



Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2024

Issue 255



Green Belt Under Threat Again!

A planning application has been submitted to build nine houses on the paddock behind Birchanger Lane, adjacent to the sand track. The same applicant submitted a planning application to build just one house on the same site in 2014, and this prompted a flood of objections. Thankfully, Uttlesford District Council refused the application. The applicant then lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate, but this attempt also failed. Ten years later, here we are again!



The proposed development of nine houses is on Green Belt Land and lies outside the village development limits. The proposal includes new access roads which would encroach on the public footpath (the sand track alongside the paddock), the Village Green, and would reduce the parking places there. The applicant has also requested additional access alongside Gower Barn.



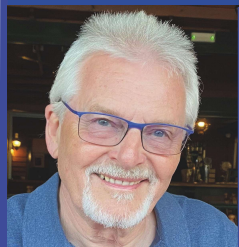
Birchanger Residents Association and Birchanger Parish Council will be submitting their respective detailed letters of objections. It is however even more important that local residents who are interested in protecting Birchanger's Green Belt make their own objections to this latest planning application. This can be done simply by sending an email to: planning@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Should you wish to object, you should put "Objection to Planning Application UTT/24/0642/FUL" in the email subject box and provide your name and address at the foot of your email. Where possible, please send two (or more) objections per household rather than just one. Numbers do really count!

Key points to make are:

- This housing proposal would be an inappropriate development on Birchanger's Green Belt, contrary to National Planning Policy, and it would detract from the rural character of the village.
- The proposal would be contrary to Uttlesford Local Plan policy on backland development, i.e. sites without a road frontage, and would adversely affect the openness of the Green Belt adjacent to the sand track.
- The site lies outside the village development limits, defined in the Parish Plan, and approval could set a precedent for other similar developments.
- Vehicle access to the site would infringe on well-used public footpaths and would be wholly unsuitable and unsafe. In addition, it would require the destruction of mature trees and hedgerows.
- The new access road would remove part of the village green and reduce existing parking.
- Ten years ago, a Government Planning Inspector decisively refused a planning application from the same applicant for just one house on this same site, mainly because of the harm to the Green Belt. It would be wholly illogical and inconsistent to grant planning permission for nine houses!





Editors Letter Box

Could you become a member of the 'A' Team?

Seeing this headline, I am sure that for most of you a picture of B A Baracas and George Peppard will have shot into your mind – but that is not the team that I am talking about. I am a member of The Animal Team a group of volunteers on Facebook who organise transport and home checks for all kinds of animals to and in all parts of the UK. This service is offered to charitable rescues. Home checks are done by volunteers at no cost to the Rescue. Transports are general done on a relay basis and volunteers are given a donation towards their fuel costs – currently 24p per mile – saving the Rescue a small fortune on professional fees.

You can apply to be a volunteer for the A Team. Just look them up on Facebook, complete the application form and wait to be approved when you will be issued with an official identity card. Details of the animals needing help are posted each day so you can choose which ones you feel able to help and say exactly what you are offering to do.

Being so close to the M11/M25 I generally offer to cover from Cambridge down to Thurrock or South Mimms but lately I have been travelling over to the pound at Baldock to pick up dogs that are about to be euthanised for no other reason than the pound is full to bursting with dogs that have been abandoned. Often, they are female and show signs of having had litters. Over the past two months there have been many who, because people have not understood the change of legislation on bull breeds, have been abandoned by their owners – even Staffies and Great Danes have been left on the streets to fend for themselves.

When I am notified that a dog is at risk of being put to sleep (PTS), I try to respond quickly to help the team get the dog to safety. It is always a team effort. In February, the A Team carried out 108 transports including: 108 dogs – 68 of which were at risk of PTS, 9 cats – 3 due to be PTS and 3 goats.

The Team travelled a total of 14031 miles to help these animals and I am proud and at the same time humbled to say I am part of the Team. They are amazing people.

Pam Lee

Little Owl Cottage 60a Birchanger Lane

For many of you driving or walking from Stansted Road into Birchanger Lane you will have noticed our new build on the right, opposite the pump station and at the end of the first row of cottages is well under way. We have tried to make it a neighbour friendly build, focusing on minimal disruption. The project was intended for it to be sympathetically designed to respect the beautiful neighbouring cottages and the local environment. We believe this is being achieved as it grows and blends into the Lane.

This luxury two bed detached cottage is named after 'Little Owl' who lives in the fields across from the cottages where it can be heard on occasions clearly calling out to its mate. We have also incorporated a swift brick northwest of the building and a bat brick on the southeast side. We are on schedule for the roof to be in place by the end of April then the scaffolding can be removed.

Little Owl Cottage will make its first appearance in all its glory as work begins on installing the windows and on the inside of the building, as well as the parking to the rear for No.'s 58 – 60 and 60a. At that stage it will be put on the market for sale.

Julie North



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

Peter Sampson

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



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07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Was This Record-Breaking Rainfall?

It certainly felt like it at the time. Day after day of rain in the autumn and throughout the winter has led to soaked ground, flooding, blocked drains, and disintegrating pavements. Just to name a few. Families have been cut off, homes flooded and the cost to the infrastructure is as yet unknown. If you think you have a claim which is covered by your insurance, tell your insurance company now and register your claim. They are incredibly busy but it could get worse. If you can, take pictures of the damage and flood waters at their peak, although this may be too late. The rain may stop, but the damage it caused remains.

Testing Positive on Arrest

For a year now, Harlow police have been testing everyone they arrest for theft, burglary, robbery and fraud for drugs such as cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin. To their surprise 54% of those arrested tested positive to one or more of these drugs. Those testing positive are referred to drug treatment services and an assessment is made of their issues and needs. The aim is to give addicts help and support through their addiction so they can understand their situation and what they need to do to try and get their lives back. Help is offered with health and housing as well as substance abuse. Referrals are made to drug and alcohol abuse services and other services such as housing in an attempt to get their lives back on track. This has been a controversial approach which is gaining support. Much of crime is drug related. Getting people off drugs is good for the user and the public, but individuals are likely to need support for a long time. Do we have the resources?

If You Want to Keep Your Car, Never Leave It Unlocked

The Stolen Vehicle Intelligence Unit works hard to attempt to reunite cars with their owners. Last year over 700 vehicles were identified and returned to their owners, although not always in the condition in which they were last seen. They have found vehicles such as a Ferrari and a Range Rover belonging to premier league footballers and have even returned a Rolls Royce to its rightful owner. One arrest alone led to the recovery of cars worth £58.5 million. Cars are dismantled and remodelled in so called chop shops usually within hours of their disappearance. The police discovered some 106 of these chop shops last year and used the intelligence gained from their discoveries to track down other missing

vehicles. The high-end vehicles usually attract the most attention, but the current trend seems to be for family cars and vans which people use on a daily basis. If you leave your car anywhere for any length of time, make sure you secure it. You never know who might have their eye on it, and if it is left unlocked the insurance company can refuse to pay out.

And Now the Energy Scam

It had to happen. Anything which involves your money, and the scammers are in there. They are now pretending to be your energy supplier. They operate something like this. You get an email purporting to be from Ofgem telling you that they know a cheaper provider and as you have been meaning to switch fuel providers for a better deal for some time, you are interested and decide to give this a try. The scammers get the go ahead from you and they ask for your card and/or bank details to make the switch. Unsuspectingly, you hand over the details. Later the same scammers call you pretending to be your bank. Using the bank details gained from you earlier, they tell you that there has been a lot of fraudulent activity on your account and persuade you to transfer or take out cash in order to put your money into another 'safer' account. Of course, this will be the scammers account and you can say goodbye to your money! If you suspect something is not quite right when you receive an unsolicited call or email it's probably a scam. 'If in doubt chuck it out' is a good motto. Don't trust cold calls or emails out of the blue. If someone is genuine, they will find other ways to contact you.

Do You Know About Crimestoppers?

Have you ever wanted to report a crime but are afraid to give your personal details? Many people are and, in this way, much valuable information about crime never gets through to the police. This problem was recognised some years ago when 'Crimestoppers', an independent charity, was set up solely to help find criminals and help solve crimes. People can ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 to pass on information about any crime or alternatively via the Crimestoppers Website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>. Nobody needs to give any personal information and calls cannot be traced. You can call their number 24/7 anonymously from the UK. Every call is treated with absolute anonymity. Rewards are available and are paid without compromising the caller's anonymity. It works as a simple and effective way of solving crime without anyone knowing where the information came from.

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 - A Fun Quiz Evening

Wednesday 24th 7.45 for 8.00pm.

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056



OJT

**PROPERTY
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Breaking Chains

On Saturday the 24th of February, members of 'Breaking the Chains' and a team of volunteers pulled a trailer continuously for 75 miles on foot and by hand. The challenge ran through the night and finished around 10am on Sunday the 25th of February. This was a very challenging event but nothing compared to those suffering due to the war.

Steve Summerfield from Birchanger explained, "We did this to raise awareness and support for the continued efforts of Breaking the Chains within Ukraine to save the lives of and ease the suffering of animals and people desperately in need of help and support. The war enters its third year since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022".

"To mark the anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and in combination with a charity fundraiser for 4x4 vehicles for Breaking The Chains International (and coincidentally for my father's 'heavenly' 100th birthday) I devised a bold challenge that would push the volunteers to the very limits of human endurance and hopefully grab the attention of well-wishers who would donate to the Ukrainian cause".

On Saturday 24th February at 05:00 the procession called 'Veterans Pull For Ukraine' departed Tower Bridge in London. A team of 10 volunteers, mostly British military veterans (some who flew back especially from Ukraine) were to manually pull a 750 kg humanitarian aid trailer by hand, 75 miles to Dover beach, Kent. The procession was to go non-stop through the night, arriving at 10:00 Sunday morning. The procession was joined by Linse Kessler, an A-List celebrity in Denmark, a keen animal lover and fundraiser for the Ukrainian cause.

Steve continued, "As the team assembled near Tower Bridge at 04:00 on a freezing cold Saturday morning, we briefly considered the possibility that we had bitten off more than we could chew.



Steve Summerfield

But the stage was set, and so after a safety briefing and route plan discussion we set off with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. We had a safety car in front, followed by the trailer being pulled (by two at a time) and a 16-seater mini coach behind, which doubled up as the rear safety vehicle and also the team accommodation, canteen, and rest area.

"As we snaked our way through the south London streets, we passed tourist landmarks such as The Cutty Sark, The Old Royal Naval Academy, and The Royal Observatory at Greenwich. We soon met our nemesis head-on: Shooters Hill which has a steep incline topping out at 250 feet. And of course, the same on the way back down! Not for the faint hearted. Our AED (de-fib) was kept at close hand during this section of the route".

"We passed through busy town centres with Saturday shoppers looking on in amazement - our volunteers carrying donation buckets were cleverly weaving through the crowds doing their thing beautifully. By nightfall we were feeling the strain. Despite frequent shift changes, everyone was becoming exhausted - but we had to keep pushing on, even if our pace slowed. By the early hours, the temperature had dropped to zero Celsius, and we were winding our way in the dark through the Kent country lanes avoiding the busy dual carriageway heading to the Port of Dover. Daylight rose, and we were feeling recharged and our downhill descent for the last few hours to Dover harbour and the beach Esplanade was actually becoming a reality. 90 minutes before we reached our finish line the heavens opened, and the team were soaked in a brief but intense downpour. But it didn't dampen our spirits, and as we victoriously rolled into the picturesque Dover beach Esplanade, we were overcome by a sense of pride and wonderment that we had actually achieved our goal - against all the odds".



"Ten brave volunteers, 2 vehicles, 1 x 750 kg trailer, and 75 miles in 30 hours. And a whole bunch of support for the people (and pets) of Ukraine. With a USA fundraiser, A Danish Fundraiser, and a UK version we have so far raised 35,000 GBP. We have a goal of 50k. A Huge thanks to Gary Sanders of Birchanger Village, who designed and fabricated the special rig for the trailer which meant we could make this all happen".

Please help the fund if you can - even a tiny donation means something special to those who have lost everything. The link below will take you to 'Just Giving' and the UK version of the fundraising effort.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/veteranspullforukraine?utm_term=jzPiGgvJp

Garden Waste Public Skip Lorry Schedule

Outside Birchanger Social Club 15:00 – 16:00

16 March 2024 - 13 April 2024

11 May 2024 - 8 June 2024

6 July 2024 - 3 August 2024

31 August 2024 - 28 September 2024

26 October 2024 - 23 November 2024

What's on in the village...



April 2024



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

Garden Waste Skip Outside the Club 15.00-16.00: 16 Mar, 13 Apr, 11 May, 8 Jun, 6 Jul, 3 Aug, 31 Aug, 28 Sept, 26 Oct, 23 Nov.

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: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	2 Garden Bin Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	3 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	4 Black Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	5 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	6 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat Draw 21.00 Me & Him - Live	7 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
8 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	9 Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	10 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	11 Green Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	12 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	13 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	14 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
15 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	16 Garden Bin Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	17 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	18 Black Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	19 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	20 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Lisa-Marie - Live	21 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
22 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	23 Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	24 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	25 Green Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	26 Church Hall: 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	27 Church Hall: 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Quiz Night	28 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
29 Church Hall: 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance	30 Garden Bin Church hall: 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance		<div>The Ultimate Easter Raffle Birchanger Sports & Social Club Sunday 31st March at 3:00 pm</div>			



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

LIVE MUSIC ME AND HIM



SATURDAY 6TH APRIL

**LISA-
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20TH APRIL**

QUIZ Night

27th APRIL

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TICKET**

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RAFFLE**

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EGGS TO
BE WON!**

31st MARCH - 3PM

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



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

April is the start of the main season at the Gardens – we open weekly on Thursdays, starting on 4 April, and our first main season Open Day is on 21 April.

Through March we hope the weather will have allowed us to get planting. A range of new trees for the Glade, including *Cercidiphyllum* (Katsura) and *Acers* will have been ok with going into wet soil, but elsewhere we hope the ground will have dried out so that grass returns to the mud patches created by the standing water in February.

Our volunteers will have worked to extend the Japanese garden, and planted more shrubs and small conifers into the new Warwick border (behind the croquet lawn). In the kitchen garden much of the early sowings of peas and beans will have been in pots, so by April we can transfer plants and hopefully avoid them being eaten by all the wildlife in the garden - the mice, slugs, moles and pigeons to name a few!



The joys of April should be the spring flowers and blossom. After working to clear some woodland, we hope the bluebells will be able to come through more strongly and there may be the tail end of the daffodils, cowslips and violets. In the Italian garden the tulips should be providing bright colours to the fresh greens of spring growth.

In the kitchen garden there will be a succession of blossom. The first blossom is the nectarines and peaches in March, followed by plum and cherries. By April it should be pears and apples. In the Glade there will be blossom on the flowering cherries and hawthorn.

The Gardens are open from 11.00 to 3.00 on Thursdays, with payment on the Gate. Our volunteers provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes. For the Open Day on 21 April, 11.00 - 5.00 there will be folk and acoustic music from Karen and Tony, children's craft and trail and the usual fayre for a Sunday: hot bacon rolls, cheese or hummus rolls, homemade soup and cakes.

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

Jill Goldsmith

u3a Stansted Mountfitchet

For 300 years, the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey developed and manufactured explosives for muskets, rockets and wartime munitions. Today, it is a museum. Richard Thomas, a site guide, spoke at our February meeting, looking back through the centuries to China, and the discovery of what we now call gunpowder. It was fascinating, and a trip to the Waltham Abbey Museum, now looks on the cards.

In February, our Gardening Group enjoyed a talk by Dave Willett, on 'Great Gardens and Gardener'. From the history of cultivated gardens such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, through the development of the medieval plot essential for food production, to renaissance gardens like Versailles, the landscape movement and Lancelot Brown, and the work of Arts and Crafts designers such as Gertrude Jekyll, much of which resulted in gardens we can still enjoy today.

As I write, we are looking forward to hearing from David Morson. Last year he talked about the historical relationship between Russia and Ukraine. At our first Saturday seminar in 2024, he will take on another of the world's most sensitive and tragic flashpoint - 'The Arab Israel Question - A History of Conflict'. David with degrees in history, politics, sociology and religious studies, will provide the opportunity to discuss and understand the historical background, from biblical times onwards, showing the established facts, the complexities, the dilemmas and the difficulties that have created probably the most intractable and long-lasting conflict in the world today. Then on to something quite different! Graham and Mary Brace spend their retirement travelling to photograph wildlife and conservation. In April, at our General Meeting, they will share their experiences and the amazing photographs they took of 'Wildlife in Brazil'.
Pauline Green



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WHO WANTS MORE NIGHT FLIGHTS?

At the end of February, The Department for Transport (DfT), on behalf of the Government, published its long-awaited consultation on the “*Night Flight Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports from October 2025*”.

This consultation will influence the Government’s decision on the number and type of night flights to be permitted at Stansted after the present restrictions end in October next year. It is an important opportunity for local residents, as well as local councils, to make their views known to the DfT.

As a result of Freedom of Information requests submitted by Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) it has become clear that Manchester Airports Group (MAG) has been lobbying the DfT to “de-designate” Stansted, i.e. so that Government restrictions on night flights would only apply to Heathrow and Gatwick but not Stansted. Alternatively, MAG wants the DfT to remove the current limit on the number of night flights at Stansted (13,700 per annum).

This lobbying activity by MAG is in clear breach of its agreement with Uttlesford District Council “*not to seek any relaxation of the night flight restrictions currently in force*”. It shows a complete disregard for an agreement lawfully entered into, as well as a disregard for the impact of night flights upon local residents.

Further background

The current position at Stansted is that there is a limit on the number of night flights, which is easy to understand and monitor, and also a quota count (QC) limit, which is far more difficult to monitor and not easily understood. The QC system allocates points to each aircraft type, ranging from 2 points for the noisiest aircraft using Stansted at night, such as the Fedex MD11, to 0.25 points or even 0.125 points for less noisy aircraft such as those used by Ryanair and easyJet. For example, a weekly noise quota limit of (say) 150 QC points would allow 75 night flights by the noisiest aircraft or up to 1,200 night flights by the least noisy aircraft.

It's simple arithmetic. As the very noisiest aircraft are phased out over the years, each one could be progressively replaced by more than ten times as many night flights. That explains why MAG wants (at the very least) the numerical limit removed and why local residents, as well as local councils, should oppose this.

Responding to the consultation

The consultation proposes extending the current restrictions – i.e. maintaining the status quo – at Heathrow and Gatwick until (at least) October 2028. However, for Stansted, the DfT is seeking views on three different options as follows:

Option 1 – Removal of all Government night controls in October 2026, thereafter relying solely on local planning conditions.

Option 2 – Same as Option 1, but removing Government night controls in October 2025, whilst maintaining a QC limit, but not a numerical limit.

Option 3 – Government night controls to remain (i.e. as per Heathrow and Gatwick).

Options 1 and 2 reflect lobbying activity by MAG. Both these options would mean fewer restrictions and, inevitably, more Stansted night flights. Option 3 is clearly preferable and it is important that local residents make their views known to the DfT.

The link to the DfT consultation document is [Night flight restrictions: Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports from October 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-from-october-2025). You can respond online but an email response allows more flexibility to make your own points, rather than just responding to the pre-set questions. The email address is night.flights@dft.gov.uk.

Other points you could make

- Phase out night flights altogether – Stansted is currently allowed 13,700 night flights a year between the hours of 11.30pm and 6.00am. By comparison, Heathrow, which is three times bigger than Stansted, is allowed just 5,800 night flights a year. Night flights are particularly intrusive in a largely rural area, with low background night noise levels. The aim should be to phase out all Stansted night flights, except emergencies, by 2030.
- ‘Night’ should mean ‘night’ – The limit on the number of night flights should apply for the full 8-hour night period (11.00pm to 7.00am) and not just for the 6½ hours (11.30pm to 6.00am) – when the limit on the number of night flights currently applies.
- Dispense with Dispensations – Airport management can grant ‘dispensations’ where flights are delayed by weather or Air Traffic Control problems. Dispensations do not count against the night flights limit. Stansted granted 1,200 dispensations last summer whereas Heathrow granted only 462. The DfT should remove the right of airports to grant dispensations, i.e. marking their own homework.
- Ban Reverse Thrust – The use of reverse thrust at night should be banned except in the case of an emergency. The Stansted runway is one of the longest in the UK and so the additional braking effect provided by using reverse thrust upon landing is unnecessary other than in exceptional circumstances.
- Health Impacts – The Government recognises that aircraft noise at night has negative impacts upon local communities around airports and can impact on physical and mental well-being. These negative impacts are far greater than any economic benefits.

Night flights are the biggest single cause of noise complaints by local residents. This consultation is an opportunity to make your voice heard. The closing date is 22 May 2024.

Brian Ross



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Society's logo is a woodcut by the late Eric Ravilious.

Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were both Royal College of Art students when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield in Essex. There, they rented Brick House, starting a fascinating period for the village. Over the next two decades, numerous artists came to live there; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.



Brick House, Great Bardfield



In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year Ravilious married Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lodged for a

while with the Bawdens at Brick House. Bawden's work can be seen today on three Victoria Line stations - Victoria, Tottenham Hale, Highbury and Islington - for which he designed the logos.



Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden. They produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that were held in the 1950s when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle.



Place House, Great Bardfield

A good selection of the Bardfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden – it reopens on April 7th – see <https://fryartgallery.org/> for opening hours. In Great Bardfield, books and other information about the artists can be purchased at the new premises of Between The Lines bookshop.

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

7 th April	Matins with Jo Pratt
14 th April	Holy Communion with Revd Helen
21 st April	Matins with Hugh Mascetti
28 th April	Holy Communion with Revd Colin

Church News

In case you haven't noticed, last month we commenced our efforts to open up the church to visitors during the week and we hope that over the coming months more of you will come along to discover the treasures that St Mary's holds.

On the 27th February we were pleased to welcome a U3A group of 23 people from Ware. None of them had visited St Mary's before and they asked many questions about the history of the church. Pam Lee had put together a condensed history talk, and Anne Bulling provided refreshments. Overall, the event was very successful – one that can be repeated. If you know of any groups that may be interested, please get in touch with Pam.

As from the 12th March, Coffee Mornings will take place in the church. Pop in if you can. The next one is on the 2nd July. On Easter Sunday (31st March) Revd Colin will be leading our service. Come along and meet him. You won't regret it!!

Talking of Easter, The Three Willows public house is holding a raffle to raise funds for the church and hall. Please support Mark and his team in their efforts.

Our Annual Parish General Meeting will take place after our service on the 28th April. We are short of volunteers to join our Parochial Church Council and if you are interested in getting involved, please speak with either Pam Lee, Sue Warr, Rosemary Saward or Anne Bulling to get further information.

In this Deanery a small group has been visiting local small churches and taking a stroll around the local area. Some bring along their dogs. These walks that last about 30 minutes are led by a local resident. Usually there are a dozen or so people and at the end of each walk refreshments can be found in church where a short service takes place. This year the Birchanger walk will take place on Saturday 18th May probably starting at 9am but timing will be confirmed nearer the date.

Dates to Remember

28 th April	APCM
18 th May	Deanery Walk in Birchanger
2 nd July	Coffee Morning in church
18 th August	Patronal Festival
29 th September	Harvest Evensong at 5pm
Date to advised	Strawberry Cream Tea

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com



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The Birchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the magazine or any organisations or institutions represented. Material sent to the editor will generally be printed as received providing it is considered suitable by the magazine team. The editor reserves the right to edit content if considered unsuitable or where insufficient space is available. All material should be submitted by the 16th of the month to be published the following month.

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