



Birchanger Village Magazine

December 2023

Issue 251



Planning Inspector Visits Birchanger's Travellers Site



On the 16th November at Uttlesford District Council Offices in Saffron Walden, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) held the hearing to consider the traveller's appeal against refusal of their planning application. Birchanger Residents Association had submitted over 100 pages of evidence in order to defend Birchanger's Green Belt by ending the encroachment by travellers more than five years ago.

Seven Birchanger residents attended including two Parish Councillors and three from the Birchanger Residents Association. One of our District Councillors also attended. The Case Officer, Enforcement Officer, and the Environmental Health Officer from Uttlesford District Council also attended. There were approximately ten travellers, not all of whom are resident on the site. Their agent was there along with a barrister, a noise consultant and a drainage consultant.

The Inspector explained, this was a Hearing not an Inquiry, so it was supposed to be more of a discussion than a cross examination. The Inspector had various points that he needed clarification on. A great deal of time was taken up with the issue of noise pollution.

Everyone had the opportunity to speak to either put forward an opinion or to respond. Following the Hearing the Inspector made a site visit in Birchanger. The decision will be published before December 13th.

Poppy Appeal 2023

Three Willows	£66.12	Birchanger Club	£42.90
Church	£99.10	School	£144.12
Mick McG	£621.26	Total	£973.50

A huge thank you on behalf of the
Royal British Legion and myself for
your generous support again this year.
Mick McGahan

Birchanger Remembers our fallen heroes

Most of the people who came to the war memorial stayed afterwards for the service in church. Sue Warr and Rosemary Saward had worked hard to ensure that the church was looking its best, particularly the altar, which looked amazing festooned with red poppies and sporting red livery. So beautiful.

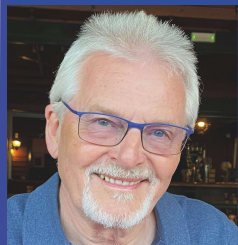


The service was led by lay minister, Jo Pratt, who is becoming a regular visitor at St Mary's. In her address, Jo referred to one of our past Rectors whose son was killed whilst serving in Palestine during WW1 and compared this loss to the troubles occurring in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza today.

Two children, Lizzy, and Acer, from the school attended the service to read out the names of the fallen. Geof Driscoll read out a wonderful poem – 'I am a soldier'. Lovely words that brought a tear to the eye. The whole service was beautiful, sad but still respectful.

Pictured below Uttlesford District Chairman of the Council Geof Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer Peter Holt and Birchanger Parish Council Chair Angie Driscoll.





Editors Letter Box



Stop Theft in Your Home

As Christmas approaches thieves get more active. I therefore thought to share with you SimpliSafe's guide to preventing burglars from targeting your home. This guide offers advice on easy-to-install security features, as well as tips on protecting your walls and fences from burglars. Stay Safe! The magazine team wish all their readers and contributors a very happy Christmas and new year.

Tips to help prevent burglars from targeting the outside of your home

Every home is different, there isn't a one size fits all approach but these tips will help point you in the right direction.



Visible and audible security deterrents (e.g. outdoor camera, video doorbell and outdoor sirens)



Keep valuables out of sight of the windows and away from doors



Light up your porch and garden (e.g. motion or flood light)



Apply anti-climb paint to the top of your fence. It's a type of non-drying paint that can stay slippery for years, preventing trespassers from being able to climb a surface without falling down.

*This could potentially cause injuries from falling, you should install a warning sign.



Plant spiky shrubs around the border of your property such as Holly, Pyracantha and Hawthorn



Fences, gates, driveway gates etc. add an extra hurdle for intruders to tackle



Keep ladders, boxes, bins and other items out of sight which could be used to help scale a fence or house



Make it appear as if someone is home with indoor lights on a timer and tilt blinds



Keep outdoor tools locked away as these could help a burglar break in



Gravel driveways and paths makes it harder for intruders to tread quietly with stones underfoot



Barking dogs - although we do think dogs deserve a break from their guard duties

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 Will Soon be Here!

Now is the time when preparation for Christmas begins in earnest. The parties are about to start. Carols are being heard everywhere, children are even more impossible than ever and the usual architects of Christmas, mainly female, are already pretty frazzled as they jump frenetically from one piece of Christmas planning to another. Shops are becoming busier and courier vans are constantly in the village. It is very easy to get panicked at this time, especially if you are the one who seems to be landed with all the planning and who is coming. Perhaps it is time to rethink the present list and reduce the number of Christmas cards year? Then there is the cooking, do we really have to have a 33lb turkey again this year. You can hardly carry it, never mind trying to ram it in the oven. Perhaps you might be going away but flights to many holiday destinations are fully booked. So, it may be back to Grandma's again and the four-hour jam on the M25. Don't forget, Christmas can be a very sad and sorry affair for some. The newly bereaved are mostly hurting badly at this special time. Those who are ill just wish the whole thing would go away for now, and those who still have to work and care for others but miss their own families as well. People do get ill at Christmas and hospitals at this time are very lonely places to be. Ambulance drivers, police and many others still have to turn up for work to keep the systems we all rely on running as we expect them to. Maybe if we all tried to drop the consumerism aspects of Christmas and thought of others who are less fortunate than us, we might all enjoy Christmas a great deal more.

Lost Dog

Most of us are fairly panic stricken when they somehow manage to lose their dog either through an open gate, an insecure garden or simply when out for a walk. The police will help but the best way of all is for you to tell everyone that your pet is missing and get them to tell everyone else. Social media is a good place to start. A chip is essential. One lady who lost her dog was lucky that the person who found her took her to the vet where her chip was read and she was reunited with her owner within two hours. Most dogs fortunately are now chipped but if your dog is not chipped or the chip is out of date, notify the dog warden and the public at large. Advertise with plenty of photographs on Facebook and/or in local papers making sure everyone knows about it.

Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Please join me, Elizabeth Godwin, for coffee and cakes at Moorswood. Starts at 10.30am 12th December. All are welcome.

Fly Parking and Holidays

The number of people who find it cheaper to park their car in Birchanger and get a taxi to Stansted Airport, always peaks at holiday time. It is up to us disgruntled residents to deal with the problem. You should report these vehicles using the online form at www.stanstedatf.com/fp. You can also report any issues such as obstruction etc., to the local police or to the DVLA on their website.

Still Time to Give Your Views on The Local Plan

This consultation is still open for responses to the proposals on the policies and plans which will shape our district right up until 2041. If you wish to read the plan the best way is online where you can also give your feedback. There are allocations for around 6000 additional houses at locations around the larger settlements: Great Dunmow, Newport and Saffron Walden, Stansted, Takeley and Thaxted. There will be no development in smaller villages other than modest infill, and none whatsoever in open countryside. 35% of the homes will be 'affordable'. If you would like a paper copy of the comment form, they are available at the council offices or libraries. Written responses can be sent to the council offices at Saffron Walden, Post Code CB11 4ER. The final version of the plan should be out for consultation next year before submission to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector.



Big Light Up

Yes, it is here at last. Friday December 1st is the date when we officially switch on the village lights, the time 7.00pm at the club. The big light up will be led by the children from Birchanger School who will welcome everyone with Christmas songs. After the lights have been switched on, there will be room for everyone in the club and Christmas will have begun once more. As ever, we hope that the Birchanger lights will dazzle the skies and make our village the very best Christmas village for miles around. Enjoy walking around the village and seeing all the lights and don't forget to visit the side roads. There is always beautiful lighting to be found there too.

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.

No meeting in December

Back to normal in January 2024

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056



Victoria Stokes MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Practitioner

Corn removal & Verrucae treatment
Callus debridement
Diabetic foot care
Neurovascular assessment
Toenail cutting
Fungal nail treatment
Ingrown toenail treatment

Phone/WhatsApp: 07783937401

Email: victoriastokesfhf@gmail.com

Watch Out Speedwatch is About

Police traffic control Teams and our Speedwatch Team have been mounting a crackdown on the speeding vehicles which have plagued the village in recent weeks as they try to escape the traffic jams caused by the myriad of roadworks around Bishop's Stortford and Stansted. Speeding is a problem in Birchanger but unfortunately the best place to catch these menaces are out of bounds for the Speedwatch team. This is due to safety and risk assessment reasons. Bureaucracy always wins. However, the police have no such restrictions, so beware!

Are You Sure About a Canine for Christmas?

This is the time of year when parents and kids think a puppy would be the ultimate Christmas present! Lots of healthy walks getting them out more, someone to play with, someone to snuggle up to and looking so cute as well. A kind of blindness takes over us all at Christmas and we all end up making choices which we have not even begun to think past the usual Christmas fever. A dog is a wonderful present, but have you thought through the changes it will make to your life? There was a slogan around some years ago asking us to remember that a dog is for life not just for Christmas and it is still true today. Remember that it is not just the Rottweilers that bite. All dogs will bite if provoked by smell, behaviour of others and the sense of fear. This year rescue centres are bulging with unwanted pets. If your family really would like to give a forever home to a dog, why not go to your nearest rescue centre first. Find out in an unpressurised way all about the dogs on offer and make your choice there or go away and think about it again for a while. This way you might find yourselves with a well-trained pre-loved pet who is homeless through unfortunate family circumstances and no fault of its own. There will be plenty wanting a home after Christmas as well.

Christmas should be about Peace on Earth

Birchanger has not been the most peaceful place to be lately. Roadworks have pestered us for almost two years and convoys of vehicles using the lane as a short cut causing chaos and congestion. As soon as they have completed the work on the A120 junction with Dunmow Road, they will pick up the clutter and move it all down to remove the roundabout at the junction with Stansted Road. The powers that be claim that roundabouts slow up traffic, but why do they think that traffic lights are so much better. At least with a roundabout there is a steady roll on of traffic movement, more acceptable to most people than a fume filled queue. The County are spending a great deal of money which is highly unlikely to have a real impact on the traffic situation. There are just too many cars trying to get to the same places at the same time. No amount of traffic lights will ever solve this situation.

All I Want for Christmas Is to be Able to Go Shopping!

The hell on our roads continues. Why is it that the authorities seem to think it is a smart thing to do to join their colleagues from adjacent areas and differing providers and dig up as many roads as they can right in front of the Christmas holiday season.

What started as a totally unwanted and unnecessary removal of a roundabout has mushroomed into a mass of other service providers who are busily digging up roads all over Bishop's Stortford without consulting with other service providers as to any other work they may have planned. A recipe for mayhem and we got it! We've had convoys of rat runners driving at speed through the village. We have had separate contractors wanting to block both ends of the lane simultaneously. The normal ten-minute trip to Bishop's Stortford has become a forty-minute traffic crawl as everyone is sandwiched onto one route which is also subjected to road works and yet more additional temporary traffic lights. At the time of writing there is barely a mile of road left clear in the Bishop's Stortford/Stansted area. We lose one set and another two come to take its place!



Scammers Don't Stop at Christmas

Be careful when on social media, especially on dating sites. Without realising it, you are in danger of disclosing too many personal details, where you live and what you do.

Watch out for the so called 'pig-butcher' scam. Victims caught up in romance scams are now likened to pigs being fattened for slaughter, due to clever social engineering carried

out by fraudsters. Rip Off Britain has heard from viewers who met someone on a dating site and felt they'd made a real connection over a long period of time, but later realised they'd been groomed by a scammer – often losing large sums of money in the process. Chef Alexandr Gutu, from Moldova, has lived in the UK since 2016. He was working two jobs to try and save a deposit for a house. By the end of 2022 he'd saved up £42,000. Around the same time, he set up a profile on Tinder, hoping to find love. Alex, 33, was soon matched with Kristine and they quickly grew close, messaging each other for several weeks. "We had a really nice chat about the future, about plans, kids," he told Rip Off Britain. "I really felt I can trust this person." When Alex shared his plans to buy a house, Kristine said her uncle was a professional cryptocurrency trader who could help him grow his savings pot. They were introduced, and Kristine's 'uncle' soon won Alex's trust. Alex first invested £850, followed by bigger sums as he saw his investment growing. Alex's online relationship with Kristine was also blooming, as they frequently messaged each other off the Tinder platform. "I was feeling really happy," Alex told Rip Off Britain. "I was thinking after a long time, I found a really good girl who can potentially be my wife and we can create a family." Alex had deposited £40,000 into crypto accounts, but when he asked to withdraw some of it, Kristine's 'uncle' went silent. He and Kristine both blocked Alex's phone number, and Kristine's profile disappeared from Tinder, leaving him with no way of contacting her. Reality hit, as Alex realised he'd been the victim of a long and cruel scam. "I lost everything. I was feeling like, I am still alive but mentally I was dead," Alex said. Take note and please take care this Christmas.

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

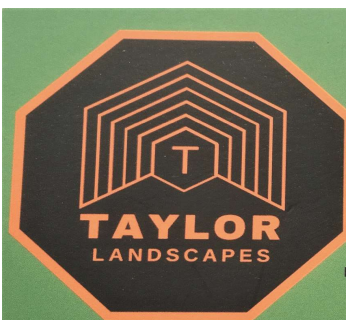
enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com



DANIEL ROSS
07703484090

City & Guilds Qualified
Part P Registered
DBS Checked

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



Taylor Landscapes
Landscapes For Living


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mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net

 
@TaylorLandscapesLtd

We have had a wonderful first half of the Autumn term and welcomed lots of new children into Pre-school who have settled beautifully!

The children have enjoyed learning about different events the last couple of weeks such as Halloween, Firework night and Remembrance Day. The children made a beautiful display for Remembrance Day which now holds pride of place in our room.



We also had a visit from the lovely Maria at Kidslingo who came in to give the children a Spanish class. The children joined in singing and dancing along to Spanish Nursery Rhymes, they had so much fun!

This half term is always a busy one, we have our Annual Audley End trip coming up where we will be going on the train to see Father Christmas. Then we will be finishing the term with our Christmas party at the Village Hall where the children will be performing Christmas songs for their families to spread Christmas cheer!

We are now taking bookings for September 2024 so please do get in touch.

Carly Richards - Pre school Manager



Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Please join me, Elizabeth Godwin, for a pre-Christmas coffee morning with cakes and other goodies at

Moorswood. Starts at 10.30am on 12th December.
All are welcome.



Stansted U3A Singers presented their annual concert in St John's Church on Saturday 30th September. For the first time this was an afternoon performance, and certainly the churchyard pathways were easier to negotiate in the daylight. The concert theme this year was "I have a dream" and the choir sang a variety of old and new numbers, led by Musical Director Isobel Bradshaw. In the interval the audience enjoyed delicious homemade cakes, together with wine and soft drinks.

There was a surprise at the end of the concert with Elton John's uplifting "I'm still standing", each singer whipping on a pair of Elton's special specs. A retiring collection on behalf of Uttlesford Foodbank raised almost £130 from a very generous audience. More singers to join the choir would be warmly welcomed, just come along to rehearsal on any Tuesday afternoon.



The U3A Christmas Tea will be held at St John's Hall, Chapel Hill on Thursday December 7th. The annual Christmas Lunch will be held at Bury Lodge, Bury Lodge Lane, Stansted CM24 8QE on December 14th.

Looking forward to next year the Speaker Programme for 2024 is on the website. The speaker at the first General Meeting on 18th January is Lindsay Whitehouse who will talk about "My life in Prison". Lindsay was the Governor of several prisons including Chelmsford Prison. He was also the first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex and has written particularly for professionals involved in the Youth Justice system.

Anne White - Obo

Telephone 07874 385541

Local Bus Information 7 & 7A

A number of residents have asked for information on the local bus routes from Birchanger to Bishop's Stortford. So here goes!

Technically the service is now run by Stephenson's and no longer Central Connect. The drivers will pick up/drop off at any point (subject to safety) in Birchanger Lane virtual bus stops. The maximum single fare is £2. At the moment they're turning around at the club as Dunmow Road is closed, so for those residents on the lower lane they have two chances to catch it! Generally, the drivers are very helpful.

Bus routes, planning and travel times can be found online at <https://www.intalink.org.uk/> There is also a good phone app that can be downloaded to your smart phone, also showing bus routes, travel times and real time position of the bus you are waiting for. Go to the App Store and download the 'Travel Essex' app.

The 7/7A buses are guaranteed to operate until 2026 BUT if there are insufficient passengers during this time, this route will almost certainly be discontinued. So, use it or lose it!

What's on in the village...



December 2023



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

Garden Waste Skip - Starts again in 2024

Mon

Tue

Wed

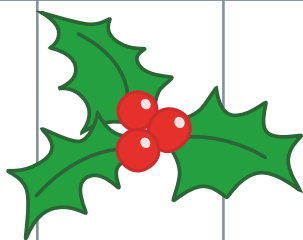
Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

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



1 Church Hall:
09.30 Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise Dance
BSSC: 19.00 The Big Light Up

2 Church Hall:
09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.30 The Time Warps - Live

3 Church Hall:
9.00 Breakfast With Santa
St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Family Service

4 Church Hall:
09.30-12.00 Baby Massage
16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

5 Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance

6 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton Dance

7 Black Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

8 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise Dance

9 Church Hall:
09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw

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

11 Church Hall:
09.30-12.00 Baby Massage
16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

12 Garden Bin Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance
Moorswood:
10.30 Coffee Morning

13 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton Dance

14 Green Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

15 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise Dance

16 Church Hall:
09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.30 Scam 69 -Live

17 St Mary's Church:
11.15 Family Service
BSSC: Kids Christmas Party
Sunday Roast

18 Church Hall:
09.30-12.00 Baby Massage
16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

19 Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance

20 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton Dance

21 Black Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

22 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise Dance
Church: 19.00 Carol Service

23 Church Hall:
09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Josh's Big Quiz Night

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

25 St. Mary's Church:
11.15 Christmas Day Service with Revd Colin Fairweather

26 BSSC: Whiskey Draw /Raffle

27 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
14.00 Tea Room
16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton Dance

28 Green Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

29 Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise Dance

30 Church Hall:
09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw

31 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Family Service
BSSC:
New Years Eve Party



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

CHRISTMAS AT THE CLUB



Traditional Birchanger 'LIGHTS UP'



1st DECEMBER

Children's
Carol
Choir

Mulled
Wine

It's time to start feeling
CHRISTMASSY!

'Light up the Lane'

Grand Christmas
Light Up 7pm



Mince
Pies

Winner announced
22nd December

Christmas Menu

December 1st -24th
3 Courses £26.95

Pre-booking essential

*Contact the club for menus
or further information*



17th
DEC

Members Only Kids
Christmas Party

Fun filled
afternoon
of Games and
Entertainment

NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY

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



ORGANISED BY BIRCHANGER PTA

Breakfast with Santa!

DECEMBER 3RD
9:00AM TO 11:30AM

AT BIRCHANGER VILLAGE HALL
£10 per child Breakfast & Gift included
£5 per Adult with Breakfast included
Full English with tea/coffee

or
Continental Breakfast
Pre-Booking required
Email to Book!

Birchangerpta@hotmail.com



STANSTED AIRPORT WATCH – THE NEXT CHAPTER

Stansted Airport Watch ('SAW') has announced its intention to convert into a Trust Fund to be known as the Stansted Airport Watch Foundation. The proposal will be put to a Special General Meeting of its members later this month and, in accordance with the SAW Constitution, will require a two-thirds majority of the members present to be approved. SAW Chairman Brian Ross explained the reasoning behind the proposal:

"Some of the most experienced members of our Executive Committee have recently retired and others, including myself, have signalled their intention to retire in the near future, after having given more than 20 years' voluntary service to the campaign. As they say, none of us are getting any younger!"

If the proposal is approved by SAW members, the Executive Committee would then proceed to establish the SAW Foundation and to wind down SAW, a process which would take several months. All of SAW's assets would be transferred to the SAW Foundation. It is anticipated that this would amount to a sum of around £90,000, to be invested in an accumulation fund aimed at achieving long term capital growth.

To provide continuity, the five initial trustees would be current long-serving members of the SAW Executive Committee but, over time, the intention would be to replace the initial trustees with representatives from local district, town and parish councils.

Consideration is being given as to how the trustees of the SAW Foundation, either individually or collectively, might continue to provide advice and support to local district, parish and town councils and the wider local community on the environmental impacts of Stansted Airport.

In the longer term however local district, parish and town councillors and our local MPs will need to become more directly involved in dealing with the environmental impacts of Stansted Airport.

Brian Ross concluded: "We hope SAW members will support this proposal, which is an opportunity to make a virtue out of a necessity. By establishing the SAW Foundation, we will be laying down the seed-corn for the future. In particular, if the threat of a second Stansted runway re-emerges, funds would be available from the outset to kick-start a new campaign.

Brian Ross



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

It is difficult to judge our biggest achievements this year as the Gardens have looked wonderful throughout. The snowdrops in February and later the daffodils, bluebells and tulips culminating to the wonderful perennial borders, including the prize-winning dahlias.

Our volunteers have produced and sold fantastic quantities of fruit, veg, jams and jellies. And one of our volunteers has presented the history of the Gardens to a record number of local history and gardening groups. We have all worked



really hard and made great friendships in the process.

In December we will be quietly getting on with winter jobs when the weather permits. Leaf clearance, bulb and small shrub planting should be finished but we are likely to be still planting one or two young trees. Excitingly the trees will include two new ones for the Gardens. A Ginkgo, which becomes a stunning tree, with distinctive leaves and lovely autumnal colour; and a Cercidiphyllum, also known as a katsura, which has heart shaped leaves and apparently has a slight smell of caramel when its leaves fall in the autumn!

In the warm, we will be looking at what vegetable seeds to grow; and working to arrange completion of the path, so that it runs right from the car park and to sort out our plans for re-paving the Italian Garden. The latter is a longer-term project, so is not likely to be in place for a while yet.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and happy plan making for your gardens in 2024! If you are interested in arranging a talk about the history of the Gardens and the work of the Trust, please contact us through our email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or our phone message line: 01371 870979.

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

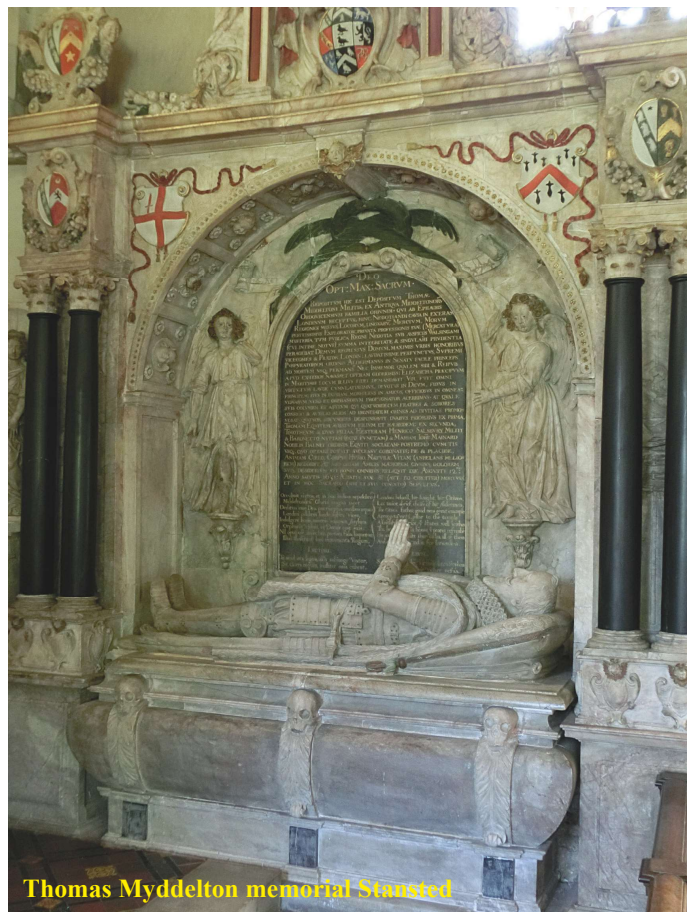
Two brothers born in north Wales in the 16th century have significant links with The Hundred Parishes. Thomas and Hugh Myddelton were younger sons of Richard, governor of Denbigh Castle. Both came to London to seek their fortune.

Thomas Myddelton was born in 1550, the fourth son. He did indeed make his fortune in trade and became Lord Mayor of London in 1613.

In 1615, Thomas bought the manor of Stansted Mountfitchet as his country seat and began the erection of a new Stansted Hall. He died in 1631 and was buried at St Mary's Church. His funeral was lavish; the family even paid for the mourners to be suitably dressed. There is a fine memorial inside the church with a life-size effigy under a decorated arch.

Hugh Myddelton was born in 1560, the sixth son. In London, he was apprenticed to a goldsmith and later became Royal Jeweller to King James I.

Hugh became a self-taught engineer. He was largely responsible for construction of The New River which ran for some 20 miles, taking fresh water from springs near Great Amwell into London. He helped fund the project and also secured financial help from the king.



Thomas Myddelton memorial Stansted



Gt Amwell New River

The New River was opened in 1613, following the land contours so that gravity carried the water all the way to the Clerkenwell area of London. In 1620 a half mile extension was dug to supplement the supply by taking water from the nearby River Lea. After 400 years, the man-made New River still takes fresh water to the citizens of London; it is now operated by Thames Water.



Hugh Myddelton memorial Gt Amwell

Hugh Myddelton died in London in 1631. A memorial stone was erected on an island in the river at Great Amwell and various roads and properties along the route bear his name.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton
Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB
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 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 - Generally 11.15 am

3rd December	Family Service with Pam Lee
10th December	Holy Communion with Revd Helen
17th December	Family Christingle service with Jo Pratt
22nd December	7.00pm Carol Service
24th December	Christmas Eve service with Pam Lee
25th December	Christmas Day service with Revd Colin Fairweather
31st December	Family Service with Pam Lee

Bethlehem Trail

Don't forget to decorate a rock to add to our trail. The first one has already been delivered and I have been encouraged by how many people have asked for rocks for them to decorate. I have more so if you want to take part in helping to run the trail from the lychgate to the church door just contact me. You can decorate as many as you want to do.

Beer and Hymns

Revd Colin suggested that he call into the social club. "If people don't visit church, then the church will visit them" he said. That's exactly what he did on the 11th November. Anne Brooks kindly came along to play her keyboard and we had a bit of a sing song. Some people enjoyed it, others were intrigued, some just wanted to watch the football, but little acorns eventually grow into big trees. Colin accompanied by Anne will be back for the Big Birchanger Light up on the 1st December.

Christmas Coffee Morning

10.30am 12th December at Moorswood. Please come along and spend a pleasant hour or so with your neighbours. There will be lots of Christmas goodies on sale including homemade cakes/puddings.

Christmas Lunch in the Hall

2pm 16th December. We are hoping to repeat last year's success and there is still room for more people to book a place. Call me if you want to come along. £20 per adult for a Christmas dinner including pudding.

Christingles in church

17th December. At our 11.15am service we shall be helping you make Christingles to take home.

Evening Carol Service

At 7pm 22nd December

Don't forget to bring your decorated rocks to church to add to our Bethlehem Trail. We need as many rocks as we can get. All children taking part will be given a gift.

Merry Christmas everyone.



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

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