



# Birchanger Village Magazine

May 2024

Issue 256



## Parish Council Objects to Proposed Birchanger Greenbelt Development

Birchanger Parish Council sent to Uttlesford District Council the following Letter of Objection for the proposed 9 new houses to be built on Greenbelt land, South Birchanger - UTT/24/0642/FUL.

The site is within the Green Belt. The NPPF states "Inappropriate development is by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances." This application fails to prove very special circumstances. This is also backland development in that the proposed properties do not front onto a road and is therefore contrary to the Uttlesford Local Plan. Additionally, it is outside the village development limits contrary to the Parish Plan.

The development would adversely impact the rural aspect of Birchanger village. Proposed access is across two footpaths, 15 & 16. The proposal is to build an access road onto footpath 16. This would involve using part of the village green. The village green is registered as such and owned by the Parish Council and you will see from the map obtained from Essex County Council Register of Green and Common Land, that our village green stretches from the boundary of Old Cottage, 274 Birchanger Lane, across the entrance to footpath 16 and on to the boundary of 266 Birchanger Lane. Under no circumstances will the Parish Council give permission for the village green to be used to form an access route onto this proposed development. See attachments a: Letter from the Commons Commissioner dated 6 February 1981 regarding the ownership of the village green and b: map showing the village green. Widening and clearing the footpaths would destroy trees and hedgerows and would affect biodiversity and protected species. Indeed hedgehogs, which are a legally protected species, have been identified on footpath 15, so using this footpath as an access point would have a detrimental effect.

The Landscape & Visual Assessment P52 states "Generally the area has views of limited value and footpaths are not well used by the wider public". However, our footpaths are frequently used by cyclists and walkers, very often with dogs and small children, many of whom are not local residents, as a safe recreational walk in the Green Belt. This right would be destroyed by allowing the paths to be altered to made up roads to be used by vehicles to service back land development and in so doing severely affect the amenity of residents and visitors. Indeed, the Pre-Application advice states "It must be noted that all three potential accesses are coinciding with PROW routes and any development at that location will significantly impact those routes." Access solely for unit 1 is suggested along footpath 15 which runs very close to a grade II listed building at 228 Birchanger Lane and would exit onto a bend in Birchanger Lane with little visibility. Using this footpath would not only have a detrimental effect on this property but also on the lives of those living there.

The Pre-Application Report from the Planning Inspectorate states the Inspector visited the site on April 18, 2023 and noted that traffic on the Lane was light. At this time Birchanger Lane was closed to through traffic and did not open until July 2023. Surveys have taken place which show that traffic has increased by 200% in recent years so any additional roads leading into the lane, particularly on a bend or where the lane is narrow, which would be the case for both suggested footpaths, would be dangerous.

This Pre-Application Report also refers to the UDC 5-year land supply. The report refers to UDC Housing Land Supply in 2022 when they had 4.89 years supply. However, UDC 2023 HLS states 5.14 years, so these proposed 9 houses are not needed to satisfy the requirement. Indeed, in the NPPF of December 2023 it states Local Plans at examination, Regulation 18, or Regulation 19 stage, with a policy map and proposed locations towards meeting housing need, only has to demonstrate a four-year housing land supply (as opposed to five years) for a period of two years for decision making purposes.

The application form is incorrect. Under Assessment of Flood Risk, the applicant has answered No to the question "Is your proposal within 20 metres of a river, stream or beck". However, the answer is in fact Yes, there is a ditch which runs along the front of the site,



just below the surrounding fence, which is fed by an underground spring. The stream in this ditch has on occasions almost burst the banks during periods of heavy rain.

Every year at our Annual Village meeting the following motion is passed unanimously: "This meeting rejects any further coalescence with neighbouring towns and villages and will endeavour to protect the remaining Green Belt surrounding the village". Uttlesford District Council covers approximately 250 sq. miles only 6% of which is Green Belt. The approval of this application would set a precedent and could open the flood gates for other planning applications on the Green Belt.

The applicant's previous application for one house in 2014 was turned down both by UDC and then on appeal for several reasons including that it was in the Green Belt, was backland development and there were access issues. Nothing has changed therefore the application should be refused.



# Birchanger Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Hello to all Birchanger residents. The last year has gone quickly and this actually feels a bit like Groundhog Day as I seem to be reporting on the same issues as last year!

The travellers won their latest appeal. This was brought about following UDC's decision to refuse their retrospective planning application. The travellers, of course, appealed and won for

various reasons including their human rights and the lack of alternative pitches elsewhere. However, the original conditions remain the same, i.e. only those listed on the Inspector's Decision Letter can live there, a site plan must be approved within a certain time etc. There are additional conditions following the Parish Council and the Residents Association bringing up the unsuitability of living on this land of green belt due to poor air conditions and more particularly noise pollution. For instance, all mobile homes permitted under the permission should meet or exceed the sound insulation and ventilation standards set down in BS3632:2015. There are other conditions. Failure to meet any of the conditions within the stated timescales would result in the travellers being required to leave the site within 28 days. Of course they could then appeal. It does feel as though we're going round in circles but, if this situation arises, we will continue to fight for the restoration of our green belt.

And now the roadworks! There's no need for me to tell everyone about the dreadful effect these have had on Birchanger for over 2 years. We put up with the lane being closed for almost 9 months but since it's opened again the rat running, not just during the rush hours but all day, has been intolerable. We have a Speed watch group and on two occasions they counted the traffic travelling in either direction on Birchanger Lane between 8 and 9am. On the first occasion there were 460 vehicles, on the second, 428. No speeders were recorded but obviously drivers slow down when they see the Speed watch signs! I also undertook two surveys between the same hours in the morning of traffic driving towards the A120. The first time there were 301 vehicles and a week later, 300. This compares to 105 during the same morning rush hour prior to the roadworks commencing, I also recorded 157 vehicles heading towards the A120 between 5 and 5.30pm one afternoon. Sisk, of course, can't close the lane for no reason as it's a public highway so we can only hope that once the works are complete, and I understand this is due to be sometime in May (hopefully this year and not next), that drivers will desist from using Birchanger Lane as a rat run.

The excessive traffic has caused issues to the sides of the road where it's crumbled away, in many places causing deep potholes. Grass verges and hedges have also been damaged. Recently Essex County Council were given £121 million from the government for highway maintenance, and I've asked our County Councillor to ensure that Birchanger Lane is at the top of the list for repairs. For their part, Sisk have volunteered to undertake projects around the village and have agreed to replace the fencing around the allotments and repair the footpath.

Tot Lane has also been used excessively by drivers attempting to avoid the huge diversion when roadworks were taking place in Forest Hall Road and Pines Hill. Tot Lane is simply not wide enough for two-way traffic so the Council have asked again if it can be closed or at least made one way. I understand that this is being looked at by Highways and there is a possibility that it will become no entry from Forest Hall end. Perhaps our County Councillor will be able to update us at a later date.

UDC's draft local plan was put out for public consultation for 6 weeks late last year. The Parish Council responded but we were relieved to see that, because Birchanger is surrounded by green belt, no housing developments were proposed in the village. *Continued on page 5*

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.facebook.com/birchanger/)

*Peter Sampson*



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger



# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## Was This the Best Spring Ever?

Perhaps that is debatable. So far this year it has been a lovely, yet on occasions a somewhat unpredictable Springtime. Now the question is what lies ahead? They say that heavy wind and rain bring forth the best flowers and we have had plenty of those albeit a bit early this year. Never has the blossom looked so good and so many flowers blossomed a little earlier than usual. All in all, this has made for a fantastic show all over Birchanger. Enjoy it while it lasts.

## Is That Good Looking Man on My Doorstep Really a Policeman?

Hopefully, he is the genuine article but can you be sure? If you are in doubt and before you let him in check the person's identity papers and if still unsure, tell him you would like to check with his office. If the individual is genuine, they won't mind at all. If not, you will probably get a lot of protestations, but mostly the individual will just scarp. Same goes for any cold caller! These phoney policemen are trying to trick people into giving a lot of personal information so they can be scammed. It is amazing what people will divulge about themselves without perhaps realising it, so many confidential details. There are a lot of them about, so if this happens to you, please report it on 101 or use the internet to chat to an officer between 10 am and 9pm.

## Something to do in Prison - Run a Drugs Ring!

Which is exactly what one drugs baron did after being imprisoned for running a drugs ring from his cell. Not just the once but three times. He had another 10 years added to his sentence, but I doubt if that has stopped him. It might be a bit more difficult for him to set up again though as his team and associates have all been caught this time. Don't hold your breath.

## You Don't Have to be a Policeman to be in the Force

There are plenty of opportunities for many roles either as an ordinary staff member doing office work, working in the kitchens and much more. In fact, all the work which backs up and reinforces the work of the police. Look at the careers page of the Essex Police Website.

## Hate Crime Under Research

Many of us will experience hate crime in one form or another during our lifetime. From the poison pen letters at school to the hatred

towards elderly and infirm members of the public. They are a nuisance and it is time they were got rid of. Hate crime can start even at nursery age. The little pinch, suddenly nobody wanting to play with you or be your partner in games. Some may remember that it happened to them or perhaps they were the perpetrator. At school most of us were bullied at some time or other, or maybe we were part of a bullying gang. Now there are so many ways online that people can be attacked. Facebook or Twitter to name a few are easy routes, and there are many others. Some victims are able to shrug their shoulders and just get on with life. Others retreat into themselves and become isolated and lonely. Either way hate crime is there all around us and people become victims for real or imagined incidents. Schools are very aware of this and try to prevent it when it is identified. Mostly it is very covert and probably only picked up when a child seems unusually quiet, looking depressed and mainly on their own. In some areas hate crime has resulted in criminal acts and the police become involved. Possibly not soon enough as hate crime can easily become violent and too many young people have died. A police initiative is welcome and the involvement of members of the public is vital. The research being carried out in the county will hopefully shed more light on why hate crime happens and what can be done about it.

## Dangerous Dog Breeds

Some dogs can get very upset without warning and for no apparent reason. This applies from the smallest Chihuahua to the infamous American XL Bully. By law, all dangerous dog breeds must be registered. However, some owners will do their best to avoid registering their dog. Most dogs would not intentionally hurt anyone but even so, they need to be treated with care. A recent study has found that most dog bites happen in the home and the dog is known to the victim. Keeping dogs on a lead in public will not reduce attacks in the home. Do not approach a strange dog and do not offer the back of your hand for it to smell. This makes a nice meaty target for a nervous dog! If the dog approaches you wagging his tail and the owner says its ok, you could (at your risk) stroke the dog. If one happens to walk towards you and looks aggressive, control your breathing and keep your hands at your sides. Avoid making eye contact and sudden movements. Back slowly away from the aggressive dog, don't run. Stay calm and let the dog sniff you if it approaches. Crouch into a defensive posture if you think the dog might attack.

## 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.

There will be no meeting on Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>  
[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

Olivia: 07568 574703      Rosemary: 01279 814678  
Liz Turner: 07473 508056



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### Essex Police go for Vision Zero

Like me you probably have absolutely no idea what Vision Zero is. In fact, it could be that you find out the wrong way. Vision Zero is a very serious attempt to reduce the 49 deaths and the 769 serious injuries which occurred on our roads in Essex last year. The cause of these deaths nearly always involves speed. So, the speed guns are out and so are the officers all over our area. Stansted has already been hit heavily with the speed gun. Just wish they would come here and catch a rat runner or more. The ambition is high, but the police are very serious about their commitment to bring down the horrendous death and injury numbers in Essex. You have been warned.

### Are You Giving the Burglars a Hand?

Tools and Garden Equipment are very popular and very easy to steal it seems. There is a ready market for them especially for mowers and tractors and it is time we joined the fight to put a stop to this. We could at least make their lives more difficult with new battery alarms which have a very loud alarm. If it doesn't wake you, it will wake the neighbours and give the intruder a very big fright.

### Could You Become a Victim of Romance Fraud?

You meet the man who seems very charming and someone who is actually focussing on you. He charms you with little gifts, flowers, and dinners out before he gets down to the nitty gritty, which is to defraud you of as much of your money as he can before he disappears from your life for ever. These days we have to be very careful of the charming person we really don't actually know very well. If they start asking for money it is time to say a fast goodbye!



### What Do You Do With a Stray Dog?

You have just found a stray dog wandering about, it is clearly lost and hungry but what should you do? Firstly, check for a tag or contact a local vet who can scan the dog to see if there is a microchip. All dogs are supposed

to have one but certainly not all dogs do. If you can't find a microchip and the vet has no facilities for strays you should try to contact the dog warden at the local council if they still have one. The dog warden has the responsibility of collecting all stray dogs if they are found in a public place. The RSPCA will collect ill or injured dogs. They can be contacted 24 hours a day on 0300 1234 999.

### Essex Police Recover 700 Stolen Cars

Essex Police have had a record breaking 12 months, identifying, and recovering 700 stolen cars. In one week, they recovered £50 million worth of stolen cars. It seems these thieves were only after high end vehicles, but that is not to say our old bangers are safe. In truth, no car is.

## ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We managed to open on the last two Thursdays in March, setting us up well for the new season starting in April. It was lovely to see visitors again, after that miserable wet snowdrop season!

May is a lovely month in the Gardens. It is when the cowparsley and foxgloves take over. Other highlights at the beginning of the month are the camassia in the mini orchard in the kitchen garden, the blossom on the ornamental cherries and the fresh leaves of the acers. At the end of the month the laburnum walk bears gold, the handkerchiefs waft on their branches in the breeze and the wild orchids start to bloom on the bank to the Glade.

For our Sunday 19 May Open Day, we are delighted that Jane Frederick is showing her **Garden Seekers exhibition**. Jane's artistic lens was focused on six historic gardens in Essex, including Easton Lodge. We will be displaying the relevant history from our archives and Jane's inspirations as well as her art works. It is also our **Nature Day** at the Gardens, and we will be joined again by an expert biologist for pond dipping and other nature activities and stalls for all the family.



The Gardens are also open every Thursday, with our produce stall selling fresh vegetables from the walled kitchen garden – perhaps rhubarb and asparagus? The Gardens are open from 11.00 and our volunteers provide refreshments. Tickets can be bought in advance for Sundays. There is no charge for children under 16 years old. Visitors can bring picnics and dogs on leads are welcome.

For more information about tickets, times, activities, and refreshments go to [www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on)

*Jill Goldsmith*



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## Chairman's Report continued from page 2

The results of the public consultation were published on Monday and no doubt amendments will be made to the plan prior to it being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, which I believe is due to take place early next year.

However, even though it is acknowledged that our village is surrounded by Green Belt, that doesn't stop planning applications for houses to be built on it being submitted to the district council. Unfortunately, recently we were made aware of a planning application for 9 houses to be built on Green Belt land which is currently used for equestrian purposes. A previous application by the same person for only one house was refused by Uttlesford District Council and on appeal refused by the Planning Inspectorate. Naturally, the Parish Council, and I am sure others, will be objecting strongly to this application. The circumstances haven't changed so it simply makes no sense that this new application for nine houses should be approved.

Unfortunately, Council Tax has risen again. Interestingly only about 5p in the pound goes towards Parish & Town Council's precepts. The precept is used to pay for things like street lighting repairs and electricity, grass cutting, recreation ground equipment and its maintenance, water rates for the allotments, glebe land rent and, of course our council clerk. Speaking of which I must thank Keith Williams for all his help over this last year. I certainly couldn't carry out my role of Chair without him.

Parish Councillors don't just meet once a month but they quietly get on with other things. Recently this was putting together new picnic tables and benches in the recreation ground. Replacing the basketball net, moving fallen trees from footpaths, running the Speed watch group. Spending hours preparing a response to the draft local plan, attending Planning meetings. None of this is paid, we're all volunteers. We still have two vacancies on the Parish Council so if you're interested in doing something for your community, please speak to me or one of the other councillors at the end of the meeting.

Finally, I'd like to thank Keith again and all the parish councillors for their help and support over the last year.

Angie Driscoll



## A Wonderful Spring

We had a wonderful Spring Term, full of so many celebrations including Valentine's Day, Mother's

Day and finishing with Easter. For Mother's Day we hosted a stay and play at preschool, it was so lovely to see so many of the Mums and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did. In the run up to Easter the children took part in lots of egg-citing activities including



crafts, baking and egg hunts which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children have also been busy noticing the changes in season and exploring the outdoors during forest school sessions as well as planting sunflowers to watch them grow.

Our annual 'Hall of Fun' fundraising event was once again a huge success, thanks to the committee for organising. We will be holding a quiz night at Birchanger Village Hall on Friday 13th July at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome, if you would like to purchase tickets at £5



each, please email us at [admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk) or call us on 01279 810800 between 9am & 3pm Mon-Fri.

We are now accepting the new 2 year working parent funding and have spaces available from September 2024. Please get in touch to arrange a visit.

Clare Brace  
Pre-school Administrator  
Birchanger Butterflies Preschool  
01279 810 800

# What's on in the village...



May 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: 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.**

		<b>1</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>2</b> <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>3</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>4</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat Draw	<b>5</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>6</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	<b>7</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>8</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>9</b> <b>Green Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>10</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>11</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 Jumble of Chords - LIVE	<b>12</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>13</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	<b>14</b> <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>15</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>16</b> <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>17</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>18</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw	<b>19</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Matins Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>20</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	<b>21</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>22</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>23</b> <b>Green Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>24</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>25</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Quiz Night	<b>26</b> <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>27</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance	<b>28</b> <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>29</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 13.00 Takeley Art 14.00 Tea Room 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	<b>30</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Line dance 16.45-20.30 Ellouise Dance <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	<b>31</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance		





BIRCHANGER SPORTS  
AND SOCIAL CLUB

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

# 80

## D-DAY

6 JUNE  
2024

## LIGHTING OF THE BEACON



Birchanger Sports  
& Social Club are  
proud to honour the  
anniversary with the  
traditional lighting of  
our Beacon.

Thursday 6th June  
Ceremony: 9.15pm

# QUIZ Night

25th MAY

## JUMBLE OF CHORDS

11th MAY

## 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](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



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Whether birds evolved flight to descend from the trees or to rise up from the ground will be the first question to be tackled at the Saturday Seminar on 11th May. Mike Howgate MSc FLS will discuss two controversies on the Evolution of Flight - How Birds Fly and The Dinosaur Bird Link. Sometimes known as "Dr Dinosaur", Mike is the General Secretary and Chairman of the Amateur Geological Society of North London and is a member of the Linnean Society of London.

In the first part of the seminar, he will look at the evolution of flight and will then move on to discussing the prevalent theory amongst palaeontologists that birds arose from a group of Therapod dinosaurs.



At the General Meeting on 16th May we look forward to enjoying a performance from singer, songwriter and musician, Saffron Summerfield. Saffron's career has taken her from live performance on tv and on John Peel's radio show to tours abroad and playing blues guitar alongside black musicians in the Mississippi cotton fields. Her performance entitled "Milton Keynes to Mississippi" will feature different styles of guitar from the classical to the blues. In March, Ed

Fairey, Essex County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme entertained the Garden Group with the history of the NGS. He described how it came into being: why it has always supported nursing charities, and how in 1928, its foundation year, it raised over £8,000 for the Queen's Nursing Institute.

Since 1980, when it became independent of the QNI, it has benefited a wider range of health charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Careers' Trust and Parkinson's UK. In May the Garden Group will continue its own support of the NGS with a visit to "The Mount" in Roydon which opens to visitors under the scheme.

*Susan Sedgebeer*

## Thank You to the Three Willows

Some of already know that last month Mark and his team at the Three Willows pub ran an Easter Raffle to raise funds to help us pay for a new signpost showing the way to the church via the lychgate. Their efforts and your generosity have raised £224 which is fantastic.

In these difficult times it is not always easy to pay for non-essential items particularly since most of our regular fundraising is used to subsidise every day expenses so additional income is always welcome. We want to make the church more visible within the village. One way to do this is by showing people where it is - hence the signpost which we hope to have in place this summer.

Thank you, Mark Boden and all the staff at the Three Willows. Your support for the church is very much appreciated.

*Pam Lee*

BIRCHANGER BUTTERFLIES PRE-SCHOOL PRESENTS

**QUIZ NIGHT**

13TH JULY 2024

**TICKETS £5 PER PERSON**

**TABLES UP TO 8**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES**

BIRCHANGER VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM START

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PRE-SCHOOL OFFICE [ADMIN@BIRCHANGERBUTTERFLIES.ORG.UK](mailto:ADMIN@BIRCHANGERBUTTERFLIES.ORG.UK)



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## REMINDER – NIGHT FLIGHTS CONSULTATION

The most important public consultation for a generation about the future impact of Stansted Airport is currently underway. At stake is the prospect of the Government removing all of its current statutory restrictions on night flights at Stansted, which have been in force for over 40 years.

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) is pressing for the removal of the Government restrictions, which currently allow a maximum of 13,700 Stansted night flights a year.

This is despite the fact that MAG is subject to a planning agreement with UDC, which includes the following obligation:

***“... not to seek any relaxation of the night flight restrictions currently in force for the night period of 23.00 – 06.59 or for the night quota period of 23.30 – 05.59.”***

SAW Noise Advisor, Martin Peachey, commented: *“If MAG is successful there could be no limit on the number of night flights at Stansted and this would adversely impact the health of local residents. It is vital for local residents, local councils and other local organisations to reply to this consultation and make it clear to the Government that we want fewer night flights, not more!”*



## Responding to the consultation

You can respond online but an email response allows more flexibility to make your own points, rather than just responding to pre-set questions. The email address to use is [night.flights@dft.gov.uk](mailto:night.flights@dft.gov.uk). For the full consultation document, click on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-from-october-2025>.

The consultation proposes extending the current restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick until (at least) October 2028. However, for Stansted, the Government is seeking views on three different options:

Options 1 and 2 reflect lobbying activity by MAG and would both mean fewer restrictions and, inevitably, more Stansted night flights. Option 3 would maintain the current controls and is clearly preferable. 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. airport management should not be allowed to mark 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 a major cause of noise complaints by local residents. This consultation is an opportunity to make your voice heard. As a reminder, the email address for replying to the consultation is [night.flights@dft.gov.uk](mailto:night.flights@dft.gov.uk).

The closing date is 22 May 2024.

Brian Ross





## The Hundred Parishes Society

### Spring and the effects of global warming

As day length increases and the air becomes warmer, plants put out new shoots. Many insects emerge and birds pair up, preparing to breed. Since the 1960's the average minimum winter temperatures have been rising. Snow fall is now a rarity, and frosty days are much less frequent.

The current growing season is almost a month longer than 50 years ago. Primroses and bluebells are opening earlier. Researchers recorded that the first flowering of some 406 plant species has advanced by almost a month since 1986! This has a knock-on effect for the time of emergence of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies; some are adapting to the warmer climate.



Hedgerow shrubs and trees are leafing and flowering earlier too, providing food for so many hungry caterpillars which are ideal food for nestlings. Hedgerows are a valuable wildlife habitat, often providing a living framework to the landscape and our rural heritage. Long-established hedges grow in soil that is rich in stored carbon and older trees within the hedgerow also hold large stores of carbon.



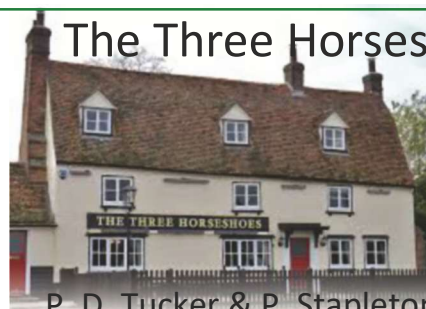
A recent planning application to fell an ancient hedgerow oak close to Clavering led to a vigorous and successful campaign by residents to save it. This tree is now registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, a record similar to the one for listed buildings. There are more trees in local hedgerows that could be recorded - details of how to do this can be found on <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record>.



National Hedgerow Week organised by the Tree Council runs from 6th May to 12th May and is timed to showcase hedgerows resplendent with fresh new growth and full of wildlife. Please enjoy one or more of the many walks listed on the Society's website - and consider recording some of our wonderful old trees.



Tricia Moxey, Trustee [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://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

5 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Service with Pam Lee
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Matins with Hugh Mascetti/Pam Lee
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

### Church News

I realise than many of you will think our Easter celebrations ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March but for the church, these go on for a period of six weeks and include Christ's resurrection and his subsequent appearances before the disciples. During this time, He gave encouragement to his followers, telling them that when two or three came together then He would be there with them.

This is something that the small congregation of St Mary's remembers each Sunday when we come together to praise the Lord. We do our best to make our worship an inclusive and uplifting experience that is open to all who may wish to take part. Our sins are great, but His love is greater. The name of Jesus Christ is all powerful.

We very much appreciate the support that the church receives from people around the village, particularly those who visit the tearoom and those who purchased Easter raffle tickets from the Three Willows. Every penny raised goes to help maintain both the church and hall. Over the next few months, we plan to erect a directional sign indicating the way to the church through the lychgate. The funds raised from the raffle will go towards this. Thank you to everyone that took part.

St Mary's is available for weddings, baptisms/ blessings as well as funerals.

### Upcoming Events

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Coffee morning at 10.30am in church
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Patronal Festival
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Evensong 5.00pm
Date to be advised	Strawberry Cream Tea



## 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](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

Pam Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

[pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com)

## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:  
**Manager:** Cat Roberson  
**Telephone:** 07475 092658  
**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

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