



Birchanger Village Magazine

June 2023

Issue 245



Travellers Planning Permission Update

The following letter concerning the Travellers application for planning permission was received by the Birchanger Residents Association:

Dear Sirs,

I thank you for your letter dated 28/3; as the Service Manager for both Development Management and Planning Enforcement it falls to me to respond on this matter. I do note that your letter is penned directly to the Secretary of State for them to respond. They have exchanged matters with us and will obviously make their own call on the matter. However, you do raise specific concerns regarding the Council's handling of the case which I do think it appropriate for me to respond.

You will appreciate that as we have a live planning application, it would be inappropriate for me to comment specifically on the direction of travel of the planning application. Please be assured that the planning application has not been predetermined either way and is currently under consideration. I will pick up the points you raise.

I concur with your summary of the case from the Council's issuing of an Enforcement Notice in November 2018 through the Planning Inspector's reasoning and decision and the importance of the critical Condition 8. I also concur that that the occupiers are in breach of planning control by failing to meet the requirements of this condition. The condition is absolute, and regardless of the outstanding issue, once the specific date was passed it cannot be revisited. As such, the travellers' occupation of the site is in clear breach of planning control. You suggest that the next action should have been the serving of an Enforcement Notice. I disagree.

The decision to invite a planning application.

The situation is as we were in 2018. When the travellers moved onto the site in 2018, because the site lay in the Metropolitan Green Belt there was no prospect of planning permission being granted as such, we did not invite a planning application. Ironically the travellers at the time considered submitting a planning application but their application was not validated. Following the required welfare checks we issued an Enforcement Notice swiftly which as you summarise was delayed through the appeal process (not helped by the pandemic).

The situation today is different, the Inspector's decision is very material to the consideration of the merits of this case. Sadly, and no longer an automatic impediment to planning permission being

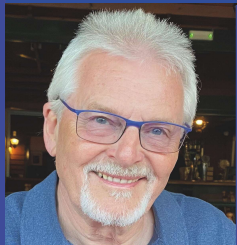
granted. Hence the Council were quite correct in inviting a planning application. The wording of the letter does not guarantee the grant of planning permission. The submitted application will be considered on its own merits.

The Inspector's decision is very material to the current planning application and should be considered. The outstanding matters regarding the drainage also do need to be considered, as well as the appearance of the site and its impact on the Green Belt which is potentially different to that considered by the Inspector.

Postponement of the Planning Committee

The application was originally scheduled for Planning Committee on 8 February 2023 and you summarise correctly the reasoning it did not meet that meeting. The reason the matter did not make Planning committee on 8 March was a combination of outstanding matters regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and the fact the case officer was on long term sick leave. As such we had not received the response from the Lead Local Flood Authority on revisions to the SUDS scheme. Officers have a duty to report an application to Committee with all matters addressed. We were quite correct in not reporting the matter to Planning Committee in March. It is quite appropriate for officers to allow reasonable time for applicant's agent to attempt to address the matter regarding SUDS. Despite your challenge to the Director of Planning Comments the SUDS was quite clearly one of the key outstanding issues and as such we rightfully wish to clarify that issue. I refute the claim that this is evidence that officers wish to see the matter approved, and I make no apologies that we are attempting to address all the technical issues, which would inevitably be addressed through the appeal process if the application was refused solely on those technical issues. My aim is for the technical issues to be cleared so Planning Committee can make a straight decision over the principle of development.

The Secretary of State will obviously make his own decision whether to call the matter in for his determination. However, the Council will continue to determine the matter in an appropriate professional matter. The matter will be reported to Planning Committee on 7/6. Due to the election and the absence of Committees in May that would be the appropriate Planning Committee, and I feel that by then the applicant would have sufficient time to address any outstanding issues. If he hasn't, the matter will still be reported to Committee on 7/6. *(Continued - page 2)*



Editors Letter Box

Continued from page 1

Hopefully I have clarified the Council's approach on this matter, which is totally sound, correct and not predetermined. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further queries on this matter.

Nigel Brown, Development Mgr & Enforcement - UDC

Uttlesford District Council has so far received over 330 objections to this planning application and it's still not too late to submit an objection if you have not already done so. The main point to make is that the Green Belt around Birchanger is supposed to be protected from any form of development and kept as Green Belt land. Planning rules should apply equally to everyone. The simplest way to object is by emailing a couple of sentences to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk quoting Application UTT/22/3094/FUL and including your name and address on the email.

These and other issues will be discussed at the planning enquiry planned for the 7th June at the council offices in Saffron Walden. Birchanger Residents are allowed 10 people to talk for three minutes each. However, all Villagers are invited to attend.

Thanks to Afternoon Tea Volunteers



Christine and I would like to thank everyone who helped out or came along to our afternoon tea on the 7th of May.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the tireless effort put in by Sue Gilbey, her son Dominic, and Cheryl Dare. Without these three people the event could not have proceeded.

The total profit on the day was £320 which has been divided between the MS Society and Sprocker Assist & Rescue. Both organisations have acknowledged receipt gratefully thanking the village for the support.

Pam Lee

New Fitness Pilates at the Village Hall

Hi, my name is Mandy and I run Flexifit Pilates. I have recently started a new Fitness Pilates class in Birchanger Village Hall on Fridays at 11.00 am.



Fitness Pilates is challenging yet safe exercise that promotes a balanced body, a longer, leaner, toned shape, superb posture, a strong back, improved balance and increased mobility and flexibility. It also increases strength and endurance.

For more information, please contact Mandy Cousins on 07713272664, or log onto my website:

www.flexifit.org.uk

Birchanger Allotments

Do you like gardening, growing vegetable, exercising in the fresh air? Perhaps you should think about taking one of the 4 vacant plots currently available in Birchanger. It costs just £15 per year and a onetime deposit of £75. Interested?

For more information, contact the parish clerk - Keith Williams on 01279 814773

Birchanger Residents Facebook Page

Did you know you can log onto Facebook and visit the Birchanger Residents Facebook page where you will find up to the minute notices and information about Birchanger village? You can also leave your own comments and information if you wish. As this is a private page, you must be a Birchanger resident and apply to join online:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/283147695598967/>

New Handyman in Birchanger

Charlie Grange is available for all the work around the house. Fence Repairs - Gutter Clearing & Replacement - Painting and Decorating Outdoors or in - Shed and Stable Repairs - Any Outdoor Work

Call Charlie on 07514 783239

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

Village Fete 2023

Arrangements are in hand for this year's Fete to be held on the sports field at Birchanger Sports & Social Club. It's on Saturday 9th September, so put it in your calendar in case you forget!

Disaster Averted!

Birchanger Parish Council recently received a Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order for drainage work scheduled for May 30th for 3 days. This meant that Birchanger Lane towards the junction with Stansted Road would be closed. Whilst there is no question that the drains at this end of the village desperately need attention, residents would have been marooned in the village and unable to exit or enter the village as both ends would be closed at the same time! The latest news on the work being carried out on the junction with the A120 is that the lane would be reopened on June 5th. Using Tot Lane would not have been a viable alternative as it's very narrow and not wide enough for cars to pass let alone buses and lorries. It begs the question; does the left-hand responsible party know what the right-hand is doing? Luckily Birchanger Parish Council stepped in and prevented the disaster. The drainage work has now been postponed until July.

Birchanger's New Handyman

After 28 Years Charlie Grange Retires at Last. Few of us have worked for 28 years with one employer particularly when that employer is a three-hour drive away involving a daily six-hour return trip. No wonder he feels that it is time to retire and do something new for a change. That Change is yet another challenge. Charlie is starting up his own business as a handyman for all the jobs you may not have the knowledge or time to do for yourself. Everything about the house and garden is now something for Charlie to do. Painting indoors or out, roof work and guttering, fencing and much more. Charlie has been helping people with this around the village for years at weekends. Now it is his full-time job. Call him on 07514 783239.

A Low-Key Coronation Weekend in Birchanger

Displays in Birchanger for the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla were surprisingly low key. Perhaps the village saves most of its creative energy for the Christmas lights or maybe the inclination was simply not there. Many people celebrated the day with friends in various locations and for most of us the occasion

presented on television was riveting and those watching were slightly awed by the precision and pageantry at every stage. This country may be behind others in some things, but we can certainly show the world how to make the most of a truly great occasion. Whatever happens in the world, Britain at least had a day to remember.

Safety Online - An Exploited Child is Never to Blame

We all need to be aware that every child is potentially at risk of being exploited online. Parents and carers need to know how to recognise the signs and how to deal with them. For the child the internet is both classroom and playroom and there are people out there only too ready to take advantage of this as the internet becomes increasingly the child's reality. Online groomers are persuasive, the child has no idea that they could be doing something wrong. As parents, the best thing we can do to try to protect a child is to create an environment where they feel comfortable and where they are able to talk to you about any worries they may have, whatever they are. Explain the dangers of the internet. Show an interest and let them share the games or whatever they are looking at. Limit screen time. No games at mealtime or bedtime. Be friendly, interested, but firm. For some, it may take a while to establish this, but keep at it. It is the best way to try to protect your child.

Worrying Winter Bills

Most of us have faced higher than usual winter bills in the past few weeks. The cold snap did not help, and all our fuel bills were higher than hoped for. At the same time BT and other services put up their prices as well. Faced with this avalanche of costs something has to be done and the best way to start is to contact the supplier direct. There is a special department devoted to customer support in most cases and most will find a better contract for you and help you to spread payments into manageable payments designed for you. The worst thing you can do in these difficult months is nothing. That way the bills will keep coming and court proceedings threaten. Remember you are not alone. Most people are trying to puzzle out how to live on a reduced income when prices are rising all around.

What Dialling 999 Actually Means

In an Emergency:

999

We all think that when we have an emergency, we just need to dial 999 and the appropriate help will arrive. That is true for all real emergencies which are currently happening. It is not for incidents which happened earlier or for matters like neighbour disputes,

historical crimes, or civil disputes, unless they are currently happening. It turns out that 80% of 999 calls are not emergencies! In a real emergency the call should be answered in 6 seconds.

The caller should be as clear as possible as to the events taking place and the required emergency service. If the incident has already happened but you want to report it, use 101 or visit the Essex Police website. You can report civil disputes, vehicle theft, antisocial behaviour or any concerns which are not currently occurring, thus freeing up the emergency services to do what we pay them to do, respond to real emergencies.

Birchanger All Girls Society

Next meeting:

Wednesday June 28th. Meet outside village hall at 7.30 for a village walk, stopping at members gardens.

Refreshments included

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Protecting Your Home While You Are Away

Many people will be going away in the next few months as the holiday season starts. Criminals are very well aware of this and are adept at spotting a vacant property but there are things you can do to create the illusion that the property is actually occupied. Be very careful just what you put on social media before or during a holiday. Remember nothing is really safe from the criminal mind so don't give it food for thought. Delay the comments and pictures of the holiday until you are home. Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your house. Perhaps they could draw the curtains and move the mail from the front door to somewhere where it cannot be seen. Try and find someone to park on your drive while you are away. Make sure that you do not have any deliveries scheduled. Radios and lights on different time switch schedules in different rooms are also a good idea. Even I can spot an empty house. Just think how easy it must be for the criminals. Nobody wants to come home to a ruined and burgled house. Criminals seem to get a pernicious thrill from smashing places up it appears. The rest of us need to watch out for any suspicious vehicle activity or strangers asking questions about people living in the village. Suspicious activity should be reported on 101, or if the crime or a suspected crime is actually taking place call 999. Police are very thin on the ground at the moment. New officers are currently being appointed and trained but it will be some time before any effect will be seen in Birchanger.

Why Can't We Stop Hare Coursing?

Hare coursing is a version of fox hunting without the same customs or any rules. Hares may have not been visible in the Winter months, but in Spring and very early summer they can be seen boxing with their rivals and running freely across fields particularly in the less built-up areas of Uttlesford. Unfortunately, many suffer the same fate as foxes before hunting was banned. Illegal hare coursing still happens across fields in Uttlesford, carried out with an assortment of dogs and very hard nosed individuals. The police do their very best to find and prosecute these individuals, but the practice continues. If you do see something suspicious as you walk the fields and woodland across Uttlesford, call 999, give clear information about what you see is happening and where, but do not approach. This is something very definitely best left to the professionals who have already dealt successfully with several such events this year.

Finding a Place for Young People

We all remember pictures of groups of young people hanging about in high streets across the county causing problems for others. Were they there because there was simply nowhere else for them to go? In Brentwood they seem to have solved the problem. A hall equipped with games, a cafe, an advice centre and space has been opened for young people to meet and congregate. They can get involved in activities, seek advice if needed and generally just hangout. The project has been so successful that other towns in Essex are considering or are actually setting up similar centres. Young people need a place to be. Properly run and supported, it

solves a lot of issues for everyone. Boredom causes a lot of problems all round.



Don't Be a Money Mule

As the Big Summer Getaway Season approaches you may be approached or see an advertisement inviting you to make money fast. In these straitened times any advertisement inviting you to earn extra cash can be very tempting. But easy money these days carries a very big risk. Nobody gives away money for nothing. What this particular little nasty is inviting you to do is to move money for them or let them use your bank account. They have come by this money illegally and they want to make it harder for the police to trace. Anyone who falls for this deal immediately becomes a money mule and penalties even for the naive are severe. You could find your bank account closed, your credit compromised and in the worst-case scenario you could find yourself in prison. If you think you may have been tricked into becoming a money mule, tell the police straight away. It could head off a great deal of trouble.

Protect Your Keyless Car

Anyone who has recently acquired a new car was perhaps surprised to discover that the doors open automatically as you approach the vehicle. Very convenient for the owner and even more convenient for any passing thief who may have easily found a way around the new locking system. They use a laptop and amplifier to tap into the car key signal to gain access. You can stop this easily by keeping your car's keys in a Faraday Pouch. This makes the signal from the keys impossible to pick up and affords some protection against theft.



The car may have the latest technology, but police advisers still say the old steering wheel lock technology can defeat even the most tech savvy criminal. Whatever car you own and whatever the locking system it seems old ways may still be the best.

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com



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07703484090

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

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mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net

@TaylorLandscapesLtd



We've had a wonderful start to our Summer Term. Our topic for the first half term is 'Growing' so we've been spending lots of time in the garden planting seeds as well as taking a lovely walk to the woods to see the bluebells emerging.



We have also been celebrating the Coronation of King Charles. The children enjoyed lots of fun activities throughout the week including making crowns and flags, decorating biscuits, and lots of red, white and blue themed colour matching activities. On Friday 5th May we welcomed

parents and carers along to the pre-school for our Coronation party, the pre-school looked fantastic decorated with bunting and balloons and a great time was had by all!

We still have limited spaces available from September 2023 and are already taking bookings for September 2024 so please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit. For more information call: 01279 810 800

Clare Brace

More Letters

Coronation Cuppa and Cake

Dear Ed,

Wow! What a treat this was. More than 50 of us sat down to an old-fashioned British Afternoon Tea in the suitably festooned village hall, China plates, cups and saucers, teapots, milk jugs and sugar bowls. Then came the food: dainty homemade sandwiches, scones with fresh cream and jam and every type of homemade cake you would like to mention. It was all presented on three tier cake stands that were replenished frequently, as were the teapots.

Having adjusted our waistbands and wiped our sticky fingers, we enjoyed some light-hearted games of Bingo. The Vicar experienced a new role as caller and there were some minor amusing moments with political correctness especially for numbers in the eighties! There was also a grand raffle and over £300 was raised for chosen charities.



A huge thank you must go to Pam and Christine whose brainchild this was and their dedicated band of helpers who cooked, made sandwiches and waited on us so efficiently. This was a true village occasion enjoyed by an 80 year plus age range and I like to think it was a fitting tribute to King Charles in that it was the way he wanted communities to celebrate his coronation.

Anne Bulling

Decision Maker on Council Reported to be a Director of Uttlesford Norse?

Dear Ed,

One of our prospective conservative candidates has informed me that a decision maker on the council is also a director of Uttlesford Norse!

How can this be allowed particularly as the Council is in effect bankrupt? Uttlesford Norse (The Dodds Group) dominate the repair/maintenance/refurbishment of the council's housing stock and there is a strong suggestion that the council are going to have to sell their stock and rent it back to avoid bankruptcy. This seems to have all been kept very quiet. I think this deserves your attention.

Glyn Williams, Birchwood

What's on in the village...



Hello June!!

June 2023



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

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

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

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

			1 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	2 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Flexifit Pilates	3 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance -kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Gareth Jenkins - Live	4 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
5 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	6 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	7 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	8 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	9 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Flexifit Pilates	10 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 15.00 Garden Skip Karaoke Night	11 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
12 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	13 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	14 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	15 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	16 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Flexifit Pilates	17 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance -kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Sarah B Disco	18 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
19 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	20 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	21 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	22 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	23 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Flexifit Pilates	24 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Quiz Night	25 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
26 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	27 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	28 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	29 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	30 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Flexifit Pilates		



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

24th June

THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023
BIRCHANGER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
 229 BIRCHANGER LANE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD CM23 5QJ

EVO BOUNCE DAY

UNLIMITED BOUNCY FUN

BAR • BBQ • ICE CREAMS

TIME: 12:00PM - 4:00PM
 SEN SESSION: 10:45AM - 11:45AM

TICKETS £10
 3-11 YEARS

UNDER 5'S AREA
 BABES IN ARMS & ADULTS GO FREE WITH PAYING CHILD

TICKETS £5
 SEN & 0-3 YEARS

BOOKING VIA WEBSITE:
WWW.EVOINFLATABLES.CO.UK

DISCO

SARAH B

17th June

Gareth Jenkins

3rd June

10th June

Karaoke NIGHT

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



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

Many of the children at our school have experienced a wide range of royal events in their lifetime. Even our younger children have been able to remember the Queen's Jubilee and then as we know they were at school when the Queen died, and the country entered a time of mourning.

This month the children were able to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and we marked this in lots of different ways. In class the children learned about the new king and what being a monarch meant. The children drew lots of crowns and they learned songs, which included the national anthem. Not only did the children learn the words, but they also learned to sign using British Sign Language.

We wanted to include as much of our school community as we could, so we held a school picnic. We are very lucky to have an enormous school field and so we were looking forward to an afternoon of eating, entertainment and enjoying the royal celebration. Sadly, the weather was cold and showery we had to make alternative plans. Instead of stretching out on our school field our wonderful parents and supporters brought their picnic rugs for the classroom floors and made the best of it in a traditional British



Once everything was underway, our kitchen team created wonderful picnics full of goodies and with a crown token for one lucky winner per class. The picnics had sandwiches (with the crusts cut off), cheese straws, crisps, drinks and of course lots of cakes! The children then entertained their families with some songs that they had learned and a party game or two where the classroom was big enough. Despite the rain it was still a lovely time.



Before the children went home that evening, they were each given a goody bag. In it was a box containing a commemorative mug which had been designed by one of seven children who won our competition for the best design. They were also given a copy of a book called 'Our King' which had been donated to us through Revd Colin. Each bag was decorated with the union flag and coloured ribbon to mark such a very special day.

Claire Berry - Headteacher



Air Passenger Duty

Airlines, not least Ryanair, never tire of complaining about Air Passenger Duty (APD) and constantly lobby the Government to reduce APD or even to abolish it altogether. It is therefore important to set out the facts about APD and provide the context.

APD was introduced in the 1994 Budget because the Government noted that airlines were in the privileged position of being exempt from fuel duty and VAT (as a result of international treaties) and it was only fair that they should make some contribution to the nation's finances.



Today, the basic rate of APD is £14.00 and this applies to all short haul flights with single class seating. For APD purposes, short haul is where the destination 'band' is within the EU or EEA or less than 2,000 miles from London. This includes destinations as far afield as Turkey, Tenerife, North Africa and Russia. In 2022, 99.5% of all Stansted flights were defined as short haul for APD purposes. And almost all Stansted flights are single class seating which means that almost all Stansted passengers pay £14.00 APD. But there has been a recent change.

On 1 April 2023, the Government decided to reduce APD to £7.00 for UK domestic flights. Many will find this reduction difficult to reconcile with the Government's commitment to tackling climate change, and to encouraging rail travel as an alternative to UK domestic flights. If you are travelling further afield, for example to Dubai, or travelling first or business class, the APD rate can be far higher, but less than 1% of Stansted passengers fall into those categories and certainly no Ryanair, Easyjet or Jet 2 passengers, the dominant airlines at Stansted.

APD raises almost £4.0 billion a year for public finances, which is an important contribution. However, if airlines paid 53 pence/litre fuel duty and 20% VAT, as paid by road users, this would amount to around £14 billion a year – an even more important contribution to public finances!

The next time Ryanair Chief Executive Mr. O'Leary complains about APD, perhaps he should be offered the alternative of paying fuel duty and VAT at the same rate as road users?

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

June is a lovely month at the Gardens and there is an ever-changing cast list of flowers to look forward to. The roses are in their full first flush, bringing colour to many corners of the Italian and walled kitchen gardens. The waterlilies are in flower and the last wave of blossom is on the trees. The robinia, Indian horse chestnut and the shrubs and climbers are also bringing colour, including the periploca, a remnant from the Peto treillage pergola. If you are lucky, you might also see the splendid vulgarity of the voodoo lily (or be unlucky and smell the rotting flesh scent it puts out for a day!).

Foxgloves and poppies dot the Gardens and other wildflowers to look out for are the common spotted orchids in the Glade, grass vetchling, which we sometimes have, and bee orchids. The bee orchids never seem to be in same place twice, but we think we have seen some coming. The bees, butterflies and damsel flies will be flitting around, hopefully enjoying warm June sunshine!

So, it's a good month to visit the Gardens for our Nature Day on Sunday 18 June or on an Open Thursday (except June 22 when the Gardens will be closed for our AGM). On our Nature Day we will have bug hunts, a wildflower walk, fairy stories and a trail for children. We will be joined by the Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. There will be a plant stall and craft sellers and Woodwind of Stortford will play some lovely summer music too. Children also love the treehouse and get free entry. Dogs are welcome on leads and refreshments are available.



Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00. £5 on the Gate.
18 June Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00. £6.50 on the Gate or £5.50 if bought in advance via the Trust's website or through www.Trybooking.com For more information go to the Trust's website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Hundred Parishes area has been home to many creative people. The People section of the Hundred Parishes includes introductions to a number of artists, composers - and also authors. www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Probably our best-known author was HG Wells (1866-1946) who lived for 18 years in Little Easton at 18th-century Easton Glebe. He was a prolific writer, best remembered for his science-fiction novel "War of the Worlds" which was written before he came to Little Easton. A later novel, "Mr Britling Sees it Through" was set in Little Easton.



"The Hundred and One Dalmatians" was written by Dodie Smith (1896-1990). From 1934, she lived in Finchingfield at The Barretts, a 16th-century thatched house in the tiny hamlet of Howe Street. Her children's novel, written in 1956, was made into a highly successful Disney animated film. An earlier novel "I captured the Castle", written in 1948, was adapted into a film in 2003. Smith's former home is marked by a blue plaque.



Another blue plaque, on 17th-century Rose Cottage in Stebbing, identifies the former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole (1863-1951) who was also a prolific author. He lived there for about 10 years in the early 1900s and during that time completed his best-known novel, "The Blue Lagoon". It has been made into a feature film several times.



Horham Hall in the parish of Thaxted was the home of novelist Evelyn Anthony (1926 – 2018) from 1968 to 1976 and then from 1982 until her death. Sixteenth century Horham Hall is Grade I-listed and the cost of upkeep forced Evelyn and her husband to sell it, but they were able to re-purchase it when her royalties increased. Of her many novels, "The Tamarind Seed" was the best known. It was published in 1971 and made into a film in 1974, starring Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif.



Photos:

- 1: Easton Glebe, Little Easton – former home of HG Wells.
- 2: The Barretts, Howe Street, Finchingfield – former home of Dodie Smith.
- 3: Rose Cottage, Stebbing – former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole.
- 4: Horham Hall, Thaxted – former home of Evelyn Anthony.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

The Three Horseshoes



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Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
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Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
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Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
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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

4th June	Family Service with Jo Pratt and Pam Lee
11th June	Holy Communion with Revd. Helen Flack
18th June	Matins with Hugh Mascetti
25th June	Holy Communion with Revd. Colin Fairweather

Church News

The past few months have been stressful and hectic in equal measure. I am now looking forward to a little peace and quiet; perhaps a few hours sitting in the garden with a good book. I hope you are also dreaming of some sunshine and happier times when you can recharge your batteries and enjoy just being.

At the end of April Revd. Colin led our first ever Silent Worship service. I must confess that at first, I found it a bit odd but then the peaceful atmosphere in church seemed to draw me in so that eventually I felt like I was being cuddled in warmth. It is an experience I will repeat when the opportunity arises.

On the 24th June we are holding a Quiz Night in the hall. Please let me know if you would like to join in. In last month's magazine, I mentioned that both the church and hall were struggling to meet ever increasing energy bills and now I unashamedly ask you to consider helping our small congregation maintain the church buildings by making a regular donation directly into the church account each month. Some residents already do this, and I am so grateful for their support. Without this income the church could not survive.

If every household in the village contributed just £1 a month the financial future of our ancient building would be assured and if you feel able to help, please set up a standing order, for whatever amount you can manage, on your bank account payable to Birchanger Parochial Church Council sort code 203698 account number 50160024. Remember, the church holds records of all major historical events that have happened in this village for hundreds of years. It is at the very heart of our community.

If you are a UK taxpayer, at no cost to you, you can increase the value of any donation that you may make by signing a gift aid declaration. Just email on pam.mark2@btinternet.com and I will send you a form to complete.

Future Events

24th June	St Mary's Family Quiz Night. 7.00 pm - teams of up to 6 people - £40 includes ploughman's supper. Wine available for donation.
30th July	Summer Lunch at Moorswood. £15 per person includes wine. To book your place or for further information contact Pam Lee below.
30th Sept.	St Mary's Family Prize Bingo
10th Oct.	Moorswood Coffee Morning

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

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