



Birchanger Village Magazine

October 2023

Issue 249



Geof's Big Achievement



Photo Courtesy of Bishop's Stortford Independent

Cllr. Geof Driscoll, who is the Uttlesford District Council Chairman for 2023/2024 and lives in Birchanger Lane, set off on Monday, 4th September on a ride which covered more than 70 miles - taking in every ward in the district on the way.

He cycled to raise awareness and funds for 'STRIDE', a six-month life skills project run by the charity Accuro for young people with learning disabilities in west Essex.

The programme covers topics for independent living including health, relationships, household tasks, keeping safe, employment, digital skills and more.

Geof battled his way to every village in Uttlesford over a 7 day period, on his bike, despite the searing heat in order to raise money for the charity.

How he managed to achieve his goal in this heat is unbelievable, but he did. Congratulations and well done Geof. The total raised so far exceeds £1000 and counting.

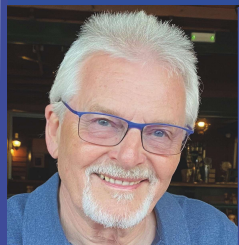
Speed Watch Reduces Speeding

Community Speed Watch (CSW) was out early morning between 07.30 and 09.00 in Birchanger Lane on Thursday 14th September. Amazingly no one was caught speeding! The traffic was relatively light and slow moving.

No doubt the Speed Watch warning signs had the effect of reducing drivers' speeds. It is in fact a legal requirement for these warning signs to be visible to drivers. CSW is also limited as to the location of the speed checks, which must be positioned on public property and approved by Essex Police. At least we had calm traffic on our lane for a day!



Birchanger CSW has recently increased their voluntary membership by 10 persons, so it is hoped to increase the frequency of speed watch days in future. Speed watch training, which is also a legal requirement for volunteers, will be held in the Village Church Hall on Thursday 5th October. However, this training is only for those villagers who have officially volunteered in writing.



Editors Letter Box

Dear Editor

Birchanger Residents Association Stand for Protection of Green Belt

I understand that you have been asked about Birchanger Residents Association ('BRA'), what it stands for and who are the organisers.

Let me try to deal with the points that have been raised.

BRA has the simple objective of seeking to protect the Green Belt around Birchanger. We try our best to support the Parish Council in this regard and to represent the views of local residents who share this objective.

I act as BRA chairman and Paul Ferret is the secretary. Together with a number of other local residents, we were behind the well-attended public meeting in Birchanger Village Hall in November 2021 on the contentious issue of the encroachment of the traveller site onto Birchanger Green Belt. BRA was born out of the concerns raised by local residents at that meeting.

To be clear, the issue is purely about protecting our Green Belt, without fear or favour, or any form of discrimination, regardless of who is responsible for any encroachment.

For example, as some of your readers will know, I took Uttlesford District Council ('UDC') to the High Court two years ago for granting permission for a small housing development on Green Belt land in the village. On that occasion the developer was a wealthy landowner, but the issue had nothing to do with personalities. It was purely about protecting the Green Belt. Fortunately, the High Court Judge agreed that the Green Belt which surrounds Birchanger deserved protection and he over-turned that planning approval.

As for the current encroachment onto the Green Belt at the end of Birchanger Lane, some 330 local residents submitted objections and UDC refused permission. The case will now be heard at a Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') appeal hearing on 16 November. UDC, BRA and the Parish Council have all now made submissions to PINS. The underlying theme is the protection of the Green Belt which surrounds Birchanger. All these submissions are totally transparent and can be found at

<https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RL72SMQNKYT00>

Finally, I understand that there has been some criticism for the fact that we don't widely publicise our names, addresses etc, but some local residents have concerns about that. However, representations to UDC and PINS cannot be sent anonymously and so my own name and Paul's name (as BRA secretary) can be found at the above website address.

To protect the things that you care about, you sometimes have to put your head above the parapet!

Brian Ross

Cricket Square Grass damage

If anybody knows who spread grass killer on the square that the two teams have played so well on this season and Graham has worked so hard to get into shape, please leave a note in the Social Club.

This village and those who represent it deserve better than the yobs who have defiled an integral part of our community. If any of you idiots read this, I hope you feel proud of yourselves!

John Warwick

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

Christmas is Coming!

Schools are back and some kind of normality has returned. With the shorter days and colder nights comes the message that winter is well on the way. And with the colder weather comes Christmas and for Birchanger the Big Light Up. Don't panic, there's a long time to go yet, and plenty of time to get the presents and the big light up inspiration.

The Year From Hell Continues

We thought it would all end after a few weeks! How wrong we were. The roadworks' continued, grew some, and now Highways England has got into the act and is widening M11 exits. They don't work every day, only when there are a few men able to turn up! The top of the lane is a mess. We can only exit left when kind motorists feel sorry for us and let us out. Mind you, it could be worse after they install the new traffic lights later in the year. We could be waiting ages for the lights to change to join the mob aiming for the M11. The only good thing that may come of this is that it could deter the lane rat runners from using the village as a cut through! Now work has started on Dunmow Road in Bishop's Stortford which is closed and as yet there is no date for completion. We shall soon be celebrating the "roadworks' second birthday". I wonder how many more to come.

Are You Interested in History?

If so, you might well be interested in the Essex Record Office and the events they run throughout the year focusing on significant events in Essex History. To find out more contact the Essex Record Office online. Tickets are limited on a first come first served basis.

Unauthorised Caravan Sites

Apparently, police have speedily dispersed illegal traveller encampments all over Essex by three quarters of their total numbers. It is a great pity that although notified as soon as the travellers arrived here in Birchanger the police did not take immediate action over the installation of caravans on green belt land! Apparently over the rest of Essex, encampments are now 75% fewer! This makes next month's appeal all the more important to our community. Should the travellers appeal be upheld, the current encampment must be made to toe the line. Police now boast that they can move unauthorised traveller communities within hours of arrival. Unfortunately, too late for us!

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month at 8.00 pm in the village hall.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 25th October 7.45 for 8.00 pm

There will be a talk from The Guide Dogs Association

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

What to do if You Suspect a Fraud?

Maybe you are a victim, or perhaps you have come across something online which you think is suspicious and you don't have a clue what to do about it. Most of us just close the site and move on. Most frauds can be reported online directly to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or call them on 03001232040. There are a few special options: Business or tax fraud should be reported to HMRC, while benefit frauds go to GOV.UK. Immigration fraud is the responsibility of the Home Office. Online child abuse can come in many guises and if you are worried about something you suspect could be happening to a child you know, tell the Child Exploitation Centre Online Protection Command (CEOP) at: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> All bullying or hate crimes should be reported directly to the local police.

Keeping Safe Online

Never share personal information online with anyone. Remember anything you put online is no longer yours. You are right out there so think before you post or give any personal information to anyone. You could spend a very long time regretting it. Not everyone out there is your friend.

Car Thieves Get Smarter

They are always very good at finding new ways to steal your car. If you have a vehicle with central locking keyless entry, thieves can tap into your key's signal from outside the house or supermarket, gain entry and drive your vehicle away in minutes - and you won't even know it's happened!



You can prevent this by using a 'Faraday Pouch' to store your keys to prevent thieves from picking up your keys signal. They are readily available online from Amazon or eBay for just a few pounds. Some key signals can be switched off when you are not using the car, so if you have this feature, you can find out how to use it from the vehicle's manual. The old-fashioned steering wheel lock or other physical devices are

still a good addition to keep your car safe from modern day thieves.

Did You Know That Your Vehicle May Have a Tracker Device

Apparently, many newer vehicles are equipped with a tracker device. Thieves are aware of this and will leave newly stolen vehicles parked up in lanes and out of the way places to see if anyone comes to claim them. These tracker devices also help the police in tracing all sorts of vehicles and machinery. If after a period of time nobody claims the vehicle, the thieves will return and collect it and sell it on to their usual contacts. If you find a vehicle parked up in one of the country lanes that looks suspicious, tell the police. It could be just an innocent walker but if it is left for more than a day or so, it may be stolen. You can find out if your car has this very useful device from the dealer or your handbook. Some may need to be activated.

New Safety Map Created by Women

Essex police in conjunction with Essex County Council and Essex Fire and Rescue Services have created a new safety map marking the places in Essex where people tell them where they feel safe or unsafe. This is an initiative which is being rolled out across the county. The combined team are inviting people to tell them where they feel safe or unsafe across the county to create an online map which people can access. The team can be contacted by email at community.safety@essex.gov.uk, or by phone on 03330320647. The map will be available online and it will help all the emergency services to help you. Are there places where you feel unsafe? Contact the team and have the area you are concerned about included on the map. It will help all the emergency services and hopefully in the end reduce crime and keep everybody safer with better area policing. The police are rarely seen in Birchanger but not everybody feels safe.

Will a Poor Summer Affect Our Health

Many of us feel let down and run down after the poor summer we have just had. Some of us have had holidays ruined by the weather, some by having nightmare journeys to access their destination and many have found that their accommodation on arrival was not all it was cracked up to be. So, we start Autumn in poor spirits with a feeling of being let down. Many of us work so hard during the rest of the year that the summer holiday becomes a big and perhaps over glamorised event in our lives.

We have worked for it, we saved for it, we planned it and we have earned it. Then for a variety of reasons overbooking, poor accommodation, nothing as advertised and it all turns sour so we just can't wait to be back home. This seems to happen only too often now. Perhaps it is time to look at holidays differently. Would it be better to send the children on a specially designed holiday for them and their interests, there are plenty of these advertising their offerings for children of all ages. Maybe short breaks more often might work better for you all. You might like to try holidays with family activities attached, learning to ski or sail together come to mind. These are easy to achieve out of the summer season.

Perhaps you could try a staycation. Plan interesting things to do together for your family holiday. Make a list and book the venues so you actually do the things you planned. Sending the kids to granny's can be enjoyed by all three generations. Anything to avoid needing a week in a care home to get over the holiday you just had when you get back. Perhaps the package holiday needs to change its current formula and make it a bit more honest, less pack 'em in' and more enjoyable all round for everyone.

People Smugglers Operate in Essex

Three men were jailed recently for attempting to People Smuggle using a small boat off the coast at Brightlingsea. Apparently, the men had been smuggling immigrants using beaches in Belgium. Police are watching all the out of way landing spots in Essex where small boats can land undisturbed.

Somewhere Special to Eat

If you are looking for a restaurant with better than average experience and enjoy full waiter attention, then Roni's in Bishop's Stortford might be just the place for you for that special occasion.



Roni's offer excellent service and high-quality cuisine and although not cheap, offer good value, especially if you pick the right day. Go for a midweek lunch and have two choices from a special menu. The price for two courses could be £25 or £30 for three courses. Service was excellent on the day we visited, and every dish was both interesting and plentiful. Roni's is open lunchtimes and evenings 6 days a week and well worth a visit for that special occasion. It is advisable to book at busy times. Dress code is smart casual.

The Rat Run is Alive and well

Sadly, Birchanger Lane remains a rat run and you really do need to take care whether as a pedestrian or a motorist. Cars and vans are driving at speed through Birchanger in an effort to beat the queues at certain times on the A120. These people think they have found a short cut and pay no attention whatsoever to pedestrians or anyone who just might impede their progress. It is possible that this rat running will continue ad infinitum until the traffic lights and the sheer volume of traffic finally bring these people to a halt. The road works seem endless and now that Highways England has joined the party things could get a lot worse.

Now the Police Are Giving Boxing Lessons

Sounds incredible but in many cases, people are facing physical attacks and not knowing how to defend themselves. This applies especially to victims of domestic violence who haven't a clue how to defend themselves in most cases. Can you imagine the surprise and horror on the perpetrators face as their "victim" floors them for the first time. Will we see rows of men bleating to the nurses in casualty that the wife slugged them? Serve them right. Can't wait.

Coffee Morning

Autumn Coffee Morning at Moorswood, 330 Birchanger Lane on Tuesday 10th October from 10.30 to noon. You are all very welcome.

Need a Settee?

A used, comfortable, leather three-seater settee needs a new home. Free to collect. Contact Elizabeth Godwin for details.

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

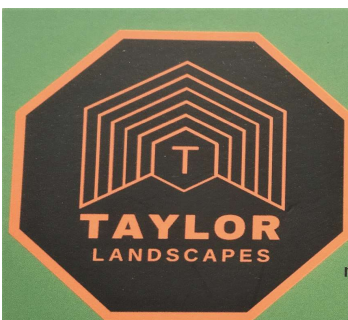
enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com



DANIEL ROSS
07703484090

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DBS Checked


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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Is This the End of Parish Churches?

I was recently given three articles on a topic entitled “Loss of hundreds of parishes rings death knell for Anglican Church”, “The Church of England no longer understands our Common Anglican tradition” and “Britons have given up on the church”.

There is a group called ‘Friends of Friendless Churches’ that do their best to care for unused or closed ancient churches of which there are many dotted about the countryside. All of these relatively small buildings are keepers of centuries of our history which is locked within their walls. In the main, they have been forgotten by society that views them now as being unimportant, but they are full of traces of the local people who used to revere them. They are venerable buildings that need treating with dignity and respect.

In an increasingly secular life people have moved away to towns and cities leaving these ancient buildings behind and forgotten. These people have moved away from their roots and from God. It seems to me that wherever you look there is someone expressing their views about the demise of small parish churches such as ours. The reasons given are varied as are the suggested solutions so, as one of the churches under discussion, where does it leave us?

Apart from reading the articles that I have mentioned I also purchased a book called “The Big Picture for Small Churches”. I hoped that within its pages I would find some inspiration for what we could do to increase our congregation but, sadly, no. The writer rambled on and on about quotes from the gospels – nothing that we have not heard before and nothing that I felt would encourage new parishioners through our door.

So, for now, it is up to us to carry the burden of history here in St Mary’s even though it is sometimes a heavy burden to bear. However, despite the gloomy outlook recorded in the most recent Church of England statistics I do feel that we have good reason to have some hope for the future. The statistics show that between 1969 and 2021 the Church of England disposed of 2013 churches, 500 of which were demolished and there is concern that the after effects of the pandemic will accelerate these closures. It is estimated that over the next three years a further 368 Anglican churches will close. Other denominations are in a similar position.

It has been said that an ancient and beautiful church fulfils its function merely by existing whether it has a congregation or not as it is a perpetual reminder of spiritual values. Something embedded in the very fabric of the stones consecrated long ago by a priest or bishop which has been added to by centuries of human activity and emotion. People have over the years brought to churches such as this their hope and anguish, their offspring for baptism, their dead to be buried. All of their emotions form the fabric of this and other old churches. The walls hold our joy and our grief.

St Mary’s Church transcends time. It embodies the spiritual investment of our congregation as much as it ever did and ever will. It is our legacy to the community that has to a large extent abandoned it. It is full of shared human experiences that survive here as a monument to thousands of ordinary people whom most people have forgotten about.

As I see it, we are at a tipping point and the various heritage institutions cannot cope but I do feel that there is good reason to hope for a change. Whilst the pandemic may have caused some people to stay away from services, that same event may be the catalyst that brings people back to God. Many are now looking to move away from urban areas into the countryside which is where

most of our abandoned churches are. At this moment in time, it seems that it is the older generations that are making this move but I do think that younger families will in time follow. My hope is that if this trend continues, at least some of those who left the areas where they grew up, will eventually return and just maybe they will look to renew their faith in God. I truly hope that I am right.

Pam Lee



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

In August, the Garden Group paid a special visit to Heyrons, High Easter, a former farmyard and barn converted into a house and garden, a 45-year labour of love. The house looks onto a beautiful walled courtyard with glimpses, through an archway, of the gardens. These comprise mature trees under planted with herbaceous borders,



a rose garden, a former lawn tennis court, a dry garden and views across the Essex countryside. They were welcomed and put at ease by their hosts, Catherine and Richard Wollaston. On their tour Richard explained how each part had developed according to family need and enthused over plans for the future, next being creating a wildlife pond which the Group hopes to see on a future visit. Afterwards they lingered over a hugely generous tea with seemingly endless supplies of cakes.

What a great morning! Our fourth Saturday Seminar this year, August 19th, with Professor Patrick Parrinder, was a huge sell out success. H.G.Wells, Utopian, English novelist, journalist, sociologist and historian, best known for his science fiction novels such as *The Time Machine* and *The War of the Worlds*, was also a prolific writer of many other novels and short stories. He grew from shop work apprentice to world famous author, a larger-than-life character, influential and energetic, reaching, in his lifetime, what would now be worldwide rock star fame. Our next Saturday Seminar, on 14th October, will be “An Introduction to Venetian Painting” with Jo Brooks. Details on the website.

The speaker at the October 19th General Meeting will be Ian Currie, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. Ian is a full-time weatherman, broadcaster, columnist, editor of the *Weather Eye* magazine and runs a website www.frostedearth.co.uk which includes daily weather forecasts. His talk is called *Gales, Greenhouses, and Global Warming*.

Anne White

Stansted U3A Telephone:

07874541 www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

what's on in the village...



October 2023



Household Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. (Some exceptions)

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

30 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	31 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance Halloween					1 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
2 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	3 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	4 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	5 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	6 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Pilates	7 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Charity Dog Show	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
9 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	10 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet Moorswood 10.30 Coffee Morn 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	11 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	12 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	13 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Pilates	14 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Kids Dance BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Afterlife Band - Live	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
16 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	17 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	18 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 12.45 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 19.00-21.15 Apton Dance	19 Green Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	20 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Pilates	21 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Quiz Night	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast AGM
23 Church Hall: 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom BSSC: Quiz Night	24 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.45 - 21.00 Apton Dance	25 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	26 Black Bin Church hall: 9.30 Tai Chi 11.00 Line dance 16.45 Ellouise School of Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	27 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance - Private Lessons 11.00 Pilate	28 Church Hall: 09.00 - 13.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Halloween Disco	29 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



Remember Remember
The 5th November
Fireworks
7pm start



SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER



21st October



AFTERLIFE
14th October - 9pm

AGM 22nd October

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

For all news and announcements





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ALL PROFITS
FROM THE DOG
SHOW WILL GO
TO THE ARC
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CHARITY IN
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STORTFORD

(Charity No: 1007812)

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

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)**
- 3:45pm Bone & Spoon Heats**
- 4:10pm Bone and Spoon Final**
- 4:15pm CLASS 8 Best Trick**
- 4:30pm CLASS 9 Happiest**
- 4:45pm CLASS 10 Best in Show**



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It's more fun being an Ostrich

Many of us want to bury our heads in the sand when the experts tell us that unless we move away from burning fossil fuels our climate will continue to warm and weather patterns will become more unstable and erratic.

Almost all sectors of our economy now have a plan to switch to renewables. By 2030 about 95% of our electricity will come from renewables. Also, by 2035, we will no longer be able to buy a new petrol or diesel car, as part of the UK's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

While everyone else is reducing their carbon emissions, one sector of our economy wants to continue increasing its emissions, and that's the aviation industry. In fairness, there is no easy substitute for kerosene and there are, as yet no obvious alternative technologies.

That is why the Climate Change Committee ('CCC') recommends a slowdown in the growth of air travel. The CCC is independent; it bases its advice on the scientific evidence; and it has a statutory duty to advise Government of the measures needed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

In its latest advice to Government, the CCC has said that no new airport expansion plans should be approved until such time as the aviation industry starts to reduce its emissions rather than increasing them year on year. However, the Government intends to reject the CCC's advice and will not call a halt to airport expansion projects at Gatwick, Luton, London City, Farnborough and Manston, which are currently in the planning system. A Heathrow planning application for a third runway may not be far away.

Everyone knows that there are no votes to be won by forcing people to buy electric cars, or by banning gas boilers – or by stopping people taking overseas holidays. But that's not what the CCC are saying. They simply want to ensure that demand for flights is no more than 25% higher in 2050 compared to today and the UK already has more than enough airport capacity to cope with a 25% increase in demand.

So, are we serious about tackling climate change, or is it more fun being an ostrich?

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

October is the last hurrah for visitors to the Gardens as we close to visitors the end of the month. It is usually a lovely month, with autumnal warmth and lots of colourful squashes, weird shaped tromboncinos and pumpkins ripe for picking and selling and the dahlias and roses still looking lovely. It is also the month when the Autumn Crocus/Winter daffodil pop up and of course the trees start to turn their leaves to various autumn shades. For kids it is a time for gathering conkers and making dens in the wood.

Sunday 15th October is our final full Open Day and together with Wendy's Petcare Services we are planning a dog show to make it a special day out for all the family. There will be dog classes for the cutest puppy, handsomest dog and prettiest bitch and we are encouraging owners to think about Halloween costume for their dogs too! Essex Police Dog handlers will be with us and Dr Alex to offer veterinary advice. There will be a number of pet food and other stalls, and as usual we will have plant, crafts and the Trust's produce stalls.



Open Thursdays continue to the end of October. Thursdays are a time for visitors to see the Trust's volunteers hard at work. If the cuttings taken in August and September haven't thrived, this could well be the last cuttings of the year. This can sometimes happen because our volunteers aren't always around daily to tend them. Also, the beds we use for cuttings in the walled kitchen garden can get very hot and dry. We will be starting the autumn planting of bulbs, shrubs and perennials which are being moved or newly established before the winter cold arrives.

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

Jill Goldsmith



Coffee Morning 10th October

Autumn Coffee Morning at
Moorswood, 330 Birchanger
Lane on Tuesday 10th October
from 10.30 to noon.
You are all very welcome.



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Nostalgia of Thatched Roofs

Thatch has been used as a roofing material for thousands of years. It was once common in rural areas because the material was cheap and readily available. Now, a thatched roof is much more expensive, but the skill of the thatcher can still be seen throughout The Hundred Parishes. A thatcher undertakes a five-year apprenticeship with a master thatcher before becoming a master thatcher himself.



Most properties in the UK use either long straw, wheat reed or water reed. Many thatched properties are listed and when re-thatching is needed there is a requirement to use the same type of material as before.

In medieval times wheat grew to nearly 6 feet tall, while today's modern farming methods produce shorter-stemmed wheat, and this has weakened the straw and its longevity. Now specialist growers produce taller-stemmed varieties, grown especially for thatching.

Clavering – Lantern Thatch



There is some debate about the longevity of a thatched roof. To some extent, life expectancy relates to the material used, but it is also dependent on factors such as pitch, orientation and air circulation. A good thatch will typically last from 20 to 50 years, providing excellent insulation. The ridge, along the top of the roof, will last between 10 and 20 years, so requires more frequent attention.

Thorley – The Olde Thatch



Hatfield Heath – The Thatchers



Traditionally a new layer of material is laid over the seasoned roof; this is called “spar coating”. The bundles of straw taken up onto the roof are called “yelms”. Twisted hazel sticks known as “spars” or “gads” are used to secure the thatch in place. A thatcher may mark his work by placing a distinctive straw finial on the ridge.

Elmdon - Hamlet Church



Thatch appears not only on houses. There are several thatched pubs, a thatched church at Duddenhoe End in the parish of Elmdon, and a partly-thatched village hall in Ashdon.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Three Horseshoes



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

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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
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 814473
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

1st October	Family Service with Jo Pratt
8th October	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
15th October	Matins with Jo Pratt
22nd October	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
29th October	Family Service with Peter Odrieh

Church News

It's official, Summer is over, and we are now into Autumn where thoughts turn to how cold the coming days will be and how are we going to get ready for Christmas? Here in church, preparations for the season are well underway for our celebration of Christ's birth, but if you do not believe in Christ, what is it that you will be celebrating? Throughout December at our regular Sunday services, we will be able to sing many of those old favourite carols that we all know so well. If you enjoy singing, please feel free to join us.

We kick off at 10.30am on Tuesday 12th December with a Christmas Coffee morning at Moorswood. Pim and Liz are always great hosts decorating their home for the occasion and giving a warm welcome to everyone.

On the 16th December (subject of course to sufficient people joining us) we hope to serve a traditional Christmas dinner with all the usual trimmings and a visit from Santa. Last year was well supported and if you want to come along this year, please let Pam know as soon as possible, particularly if you have any special dietary requirements. This year we are hoping to undertake this by donation rather than pay per person in the hope that more families can get involved.

At our service on the 17th December we will be constructing our Christingles in church and supporting the Children's Society.

The Evening Carol Service will take place at 7pm on Friday 22nd December. Volunteers to read on this occasion are always welcome.

Monday 25th December we will have a Christmas Day service. At this moment in time, we cannot say if this will be holy communion or an adapted matins service as much depends on availability of clergy, but the church will be open as usual. Come along if you can.

Other Events

30th September	7pm Family Prize Bingo in the Church Hall
10th October	10.30am Moorswood Coffee Morning
12th November	10.50am Remembrance Service

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com

John Revell - RIP

The Funeral of John Revell will be held at
12.00 midday on Friday 29th September
at the Cam Valley Crematorium, Field Farm Drive,
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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

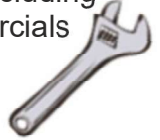


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