

Birchanger Village Magazine

September 2023

Issue 248



Date Set for Birchanger Travellers Appeal Hearing

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) have now set a date – 16th November 2023 – for a hearing to consider the Travellers appeal against the refusal of their planning application.

PINS encourages interested members of the public to attend planning appeal hearings and the Inspector will normally allow you to speak provided you let him/her know at the start of the day. The hearing is expected to be held at Uttlesford District Council (UDC) offices.

A good attendance is expected by local residents on 16th November which will reinforce the points made in the 330 objections from Birchanger residents as to the importance that local residents attach to protecting the Green Belt around the village.

PINS advice is that there is no need to repeat points you have already made in representations to UDC. They say that they will read earlier representations and take them all into consideration.

For more information about the PINS appeal procedure, go to the following web page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-dealt-with-by-a-hearing-taking-part/guide-to-taking-part-in-planning-and-listed-building-consent-appeals-proceeding-by-a-hearing>

Representation From Birchanger Residents Association and Birchanger Parish Council

Birchanger Residents Association intends to make a further representation, reminding PINS of the particular importance of the Green Belt around Birchanger and making further points regarding the unsuitability of the site because of its proximity to Stansted Airport and the A120 and the noise and air quality impacts from that.

Official Government guidance clearly states that Travellers sites should not be located in areas subject to potentially harmful noise and air quality impacts, in the interests of protecting the health and wellbeing of the occupants, especially children and the elderly.

It is understood that Birchanger Parish Council also intends to make a further submission.

If you decide to make a further representation, you should try to avoid repetition by focusing on points that you haven't made before and submit this before 8th September 2023. You can do this online at:

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/MyPortal/Form.aspx?submission=937364>.



Watch out for this WhatsApp scam!

Large community and religious WhatsApp groups are being targeted by scammers who infiltrate them to try and deceive their members into sending them money. Since January of this year, 268 people have reported falling victim to this scam.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending, or claiming, to be a member of the group. This is done in order to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will then call the victim and say they are sending a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The scammer then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call. What's really happening is that the scammer is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device where they then "port" their WhatsApp profile over.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to access their account. The scammer will then message other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

Never share your account information with anyone, and if you think it's a fraudulent approach, report the message and block the sender within WhatsApp. To make your account more secure, we advise setting up two-step verification to provide an extra layer of protection. This makes it increasingly more difficult for fraudsters to gain access to somebody else's WhatsApp account".

Analysis of Action Fraud reports indicate that victims targeted by this scam are often part of large WhatsApp community, alumni and academic, work groups, and religious groups (such as church or prayer groups).

Remember:

- Never share your account's two-factor authentication (2FA) code (that's the six digit code you receive via SMS).
- Set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- THINK. CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

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

Birchanger Under Attack!

Most of us looked forward to the opening of Birchanger Lane and for life to get back to normal again. Problem is it is not quite what we all thought it would be. For a start only a part of the new junction is open. You can get to the motorway all right, but to get to Bishops Stortford you have to go all around the motorway bridge system, and it can take more than 10 minutes at peak times. Then there is the prospect of the road to Bishop's Stortford (Dunmow Road) being closed for several weeks in September/October while that junction is brought up to speed.

It is appalling urbanisation of what was once a rural area but this urbanisation has brought other problems for Birchanger and once again we are under attack! Yes, the rat runners are back with a vengeance. Travelling down Birchanger Lane at speeds unsuitable for the conditions trying to avoid the queues caused by the road works on the A120.

These rat runners ignore the fact that Birchanger Lane is a winding narrow road and just speed down the lane to try to prove their diversion was worthwhile. The worry is for children walking along the lane as these drivers mount pavements to avoid oncoming cars. All these drivers seem determined to drive at the fastest speed they can. We know none of them, so please take care on the lane, whether you are pedestrian, cyclist, or vehicle driver. The lane is simply not equipped to accommodate the volume and speed of these vehicles. Hopefully the new traffic light-controlled Junction will work well, and these idiots will disappear. Somehow, I don't think so.

Don't Forget the Big Light Up

'The Big Light Up' will be upon us sooner than you think, and some people are already making plans. Birchanger becomes a very special place at Christmas time and people travel from miles around to see our lights. On Saturday evenings during the Christmas period the lane has on occasions become blocked due to the massed vehicles of sightseers. Some people have suggested that we go around all those cars and collect cash from visitors if they are willing, for a national charity or a special Birchanger project. That would need volunteers and possibly a licence.

What do you think? How can we make our lights even more special than ever this year?

Birchanger All Girls Society

Next meeting:

Wednesday 27th Sep. 7.45 for 8.00 pm

We will have a fun quiz.

Bring your own drink. Tea, coffee and nibbles provided

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

September, A New Start to the Year?

For many people it seems just like that as the schools go back and students return to college with many going for the first time. School classes change, friends may be separated in the new classroom structure, the new uniform feels scratchy and stiff, and the freedom of the summer seems to have melted away. This wind of change does not happen just to the young. Many older people change jobs or alter their home working routine, change their decor, and start digging out their winter wear as the days grow shorter and the evenings grow colder. The British summer, so called, is coming to an end. So, if you feel restless and mildly dissatisfied with your life don't worry, it's quite normal. It is time to put away the light bright clothes of summer and find old warmer friends who have been confined to the back of the wardrobe. Time too to think of the winter ahead and some of the fun that goes with it.

The Uttlesford New Local Plan

This plan is very different from its predecessors. It is easier to read and understand and gives a lot of thought to what we have in Uttlesford and designs and development that could work with existing infrastructure. We have more listed buildings than anywhere else outside London. What the developers will make of it is hard to predict but they are not going to like the required amenities and design guide. It will require more space per unit, better quality finishing and more money from them. For us, it would be good to see the back of tiny kitchens where it is impossible to fit even the most basic appliances, the lack of storage and parking as is the case in an estate not far away. All said and done it is probably the best plan for Uttlesford in recent years. It is out for consultation and can be viewed on the Uttlesford website where you can also make your comments.

Large Lions Invade Saffron Walden

These lions are guaranteed friendly and are to be found all over Saffron Walden at places of interest in the town. The lions are big and have been decorated by the different groups who are sponsoring them. The lion trail will run to September 5th. You can spot the lions placed outside buildings of historical and cultural influence. Alternatively, you can find them on a map which can be picked up at all the lion venues or Saffron Walden Museum. A good end of holiday outing instead of another damp day at the seaside perhaps? Nearer to home too.

How Safe is Your Password?

Probably not in the least bit safe in these days of high-tech scammers who can easily discover the name of your dog, grandmother, house, or any familiar word you are incorporating in your password. With most of us working from home, online internet safety becomes more important. Emails are the key to this change of lifestyle for most of us, but our emails can be so vulnerable. The need for a cast iron password has never been greater. Pick three random words, add numbers and other characters which have no connection to one another to make up your password. Change the password frequently and do not use the password twice. But just make sure you remember them. Alternatively, there are a number of password generators or management tools you can use.

Getting Sloppy on Holiday

Picture the scene. A family are enjoying a lovely lunch in a beach cafe. No cares in the world. Father goes to pay the bill, looks on the table and in his back pocket but there is no sign of his wallet. In fact, wallet, cards, cash, the lot have completely gone. He and the family noticed nothing. It happens all the time in the warmer months. We are relaxed, the sun is shining, and we totally forget about keeping our valuables, cards and cash secure. The ensuing chaos, the attempts to reach the credit card companies are stressful and sometimes unsuccessful and not what you want on holiday or anywhere else. I know, it happened to us. Cancelling cards abroad can be difficult. Remember to keep your card details in a separate place along with their contact numbers. If possible, take only one credit card with you and keep it, and cash in a waist bag rather than a wallet or shoulder bag. Check the card you take has a lost card replacement scheme before you go as sometimes this can be an add on extra. Keep all of your valuables safe. If your room has a safe, use it and if you take other valuables out with you, keep them secure.

Time for a Change

September is often a month of change and also full of sadness as the nights start to get darker and colder. It is a time when people almost subconsciously review their lives. Some may think it is time for a change. Essex police force does not just employ policemen. There are opportunities for those wishing to become Specials, PCSO's, Contact Managers, office workers, caterers and much more. The size of Essex Police is starting to grow at last with 71 officers joining the force in July. A career in the police can be varied. Those with special skills become dog handlers where the dog lives with its handler as part of the family, or you could work for Essex Police in the office. Current jobs on offer include PCSO's Internal Communications Officer, Electrical Design Engineers, Contact Handlers and more. Some jobs can be full time or part time. Worth a look maybe?

Making Savings with the Weekly Shop

Something only a few seem to do, and up to now I am definitely not one of them, although I have promised I will try a bit harder in future. Next time I go shopping I shall bring a list made over the past few days at home and stick to it. Difficult but definitely step one. Check the sell by dates and go for the best one you can afford. Reject the BOGOFs, they usually mean you are paying twice as much for products you never wanted in the first place. Try not to shop in a hurry. Grab and go can be very expensive and you can end up with all the wrong items. Check the fridge temperatures. Around three is the best for food storage. Below this food goes off whatever the weather. If you are shopping on line, make a list and enter only the items actually on it. Do not browse the site. Check the food dates when the food arrives. Often the use by dates are very short. Reject anything that appears over-ripe on arrival. Remember pickers tend to grab the nearest packet whatever the sell by date may be. They are just doing a job, shopping for a large number of people with no time to shop as if it was for themselves. Christmas will soon be on us and somehow that has to be paid for.

Suspicious? Do Something About It

If you see something odd or suspicious, just do something about it. It is no good seeing something odd and just chatting about it later to your friends or posting it online. If it is odd, different, or in an unusual place just tell the police about it on 101 or report it on the police website. You could be influential in stopping a serious crime, and you won't be in any trouble if it is nothing after all!



Electric Vehicle Fires Challenge Firemen

When electric vehicles catch fire, they generate a different range of chemicals including the extremely flammable carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide. Both of these chemicals are extremely flammable and can have

serious health effects on people. Although research is being carried out worldwide to find out the best way of dealing with this type of vehicle there is no consensus yet on the best firefighting strategy. Fires have been known to mysteriously reignite days after they appeared to have been extinguished. Research continues all over the world as to the best ways to cope with these fires. The lithium battery is prone to reigniting after it has apparently been put out and there have been suggestions that the car should be immersed in water. This is not popular as this water disposed through the drainage system produces a great deal of contamination which must be prevented from entering the watercourses. A typical car fire requires between 1000-2000 litres to extinguish whereas an electric vehicle typically requires up to 30,000 litres. We make great discoveries but learning how to live with them can take much longer.

How Do You Get Rid of a Disposable Barbecue?

With difficulty it seems. Some of us apparently put them into the black bin only to cause a fire in the bin or at the tip later as the contents smoulder for a very long time. Recycling is out. You could put the cold ashes on your garden, carbon may be good for the plants, but the cold container must be disposed of in the black bin. Foil barbecues may seem like a Godsend to us who have spent many hours scrubbing burnt on grease on the Barbecue, but it is definitely an environmental hazard which must be disposed of accordingly. This means waiting until they are stone cold before disposing of them into your black bin!

Parking at Princess Alexandra Hospital

Almost impossible and if you can't find a space tough! You will be charged anyway. This happened when I went for an X-ray and my husband drove around trying to find a space. So was everyone else and he was pipped at the post every time. What we did not know was that whether we got a space or not, we still had to pay for parking. You have to pay for the parking space you have yet to find and park illegally to make the payment. What a system. Not exactly helping the sick or incapacitated, but then why should those who manage the hospital trusts care? £60 for twenty minutes is nice little earner.

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Has our 'Annus Horribilis' Finally Come to an End?

We were told it was going to happen. We had meetings to tell them that we neither wanted nor needed it, but we got it anyway. A long time in gestation and not finished yet, the road works on the A120 junction with Birchanger and Bishop's Stortford continue! During this very extended and prolonged period we have endured numerous lane closures and on occasions attempts to close both ends of the lane at the same time! There have been prolonged arguments with road works 'gate keepers' to convince them we actually live in Birchanger and need to access our homes.



We have endured the noise of pile drivers and the dust and dirt they bring. Now it looks like the final result could be unworkable at peak times, but it will be months before all the junction work will be completed and we finally have an answer. And what have we got now? Increased rat running, more noise and pollution as traffic queues at the approach to the M11 roundabout which is still reduced to one lane. Prevailing winds mean this toxic mix will head straight into Birchanger. Nice one ECC. And nobody has said anything about the escalating costs of this latest white elephant.

Don't Let the Burglars Steal Your Dog

It seems that cash and jewellery and tools are not the only things the casual burglar is interested in. Now they are after your dog as well. In a recent burglary in Saffron Walden the owners were shocked to find that their pet dog was missing too.

Luckily an alert member of the public in a location miles away from the burglary phoned the police and dog and owner were quickly reunited. Just remember it can happen anywhere at any time of the day and you might not see your dog again. There is no real answer to this, just make sure you know where your dogs are at all times and don't leave them alone outside a shop. Make sure that doors and windows are locked when you go out, even if it is just for a very short time.

20 mph Residential Speed Limit Scheme in Cambridgeshire

Cllr Alex Beckett, chair of the highways and transport committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "Speed kills. Studies have shown even a 1 mph drop in speed reduces collisions by 6 per cent. Reducing speed limits from 30 mph to 20 mph can cut pollution by 30 per cent and reduce the chance of a severe or fatal injury in the event of a collision by a staggering 60 per cent."

20 mph schemes are being introduced across 13 parts of Cambridgeshire. The county council said the schemes are intended to improve road safety and reduce pollution.

All schemes will be in place and completed by the end of July. A county council spokesperson said: "Improving road safety through 20 mph schemes is a priority of the council's Joint Administration which has highlighted several benefits from the programme, including safer streets which allow residents to feel safe when walking or cycling and reduced noise and pollution."



The council's highways and transport committee agreed a new process to fast-track 20 mph zones in December 2022. This includes prioritisation criteria such as evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30 mph or 40 mph zone.

The committee also set aside £400,000 to be used until 2025 to introduce new 20 mph zones. A further £800,000 has since been secured in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for area-based schemes across the county.

The 20 mph areas are being installed or completed in Stilton, Godmanchester, St Neots, Woodhurst, Somersham, Great Gransden, Toft, Oakington, Barton, Hauxton, Melbourn, Sawston and Duxford.

This Begs the Question - Why Not Essex?



Tony Earle will give an amusing talk on charity shops at the 17th August meeting. They can be an unerring guide to what's 'out' in fashion but can still yield up lots of interesting 'bits and bobs'. Tony will bring along some of his finds. This promises to be a fun afternoon!

Following the Seminar on 19th August, led by Patrick Parrinder, President of the H G Wells Society entitled H.G. Wells - 'The Realist and The Dreamer' - we are looking forward to welcoming Meryl Wingfield, a sustainability leader in a big global energy company who will be leading the Saturday morning seminar on 2nd September, which will be held in St John's Church Hall Stansted. The title is 'Saving Humanity with a Doughnut'. Meryl will speak about our planet being in such a precarious position due to climate change and loss of nature caused by human exploitation. In the U.K. we have more flooding and heatwaves than ever before, and we are ranked in the bottom 10% globally for the health of our nature. Doughnut Economics is one proposal to solve this problem. Intrigued? Tickets are £7 including tea & coffee, and can be purchased at the August meeting or email stanstedseminars@gmail.com

On the 21st of September monthly meeting we will be welcoming Charlie Haylock as our Speaker. I am sure many of you will remember how entertaining he can be. He will be talking to us about his role as voice coach to Ralph Fiennes in making the recent film version of John Preston's novelistic account of the 1939 excavations at Sutton Hoo.

Eileen Quinn Tel: 07874 385541 E-Mail stanstedu3a@gmail.com

Part Time Volunteer Wanted Offering Sociable Company to a Disabled Person

Is there anyone locally that would visit a disabled person for a few hours per week, and perhaps give some respite care?

If you would like to help, please call 01279 815543 or contact Diane on 07597196485

Thank you

what's on in the village...



September 2023



Hello September

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

***Garden Waste Skip** 3.00-4.00 pm outside social club: Sep 2, Sep 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.**

*UDC apologises for failing to turn up for garden waste collection outside the social club in August due to a puncture on their vehicle.

1 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance -
Private Lessons
11.00 Pilates

2 Church Hall:
09.00 - 13.00
Apton Dance for
kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
21.00 Time Warps
- Live

3 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Family
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

4 Church Hall:
19.00 - 20.00
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom
BSSC:
Quiz Night

5 Garden Bin Church hall:
12.00 Tap Dance
16.45 Ballet

18.45 - 21.00
Apton Dance

6 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
12.45 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
14.00 Fencing

19.00-21.15 Apton
Dance

7 Green Bin Church hall:
9.30 Tai Chi
11.00 Line dance
16.45 Ellouise
School of Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

8 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance -
Private Lessons
11.00 Pilates

9 Church Hall:
09.00 - 13.00
Apton Dance for
kids
BSSC:
Summer Fayre &
Charity Dog Show

10 St Mary's Church:
11.15 Holy
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

11 Church Hall:
19.00 - 20.00
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom
BSSC:
Quiz Night

12 Church hall:
12.00 Tap Dance
16.45 Ballet

18.45 - 21.00
Apton Dance

13 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
12.45 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
14.00 Fencing

19.00-21.15 Apton
Dance

14 Black Bin Church hall:
9.30 Tai Chi
11.00 Line dance
16.45 Ellouise
School of Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

15 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance -
Private Lessons
11.00 Pilates

16 Church Hall:
09.00 - 13.00
Apton Dance for
kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw

17 St Mary's Church:
11.15 Matins
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

18 Church Hall:
19.00 - 20.00
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom
BSSC:
Quiz Night

19 Garden Bin Church hall:
12.00 Tap Dance
16.45 Ballet

18.45 - 21.00
Apton Dance

20 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
12.45 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
14.00 Fencing

19.00-21.15 Apton
Dance

21 Green Bin Church hall:
9.30 Tai Chi
11.00 Line dance
16.45 Ellouise
School of Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

22 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance -
Private Lessons
11.00 Pilates

23 Church Hall:
09.00 - 13.00
Apton Dance for
kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Pie Comedy
Night

24 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Holy
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

25 Church Hall:
19.00 - 20.00
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom
BSSC:
Quiz Night

26 Church hall:
12.00 Tap Dance
16.45 Ballet

18.45 - 21.00
Apton Dance

27 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

28 Black Bin Church hall:
9.30 Tai Chi
11.00 Line dance
16.45 Ellouise
School of Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

29 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance -
Private Lessons
11.00 Pilate

30 Church Hall:
09.00 - 13.00
Apton Dance for
kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
19.30 Quiz Night



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



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



For all general enquiries

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

Follow us on Social Media
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SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
1:00pm to 5:00pm

ENTRY FEE (cash only): £2 per dog per Class (1 to 9)

- 1:15pm CLASS 1** Best Puppy (under 12 months)
- 1:35pm CLASS 2** Best Dog
- 1:55pm CLASS 3** Best Bitch
- 2:15pm CLASS 4** Best Pedigree Dog
- 2:35pm CLASS 5** Best Pedigree Bitch
- 2:55pm CLASS 6** Best Rescue
- 3:15pm CLASS 7** Best Veteran (Over 7 Years)
- 4:15pm CLASS 8** Best Trick
- 4:30pm CLASS 9** Happiest
- 4:45pm CLASS 10** Best in Show



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4:10pm Bone and Spoon Final

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





Stansted Ranked Fourth Worst UK Airport

Stansted Airport was ranked the fourth worst UK airport in a survey published in July by insurance company Loveit Coverit. The survey identified the UK's 10 worst international airports, based on passenger experience, analysing Google and Skytrax reviews.

Stansted's owners, the Manchester Airport Group had the dubious distinction of having all three of its airports listed amongst the UK's five worst. Manchester Airport itself was ranked as the worst airport in the UK in the report.

10 Worst International Airports in the UK

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Manchester | 1 |
| Luton | 2 |
| Leeds Bradford | 3 |
| Stansted | 4 |
| East Midlands | 5 |
| Belfast | 6 |
| Norwich | 7 |
| Bristol | 8 |
| Bournemouth | 9 |
| Birmingham | 10 |

Stansted received an average customer review score of just 2.15 out of 5. Passenger complaints about Stansted included "crowded and cramped", "too many shops", and "abysmal signage". Other causes for complaint were long security queues for outbound passengers and long passport control queues for arriving passengers.

A spokesperson for Loveit Coverit commented of the findings, "The study reminds us that behind the glossy brochures and enticing travel ads, the reality of airport experiences can sometimes fall short." Amongst Stansted's main competitors in the south east, Luton was ranked worse than Stansted but both Heathrow and Gatwick fared better in the opinion of passengers. Neither Heathrow nor Gatwick were included in the list of the 10 worst.

The results are similar to a survey of 22 UK airports by Which magazine earlier this year. Stansted was rated the fifth worst airport in the UK and, again, Manchester was rated the UK's worst airport.

Stansted also has the highest drop-off charge (£7.00) of any UK airport and is amongst the most expensive for food, drinks and foreign exchange.

Brian Ross

THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Last September the dahlias were stunning, if rather stunted due to the summer drought, and the cosmos, sunflowers and roses brought colour to other borders. This year they should all be gorgeous, following the showers we have had since June. With these splashes of colour, the ripening squashes, pumpkins, apples and pears our excitement is building for our Apple and Bees Day on 17th September.

The Apple & Bees Day is usually great fun with a host of activities for visitors. The day will definitely tickle your taste buds. There will be apple pressing and the opportunity to take juice home plus fresh apples, orchard produce, a range of honeys, and apple and honey cakes. Our tombola of jams and jellies made from our soft fruits is hugely popular. Visitors will also be able to buy cider made from our apples including honey and beeswax items, our garden produce, crafts, and plants. There will be apple and honey craft activities for children and a related trail.



Our volunteers and visiting exhibitors love the day and the opportunity to chat with young and old alike about the joys of orchards, fruit and the benefits fruit trees provide for local wildlife. This year we will be joined for the first time by Take Note, a concert band based in Felsted. They have a huge range of instrumentalists and hence a wide repertoire, so it will be exciting to hear what they play at the Gardens!

Tickets will be available in advance through Trybooking or on the Gate, with the Gate opening at 11.00 and last entry 4.00. The Trust's volunteers will provide refreshments: bacon, cheese and hummus rolls and homemade cakes. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on.

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Residents living in the countryside of the Hundred Parishes are fortunate that the intrusive sounds of human activities are less when compared to those living within built up areas close to main roads or railway tracks or beneath regular flight paths. Even within our homes our ears are subjected to a cacophony of sounds: TV or radio programmes, ring tones, the hum of machines, barking dogs or noisy neighbours. Rarely are we surrounded by silence!

Appreciating tranquillity is an essential aspect of being in the countryside, where it should be possible to scan attractive views of verdant landscapes or cloudy skies, hear natural sounds and catch glimpses of wildlife without intrusive background noises. Evidence gathered over the past 15 years reveals that tranquillity is not just a pleasurable experience but is essential for human health and wellbeing reducing stress levels and lifting spirits.



Hatfield Broad Oak

In the early 1990's concerns were raised about the harmful levels of intrusive noise in daily lives. The Countryside Commission and the Council for the Protection of Rural England worked together to produce an Intrusion Map which highlighted areas that were most affected by human-induced noises. Since then, research has been undertaken by CPRE and others to develop suitable methodology for measuring noise and evaluate the visual impact of developments on landscapes.



Little Easton



Manuden

In 2012, tranquillity gained recognition in national planning policy. Now studies are prepared to evaluate Landscape Character Areas and their Sensitivity to Change, and these are included in the reports prepared for Local Plans. They must include appropriate mitigation measures to help reduce intrusive noise to acceptable levels.



Saffron Walden

The walk descriptions listed on the Hundred Parishes website provide opportunities to appreciate the tranquillity of this part of the country, to hear bird song, sense the wind in the trees and view some wonderful rural landscapes.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



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Tel: 01279 813429

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

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

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 |
| Beauty - HEH Nails | Hana Hainsby | 07730 619522 |
| 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 |
| 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 - 11.15 am

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 3 rd September | Family Service with Pam Lee |
| 10 th September | Holy Communion - Revd Colin Fairweather |
| 17 th September | Matins with Pam Lee |
| 24 th September | Holy Communion - Revd Colin Fairweather |

Church News

Over the past few months, I have been appealing to residents to help financially support St Mary's Church and have had some limited success. I have concluded that people do not realise just how much it costs just to keep St Mary's as it is.

In 2022 we had to find almost £19,000 just to keep the church going. Furthermore, we had to use £4000 from our church income to pay for necessary repairs to the church hall floor. Normally the hall can meet its own costs but after two years of Covid and virtually no revenue, there were no reserves left to pay for repairs.

This year we have successfully argued that our Parish Share should be substantially reduced and so St Mary's small regular congregation of less than a dozen people will have to find around £16,000, equivalent to £1350 per month; so, who do you think is paying to keep our church in good repair?

Please, unless you are prepared to contribute towards the cost of maintaining the church, do not make comment on how it is kept. Do not tell me that there is a tile missing from the roof, that the churchyard needs cutting or the trees need cutting back. We cannot afford to do everything that we would like to do but we are doing the best we can with our limited resources.

Future Events

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9 th September | Village Fete |
| 30 th September | Family Prize Bingo |
| 10 th October | Moorswood Coffee Morning |
| 17 th December | Christmas Lunch |
| 22 nd December | Evening Carol Service |

Prayer for the Month ahead

Risen Lord, remind us that with you at our side, faith should be an ongoing journey,
an unfolding story of adventure and discovery.
Give us an expectation of new experiences and insights,
an openness to new horizons with a desire to grow in grace,
wisdom and commitment.
Amen

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

Village Church Hall



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For bookings or further information please contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

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

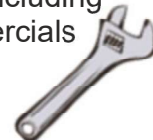


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