last year but the date for the Birchanger Lane closure kept being put back and back and eventually started last November. We were told that it would be closed until 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. When the closure first began, despite signs stating the lane was closed, there was still a great deal of rat running. This almost stopped with the help of the extra signs I requested which stated 'No Access To A120 or M11'. Incidentally, it took three months for these signs to arrive! The latest date for reopening the lane is now end of May / early June. The temporary traffic lights on the A120 are also planned to be removed at this time. We can only hope they'll be removed at the same time as we're sure to get many, many more rat runners if they're not.

The junction with Stansted Road and the lane has been the scene of many accidents over the years but these have increased recently. Just a few years ago Highways solution to this dangerous bend was to put in two sets of bollards. Clearly these have been ineffective with one set being completely demolished having been hit by various vehicles. The Parish Council have requested that another solution be found. An assessment is to take place but, as we know from previous experience with Essex Highways, this could take a very long time.

A consequence of vehicles not being able to exit Birchanger Lane or to progress along Stansted Road towards the roundabout following an accident is that many drivers use Tot Lane which, as we all know, is unsuitable for two-way traffic as it's a narrow single-track lane. A few years ago, the Parish Council requested that this lane be closed or at the very least be made one way. This was refused but we are trying again. Of course, this will need to go through the same assessment process so don't expect a quick answer.

The saga of the travellers site continues and has regularly been reported in the village magazine but to refresh your memories, they were granted planning permission by the Planning Inspectorate on October 9, 2021. There were conditions set and condition 8 stated they had to have an SDS (site plan) approved by Uttlesford District Council within 11 months, i.e., September 8 last year. Failure to achieve this meant they had 28 days to leave the site. The plan was not agreed and they did not move out. We had expected UDC to take enforcement action requiring them to leave but instead of this UDC invited them to make a retrospective planning application! Naturally, the Parish Council protested, as have many others. At this point I must thank those villagers who knocked on every door encouraging residents to write to UDC if they did not agree with UDC's actions. We had hoped that the application would be decided by the Planning Committee on March 8. However, because there is still one report the travellers have yet to submit, they have been given a further 3 months in which to provide it.



Again, the parish council has written to UDC stating our disappointment and concern at this decision. Indeed, it seems to us that UDC Officers have already decided to recommend the Planning Committee grant permission regardless of the objections hundreds of us have. Another issue with UDC's decision is that if the planning application is not heard until after the local elections, the Planning Committee members will doubtless have changed and may very well contain District Councillors who have no experience in Planning. This application is not straightforward and deserves to be decided by experienced Councillors. I have made this point to UDC but have yet to receive a response. We will, of course, update everyone as soon as we have further news.

In 2019 the Parish Council appointed Birchanger's own Police Community Special Constable, an unpaid volunteer policeman. He was with us for about 3 years but last August he left and so far, we haven't been able to find a successor. The good news is we now have a new Police Community Support Officer, PCSO Keeley Twitchett. She has a huge area to cover including Takeley and Elsenham but will be regularly visiting the village at various times of the day and night. She will also visit the Wednesday tearoom once a month so you can chat to her there. You can meet her on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Future dates will appear in the magazine.

The dates for stages of UDC's Local Plan have been put back for various reasons. This means that the draft local plan, part of which will show the selected sites, will not now be published for consultation until sometime this summer. It is anticipated that the final plan, having been approved by the Planning Inspectorate, will formally be adopted by the council in October 2025. As you all know, the village is surrounded by green belt and we have been assured previously that sites offered around us will not be included. However, I won't believe this until I see it in writing. So again, this year we'll put the resolution before you regarding protecting the green belt.

**Continued on page 2.....**

Continued from page 1.....

Stop Stansted Expansion has now changed its name to Stansted Airport Watch. However, as none of us knows what the future holds and whether Manchester Airports will seek further expansion at Stansted, we're still going to put forward the resolution rejecting any expansion. Brian Ross will be updating us later in the meeting regarding current SAW activity.

Over the last three years the PC has been utilising our reserve funds to support the Parish Council Precept. These reserve funds have been accumulating slowly over many years and our auditors had requested their reduction to maintain the PC's financial balance. This has resulted in an advantageous reduction in Council Tax for the Birchanger council taxpayers for the past 3 years. However, now that the reserves have been reduced to a level that is acceptable to the auditors and, in order to ensure that the service provision and costs that are supported by the PC are maintained, the precept has been raised to around the same level that it was 3 years ago - i.e. averaging £20,000 for the year.

Last year we celebrated the Queen's Platinum jubilee, sadly to lose her just months later. On the 6<sup>th</sup> May King Charles III will be crowned and so coronation events in Birchanger are planned to take place on the day at the club and in the village church hall.

Being a Parish Councillor is unpaid but not normally too onerous, we meet once a month except in January and August, but quite a lot goes on in the background like inspecting the recreation ground, meeting allotment owners and contractors, emails, and phone calls etc. We can have up to 9 Parish Councillors and at the moment we have 7 so if anyone is interested in volunteering, please speak to me at the end of the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank our clerk, Keith Williams, and all my fellow councillors, all of whom have greatly supported me over the previous year.

*Angie Driscoll*

## Don't Forget Your Photo ID on Voting Day

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, residents will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at a local level.

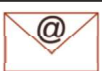
In Uttlesford, there will be elections to select councillors for all 39 seats on the District Council as well as in the town and parish councils where seats are contested.

These will be the first elections where voters will be required to show photographic identification at a polling station. Valid forms of voter ID include a passport, driver's licence and some concessionary travel passes. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo. Photo ID shown MUST be an original document – copies or images on mobile phones will not be accepted. Voters will not be required to provide photo ID if they vote by post.

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

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

*Peter Sampson*



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

## Birchanger Lane / A120 junction Roadworks Progress

In April, the barrier on Birchanger Lane at the Duck End corner was moved further up towards the A120, just past the hotel entrance. From the hotel up until the new A120 junction, the lane will be completely dug up for realignment and drainage work so no access will be possible from that side. Access was previously given to the hotel entrance and travellers site from the A120 side. However, vehicles will now only be given access from Stansted Road, through the village and up to the barrier near the hotel. This work should be completed around the end of May or beginning of June at which time Birchanger Lane will be completely open and the temporary traffic lights on the A120 bypass will be removed.

The new traffic control lights planned for the top of Birchanger lane junction with the A120 will not be installed until the road works are fully completed, at which point all the traffic lights will have been connected and tested. They estimate this will be finished towards the end of the year! During this time, it will not be possible to cross the junction towards Bishop's Stortford or to turn right onto the A120. Instead, vehicles will need to turn left and go around the J8-M11 Junction. Temporary give way signs will be installed.

### The Lane is Still Closed but You Can Use the New Footpath

The frustrated motorists have to remain that way for a while longer. However, the new footpath to the hotel is now open for pedestrians.



There may be some difficulties during construction working hours, but you can use the route to the hotel and according to what work is being done on weekdays, brave pedestrians should be able to access the far side of the A120 carriageway with care as road works continue on the new Junction.



# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## Confusion at the Tip!

It seems that East Herts does not want Essex residents using their facilities at the refuse centre in Bishop's Stortford. Despite the fact that Birchanger is just a few minutes over the border, they want us to drive all the way to Saffron Walden instead! However, according to some local reports, Birchanger residents are being allowed to continue using the Bishop's Stortford facility if they have proof of their postal address. To make matters worse, if you do use the Saffron Walden site or any other Essex County Council Refuse Centre you will need to pre-book a time slot.



You can book up to two weeks ahead and are allowed to take one carload only. You have a choice to book as a car or a van but must use the vehicle you made the booking for. Booking online is through the Essex County Council website and is fairly simple, but it's just another nuisance. Blue badge holders can turn up at any time without booking. It seems they will check the items you are tipping. You are allowed to tip up to three toilets per month and three internal doors in an effort to deter commercial users. For domestic users there is no charge - yet!

## Planning a Children's Party?

Most of us planning a children's party try and make plans to head off to the nearest sports centre or play arena where they have a structured party deal which includes food as well as two hours of free play on the various items of equipment available. For those brave enough to open their home to a crowd of excited children an unlikely source of help could be Essex Libraries where you can borrow equipment to keep the young guests amused for the length of time in which you are prepared to have them. Items include football sets, play tunnels, rounders set, sensory balls and ten pin bowling to name a few. Items can be borrowed for a week at a time and can be renewed for a further week. Might be a good idea for

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> May 7.45 for 8.00 pm**

We shall have a talk about The Buddy Bag Foundation

[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

**Olivia: 07568 574703**

**Rosemary: 01279 814678**

**Liz Turner: 07473 508056**

grandparents with grandchildren staying in the school holidays. The full list of equipment available can be found by contacting Essex libraries on 0345 603 7628.

## Are You Fit to Drive?

Not your alcohol consumption, it is your eyes that police are checking now. If you are prescribed glasses for driving, wear them or you could find that you are taken off the road. Essex police are stopping motorists and administering a roadside eye test to all drivers. Fail this and your license is revoked on the spot, you will be stuck unless you have a passenger legally allowed to drive your car. Many people have glasses prescribed specifically for driving. These glasses have often languished in a back drawer and never worn. Now is the time to get them out and start using them. Getting your license back may not be that easy!

## I Remember the Last Coronation



It was a very wet day, but I still insisted on wearing my brand-new coat that I was so proud of and set off on my own to London for the first time. I knew London pretty well from numerous trips with my mother, but this was the first time on my own. I loved it. The train was crowded. Everyone was talking to each other, and I was not left out. There was a buzz of excitement and anticipation. It was friendly and fun from the start. I was able to manage the underground easily and arrived at my aunt's flat full of excitement for the day ahead. The rain continued. We watched the ceremony on the tiny black and white screen of her brand-new television. The picture was somewhat flaky, but it was a novelty and readily forgiven for all its many sins.

Then it was off to join the crowds in the rain at Hyde Park Corner and waited for the procession to pass. The rain poured down. My brand-new coat was not waterproof, but at that moment who cared. Many marching bands and groups of soldiers passed by. Then the Queen came by at last. The rain made the gold coach sparkle brightly, in fact it was a sight which took my breath away and I almost forgot to look at the occupants inside. I just glimpsed the Queen as she waved at the very wet and very enthusiastic crowd. Then it was on to the palace with the rest of a very cheerful crowd. I lost my aunt in the crowd, but the Caribbean contingent took good care of me and I joined in with their singing. We got to the front just in time for the balcony appearance. We yelled for more and it seemed that all the crowd outside the palace was singing something, but not always the same songs at the same time.

My aunt, wet and soggy, eventually found me and said she had had enough. I told her that I could find my own way back to Victoria Station, so we said our goodbyes. I stayed with my new friends, shared their delicious new food and sang their songs. Somehow, we got the news that Sir Edmund Hillary had conquered Everest which just added more to the very special day. Finally wet, tired, new coat wrecked I headed for home. This time I won't be on the streets of London, but I hope everyone who does go has a memorable and fun a day as I had whatever they do and whatever the weather.

### Recording the Coronation

What will you be doing on the upcoming Coronation? Try to remember where you were, who you were with and what you were doing on the day. Write a letter to this magazine telling us your experience. The magazine is filed in the Essex Records Office so, let your own memories be a part of history of the day.

### Knife Crime is Still With Us



We may not have heard quite so much about Knife Crime in Essex and although at the time of writing numbers of knife crimes are falling, in the eyes of concerned parents and their teenage children it is still very much out there. For all the publicity on knife crime, it is still relatively rare, but children and their parents have their own very real concerns. Essex Police are working hard to make sure rates of knife crime continue to fall with more intense hot spot policing and intelligence gathering. The rather horrible knife posters which have been displayed in larger Essex towns together with the increased use of stop and search powers will hopefully help reduce such attacks. Research shows that carrying a knife protects no one. In fact, those who still carry knives are at a higher risk of being stabbed.

### Talk to Your Children About Knife Crime

This is a subject which most people would rather not talk about. That is why so many young knife crime offenders are somewhat amazed at what they have actually done. Frequently they say they had no idea of what stabbing anyone with a knife would be like and that they never thought about the consequences and devastation it could cause! Most of us have never been involved with knife crime. However, we all know that knife crime is devastating for families. What children need to know is the fact that knife crime is shocking and has unanticipated far-reaching effects. The place for a sharp knife when it is not being used is in the kitchen and nowhere else.

### Help with Payment of Your Gas and Electricity Bills

Most of us should have received our winter fuel payments by now, but in some rented properties payment of the winter may have gone directly to the landlord. Fine if he pays the fuel bills but not if you pay for them yourself. You may also be using alternative fuels, or perhaps you do not actually have a gas supply but you are still entitled to your winter fuel payment. If you are worried and are not sure if you have received your Winter Fuel Payment, talk to Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510510. You can also get help with your council tax bills. You will need to provide evidence that you have been particularly adversely affected by the high cost of living. You will need to provide the council with details of your income and outgoings. Everyone is affected in different ways, and you must tell the council why you need help with council tax payments. Contact them sooner than later for help and advice.

### Have You Heard of Clare's Law?

Perhaps you may have concerns that your existing partner, whose personal history is still unknown to you, may have had a violent past and could be a risk to yourself and your family. There is a new law known as Clare's Law which gives everyone the right to know about any previous violence and abuse associated with a partner. This way it is hoped that further violence can be prevented.

### Distraction Tactics at the Cashpoint on the Rise Again

Most of us either know someone or have been victims of cashpoint robbery. Sadly, this crime is once again on the rise. Criminals use distraction tactics and then snatch your card while your attention has wandered. They either bump into you, distract you by striking up a conversation or set up an incident nearby. When using your card, remember to keep a firm grip on your card. Never leave your handbag open as you pay at a till. Unseen hands can take vital contents out of your bag as you continue making your payment particularly at self-service tills. That happened to me. My card was used to make numerous small payments before being abandoned. I was lucky, my bank covered the unauthorised payments, but banks don't always pay up if you have been careless, so be careful.



### Avoiding Holiday Fraud

Yes, the scammers are into this now! They will use a website which looks just like all the other holiday websites, except there is no holiday and victims realise their holiday is a scam only when they arrive at their destination to find that the property or booking does not exist and of course there is no trace of the fraudster. It looked like a totally normal and genuine destination online, so how can you avoid this happening? They will often use photos of villas or hotels copied from other sites. You can use Google Images to check whether the image has been used. They may even be claiming that they are registered with ABTA. Check with ABTA to see if this is true. You can check to see if the property has its own website. If there is no telephone number send an email asking for it. Fraudsters will nearly always want payment up front by bank transfer to an account separate from their website. They will offer a special discount for you to do this. Always pay by credit card if possible it is more secure. Holiday bookings of all sorts are usually safer through an approved travel agency or friend's recommendation. In their absence play safe and check out this property every way you can before making any booking.



## ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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## Birchanger's New PCSO

I have recently introduced a beat surgery in Birchanger which I hold once a month in Birchanger village hall. Please feel free to call in and see me to discuss any local issues and crime prevention. Future dates will be advertised on the village notice boards, village magazine and our local Uttlesford Facebook page. I will visit the Tea Room at the village church hall between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd May and look forward to meeting you all and answering your questions.



Our Community Policing Team are often out in the district carrying out speed checks and dealing with antisocial behaviour, these are regularly raised as a concern in the community. If you have an area of particular concern, please feel free to feed this back through the Parish Council, or of course drop into the beat surgery.

There are several ways you can contact Essex Police; by dialling 101 on the telephone, or online at [www.essex.police.uk/digital101](http://www.essex.police.uk/digital101). Alternatively via the online chat function on our Essex Police website. You can also use crime stoppers to pass information to us anonymously, call 0800 555111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

These reporting methods can be used to report crime, antisocial behaviour, suspicious behaviour, found property and more. For emergencies call 999. I look forward to meeting you on my travels, Stay Safe.

*PCSO Keeley Twitchett 42082472, Saffron Walden*

## Business Start-up Grant

Up to £2,500 for start-ups and businesses that have been trading for less than two years. The grant can be used for items including equipment or machinery, shop fittings, web design or advertising. The Business Start-up grant is funded by the government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Find out more and apply below.

### Growth & Increased Productivity Fund

Up to £5,000 for eligible businesses that are looking to increase productivity, increase commercial floorspace or create new jobs or apprenticeships. The grant can be used for items including equipment or machinery, costs relating to research and development work, staff training costs or refurbishment of buildings. For more information follow this link:

[https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business/article/8244/Business-Start-up-Grant?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business/article/8244/Business-Start-up-Grant?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)



## Stansted Mountfitchet

At the General Meeting on March 16th Philip Caine's talk was called "From Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again". After seven hazardous years in Iraq, he rounded off his career in the Gulf States. From starting as an amateur chef in Barrow in Furness to running nine accommodation bases for 30,300 allied personnel in post war Iraq via wheeler dealing with a self-interested KGB officer in Kazakhstan. There was apparently never a dull or idle moment and his lively and humorous story telling engaged the audience from start to finish.

March saw the formation of four new interest groups: "Antiques and Collectibles" had an initial meeting during which members brought an item of interest and described their connection or particular interest with that object. Plans were made for future meetings including visits to antique centres, fairs and auction houses and meetings and talks on various areas of interest.

"Strictly Singles", is a group for those living alone. They met to discuss what everyone would like to do and there were many suggestions from trips to the theatre, concerts, cinema, art exhibitions, etc., to having coffee or lunch together. So far, a number of them have taken part in the St. Patrick's Day Quiz Night for the Twinning Association, and two separate groups have been to see "Allelujah", the film of Alan Bennett's hospital play.

Owing to the huge popularity of the existing pub lunch group, a second group, "Pub Grub 2", held their inaugural meeting at The Cock in Stansted on March 17th. They met for a most enjoyable meal and agreed to meet once a month to explore the culinary offerings of various hostelrys in the area.

Finally, a new "Thursday Walking Group" has formed which is also proving extremely popular. Meeting monthly, they walk some three to five miles, mostly across country, around the local area.

For more information telephone: 07874 385541  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home)



# What's on in the village...



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

1 <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	2 <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	3 <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	4 <b>Green Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	5 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	6 <b>Coronation Day</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance-kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Kenny Ward -Live	7 <b>St Mary's</b> 11.15 am Family Service <b>Church Hall:</b> 14.00 Afternoon Coronation Tea <b>BSSC: Roast</b>
8 <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	9 <b>Moorswood:</b> 10.30 Coronation Coffee Morning <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	10 <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	11 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	12 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	13 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance-kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.30 Me & Him - Live	14 <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
15 <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	16 <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	17 <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	18 <b>Green Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	19 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	20 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	21 <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 Matins <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
22 <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	23 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	24 <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	25 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	26 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons	27 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Josh's Quiz Night	28 <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
29 <b>Church Hall:</b> 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom <b>BSSC:</b> Quiz Night	30 <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet  18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	31 <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 20.00 <b>BAGS</b>				



# WHAT'S ON

## BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



Me  him  
SATURDAY 13th MAY

**"A KING FOR THE KING!"**  
**THE KENNY WARD EXPERIENCE**  
**THE MAN - THE LEGEND**  
**SAT 6th MAY**



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB PRESENTS

*Josh's*  
**QUIZ**  
*Night*

**27th May**

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



**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](http://www.birchangerclub.com)





**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](mailto:club@birchanger.com)  
 Website: [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

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BIRCHANGER SPORTS  
AND SOCIAL CLUB

## NEWS FROM THE CLUB



### Birchanger Petanque Club

Petanque is a sport that is enjoyed by all, from those you enjoy the game socially to those who want to play at a more elite level. Petanque has returned to BSSC and we always welcome new players. So just come along, we would love to introduce you to our sport. Its very easy to learn the basics of petanque and we can get complete novices up and running in a short space of time and before you know it, you will be pointing and shooting and getting that first win under your belt by getting a winning score of 13 points. We meet throughout the year on Thursday evenings and Saturday lunchtimes. We can provide sets of boule (until you get hooked on the game and want to buy your own!).

This is one of the few sports in which men and women, boys and girls, the retired and their grandchildren, can compete on equal terms. In fact, it is promoted as a family sport.

Birchanger Petanque Club is affiliated to the Eastern Counties Region and Petanque England and compete in many national and local competitions but for those who just want to play socially for an hour or two, we would still love to meet you.

**For more information, you can contact:  
Barbara Kilbey on 07889 275835**



**For all general enquiries**

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)

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

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For all news and announcements







## Cargo Flights

In contrast to the collapse in passenger numbers during the Covid pandemic, freight tonnage at UK airports actually increased in 2019 and 2020, with Stansted being one of the main beneficiaries. About 2.5 million tonnes of air freight are handled at UK airports each year and Heathrow accounts for over 60% of this. East Midlands is the UK's second biggest freight airport, accounting for about 17%, and Stansted is in third place, handling 11% of UK air freight.

There is, however, a big difference in the way freight is handled at different UK airports.

At Heathrow, about 95% of its air freight is carried in passenger aircraft - known as 'bellyhold' freight but it is the other way around at Stansted. In a typical year, only about 3% of Stansted's freight tonnage goes bellyhold. The remaining 97% goes in dedicated cargo freighters, and therein lies the problem.



Stansted handled a total of 177,000 flights last year of which only 9,300 were cargo flights and so it's a relatively small proportion of Stansted's flights. However, cargo aircraft fly in and out of Stansted from all over the world and they tend to be larger, older and noisier than the typical passenger aircraft which use Stansted. Moreover, they are very often scheduled to arrive or depart during the night.

This helps explain why cargo flights generate a high proportion of noise complaints from local residents. Many complain, in particular, about the McDonnell Douglas MD11 aircraft operated by FedEx. Some of these are more than 30 years old and were originally built as passenger aircraft. As they became more elderly, and unsuitable for passenger use, they were converted to cargo freighters.

Looking to the future, plans to reopen Manston Airport, near Ramsgate, as an air cargo hub are at an advanced stage. When Manston closed in May 2014, most of its cargo business transferred to Stansted. However, there is now the prospect of Manston re-opening within the next year and once again competing with Stansted for cargo business.

Plainly, that would not be welcomed by the residents of Ramsgate but it could mean a little less sleep disturbance for those most affected by night cargo flights at Stansted.

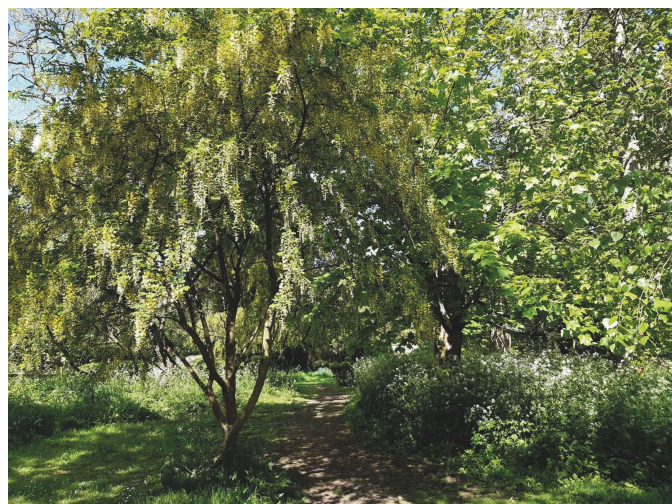
*Brian Ross*

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

What do you know about the Countess of Warwick's socialism? Volunteer guides have always featured this in their tours of the Gardens, and the Trustees thought it is a part of the countess' life worthy of being told in a bit more detail at our 21<sup>st</sup> May Open Day. The countess became a fully-fledged member of the Social Democratic Federation in 1904, campaigned for Independent Labour Party candidates in 1906 and installed socialist vicars in the parishes of Tilty and Thaxted. The Trust's archivists will be displaying fascinating stories, photos and details. Why not come and find out more?

On 21<sup>st</sup> May, as usual for a Sunday Open Day, there will be a range of plant, craft, honey, produce and information stalls. Local duo Karen and Tony will be playing music and of course a delicious range of homemade cakes and savoury snacks including bacon, cheese and hummus rolls will be available.

The Gardens usually look at their best in May and are open every Thursday through the month, allowing visitors and dogs on leads to explore while the Trust's volunteers are hard at work. The Trust's volunteers provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes and visitors are welcome to bring picnics.



In May, the wild areas of the Gardens are full of fragrant cow parsley, with wild orchids in the long grass towards the end of the month and last year bee orchids too. It is iris and allium season, with yellow flags in the pond, blue iris, purple alliums and allium christophii punctuating the borders with vivid style. Everything is lush and green and there are still flowers on the trees – the apples and pear blossom, with luck the laburnum (for some reason it sometimes skips a year!), and also the chestnuts.

For more information on Thursday openings, 11.00-3.00 (last entry 2.00), go to the Trust's website:  
<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/open-thursdays-3/>

For more information on the 21<sup>st</sup> May Open Day 11.00-5.00 (last entry 4.00, go to the Trust's website:  
<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/may-open-day-the-red-countess>

Tickets available in advance via the Trust's website or direct through Trybooking.

*Jill Goldsmith*





**The Hundred Parishes Society**

## Milestones can still be found all around us!

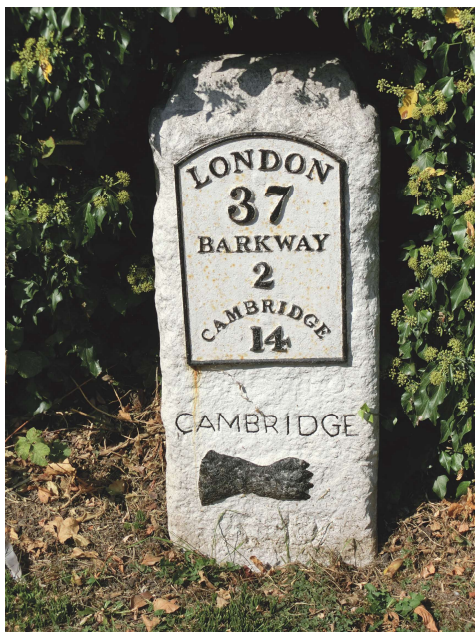
Milestones have been part of our heritage for centuries. They were an important element of the Roman road network, positioned to indicate the distance travelled or to be travelled. In 1767, milestones were made compulsory on all turnpikes, the toll roads managed by turnpike trusts, although many local milestones were in place before then.

There are around 40 surviving milestones within The Hundred Parishes, mostly along three highways that run between London and Cambridge. These highways are now called B1383 (formerly A11), B1368 and A10. The milestones are marked on Ordnance Survey maps as "MS".



One of the earliest and most visible milestones can be seen in Barkway, a historic coaching village. It was installed in 1728, one of 16 milestones funded at that time by a trust established in 1586 by a former master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

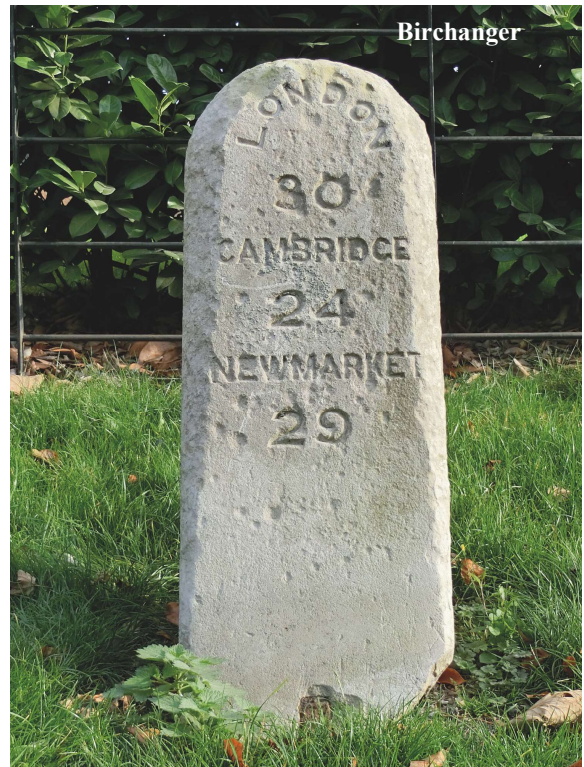
Additional milestones were added by the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust in 1742, some along the old Roman road, Ermine Street, now A10, and others along the alternative route, now mostly called B1368. Over time, the inscriptions became weather-worn, and many stones were upgraded in 1804 by the addition of a cast iron plate.



Stansted

Most milestones in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire are listed but only one in Essex is included on the National Heritage List - the large, three-sided iron milepost in the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet on the B1383. This is probably the newest in the Hundred Parishes, having been installed in the early 1900s. The earlier milestones along the old A11 would have been installed by the Hockerill Turnpike Trust

which was responsible from 1744 to 1870 for 28 miles of highway between Harlow and Stump Cross.



Birchanger

Some of the information for this article came from The Milestone Society, established in 2001. Their website is <https://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/>

Ken McDonald, Secretary [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

**The Three Horseshoes**



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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	07475 092658

## St. Mary's Church



### Church services - 11.15 am

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Service with Jo Pratt
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Matins with Jo Pratt
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

My apologies to you all but this month I find myself unable to concentrate sufficiently to write anything sensible under church news. Sue and Rosemary have also had more than their fair share of troubles too. These past few months have been difficult for me and my family and I just want to thank our friends and neighbours who have been so supportive and encouraging. Please remember all of us in your prayers and add in a prayer for our church hall. The church buildings are not immune to the recent hike in gas and electricity charges where rates have gone sky high and are becoming unmanageable.

The viability of the hall is really at risk as I have just received a £1000 gas bill for the last quarter. Not everyone using the hall does so respectfully and some turn up the heating then leave exterior doors wide open. That will not be happening in the future as the heating is being turned off until next winter and the thermostat will be locked so that only the hall manager will be able to adjust it.

I would also add that some people have continued to put paper towels down the toilets. The cost of frequent visits from a plumber to unblock the system are ridiculous so be warned that as from the beginning of May the hall will not be providing paper towels in the toilets. Hirers will have to provide their own towels (not paper).

### Future Events

7 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00 pm. Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall commemorating the Coronation of King Charles. If you want to join in contact Pam Lee on 07702171744 or <a href="mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com">pam.mark2@btinternet.com</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am. Coronation coffee Morning at Moorswood - all are welcome.
24 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm. St Mary's Family Quiz Night

Pam Lee (Church Warden)  
Tel: 07702 171744  
[pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com)



## Village Church Hall

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## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:  
**Manager:** Cat Roberson  
**Telephone:** 07475 092658  
**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## THE THREE WILLOWS

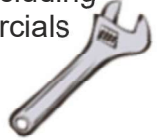


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