



Birchanger Village Magazine

March 2024

Issue 254



Villagers Demand Answers for Bin Collection Delays

Information on the bin collection saga was requested by Brian Ross under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 27th January 2024, (reference 24-338). The following answer was received from Roxanne Whitham Projects & Performance Officer of the Environmental Services Uttlesford District Council:

“The response to your request was due on the 16th February. However, we need to extend this by 5 working days to 22nd February. This is due to the time it has taken to gather the documentation following the revocation. Now the documentation has been compiled, we need to redact all personal information for staff members here at UDC and at the Transport Commissioners office also. I estimate this could take up to 5 working days and I therefore endeavour to respond to your request by 23rd February”.

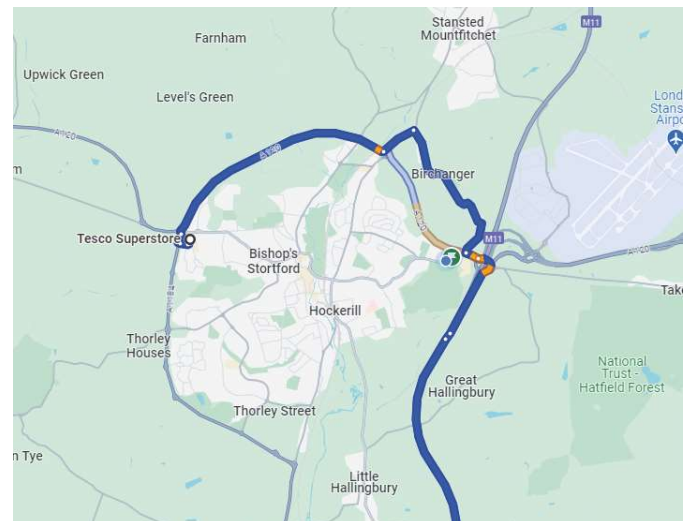


In the meantime, correspondence received recently from the Traffic Commissioners alleges that UDC, having lost their only CPC qualified Transport Manager in July last year, UDC was granted a period of grace until 13th January 2024 to find a replacement or ask for an extension to the grace period. UDC did neither and so their Operator's Licence was revoked on 13th January 2024.

District Councillor Geof Driscoll has been appointed to the Task and Finish Group which has been set up to look into what happened to the delays and to learn lessons from it. The first meeting will be held in week commencing March 4th (no actual date yet) where it is hoped that the public will be able to speak.

Google Maps Are Redirecting Traffic Via Birchanger Lane to Avoid Traffic Jams on the A120 Towards the M11

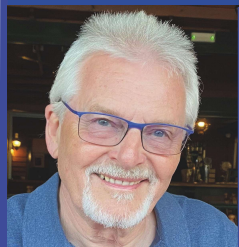
It appears that Google maps is directing traffic along Birchanger Lane to avoid the A120. Sisk have reported this and asked Google to take this down. However, the more people complain the more chance there is they'll take notice. So please follow the instructions below.



What you can do!

You can file a report on your computer for wrong directions in Google Maps by following the instructions below. This can only be done on a computer or laptop.

1. On your computer, open Google maps.
2. Click Directions.
3. Enter the starting point and destination for the directions that are wrong. In the left panel click on the route to report an issue with, then click 'Details'.
4. In plain text at the bottom right of the map, click 'send feedback'.
5. Next to the wrong step, click the flag (Tip: for some routes you may need to expand the directions on the left before you select which directions are wrong).
6. Select the type of problem and click 'Submit'.



Editors Letter Box

Letter From Uttlesford District Council Regarding the Appeal Allowed for Birchanger Travellers' Site

Thank you for your letter of 29 January concerning the above.

The outcome was disappointing but not entirely unexpected. The Inspector's decision is along the same lines as the previous Inspector's decision and effectively gives the occupiers more time to comply with various conditions as imposed previously.

The council did not have an up-to-date assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the district (an assessment known as a GTAA) going into the appeal. We commissioned a new GTAA some time ago in conjunction with a number of district councils through Essex County Council. Unfortunately, this was delayed, in part due to the capacity and availability of consultants to carry out the work, and in part due to the availability of members of the G&T community to be interviewed as part of the evidence gathering. We now have sufficient data and plan to publish a new GTAA along with our Regulation 19 Local Plan this summer.

As you know, the GTAA will set out how much G&T accommodation is needed in Uttlesford. It is then for us to identify sites to meet that need. The informal feedback from other districts who have recently had their GTAA work completed have seen their need increase. Thus, the GTAA itself will likely not safeguard against planning appeals. Having an adopted local plan with G&T allocations will assist. As stated, we plan to publish the Regulation 19 plan this summer.

Perhaps understandably, the Inspector gave weight to the schooling of children living on the site and Human Rights considerations. However, the Inspector considered the conditions imposed (and the work required therein) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. It does not therefore follow that compliance with the conditions should be ignored. Quite the opposite. Should the conditions not be complied with, as with any planning condition, the council will consider enforcement action.

Uttlesford council is committed to ensuring the proper planning of the district, and protection of our green belt. The draft local plan seeks to direct all new development to non-green belt land and the planning enforcement team will carefully consider any future breaches of planning control. Both the Local Plan Team and Planning Enforcement Team are resourced and supported to achieve our aims going forward.

Thank you for Birchanger Residents Association and Birchanger Parish Council's input into the planning appeal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

*Yours sincerely,
Peter Holt
Chief Executive
Uttlesford District Council*

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Peter Sampson

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07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Lucky to be Alive!

It was a lovely sunny evening, and I was walking the dog on a part of the lane without pavement while the skeins of cars some twenty or so vehicles long wound their way down the lane. While I waited for the line of cars to finally come to an end, a mini driver seemed to lose control and drive straight at us correcting himself at the 11th hour. The driver was just not looking. He was talking and not taking any interest in his surroundings. He seemed to be unaware that Birchanger Lane is a road which must be used with care, as there are no pavements down a large part of it and pedestrians are to be expected. I suspect many people are having this sort of experience in the lane now. Fortunately, it seems that nobody has actually been hurt. The concern is that if and when the roadworks finally finish, the rat running will continue to avoid the queues at the traffic lights. These road works have gone on far too long. The rat running has become even more serious over the past month or two, helped no doubt by the idiot who suggested using Birchanger Lane as an alternative in a local paper. The roadworks Birchanger neither wanted nor requested has become a danger to us all. All that residents can do is to try and keep off the lane during the rush hours in the early mornings and evenings.

The Wheel of Fortune

I had three brand new tyres fitted to my car a little while ago, but one of them is now severely damaged where some idiot rat runner driver forced me off the lane so my front near side wheel was damaged by the uneven tarmac. It was either that or get the side of my car stoved in. Will this nightmare ever end?

We Were Doomed from the Start

It should have come as no surprise when we lost our appeal against the travellers remaining on their site. It was doomed from the Sunday night when the travellers arrived, when one of our local county councillors was careless enough to say oh good, we need a new traveller's site in Essex. Nothing was really going to change the minds of Essex County Council and others after that. Councillors and others tried to get the decision overturned and fought the appeal, but it was not going to happen. So whatever people may think, the travellers are now our neighbours, and we must just get on with it.

How Not to be Scammed

Scammers are experts in what they do. In order to defeat these criminals, we have to become experts as well.

Friends Against Scams is a quick online learning program which will help you detect the various types of scams and how to spot them.

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/> There are tips on how to protect others from scams and how to support a victim. There are a large variety of frauds. These include personal fraud when a scammer pretends to be your bank and is trying to trick you to moving large sums of money to an account which of course belongs to them. Business Fraud when a company employee uses the company account to steal money from lenders. Online fraud which covers a wide range of fraud from ticketing scams, marketing scams, stolen profiles and fake dating profiles all designed to relieve money from the computer innocent. How can you keep up? You could try asking the youngest members of the family for help. Read press reports on the latest scams and be cautious with any email or text from an unknown source.

What to do if You Have a Car Crash

Sadly, this is likely to happen to most drivers sometime or other in their lifetime. However, there is a new kind of menace in the frame. The cash for crash scam. This happens when an innocent motorist is forced to slam on their brakes in an attempt to avoid hitting the motorist in front, usually unsuccessfully. The accident is blamed on you, and it turns out the driver claims other people in his car have suffered minor injuries. Insurance companies are well aware of these scams, but suspicions are hard to prove, and the fraudster usually wins. If you are in this situation always insist on calling the police. It is also a good idea to purchase a dashcam. You can then tell the scammer that the accident was recorded. The scammers will probably scarper without making any demands.

Watch Out, Speed Checks About

Speed checks may be coming soon to Birchanger. Stansted Police have been active in our area at the request of residents who have told the police of a speeding issue. The queues of cars that have made life so miserable for Birchanger residents were travelling near or just above the legal limit. It is a great pity there is no charge to fit their antisocial activities. We know drivers are inconvenienced by the roadwork's, lots of people are, especially Birchanger residents!

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 27th March 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Easter Craft Meeting

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056



OJT

**PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE**
07557 444945

Plastering - Carpentry - Fencing - Tiling
Patios - Bricklaying - Bathroom & Kitchen
Landscaping - Laminate Flooring - Painting

Have You Heard of Clare's Law?

This a law designed to help members of the public make enquiries about someone they are in a relationship with, but have underlying concerns about that individual's possible or perceived violent tendencies. The right to ask can also be initiated by the police where there is a decision that there is a perceived risk to an individual.

Will Birchanger Lane Ever Get Back to Normal?

It used to be a pleasant place to walk in the lane. Yes, there was the odd heavy goods vehicle or van delivery and the usual idiots driving far too fast for the lane but at least it was walkable. We coped. Now it is a nightmare. Will we ever get our lane back?



Child Exploitation's New Recruits

Child exploitation is a very nasty crime to even contemplate, but it is happening not far from us, as child traffickers use Stansted Airport to bring their victims

into the country. The police are aware of this and have recruited some additional helpers in an attempt to stop this horrible crime. Child trafficking is not always easy to spot. The trafficked children are scared into remaining quiet and are probably under some dire threats not to say anything, but a taxi driver who is perhaps transporting the child some distance is the first person in the country to spend any length of time with the child. Most children are excited upon arrival in a new place. Trafficked children are not. They are quiet, withdrawn and maybe tearful. Contact is discouraged by the child's escort. Sadly, many regular drivers who use the airport will know the signs. The police have started to speak to drivers and given them information from the Children's Society in an effort to help prevent this criminal exploitation. The information that the police gain from speaking to the drivers will be passed to the Home Office and will help produce a national programme to ensure taxi drivers receive vulnerability and exploitation training. Just another route to preventing offences against vulnerable children. It will be a while before there are any results, but it is a step in the right direction, with the cooperation of the taxi drivers. Just hope it does not take too long to implement.

Fire Service Takes Children's Education Seriously

The Fire Service takes educating children in the risks and hazards of fire seriously and is a popular regular visitor to all schools to empower children on the risks and dangers of fire. It is relatively easy to reach all children attending school, but there are still a great many children out there who do not attend schools and are either home educated or in between schools. The fire service attempts to reach as many of these children as they can and tries to visit care homes and foster carers whenever possible. Fire is a killer, and it is incredibly important that all our children know that and are prepared as much as possible for an event which we hope will never happen to us.

Have You Used DigiGo?

For those who don't know, DigiGo is a shared public transport service that operates flexibly which you can book online at Travel Essex. You can book in advance or on demand as available. Alternatively call 03330137138.



The service aims to connect users with bus hubs and train stations along with employment sites, schools and social opportunities which were not previously served by public transport. Bookings are made on the smart phone app and further information can be obtained by downloading the Travel Essex app and booking your DigiGo journey. Worth a look? Like all Essex Bus Services it is use it or lose it now. Essex County Council regularly reviews its services and those insufficiently used are in line to be axed. Financial constraints mean that it really is a case of use it or lose it now.

Hit and Run Drivers

One of the most unforgivable crimes is that of a hit and run driver. There was a serious one not so far from Birchanger a few weeks back when after having been involved in a minor crash a cyclist in the road was hit by another driver who failed to stop at the scene. Fortunately, the injuries on that occasion were serious but not life threatening but that does not offer any mitigation to the crime, and many of these incidents do incur life threatening injuries or even fatalities.



Why is it that drivers don't stop? Is it that their licence is overloaded with points already, so they don't want to get involved? Perhaps their documents are out of date or maybe non-existent? Driving without insurance is a pricey

crime on cash and points. Is the car they are driving stolen? Or are they just late for work? Anyway, if the police catch up it will be a lot more expensive and could carry a prison sentence. Most of us would never leave a victim of an accident lying in the road however the accident was caused.

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M11 Junction 8 Improvement scheme – Project update

Information report from Rissa Long - Social Value and Stakeholder Manager from SISK.



The M11 Junction 8 Improvement scheme being advanced by John Sisk and Son on behalf of Essex County Council is progressing to the final stages of construction with the estimate for completion as May 2024. Detailed information relating to the milestones for completion can be found on the Essex Highways website as follows:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/uttlesford-schemes/m11-junction-8-improvement-scheme>

The work is summarised as follows:

- Installation of loops for traffic signals - We will need to close Birchanger Lane for 4 nights to complete this (dates to be confirmed)
- Commissioning of traffic signals
- Final carriageway surfacing
- Landscaping (tree and planting and restoration of verges)

You will still see a presence around the site whilst the landscaping is completed but it is expected that all traffic management will be safely removed by May which will also see the reinstatement of the right turn from Birchanger Lane onto the A120.

Birchanger Lane

We are aware of reports of Birchanger residents experiencing increased traffic through the village. As part of our works, it is necessary to reduce lanes and introduce temporary traffic restrictions and with any roadworks vehicles will often seek alternative routes to avoid a perceived disruption to their journey.

We have not encouraged traffic to use Birchanger and as it is a public highway, we unfortunately have no powers to stop vehicles from using the village as an alternative route. We believe that some of the increased traffic can be attributed to the mapping systems used in cars such as Google and Waze which are both offering Birchanger Lane as part of the route to the M11 when travelling from Bishops Stortford or Stansted. A report has been submitted to both companies to seek the removal of Birchanger as part of this route.

Social Value

As a way of recompense for the inconvenience to Birchanger residents, a meeting recently took place between representatives from the M11 project and Birchanger Parish Council to look at some improvements to the allotment area. We will keep the parish updated on a timescale for when the agreed works will commence.



Getting the year off to a great start our French and Poetry groups have enjoyed interesting sessions, the Walkers have been wandering away to distant villages, while the Knitting and Crochet group have livened up our village shop windows.

The Poetry for Pleasure group have studied poets including black activist Maya Angelou, (who read her wonderful poem "On the Pulse of a Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration); John Keats, who succumbed to tuberculosis at only 26 but produced many poems about sadness and death; and Sir John Betjeman who, by contrast, enjoyed a long, fulfilling career. The Group meets on the first Thursday of the month and always welcomes new members.

One of the French groups is currently studying "Le Petit Nicolas", the adventures of a young boy. They've watched videos and online lessons with French teachers to improve listening and speaking skills as well as enjoyed quizzes and games, in French of course! If you fancy learning or improving your French in a relaxed and fun atmosphere you will be very welcome to join in.

In recent months, the Walkers have targeted Albury, Manuden and a historical walk around Saffron Walden with coffee at The Cross Keys. A New Year lunch was enjoyed at The Yew Tree in Manuden with a brief walk around the village. Walks continue this year on the first Thursday of each month, usually ending up at Touchpoint, in a tea shop, or pub.

In December, the u3a Knitting and Crochet Group were invited to decorate the window of the Salon on Chapel Hill brightening things up with their wonderful creations.

At the General Meeting on Thursday 21st March at 2.00pm in St John's Church Hall, Bobbie Darbyshire explains in a lighthearted way how the complex world of character, location, plot, and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.

John Hudson

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church Birchanger



**Invites you to join us for coffee in church at
10.30am on Tuesday 12th March 2024.
Please come along and learn something
about the history of this wonderful place.**

What's on in the village...



March 2024



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

Public Garden Waste skip Collection Outside the Club - TBA

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 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	2 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 21.00 Primal Replay - Live	3 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
4 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	5 Garden Bin 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 21.00 Alex Outlaw - Live	10 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Mothering Sunday 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 Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	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 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Redonizm - Live	17 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: 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 Garden Bin 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	23 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	24 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Palm Sunday Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
25 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance	26 Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	27 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30 Apton Dance 20.00 BAGS	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 Quiz Night	31 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Easter Day Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB



**PRIMAL
REPLAY**

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH

QUIZ
Right

30th MARCH

ALEX OUTLAW



SATURDAY 9th MARCH

**WATCH LIVE
SPORTS HERE**

TNT SPORTS sky SPORTS



**NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME**

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RED ONIZISM

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**SATURDAY 16TH
MARCH**

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Scams you should Look Out For in 2024



Booking.com scam

Booking.com customers have been warned by a cybersecurity firm that scammers are paying to steal their account details on the dark web. Scammers are specifically focused on customers of hotels that are signed up to use the site's services. They are sending phishing emails to customers that state payment information is required immediately to secure reservations. Since March this year, holidaymakers from a wide range of countries including the UK, US, Italy and Portugal have stated online that they have been a victim of fraud through Booking.com.

What you can do: Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages, especially those claiming to be from hotels or service providers. Go directly to the hotel through known contact methods before taking any action. Avoid clicking on suspicious links, particularly those received through emails or messages, to prevent malware downloads.

Vehicle scams

Fraudsters set up fake listings on online marketplaces or social media for vehicles that don't exist. When you get in touch, the fraudster asks you for a deposit to "secure" the vehicle and comes up with a reason why you can't see the vehicle in person beforehand. The fraudster might also pressure you to make a decision quickly by implying they have lots of other offers. After you send the money, they block you and delete their profile.

What you can do: Always buy a vehicle from an authorised dealership if you can, as anyone can list anything online. If you are buying online, make sure you have seen and tested the vehicle yourself before handing over any money. Avoid paying by bank transfer and use a debit or credit card – that way, your money will be protected if something goes wrong.

Bogus giveaways

Scammers send emails, text or WhatsApp messages offering really appealing giveaways or deals. Consumer Group Which? flagged one that was sent out widely in 2022, claiming to be from Emirates Airlines offering free holidays. However, the particular brand or offer varies widely.

What you can do: If you receive an offer via email or message that looks too good to be true and claims to be from a well-known brand, it's probably a scam. Links in scam messages are often shortened so they don't appear as the full, official website, and you don't know where they are taking you.



QR code jacking

Quick Response (QR) codes are being increasingly used by criminals to get hold of people's personal details. These codes work like a barcode to access websites that enable you to order, and pay for goods and services, such as pub meals or parking. However, fraudsters have started

sticking these codes to parking meters, restaurant menus, leaflets and electric charging points. Anyone who uses the code will be directed to a fake website set up by the fraudsters that requests bank details for a payment. This information is used by scammers to steal money from victims' bank accounts.

What you can do: Make sure you avoid paying through a QR code that's placed in a public area. If you are using a QR code to pay for a service such as a restaurant meal, double check that the website you are directed to is genuine. You can do this by looking at the website URL and ensuring it's valid, or asking a staff member if you're in a restaurant, for example.

Quishing emails

This is another scam that involves the use of a QR code. Quishing occurs when a fraudster sends an email that contains a QR code and claims to be from an official organisation, such as HMRC, or a bank, or a major retailer such as Amazon. The email may claim you can buy a product using the code, get money back, or that you need to provide your details for security purposes (if the email claims to be from your bank, for example).

What you can do: Delete any email that contains QR codes and never provide your personal details through a code contained within an email. If you're worried because the email claims that your account has been compromised, contact the organisation the fraudsters are purporting to be from to report the scam.

CARS WANTED PETROL OR DIESEL



CASH PAID

WITH OR WITHOUT MOT
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TRUCKS, VANS

ALL MOTORCYCLES WANTED

Darren 01376 326163

STANSTED AIRPORT WATCH

NIGHT FLIGHTS CONSULTATION

By the time you receive this edition of the magazine, the Department for Transport ('DfT') is expected to have published a public consultation document setting out its proposals for regulating night flights for the 5-year period from October 2025 to October 2030.



Night flights are the biggest single cause of noise complaints by local residents, and this will be an important

opportunity for local councils and residents to express their views about night flights at Stansted and try to persuade the DfT that stricter controls are needed.

As soon as the DfT consultation document is published, information about this will be made available at www.stanstedairportwatch.com. It is also intended to provide an update in next month's magazine. The DfT may allow just six weeks for consultation responses and so time may be short. Hence the need for this advance warning. Here are some of the key issues:

The number of permitted night flights – Stansted is currently allowed 13,700 night flights a year between the hours of 11.30pm to 6.00am. By comparison, Heathrow, which is three times bigger than Stansted, is allowed just 5,800 night flights a year. Most local residents would support the aim of phasing out all Stansted night flights by 2030.

The controlled night period – The number of night flights is only restricted during the 6½ hours from 11.30pm to 6.00am but the generally accepted definition of night, including by the World Health Organisation, is the 8 hours from 11.00pm to 7.00am. The restrictions on the number of night flights should apply to the full 8-hour night period.

Dispensations – The DfT allows airport management to grant 'dispensations' where flights scheduled to arrive before 11.30pm get delayed by weather or Air Traffic Control problems. Dispensations do not count against the night flights quota. Stansted granted 1,200 dispensations last summer whereas Heathrow granted only 462. The DfT should remove the right of airport management to grant dispensations.

Reverse Thrust - The use of reverse thrust should be banned between the hours of 11.00pm and 7.00am except in the case of an emergency. The Stansted runway is over 3,000 metres in length and so the additional braking effect provided by using reverse thrust upon landing is unnecessary other than in exceptional circumstances. Stansted Airport Watch would encourage local councils and local residents to make their views known to the Department of Transport by responding to the upcoming Night Flights Consultation. Further details about this will soon become available, as explained above.

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

In February 2024 work progressed fast on the second half of the new path to make sure it was ready for visitors on snowdrop days, but unfortunately the good weather for path building also meant the snowdrops coming up fast and being rather ahead of themselves, making us nervous for our snowdrop days. So, what March will bring is anyone's guess!



Daffodil season will probably start early, so why not consider a Group Visit for March? The Gardens don't open on Thursdays until April, so a Group Visit is the only way to see the daffodils in the Lime Wood at their best. Last year we welcomed the retired International Daffodil Registrar to the Gardens. She found many daffodils that resembled the 17 old varieties that she identified in her 2003 survey. They were probably planted at the time that Peto redesigned the Gardens for the Countess of Warwick. The main catalogue available then supplied more than 400 varieties. Now Kew reckons that 36 wild varieties have been identified and there are over 26,000 cultivated varieties. So, open your eyes to daffodils this year! If you want to arrange a Group Visit for more than 10 people on a Thursday, please contact enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

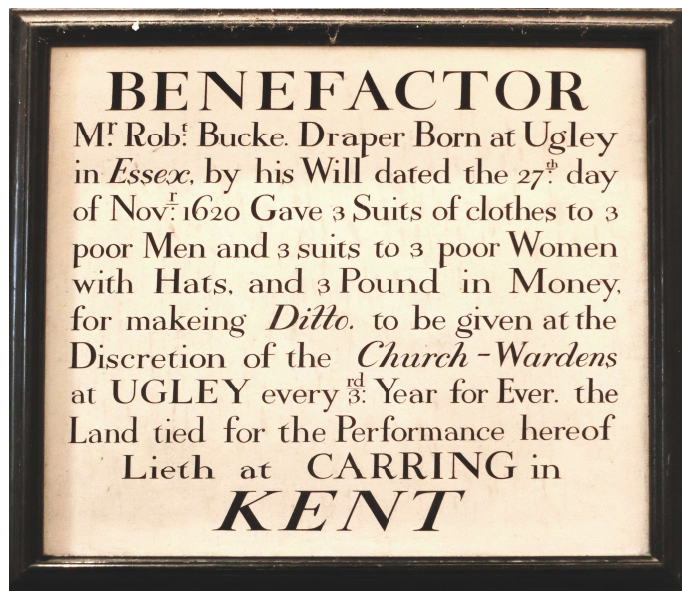
This month we will be holding 2 New Volunteers' Days on Saturday 9 March and Thursday 14 March. Our volunteers love spending time at the Gardens, nearly whatever the weather. There are tasks suitable for all and the opportunity to make new friends. For more information go to our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on.

Jill Goldsmith

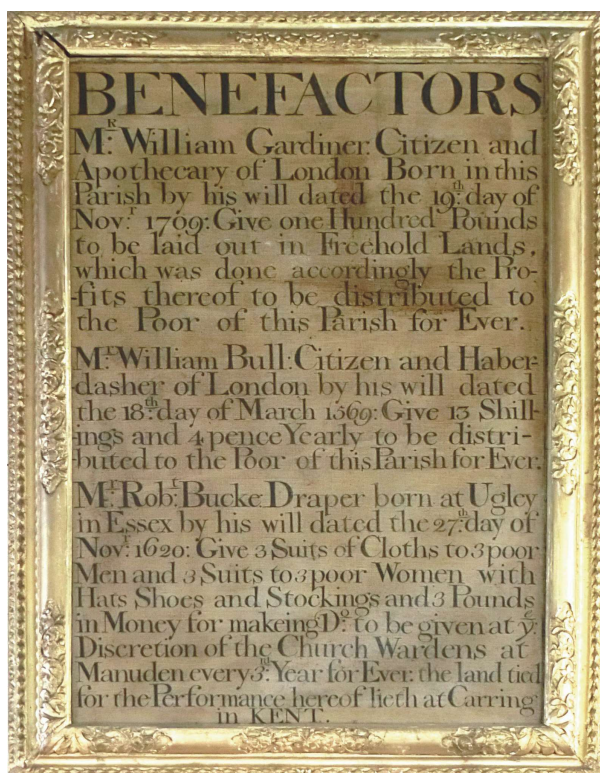


The Hundred Parishes Society

We are fortunate today that we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website at: www.hundredparishes.org.uk.



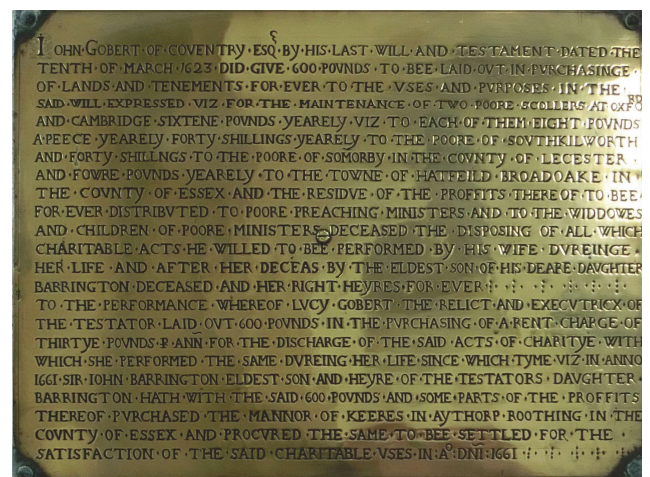
Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in a variety of ways. Some churches record the benevolence of these donors on large "benefactor" boards. For example, in St. Peters, Ugley we are told on one board that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620 gave 3 suits of clothes to 3 poor men and 3 suits to 3 poor women with hats, to be given every third year "for ever".



Just a few miles away in Manuden's parish church, a board describes three benefactors, one of whom is the same Robert Bucke. Here he gives the same number of suits to the poor of Manuden, here with additional hats, shoes, and stockings.



In Little Hadham the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year "at their discretion" to the poor of the Parish.



Hatfield Broad Oak's Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir Sir John Barrington subsequently bought the manor of Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



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Village Services and Activities

Service	Contact	Telephone No.
Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814773
Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
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

3 rd March	Family Service with Pam Lee
10 th March	Mothering Sunday Communion Revd Flack
17 th March	Matins with Jo Pratt
24 th March	Palm Sunday Communion Revd Fairweather
31 st March	Easter Day Communion Revd Fairweather

Church News

In readiness for a visit from a U3A group we have been looking back at the history of St Mary's. Some of you are probably aware that the settlement of Birchanger is recorded in the Domesday Book and takes its name from what was a birch covered slope on which our church now stands. Further surveys made between 1133 and 1399 record that there was a Manor situated close to the church which occupies one of the highest points in the district.

Visitors to the church can still see evidence of its early links to France - the names of the then Rectors - until after the reign of Edward I. The Manor of Birchanger was confirmed as a monastery by Henry II but was seized by Edward III during his wars with France and it remained in the possession of the crown until 1391 when it was endowed to New College Oxford. The arms of New College can be found on the exterior west wall of the Old Rectory.

St Mary's is one of only 250 Anglo-Saxon churches that survive in Britain. There was a round tower at the west end which held 4 bells, but this tower was destroyed in the 18th century and over the west door there is now a bell cote which originally held 2 bells. For many years one bell was missing, and it was rumoured that this bell had been stolen by men from Farnham. However, we now know that this bell was given to Farnham in settlement of a debt. In 2013 we were able to commission the Whitechapel Bell Foundry to make a new bell - the same Foundry that made the Liberty Bell. St Mary's bells now ring out loud and proud for everyone to hear.

Our plan for this year is to try to open up the church so that it will be accessible on weekdays as well as weekends. The first such event will be a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 12th March at 10.30am. If you have time pop in and have a look around. Feel the history and, you never know, you might catch sight of one of the bats that has made its home in our lovely, ancient building.

Upcoming Events

12 th March	Coffee Morning at 10.30am
28 th April	APCM after the 11.15am service
2 nd July	Coffee Morning at 10.30am
18 th August	Patronal Festival
29 th September	Harvest Evensong at 5pm
Date to be advised	Strawberry Cream tea.

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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