



Birchanger Village Magazine

July 2023

Issue 246



Travellers Planning Application Refused

The long-running saga of the Birchanger travellers' site moved a step closer towards a resolution when a meeting of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) Planning Committee on 7th June voted to refuse the travellers' retrospective planning application.

Eight representatives from the village, including the Parish Council and the Birchanger Residents Association, spoke at the meeting setting out numerous reasons why the travellers' application should be refused. The travellers' agent then put forward the case for the planning application to be approved.

UDC Planning Officers, i.e., the Council's full-time professional staff, also recommended approval of the application. They had provided the members of the Planning Committee (which consists of 9 elected Councillors) with a 29-page report setting out the arguments for approval.

There then followed a lengthy discussion amongst Planning Committee members who had to consider whether the exceptional circumstances which won the case for the travellers in the first place (2021) still applied.

Planning Committee members also followed up on many of the key arguments they had heard from Birchanger representatives, including the encroachment onto the Green Belt, the fact that many of the travellers were no longer resident on the site, whether planning permission would be given for houses on the Green Belt, the overall availability of gipsy and traveller pitches in Uttlesford, noise and pollution, and a host of other issues.

Finally, a vote was taken, and the application was decisively refused, by seven votes to one, with one abstention. Most local residents will be relieved that Planning Committee members were persuaded by the arguments presented by Birchanger representatives and that they rejected the arguments put forward by the travellers and the Council's planning officers.

The fact that local residents had submitted 330 objections had also sent a powerful signal to the Planning Committee about the level of local concern.

Although this is a very important result, it is unlikely to be the end of the matter. The travellers have a right of appeal against the Planning Committee refusal decision and could also appeal against any enforcement notice. In other words, there will be more 'hoops' to go through before this issue is finally resolved.

Birchanger's Geof Driscoll Appointed Chair of Uttlesford District Council



in as the council's vice-chair.

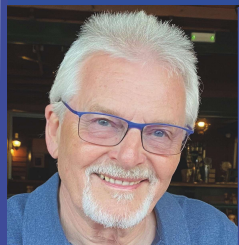
Following the council's annual meeting on Tuesday, May 23, Cllr Driscoll, who was vice-chair last year, was appointed chair, replacing Cllr Heather Asker who served as chair in 2022/2023. Cllr Asker, who is now Mayor of Saffron Walden, was presented with a past chair's medal and was thanked for her services during the year. Cllr Martin Foley was sworn

Speaking about his new role, Geof said: "It is a huge privilege to be elected as chair of this council and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for trusting me with taking on this role". Geof is also District Councillor for Broad Oak and the Hallingburys (Residents for Uttlesford (R4U) and continues in that role whilst being Chairperson.

UDC was formed 50 years ago and Geof is the third person from Birchanger to be made Chairperson. Not bad for a small village! The previous two were Dolly Haggerwood 1990/91 and Elizabeth Godwin 2004/05.

Uttlesford District Council, like all district councils, has a chair rather than a mayor. However, the role of the chair is identical to that of a mayor, in that it is a ceremonial position. The chair's position should not be confused with that of the leader who is the political head of the council. The chair represents the council at civic and social occasions and is the first citizen of Uttlesford. Similar to the speaker in the House of Commons, the chair is apolitical.

This unpartisan position is particularly relevant when the chair presides over council meetings, where the duty of the chair is "to preserve order, to take care that the proceedings are conducted in a proper manner and that the sense of the meeting is properly ascertained with regard to any question that is properly proposed before the meeting" (Chitty, High Court, 1894). The chair does however hold a casting vote, which they may exercise in the case of a tied vote at a council meeting.



Editors Letter Box

Decision Maker on Council reported to be a Director of Uttlesford Norse

Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to a letter published in the June issue (245) by a resident of Birchwood headed 'Decision Maker on Council reported to be a Director of Uttlesford Norse'.

Unfortunately, the prospective conservative candidate you spoke to has sadly misinformed you. Uttlesford Norse Services Limited (UNSL) is a partnership between Uttlesford District Council and the Norse Group (a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk County Council). As would be expected from a partnership arrangement, members of both organisations have representation on the Board. For Uttlesford that is a senior councillor and a senior officer. As UNSL is registered at Companies House, details of directors are freely available to view online. The two Uttlesford directors receive no additional payment for this role and are there to protect the interests of the council.

The Dodds Group is a gas contractor, who are sub-contracted to deliver services on behalf of UNSL and are not an interested party in the ownership or running of the company. There are no plans to sell the housing stock, in fact the council are not allowed to sell except under the right to buy scheme. Like all councils, reduced funding from central government means savings are required over the coming years but the plan to deal with that is well under way.

Our highly successful commercial investments continue to help support the services the council delivers. To summarise, challenges in the coming years yes, but we have already drawn up and implemented plans to manage them and there is absolutely no suggestion of bankruptcy.

Geof Driscoll – Chairman - Uttlesford District Council

Rural Crime Survey

Dear Editor,

Last month the Government delivered on its 2019 manifesto commitment to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers by March 2023, in fact they exceeded it. Delivering on this pledge and keeping our communities safe is one of my key priorities for our constituency.

With an additional 500 officers, the largest and strongest force in its 182-years history, and an increased budget of nearly £364 million, they can deliver on the Government's priority to Get Crime Down. They have already introduced new Town Centre Teams, boosted Neighbourhood Policing, and introduced a new Rural Engagement Team (RET), helping to focus on cutting rural crime, anti-social behaviour in our towns and villages and working to keep local communities safe. Having recently joined the RET for a police ride-along and having spoken with residents and local farmers during round table discussions on rural crime, I know just how valuable these officers are for Chelmsford and Uttlesford.



The Government's Beating Crime Plan and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act that I voted for in Parliament is also helping to crack down on illegal hare coursing, unauthorised traveller encampments, and gave greater powers to officers to tackle disruptive protests, all concerns that are frequently in my inbox. However, I am keen to expand on my understanding about how local residents experience and perceive crime, particularly rural crime. Rural crime can have a huge impact on our communities. Too often it goes unreported, and we need accurate information to reduce crime in our area. It is an important part of bringing forward changes and solutions, which is why I'm encouraging residents to take part in my online rural crime survey, which is now live on my website: www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/kemi-badenoch-mp-rural-crime-survey-2023

I want to hear from residents, local farmers, business owners and anyone who has experienced or has concerns about rural crime in our constituency. I will report back on the results of my survey and work with the local police and authorities to ensure our communities are safe for us all. If you have any questions or feedback, do email me at kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Kemi Badenoch MP

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,

Peter Sampson

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



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Round One to Birchanger

For five years now Birchanger has been trying to prevent the occupation by travellers of the site on the Green Belt land at the top of Birchanger Lane. There have been previous applications while the travellers made themselves at home and erected stockade type fencing and a heavily locked gate. The travellers made a further application for residence of the site which went to the Planning Committee last month and was opposed by the majority of Birchanger. When the application came to the planning committee at Uttlesford District Council about a dozen Birchanger residents spoke very eloquently against any development on the site and in addition, over 300 other residents had protested strongly online or by letter. Currently the site appears to have only one family in residence. The Planning Committee listened to each objector from Birchanger, and the application was soundly dismissed by seven to one. However, this will not be the end of the matter. An appeal can be expected within weeks and once again inspectors will be involved. Congratulations and thanks to those residents who took a day off work and convinced the committee that the Birchanger site in the Green Belt and close to a major traffic junction is not the place for traveller families to live.

Children at Risk on the Bus Now?

According to Essex Police, children are at risk from criminal and sexual exploitation and trafficking. Police have come to this conclusion after visiting different bus and rail stations all over Essex. Young People tend to hangout in stations where they can be anonymous, food is available and from which they can easily disappear. They are often unhappy and lonely and as such make easy victims for those looking for young people to exploit. Their victims think that they have found friends at last and are only too happy to go along with them. If you have concerns about your child, call the police on 101.

Where Does all the Food Waste Go?

We fill up our caddies with a mixture of all the food we didn't use during the week and leave our caddy outside for the food waste collection but most of us never even think about where it is going or for what it could be used. Our food waste goes directly to an Anaerobic Digestion plant. There it is processed to generate energy which goes back into the National Grid and powers our homes and businesses. I wonder what they can do with the rest of our rubbish.

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: Golf World Elsenham Wednesday 26th July
Meet at the village hall at 7.00 pm
bags@birchanger.com

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

Tackling Youth Violence at Source

In this case this means a youth worker visiting a young person who has been injured either through knife crime or otherwise and whose injuries are serious enough to land them in casualty. The aim is to work with young people as soon as possible after the incident and if possible at home to try and find out more about their lifestyle, friendships, education, work and what is going wrong in their lives. Over the next few months, they will try to address the need for change in lifestyle and relationships and try to discover the best way forward for that young person. This won't work for everyone but at least it is a start. We need to stop this slaughter of mainly young people in a crime which most people find very hard to understand.

Knife Crime Remains Very Rare in Essex

Despite all the publicity on knife crime we have to realise that knife crime is extremely rare in Essex. However, knife crime, fear of fights, violence and drug dealers remain huge concerns for young people. Police are working with groups to try to help young people overcome their fears and persuade them that knife crime although much publicised is very rare here and that they should live their lives in the sure knowledge that in Essex at least, knife crime remains a rare occurrence.

Community Food Share in Elsenham and Stansted



Touchpoint is an organisation which distributes the food that supermarkets would otherwise dispose of.

The food is free, in date and available for anyone to take and use. You can obtain the food from the Grafton Centre in Stansted between 11.00 am and 12.00 pm on Thursdays,

Fridays and Saturdays. Also between 9.30 and 11.00 am on Tuesdays at the Bowls Club in Elsenham. To find out more about these food shares and to check opening hours, call 07572114882.

Help with Housing Problems

The fuel and energy crisis has landed many people with housing problems which they have never experienced before. Many of those experiencing housing debt just stay quiet and hope that next month things will be better. The worst thing is to suffer in silence and hope for a miracle. The problem is that there is no miracle, just a long slow haul back to normality, hopefully in a short while. If you are having difficulty paying your rent or mortgage, don't just sit there and do nothing, tell somebody now! Mortgage companies can help by reducing payments of rent or mortgages but if they don't know about your problems, they cannot help you. There are people who can advise you. The Uttlesford CAB is another agency in a position to help. If you are not a tenant, the housing officer can give you helpful advice on 01799 510510. For all tenants, the housing officer or landlord need to know of your problems sooner rather than later. They can help by arranging a temporary repayment plan. You will be amazed just how much better life will seem if you can just sort this out.

Extra Fun at Half Term

For those children in the area there was a day of extra fun at the club when the big bouncy castles arrived on Birchanger Club Sports Field for the day. Children from all around the village enjoyed a fun day with parents paying some £20 for each child. Not cheap but despite that, very popular. With refreshments on offer and a lovely sunny day it contributed to a great half term treat at home. The big bouncy castles have been to Birchanger before at the late Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. It is hoped by their young customers that they will return soon.

Watch Out. More Road Policing Officers About

Three new police officers have been fully trained to tackle road crime throughout Essex and yes, that does include speeding. They will also be looking out for poor and dangerous driving, and they will ensure that all road traffic offenders will have their day in court. You have been warned. This initiative aims to help Essex reach the target of zero deaths on all Essex roads. Something that has not been achieved in recent years.

THE Harmonaires CHOIR

SHOWTIME! Saturday 8th July at 3pm - St John's Church - Stansted CM24 8JP

Following their recent highly acclaimed performance at Chelmsford Cathedral in April, The Harmonaires Choir will be singing at St John's Church in Stansted at 3pm on Saturday 8th July.

Come and enjoy a summer's afternoon concert, with cake and Pimm's available to purchase in the interval, for a showcase filled with musical theatre, film and TV classics. From Game of Thrones to Hamilton, Showboat, The Vicar of Dibley and Les Misérables. A truly beautiful programme designed to lift your spirits. There will be a retiring collection for Isabel Hospice. Tickets, at £10 for adults, £8 concessions, with no charge for children, are available on the door or via the website. Parking is available at Crafton Green car park or the Magna Carta School. Please do not park in St John's Road.

The choir was formed just over 8 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley and is going from strength to strength, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fund-raising concerts locally. A quote from one of the judges at the recent MACC choir competition described The Harmonaires' performance as a "superb presentation from this tight ensemble. All in all, an example of accessible, varied programming of pieces, performed to an extremely high standard." For more information about the choir visit their website at www.theharmonaireschoir.com

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A Sad Goodbye to Helen Holland

Helen Holland was a well known long-term resident of Birchanger and contrary to some reports from the news media, Helen was never a doddering old lady. In fact quite the reverse.

We in Birchanger knew her as an active friendly neighbour who walked her dog and cared for her sick son but was always

interested in what was going on locally and nationally. She was involved in the lives of all her four sons and their families. Helen enjoyed lunches with friends and the rest of her large family. She was always interested in village events and was certainly up to date with everything happening in Birchanger and her membership with Stansted U3A.

Helen never appeared to be her age. Most people in the village were amazed to learn that she was 81. She didn't look elderly in any way. She really cared about people. She was interested in them, and they responded in kind. She was ready to help people who were sick and do shopping for those who needed it. Her warmth, energy and good humour will be very much missed. She leaves a family who have lost a carer, a mother and a wonderfully active grandmother. Birchanger has lost a true friend and neighbour whose warmth and bright smile we shall remember always.

Mark and Helen's family would like to say many thanks to everyone for their kind messages and beautiful cards. It is really much appreciated.

Village Tea Room Summer Closure

The tearoom that is held from 2pm to 4pm every Wednesday in the village church hall will be closed during August. The last day of opening will be Wednesday 25th July. The Tearoom will reopen on 2nd September. We look forward to inviting patrons old and new in September to enjoy homemade cake and coffee. In the meantime, have a very enjoyable summer.

Volunteers Wanted for Summer Fayre

The Birchanger village fayre is on Saturday 9th September on the sports field outside the club. We need volunteers to run stalls or generally help out in organising the event. We are also short of committee members for that day and will need some assistance to help make the Fayre a success again. If you would like to help, please email Ross Leavers: marshbarnes@googlegmail.com

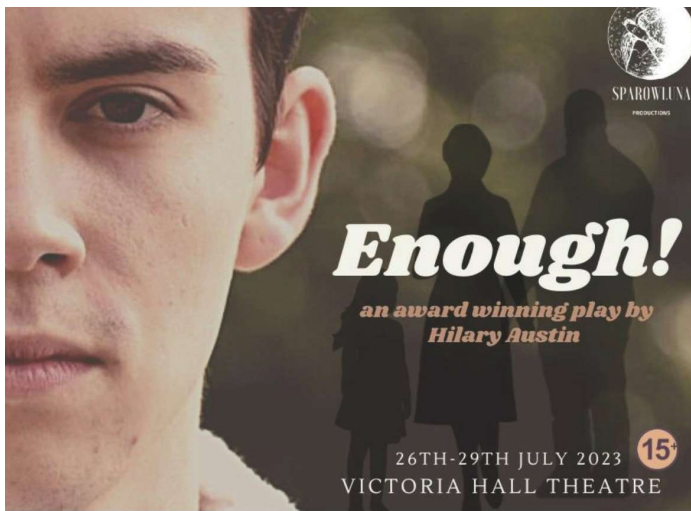


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Enough! is a Full Length Award Winning Play by Birchanger's Hilary Austin

I am proud to inform you that my play, called Enough!, is finally on stage at The Victoria Hall Theatre, Old Harlow, from 26th to 29th July 2023. The story follows the troubled life of Billy Janes and his family, from childhood to his mid-twenties, when his increasingly violent and disturbing behaviour leads to a series of events that have devastating consequences for him and his family.

The central character, Billy Janes, is based on my brother, who has suffered from undiagnosed mental health issues for most of his life. Back in the 1970's, there was little known about conditions such as autism and aspergers syndrome, and doctors dismissed his behaviour as hyperactive, advising my parents that he needed a 'firm hand.' As he progressed through the teenage years, his behaviour became darker and more aggressive, fuelled by drug taking and alcoholism, and the jarring rock music of that era. There are elements of the play that are fictional, but the majority of the story is based on events that actually happened.

This project started out as a 15-minute play that was entered into the local Write Here Write Now Playwriting Competition just before lockdown. As it was my first play, I was overjoyed when it won the finals! The plan was that I would write the full-length version and it would be showcased at the following year's event. However, we then went into lockdown, and everything went on hold. I am now very excited that it is finally going on stage after such a long wait.

It is intended to shine an uncomfortable light on the lack of knowledge and understanding of mental health during the 70's and 80's. It is a stark reminder of how mental health conditions were constantly misdiagnosed, and the consequences of a woefully inadequate family support system. We have come a long way since those times and our mental health services have significantly improved. However, due to lack of funding, there are still unacceptably long waiting lists for counselling and support, and it is for this reason that this play is also a fund-raising event for MIND in West Essex. A representative will be attending every evening and a percentage of the ticket sales will also be donated towards their bursary for people who cannot afford therapy.

Tickets available on Victoria Hall Website / Events/ Enough.
Alternatively, tickets can be purchased through Ticket Source:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/sparowluna-productions/

Hilary Austin

u3a

At our meeting on 20th July, Ray Newman will tell us about the work of a Real UK Cold Case Team. Ray, a former DCI, following retirement became one of the founding members of the Essex Police Major Crime Review Team, which investigated a number of then unsolved murders and missing person cases.

There will be a lighter topic in August - 'Charity Shops'. Tony Earle thinks that they yield up lots of interesting bits and bobs, but so far has found no treasure!

Saturday 19th August will see Professor Patrick Parrinder giving a seminar on H. G. Wells. 'The Realist and the Dreamer', at the Free Church Hall 9.30-12 noon. Many of you may know that he lived at Little Easton Rectory from 1912 to 1930 and I am sure you have all enjoyed at least one of his books. Tickets £7 from saturdayseminars@gmail.com.

There will be another Saturday Seminar on 2nd September entitled 'Saving Humanity with a Doughnut!'. The speaker, Meryl Wingfield, will confront this dilemma - People talk about 'Saving the Planet' but will the planet or our grandchildren survive our exploitation. We have many group activities which we are sure many of you will enjoy. They are run by members for members and cover a wide range of interests. Please look at our website for details.

All our free monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at St John's Church Hall 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm. Free tea and coffee will be served. If you are a prospective new member, please come along and introduce yourself to one of the committee members and you will be made very welcome.

Eileen Quinn - Tel: 07874 385541.

E-mail stanstedu3a@gmail.com - www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

THE **Harmonaires** CHOIR

SHOWTIME

Afternoon Concert

Cake and Pimm's available to purchase during the interval

Saturday 8th July: 3 pm

St John's Church, Stansted

Join this outstanding choir from Bishop's Stortford for a showcase filled with Musical Theatre, Film and TV classics. From Game of Thrones to Hamilton, via Showboat, The Vicar of Dibley and Les Misérables, enjoy an afternoon concert at St John's Stansted, designed to lift your spirits.

With a retiring collection for Isobel Hospice, it's a concert not to be missed.

Tickets: £10 adults/ £8 concessions
Children: free

Available on the door and via the website below:

www.theharmonaireschoir.com

what's on in the village...



July 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: Jul 8, Aug 5, Sep 2 & 30, Oct 28, Nov 25

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

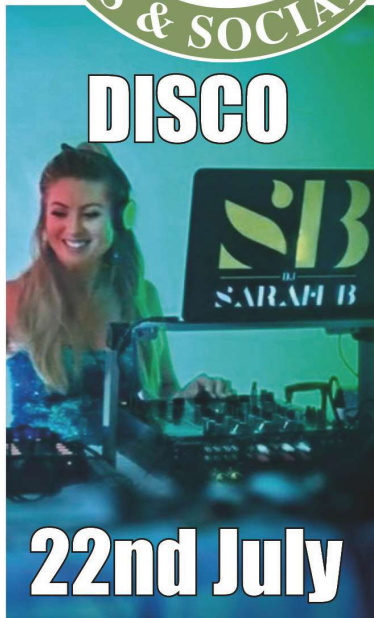
Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - **Open to the public.**

31 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	Summer Coffee Morning with Strawberries and Cream Tuesday August 15 th at Moorswood Hopefully in the garden between 10.30 - noon Come and enjoy some strawberries with your coffee.				1 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	2 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
3 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	4 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 Black 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 11.00 Pilates	8 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Retro - Live	9 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
10 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	11 Garden Bin 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 Green 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 11.00 Pilates	15 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	16 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: Summer Boot Sale Sunday Roast
17 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	18 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 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 Black 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 11.00 Pilates	22 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Sarah B Disco	23 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
24 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	25 Garden Bin 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 Green 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 11.00 Pilates	29 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 19.30 Quiz Night	30 St Mary's Farnham: 18.00 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast Moorswood Summer Lunch



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



The committee welcome all help and volunteers to assist us at the Summer Fayre. We would appreciate all offers of help to run stalls on the day!

Help us make this a fantastic Community Day!

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

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For all news and announcements



Sunday 16th July

Sponsored by

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Summer CAR BOOT SALE

**FREE
ENTRY**

9am until 1pm

(Sellers from 8:00am - Buyers **NOT BEFORE 9:00 am**)



Pitch Prices
Cars £10
Vans £15

**Refreshments
Available**
Tea & Coffee
**Bacon/Sausage
Rolls**

**To book a pitch please
email: club@birchanger.com**

**You are advised to book early to ensure you get a pitch -
No tables provided for pitch - CASH ONLY for pitch to be paid on arrival**

**Please note: This event might be postponed
at short notice if ground is too wet**

CM23 5QJ

For all general enquiries

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com

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Aircraft Noise And Sleep Disturbance

At this time of year, hot summer nights can make it almost impossible for many people to get a good night's sleep unless they leave their windows wide open.

This is also the time of year – summer holiday season – when Stansted handles the highest number of night flights – up to 50 each night between 11.30pm and 6.00am. That's a flight every eight minutes and that's the downside of leaving your windows open. In reality, it's far more than one night flight every eight minutes because the Department for Transport (DfT) only restricts the number of flights for 6½ hours every night. It allows Stansted 13,700 flights a year between 11.30pm and 6.00am. The widely accepted definition of night – endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others – is the 8-hour period between 11.00pm and 7.00am.

The DfT places no restriction on the number of night flights between 11.00pm and 11.30pm and between 6.00am and 7.00am. These are known as the 'shoulder periods' and are the two busiest times of the day at Stansted. There are about 24,500 flights a year during these 1½ hours, far more than in the controlled night period of 6½ hours. Flights during the shoulder periods may well cause more sleep disturbance than flights in the middle of the night. This is because these are often the times when people are trying to fall asleep (11.00pm to 11.30pm) or, if awakened (6.00am to 7.00am), will be unable to get back to sleep.

It's obviously misleading to say that Stansted is limited to 13,700 night flights a year when the true figure is about 38,200 flights between the hours of 11.00pm and 7.00am. That's an average of 104 flights a night, equivalent to one flight every four or five minutes. And during the height of the summer season, the flights are far more frequent than that. Just when you want to keep your windows open!

Finally, sleep disturbance is not simply a matter of annoyance. There is a growing body of scientific evidence linking sleep disturbance caused by aircraft noise to health problems, notably cardiovascular disease. That, however, is a subject for another day.

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

June started as hoped, with the Gardens looking gorgeous, in particular the wild orchids on the bank in the Glade. The waterlilies are spreading with lots of flowers, the first of the roses are beginning to bloom and with a good asparagus season behind us! But as I write, a bit of trepidation is beginning to creep in, because there is no rain forecast for the near future! If the months of June and July are dry, our volunteers will be getting their exercise doing lots of watering. We should, hopefully, have enough water in the well and in the new butts to look after our new trees and shrubs and of course to raise the veg in the walled kitchen garden. Come July, we will have produce to sell to visitors on weekly Open Thursdays and for the monthly Open Day.



Our 16 July Open Day is the day of the year when we focus on the world war history of the Gardens – 'Perfect Vintage' singing duo with Cherie (photo) and Brian will help us get in the mood, with Vera Lynn songs and other classic swing tracks and vintage banter.



There will be a range of stalls and our archivists will present the stories of the Earl of Warwick's involvement with the Essex Imperial Yeomanry in the run up to World War I.

There will also be a little history about the airmen and women stationed at the neighbouring Great Dunmow airfield in the 1940s, using their down time to recuperate in the Gardens. Children will enjoy seeing vintage cars and military vehicles and there will be associated craft activities too. Dogs are welcome on leads; and refreshments are available.

For more information go to the Trust's website:

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00. £5 on the Gate.

16 July 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

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Conservation Areas were introduced in 1967. District councils are responsible for designating them. The area must have special architectural and/or historic importance that merits protection. The aim is to protect an area rather than single buildings. Within each Conservation Area, there will generally be individual buildings that have additional protection, classified as Listed Buildings. There may also be a Scheduled Monument, or trees with a Tree Preservation Order, or buildings or spaces that have been designated as Assets of Community Value. There are varying degrees of protection for each of these designations, all aimed at preserving our heritage for future generations.

Finchingfield



Uttlesford District Council covers around half of the Hundred Parishes area. The Council has designated 33 Conservation Areas within the area. For each, it has published an appraisal that defines the area covered and explains the reasons for designation. See <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/conservation-area-appraisals>

These appraisals are often a helpful source for the kind of information provided in the route descriptions for walks that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Standon



East Hertfordshire has the second biggest representation within the Hundred Parishes and this district council has designated 26 Conservation Areas here. Their appraisals are also available and provide valuable insight. See:

www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-areas

Great Barfield



Similar appraisals are available from the other district councils which are represented within the Hundred Parishes: South Cambridgeshire, Braintree, North Herts, Chelmsford and Epping Forest. Within South Cambs, Linton has the only "Outstanding Conservation Area" designation, including Linton's long High Street and some lanes on either side. Much of this area is explored on Walk 182 whose route covers less than 2 miles.

Great Easton



Our towns and villages are usually best explored on foot and each is included in at least one of the Hundred Parishes routes. If you are able to get out and about, I encourage you to try them.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

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Village Services and Activities

Service	Contact	Telephone No.
Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814773
Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810800
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
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
Handyman	Charlie Grange	07514 783239
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
Pilates	Mandy Cousins	07713 272664
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

2nd July 11.15 Matins with Jo Pratt
 9th July 11.15 Holy Communion with Revd. Helen Flack
 16th July 11.15 Matins with Pam Lee
 23rd July 11.15 Holy Communion with Revd. Colin Fairweather
 30th July 18.00 Matins with Pam Lee Choral Evensong at St Mary's Farnham

In last month's issue I made an appeal for your help in the hope that residents of the village would pull together to provide financial support for both the church and the hall. I suggested that every household should donate £1 per month to the church. It is disappointing to report that not one household has done this, and no new amounts have been paid into the church account.

I recall that some twenty years ago a poll of the village disclosed that over 90% of residents felt that an active church was essential to the wellbeing of the village. Now I appreciate that some people that were here then have moved on and views change over time, but I do ask you to think about how you want the village to be 10 or 20 years hence. Do you want the church and hall to still be here?

The church hall is held and managed as a community resource by the church PCC under a trust that was set up to benefit the village whilst at the same time providing some financial support for St Mary's. Hire charges for residents and village groups have always been held at a preferentially reduced rate. Businesses are charged a commercial rate and generally hall finances balance well. However, as we try to attract more hirers to increase income, we have seen a corresponding increase in maintenance costs and we are fast coming to the point where the church will have to subsidise the hall and since the church does not have available funds, the hall fabric will deteriorate.

Many new families have moved into the village over the last twenty years. I assume that when these people first looked at Birchanger as a suitable place to live, they looked at all the facilities here such as the school, social club, pub, and church. Presumably, they liked what they saw. It costs time, effort, and hard cash to maintain all these organisations and if you want to keep the village as it is then you need to give all of them your support, both physical and financial. If you do nothing, eventually each organisation will die either from lack of financial support or lack of people to do the jobs that are essential to keep them running.

At the moment, our small congregation of just 8 regular attendees and a few residents are generously shouldering the financial burden that the church represents as well as helping maintain the hall. Most are elderly and they won't be with us forever. If we all give a little now, the burden will not be so great, but the future of both St Mary's and the hall can be secured. So, I ask again, please donate just £1 per month to the church. (Birchanger Parochial Church Council sort code 203698 account 50160024). Do it now before it's too late!

Future Events

30th July Summer Lunch at Moorswood £15 per person includes wine. Bookings are now being taken. Call Pam on 07702171744
 30th September St Mary's Family Prize Bingo
 10th October Moorswood Coffee Morning

Prayer for the Month

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins
 Strengthen and heal us by His Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
 Amen

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



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For bookings or further information please contact:

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Telephone: 07475 092 658

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:
Manager: Cat Roberson
Telephone: 07475 092658
Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS



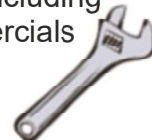
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