



# Birchanger Village Magazine

July 2024

Issue 258



## D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Birchanger



This historic event marked the largest naval, air, and land operation in history, which played a crucial role in World War II.



The remembrance started at 9.00 am on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, a warm sunny morning with blue sky and fluffy white clouds – unlike the weather on that fateful day in 1944. A specially designed D-Day flag was raised on the Birchanger Sports & Social Club flagpole by well-known character and war veteran Pim Godwin who served in the Kings African Rifles as a Lieutenant. Pim was joined by District Councillor Geof Driscoll together with other Birchanger Parish Councillors.

Perhaps highly appropriately, it also happened to be National Fish and Chips Day, and the club did not miss a trick, serving a delicious fish and chip supper for a large number of people.



In the evening, at 9.15 pm the Beacon was lit. The twirling orange flames against the twilight sky backdrop made it a sight to remember! The crowd was joined by 103 year old 'Ted' Gordon Barrett, seen in the centre of the picture below and reported to be UK's oldest pilot. More about him on page 2.



What wasn't expected was the addition of the rather loud sound effects! As the beacon burned, there were four large explosions. Evidently someone had buried some very loud bangers in the basket which were heard all over Birchanger!

Apologies to all animal owners if this upset their pets.





# Editors Letter Box

**Gordon Barrett**, known more commonly as 'Ted' is reported to be UK's oldest pilot and also attended Birchanger's D-Day celebrations. Ted is still flying high as he celebrates his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Stansted resident Ted was born just three years after the end of the First World War and celebrated his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. He served as an RAF engineer during the Second World War, and he still regularly takes to the skies as the oldest pilot in the UK. As a special gift, his friend Tony Aldridge arranged for Ted to receive an apostolic blessing on behalf of Pope Francis which he received at St. Theresa's parish centre in High Lane.

Ted learned to fly at Redhill Aerodrome in Surrey before joining the RAF, serving in India as an engineer during the war. He assisted as a second pilot during the testing of aircraft after maintenance before they were returned to operations. He retains the title of the oldest pilot in the UK, is fully qualified and still regularly flies from Hunsdon Airfield.

Ted was born in Cambridge and moved to Bishop's Stortford in the 1950s, where he met and married Eileen, who worked as a nurse at the old Haymeads Hospital. The couple had two children, Jeremy and Gillian, who went to school in the town, and he has three grandchildren, Andrea, 30, Kristin, 28, and Oliver, 26.



His son Jeremy said: "His flying is restricted now to flying with an instructor, he cannot fly on his own, but he's passed all his medicals and flew just a month ago in a microlight, two-seater. His passion for aviation keeps him going and motivates his life."

## Letters to the Editor

### Busy Bees Swarm in Birchanger

Late afternoon on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, we found we had some unexpected guests attached to a low branch of our flowering cherry tree. It was a large pineapple shape and on closer look, we found out that it was a swarm of bees! They seemed quite calm so we hoped they might disperse, but they didn't. By Monday evening we realised something had to be done so I asked around and as a result contacted Philip at The Cottage.



He came round straight away. We knew there was a bees' nest 30ft up in a nearby ash tree and he explained that a new queen had hatched in the nest which meant that the existing queen had to leave with all her followers and had made a temporary home in our cherry tree. He promised to return the next day to capture them.

In the morning, clad in appropriate clothing, he spread a white sheet on the ground and eased the swarm into a wicker beehive and inverted it on the sheet. This was left so that bees that had been disturbed could leave and enter via the 'letterbox' in the hive. The bees buzzed in and out but during the day they quietened down. When the rain came the hive was protected from the worst of the weather. Finally, at about 7:00pm two members of Philip's family arrived by car. The hive was wrapped all round in the sheet by someone wearing mask and gauntlets and transported down the hill to The Cottage.

We would like to thank Cathy, Lisa and especially Philip and his family for creating what turned out to be a happy outcome for all concerned. We had also done our bit for conservation by protecting the all-important bees. - *From Anne Bulling*

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,

*Peter Sampson*

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/birchanger/](http://www.facebook.com/birchanger/)



[magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com)



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## Stop the Night Flights Now

We seem to have been plagued by the threat of night flights for years and it has always been dumped on Stansted from the day that the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) came on the scene. The wealthy burghers of Manchester just want to sleep undisturbed in their beds, watch the money roll in and leave the sleepless nights to the true Nimby's around Stansted Airport. This is something the government should sort out and it looks like that it will now be left for the new Party to sort out. I don't have too much faith of that happening anytime soon. They have to realise that disturbed sleep is a real problem to health. Just because it affects fewer people doesn't make it right.

## Happy Birthday Heather Brown - 90 Years Old in May

Our well-known Birchanger Artist celebrated her 90th Birthday on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Many homes in Birchanger have one of her pictures somewhere and she is well known for capturing familiar scenes around Birchanger, as well as local dogs. Many dog owners have a portrait of their pets painted by Heather. It was her expertise and knowledge which masterminded the very successful art show which was held for several years in the village. Well done Heather and here's to the next ten years.



## How Do You Know the Man on Your Doorstep is a Real Policeman?

He looks the ticket, smart uniform, polite manner but how do you know he is the genuine article? Police officers should identify themselves, and show you their warrant card, which is proof of their identity and authority and will tell you their reason for visiting you. If they phone you, remember real police will never ask for your bank details, transfer funds, ask you to pay a fine, or get access to your computer to "assist" in an investigation. Genuine Policemen will never send you unsolicited emails, or ask for your computer logins or passwords.

**Uniform and Equipment:** Real police officers typically wear a uniform with their name and badge number on the front. Look for a utility belt with equipment like handcuffs, a flashlight, and other tools commonly carried by officers. Pay attention to the vehicle: Legitimate police cars have reflective decals, flashing LED bar lights, and often use a warning siren during stops.

**Badge and Identification:** Ask to see the officer's badge with the badge number. Legitimate officers carry a card (similar to a driver's license) that identifies them. Be aware that some officers (such as detectives) wear plain clothes, but they should still carry proper identification.

**Call for Verification:** If in doubt, call 911 to verify the officer's identity. Dispatchers can confirm whether the person is a legitimate officer.

## More Women Police Officers in Essex

In fact, there are 107 more this year. Being a policewoman officer is worth considering as you leave school or university. Once in the police there are many choices open to you. You might consider CID for instance, or perhaps being a local police officer might suit you better. Worth considering. There are many career path choices in the police. Might be worth finding out more on 101.

## Are You Worried You Could Be Homeless?

For lots of people paying the rent or mortgage is the biggest monthly outgoing they face and probably the one they worry about the most. Many people just bury the problem and hope it goes away. It really is better to get free advice which you can do now via Uttlesford's Social Outreach Service, and tell your mortgage provider that you are struggling. The Service is available between 10.00am and 2.00pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Saffron Walden Community Link. It could be a good time to check your options in case the financial situation tightens up.

## What To Do in The Long School Holidays

Changing Lives is a non-profit organisation which has a base at Forest Hall School in Forest Hall Road, Stansted Mountfitchet. They may have an activity or program to suit your family. On offer are sports and other activities programs at different levels designed to suit most children. Changing Lives aim to run varied programs at different levels not just in holiday time but throughout the year. Changing Lives can be contacted on 0191 273 8891

## 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 July 31st at 1066 Adventure Golf Elsenham**

[bags@birchanger.com](mailto:bags@birchanger.com)

**Olivia: 07568 574703**

**Rosemary: 01279 814678**



## Scam Alert

So called Courier Fraud seems to be the flavour of the month for scammers. You get a call purporting to be from your bank to tell you that there is a problem with your card and they need to have the card so

that they can check it out and they will send a courier to collect it. You won't be surprised to learn that you will wait a long time for the return of your card and in the meantime, money disappears from your account! If this happens to you, call your bank immediately.



### Shop lifting is Easy. Think Again

Not so easy anymore because a special anti-shoplifting team is being very active with 51 people already facing special courts and sentencing and the work continues. This is a boost for local businesses who up to now might well have thought that nobody was interested in their losses to shoplifting. One hot spot for this kind of activity is the motorway service station. Businesses there suffer all the time. This area could use some police action to be effective for a start. So many Poppy collection tins were stolen from there, that nobody puts collection tins there anymore as they know they are very likely to disappear.

### Stop That Bike or Moped Disappearing Now

It only takes a few seconds to steal a motorbike, moped or scooter if it has been left with poor security. Here are some ideas which could make your bike harder to steal. Use a disc lock to secure the front brake disc or alternatively a grip lock to secure brake and throttle controls. Stop them wheeling away your bike by using a chain lock through the back wheel. If you can use a piece of road furniture or if you have a bike anchor, always remember to use it. Use the rear wheel as a place to secure the chain. Thieves shop to order. They don't like covers as their theft must be speedy. Try and cover your bike as uncovering it by the thief adds seconds on to a hoped-for speedy getaway. We can't stop the thieves, but we can make it a bit more difficult for them. Just one conviction can close the doors to many opportunities later in life.

### Living Life as it is

Things have changed fast in the past ten years. So-called White-Collar Crime is something which was rarely heard of a decade ago. There were always swindlers and tricksters, but it seems that more and more people are having a crack at it. So, most of us find ourselves going to greater lengths to keep our personal safety and identification intact. Now, more than ever, we are told we must destroy all receipts and post with our names on them. So many of us are finding items on our statements which we never bought, which you must report to your credit card company asap. Keep your receipts until you have agreed your credit card statements with them. When cleared then you could shred them, but keep them secure until then. It is horrid to have to live this way. Times have changed, and not for the best for most of us.

### Driving Into Danger

Not one to try on your way home. True all the same. One driver fed up with all the heavy traffic on his way home decided to use another and apparently less busy lane. Not exactly his best idea as he ended up driving the wrong way on the opposing carriageway. Result? He survived, but his driving days are over for now! However, one elderly gentleman who had close associations with Birchanger, became confused and drove all the way from Junction 8 to Harlow on the northbound carriageway completely unscathed. That is highly unlikely to happen now, although some of us may have found something driving towards them very late at night I am told!

### Noisy Aggressive Vehicles Plague Birchanger

You may have heard them, or actually been forced into the side of the road by them, these noisy vehicles, driving at high speed through the village, thus putting at risk any road user who is unfortunate enough to be using the lane at the time. They are aggressive and rude to anyone whom they have just managed to avoid and have only appeared in the village in the past three months. If you are unfortunate enough to encounter such driving in the lane, try and get the registration number if you can and perhaps a brief description of the vehicle to the police. Or tell me about it on 812793.

### Halfway Through the Year Already

A scary thought, at least it is for me. The thought of present buying for all those relatives you never really see is to say the least a very daunting prospect. I wonder if you just sent back the gift they gave you last year, would they notice? Most distant relatives seem to have a very narrow idea of what an acceptable present is as the same old thing pops back year after year. What would happen if we just stopped sending them presents? Would they even notice? Perhaps I could download some of that holiday trash which looked great on holiday but terrible at home. I mentioned the idea of no presents to my sister, and she was so upset I had to drop the subject. She actually likes shopping especially the whole Christmas present thing. I am not getting away with anything there. Ok, it is just mid-summer, months to go before Christmas but after the school holidays are over the Autumn starts and it is downhill all the way from there.

### D-Day Anniversary Attracts Big Crowd at the Club



Birchanger Sports & Social Club did what they do best on the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Once again the club hosted a major event in the village supplying food and drinks to onlookers at the lighting of the Beacon. Well done Terry and the team for an amazing day.



### ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

[enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com](mailto:enviroelectricalservices@gmail.com)



**DANIEL ROSS**  
**07703484090**

City & Guilds Qualified  
Part P Registered  
DBS Checked

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



**Taylor Landscapes**  
Landscapes For Living

  
07941 357934

  
[mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net](mailto:mark.taylor@taylorsvcs.net)

   
@TaylorLandscapesLtd



# BPC Object To New Planning Application for 12 more Caravans on Existing Greenbelt Site!

**Birchanger Parish Council has sent an objection to Uttlesford District Council regarding the planning application for 12 more caravans to be installed on the existing caravan site at the end of Birchanger Lane and A120 junction. The following is a copy of the letter sent to UDC:**

The site is within the Green Belt. The NPPF clearly states “Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.” There are no very special circumstances which would justify approval of this application and is another attempt to destroy the Green Belt around Birchanger.

In 2018 the applicants were given planning permission to erect stables on an adjoining area of Green Belt. However, stables were not built but instead caravans were illegally moved onto the site. Enforcement action was taken but the PINS Inspector found there were very special circumstances, specifically the health and educational needs of the traveller families, and the appeal was allowed, with certain conditions. See APP/C1570/C/18/3219384

One of these conditions was not met within the prescribed timescale. A retrospective planning application was made which was refused by UDC. At appeal the PINS Inspector confirmed there were very special circumstances, as before, and the appeal was allowed with extra conditions around noise pollution. See UTT/22/3094/FUL APP/C1570/C/23/3324961.

In both cases only the six named traveller families residing on the site would be allowed to remain there.

The Appeal Decision, dated January 23, 2024, paragraph 13 states “it is clear that there is harm to the green belt from the introduction of mobile homes, touring caravans, hardstanding, fencing, gates, vehicles and domestic paraphernalia.”

This latest application is for 6 more pitches on a site only approved for 6 and would clearly be against conditions 1, 3 & 5, listed in the January 2024 Appeal Decision. Indeed, we have to ask why it is listed as a standalone planning application and the UDC planning portal shows no related cases when clearly there are.

There are no special circumstances to allow this Green Belt intrusion. There are no families already living on these proposed pitches. Indeed, the site is extremely uneven and would need major work carried out to level it, destroying more flora and fauna. Furthermore, there is an attenuation pond in the area between the proposed bund and the A120 installed as part of the flood prevention element of the roadworks. This pond, being so close to the proposed site, would be very dangerous to any children or animals allowed to run around unsupervised

The Green Belt at this point in Uttlesford is a very narrow strip of land and avoids coalescence between neighbouring communities and counties. Indeed, if this application is approved it will bring Birchanger, Essex, within almost touching distance of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Birchanger Parish Council urge UDC to refuse this application and protect the Green Belt.

Residents wishing to object or otherwise comment can email or post as follows:

- Email to [planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk)
- Write to Planning, Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11

You must include your name, signature and address plus the planning reference UTT/24/1282/FUL.

## Complaints of Helicopter Noise

Now the summer months are here, and windows and doors are open, aircraft and helicopter noise is more noticeable. Helicopters, especially those who fly directly over the village are a real nuisance. Helicopters have been instructed to take a flight path around Birchanger, so if you see them overhead you should report them. You can report them online by copying and pasting the Stansted Airport Watch link:

<https://stanstedairportwatch.com/take-action/report-noisy-aircraft/#:~:text=You%20can%20also%20use%20this,direct%20on%200800%20243%20788>

You can also use this form to complain about helicopter disturbance, air quality, aircraft fumes and oily droplets. When completed and submitted online on this website, this form will automatically be sent to Stansted Airport Noise Line. You can also phone direct on 0800 243 788, or email: [Stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com](mailto:Stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com).

## Birchanger Allotments Available



There are three allotments up for grabs. If you like the fresh air and a little exercise to grow your own fruit and veg for just £75 deposit and £20 per year you can have your very own plot.

The parish council is currently clearing the plots, installing new fencing and cutting back trees. Interested? Please phone the Clerk on 01279 814473.



# what's on in the village...



July 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: 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> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	<b>2</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance <b>St. Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 10.30 am Coffee Morning	<b>3</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>4</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>5</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>6</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat Draw	<b>7</b> <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 am Family Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>8</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>9</b> <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>10</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>11</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>12</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>13</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance Kids <b>BSSC:</b> BSDPL Pool Final 13.00 Meat draw 21.00 the Weirdest Thing - LIVE	<b>14</b> <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>15</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>16</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>17</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>18</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>19</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>20</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance Kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw ABBA Dancing Queens - LIVE	<b>21</b> <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 Matins Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>22</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>23</b> <b>Garden Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>24</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>25</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>26</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 - 10.30 Apton Dance 11.00 Pilates 15.30 Ellouise Dance	<b>27</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 - 12.00 Apton Dance for kids <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw 20.00 Tascha's Big Quiz	<b>28</b> <b>St Mary's</b> <b>Church:</b> 11.15 am Holy Communion Service <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
<b>29</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30-12.00 Baby Massage 16.00-18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.00 Apton Dance	<b>30</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.45-10.45 Ballet 18.00 - 21.00 Apton Dance	<b>31</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				



Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool - Football - Cricket - Bowls

## Sports & Social Club News



BIRCHANGER SOCIAL CLUB IS DELIGHTED TO HOST THE

### BSDPL POOL LEAGUE FINALS DAY

BSDPL FINALS PLAYED 12pm-8pm  
FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATIONS AND RAFFLE

### OPEN POOL COMPETITIONS

ONE FRAME SHOOT-OUT, SPEED POOL AND POOL SOLITAIRE  
COMPETITIONS RUNNING FROM 12PM  
EVERYONE WELCOME TO ENTER

HOT FOOD ON SALE ALL DAY

RAFFLE

DJ

**Saturday 13 July 2024**

BAR OPEN FROM 12pm - LATE

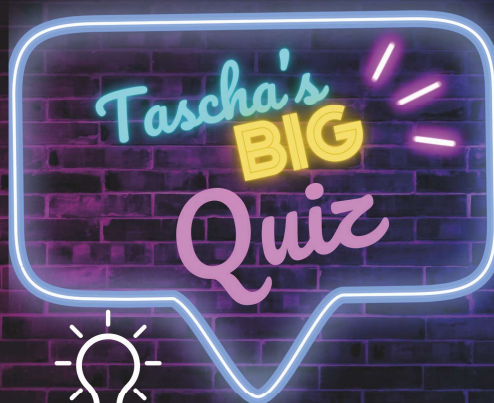
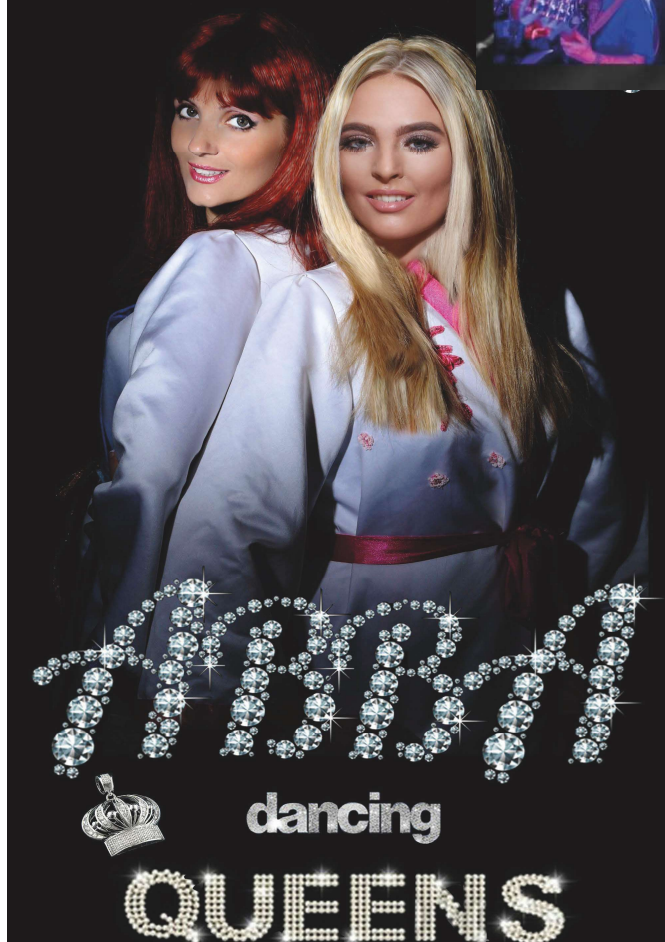
### THE WEIRDEST THING

Sat 13 July



ROCK, POP AND CLASSIC COVERS

Saturday 20 July 2024



**Saturday  
27<sup>th</sup> July**

PRIZES TO BE  
WON, BOOKING  
IS  
RECOMMENDED

8PM START

Birchanger Sports & Social Club  
229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, CM23 5QJ  
Tel: 01279 813441 Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)  
[www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



THE  
**Harmonaires**  
CHOIR

**The Harmonaires Concert:  
'Women in Song'**

**Saturday 13th July 7.00 pm The Methodist Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford**

Join us for a summer evening recital celebrating the outstanding music of female composers and lyricists. With a broad range of genres, discover new classics from composers such as Quartel, Daley, Simons, Perry and more. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the charity Refuge, supporting women and children. Tickets at £10, children free from [www.theharmonaireschoir.com](http://www.theharmonaireschoir.com).



The Bishop's Stortford based choir was formed just over 9 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley and is going from strength to strength, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fund-raising concerts locally. A quote from one of the judges at the MACC choir competition described The Harmonaires' performance as a "superb presentation from this tight ensemble. All-in-all an example of accessible, varied programming of pieces, performed to an extremely high standard." For more information about the choir visit their website above.



We've had a wonderful start to the last half term of our academic year. Katie from Pop-up Play Village held an amazing session for our children at the village hall on Tuesday 12th June. There was a hairdressers, a construction site, a veterinary centre, a hospital and much more. The children were so engaged, it was fantastic to see their wonderful imaginative play and the smiles on their faces.



On Friday 14th June we invited parents and carers into the pre-school for a Father's Day breakfast, the parents enjoyed sausage baps and a stay and play session with their children.

This is always our busiest half term as we prepare our older children for their transition to big school, we have Sports Day, our Summer/Leavers Party, and our end of year trip to Daisy May's Farm to look forward to.

We still have some places left for September 2024 and accept both the 2-year working parent funding and the 30-hour funding. If you would like to come and have a look around our pre-school, please do get in touch either by email [admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk) or telephone 01279 810800.

*Clare Brace, Pre-school Administrator,*

**u3a** Stansted Mountfitchet

For the first time in its history the u3a nationally is holding a Festival this July. u3a Festival 24 will take place in the beautiful city of York over 3 days from 18-20th July and will be held at the University of York based around their exhibition centre. Members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment, and workshops - which will make this u3a national festival something to remember. A number of members from Stansted Mountfitchet will be going, including one or two from the committee, so we hope to bring back lots of fresh ideas for our own u3a going forward.

This month the Garden Group will be visiting David and Anne Willet's Garden in Little Hadham. David, who, in February, entertained us with a talk on Famous Gardens, is a member of Thorley u3a and opens his garden annually in aid of charity.

May's Saturday seminar plunged into a highly contested controversy in palaeontology. Did birds evolve from dinosaurs or reptiles? Our speaker, Mike Howgate, began by saying, very forcefully, that he was going to give the minority view, speak against the conventional wisdom of the day and argue that it was from reptiles. He gave a witty, compelling, and fascinating account of his views, tracing the theory of flight from reptiles such as Longisquama Insignis, and denouncing the arguments that flight evolved from dinosaurs. Such was the combative nature of his argument, that it left us all wanting more. So, watch this space - it may be that the dinosaur pathway will get an airing soon too!

For more information, got to our website:  
[u3asites.org.uk/stansted](http://u3asites.org.uk/stansted) or phone 07874385541

*Susan Sedgebeer*



**TC TREE SURGERY**  
& GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

**AVAILABLE FOR :**

- CROWN REDUCTION/ THINNING - TREE  
REMOVAL - POLLARDING - FELLING -  
SITE CLEARANCE - FENCING - DECKING -  
TURFING - GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING -  
CONTRACT MAINTENANCE

**CALL OR EMAIL FOR A FREE NO  
OBLIGATION QUOTE**

**TEL : 07834 785716 / 01279 850257**  
**EMAIL : [TCTREESURGERY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TCTREESURGERY@GMAIL.COM)**

**[WWW.TCTREESURGERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.TCTREESURGERY.CO.UK)**





## Is Stansted A Stimulus Or Drain On The UK Economy?

The aviation industry is always keen to emphasise its importance to the UK economy. However, official figures published on 17th May by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reveal the true economic impact of air travel, and it is not good news for the UK economy.

UK residents made 86.2 million visits abroad in 2023, spending £72.4 billion, of which £15 billion was in Spain, the top destination. By comparison, overseas residents made 38.0 million visits to the UK and spent some £31.1 billion.

It can be seen that outbound trips by UK residents are more than double the number of inbound trips by foreign visits to the UK, and the amount spent overseas by UK residents is far more than double (2.3 times) the amount spent by foreign visitors to the UK.

The overall impact on the UK balance of payments in 2023 was an outflow (i.e. a trade deficit) of £41.3 billion. Stansted accounted for an estimated £4.3 billion of this deficit.

The ONS figures actually understate the impact on the UK trade deficit because they only reflect spending during the visit and do not include the air fares. When a UK resident buys an air ticket from a foreign airline, the cost is (rightly) shown as an import in the UK balance of payments accounts. Conversely, when a foreign resident buys an air ticket from a UK airline, this is shown as an export.

At one time, the UK generated a substantial trade surplus on the sale of air tickets. Sadly, that is no longer the case due to the growth of foreign-owned airlines, not least the Irish airline Ryanair which accounts for four out of every five Stansted passengers. The latest ONS figures show a £4.8 billion UK trade deficit on air ticket sales.

The UK aviation industry is increasingly dominated by foreign-owned airlines, and it is also increasingly dominated by leisure travel. Business travel is in steady long-term decline.

Since the year 2000 business travel has declined from being 20% of all UK passengers to just 10% of all passengers last year. The latest available data for Stansted show that business travel accounted for just 8.4% of all passengers. The decline in business travel is believed to be driven by environmental concerns, cost considerations and increased use of videoconferencing. The likelihood is that this will continue.

In recent polling of six Western European countries, including the UK, just 19% of business travellers said that 'if they didn't fly for the next 5 years' it would 'limit their ability to do their job properly' – hardly a ringing endorsement of air travel's importance to business.

One final economic question for those familiar with Stansted Airport: How does it benefit the UK economy to support an Irish airline, which only buys American aircraft powered by American jet engines, and whose main activity is to transport millions of British people to spend their money in other countries? Answers on a postcard please!

*Brian Ross*

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

To write this, I looked back on last year's pictures for comparison. This year, in June we were ahead on some of the core jobs around the Gardens, such as reshaping umbrellas of the Portuguese laurels in the Italian Garden. And the fern rill and the wildflower spiral features that were in the mind's eye last year have now come into their own. But in other areas, it has been a struggle – the dahlias and vegetables may or may not have bounced back by the time you read this in July.

Hopefully, though, July will turn into a lovely warm summer month with occasional overnight rain to water the plants! The roses and waterlilies should be at their best in the Italian garden and the walled kitchen garden mixed border should be hot with *Crocsmia*, *Achillea* and *Hemerocallis*. We are keeping our fingers crossed for good numbers of butterflies and perhaps hummingbird hawkmoths supping from the lavender hedges.



D-Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June fortuitously fell on a Thursday and many visitors came to see the Gardens and the wonderful exhibition our archivist had pulled together specially for that Open Thursday. For those who missed it, there will be a further chance to see the exhibition on 21st July on Sunday Open Day when we remember the role of the Gardens and estate in the World Wars. Gates open at 11.00 for visitors, who will also enjoy seeing other exhibitors' stalls and the local Austin 7 club and singing or dancing to Perfect Vintage duo's 1940s songs.

Visitors can bring picnics, and dogs on leads are welcome on our Open Thursdays or our monthly Sunday Open Days. 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*





**The Hundred Parishes Society**

## The Demise of British Railways!

The 19th century was a period of great railway development. Several railways in The Hundred Parishes no longer exist although they played an important role during their hundred-year lifetime.

The Saffron Walden Railway was constructed in 1865. It branched off the London-Cambridge main line and ran from Audley End Station to Saffron Walden. In 1866 it was extended to Bartlow, to link up with the Stour Valley Railway. Following loss of passengers and freight from rail onto road, a report in 1964 by Sir Richard Beeching identified many lines that were now deemed uneconomic; many stations and miles of track were decommissioned, including the Saffron Walden line.

**Ashdon Halt on the Saffron Walden line**

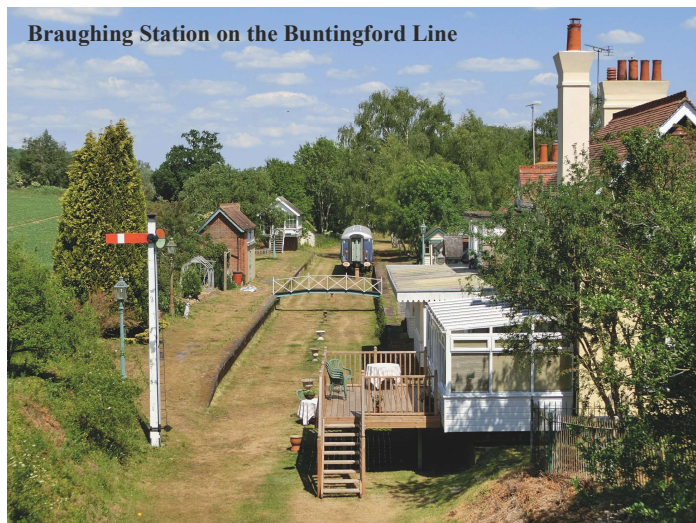


In Hertfordshire, a line ran from St. Margarets to Buntingford, including stations at Braughing, Hadham, Standon and West Mill. The Buntingford Line was closed to passengers in 1964 and goods trains a year later. Buntingford Station, off Aspenden Road, is now a private residence.



Braughing station opened in 1863 and closed in 1964. It too is now a private residence but retains many of the original features including the platform, signal box and signals.

**Braughing Station on the Buntingford Line**



Another line ran from Bishop's Stortford via Dunmow to Braintree. Much of this is now the Flitch Way Country Park, a 15 mile route that was opened in 1994 and is largely maintained by a group of volunteers, Friends of the Flitch Way. It is used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists and is part of National Cycle Network Route 16. The demise of the original rail line can't be blamed on Beeching - it closed in 1952 for financial reasons.

**Takeley Station on the Flitch Way**



Our website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) includes a fuller exploration of local railways under the Articles section, while the Walks section includes routes from current railway stations – plus a new series of Quiet Lane walks that do not use footpaths.

*Ken McDonald, Secretary [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)*

## The Three Horseshoes



**P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton**

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

**Tel: 01279 813429**

Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm      Sunday: 12noon - 3pm



## Village Services and Activities

Service	Contact	Telephone No.
Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814773
Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Beauty - HEH Nails	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810800
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	07527 227943
Handyman	Charlie Grange	07514 783239
Holistic therapy/Reflexology	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814473
Pilates	Mandy Cousins	07713 272664
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628935
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815913
Village Church Hall	Cat Roberson	07475 092658

## St. Mary's Church



### Church services - 11.15 am

7 <sup>th</sup> July	Family Service with Pam Lee
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Matins with Jo Pratt
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather

### Forthcoming Events

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Coffee morning in church at 10.30 am
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Patronal festival
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Evensong
Date to be advised	Strawberry Cream Tea
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening Carol service at 7pm

Continued in right hand column.....

An email from Revd Colin arrived in my inbox regarding a complaint about the state of the churchyard. I am certain that people just do not appreciate what a struggle it is to find the funds to maintain the church and churchyard. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) work hard to keep the books balanced and rely heavily on those who regularly attend church services or visit the tearoom.

PCC members from week to week give freely their time and skills in order to keep our church open and in the best state of repair that they can. In addition, they provide the ingredients and bake the cakes that are available in the tearoom as well as undertaking fundraising whenever they can.

There are a few others in the village who give regular donations to the church and, yes, all of this helps but when you have regard to the fact that our average attendance on a Sunday morning is 8, it is not difficult to see that income is a real worry.

At the Annual Parochial Church Council, we produce accounts showing in detail church income and outgoings for the year. Everyone that attends this meeting can see what a struggle it is to meet all necessary expenses including the cost of maintaining the churchyard and I set out below the figures:

Income for 2023	
Plate and donations	9622
Fundraising and Fees	1007
Tearoom	1289
Gift aid plus Inv. Interest	<u>3449</u>
Total	15367
Outgoings	
Electricity and water rates	3511
Organist and servicing	788
Insurance	1362
Churchyard maintenance	945
Repairs	2267
Cleaning/verger	680
Consumables	697
Parish Share	6634
Covid PS arrears	<u>1469</u>
Total	18353

You can clearly see that last year the church had a shortfall of £3,000. Fortunately, we had some funds in reserve and were able to cover this shortfall but that will not always be the case and the sad fact is that the church does not have sufficient income to do anymore than keep the churchyard as it is so sometimes it will look a bit uncared for and I am sure the wildlife living there will appreciate it.

So, the reality is, if you want your family graves to be tended regularly then please do it yourself or pay for someone to do it for you but please bear in mind that you may not plant anything there other than spring bulbs. No rose bushes or shrubs please as these make it difficult to mow the grass.

Finally, if you move away from the village, please do not complain about the state of the grave that you visit from time to time. If you are not contributing towards the cost of maintaining the church or churchyard then you are being unrealistic if you think that someone else should take on the responsibility of doing so.

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)

## THE THREE WILLOWS



Fine dining, takeaway & good beers. Children and dogs welcome. Bookings: 01279 815913  
Monday to Thursday: 12 to 3pm & 5 to 11pm  
Fri/Sat: 12 to 11pm Sunday: 12 to 7pm

## B.K.AUTO'S

Fully Qualified And Insured  
Mobile Mechanic

Located within Birchanger,  
all makes and models serviced  
and repaired, including  
4x4 & commercials



Contact: Ben  
07786461813

## D. Bonney & Sons



Motor  
Engineers

MOT Testing - Servicing - Diagnostic  
Mechanical Repairs  
Selection of New and Used Cars

Yew Tree Corner, Manuden  
Ring Malc or Niel on  
01279 813315 or 01279 815946

## State Registered Chiropodist

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Home Visiting Practice

Est 1994  
Tel: 01279 873492  
Mob: 07916075451  
Dunmow Road  
Takeley CM22 6SH

## Painting & Decorating



Bring new life to  
your home  
Interior - Exterior  
General Maintenance  
No job too small

David

Debnam

Tel: 01279 815214 Mob: 07973861268



Grass & Hedge  
Cutting  
Fencing  
Turving  
Patio & Driveway Cleaning  
Grounds Maintenance Contracts

Contact Will Grange - 07516783138



WASH & IRON SERVICE  
CLOTHES - BEDDING - DUVETS

Opening Times  
Mon - Fri 9.00 am - 6.00 pm  
Sat - Sun 9.00 am - 6.00 pm

Hockerill Lights, Bishop's Stortford  
Large car park at rear  
Tel: 01279 866183



## Aerial Satellite AV Security

- Aerial Installations
- Sky Installations & Subscriptions
- CCTV & Security Alarms
- Freesat Installations & Receivers
- Audio Visual Installations
- Multiroom Music & TV Distribution
- Wireless & Wired Networks
- TV Wall Mounting Services
- Family Run Business



01279 656 983 - 0800 587 2556

Unit 1, Suite 1 Peak Business Centre, Woodside Industrial Estate, Bishops Stortford CM23 5RG

## Wireless Security

Intruder alarms



Intruder alarms have never been so  
simple to install,  
operate, maintain and clean.

Mediacoms uses the latest  
technology to keep you & your  
property secure.

YOUR HOME AND COMMERCIAL SECURITY INSTALLER  
ALARMS CCTV DOOR ENTRY GATE AUTOMATION

[www.mediacomms.co.uk](http://www.mediacomms.co.uk)

[info@mediacomms.co.uk](mailto:info@mediacomms.co.uk)



## Perfectly Pampered

Complementary & Holistic Therapies  
By Shelley Williams MGHT

07476 279262

Birchanger CM23 5QT

The natural approach to the wellbeing of  
women, focusing on relaxation, improving  
sleep, relieving stress, fatigue and anxiety  
through reflexology, facial and body massage  
therapies.

MGHT Accredited & Insured



Friendly, Professional & Reliable  
Sustainable Garden Services Provider  
Gardening, Landscapes & Tree Works

Tel: 01799 543483 Mob: 07866 752713

One off Garden Tidies	Regular Garden Maintenance
Hard & Soft Landscaping	Tree Pruning, Felling & Reductions
Hedge Cutting & Trimming	Fencing & Timber Structures
Advice & Planning	Traditional Countryside Crafts
Planting and Plant Sourcing	Leaf & Snow Clearance
Log Splitter & Operator Hire	Soil, Log & Aggregate Delivery
Chipper & Operator Hire	

Free No Obligation Quotes  
[www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk](http://www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk)

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.

Printers: Keeley & Lowe Tel: 020 7729 3350 - Email: [info@keeleylowe.com](mailto:info@keeleylowe.com)

Editor: Peter Sampson Tel: 0781 7904333 Email: [magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com)

Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin.

Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.