



Birchanger Village Magazine

August 2024

Issue 259



Planning Application Updates

As previously reported in this magazine, two current planning applications pose a threat to our Green Belt. Here is an update on both these planning applications.

The Travellers Site



The existing travellers site is currently undergoing renovation, partly to comply with the conditions set out by the planning inspectorate after the travellers appeal was granted. However, it appears that they have gone beyond just fulfilling those conditions and have vastly improved the site as a whole.

On 15 May the travellers submitted a planning application to **double the size** of the existing site on Birchanger's Green Belt, near the A120, by adding another 12 caravans.

Development on any Green Belt site is contrary to Government policy and should only ever be approved under very special circumstances. We need to do our best to protect Birchanger's Green Belt and so local residents are being encouraged by both the Parish Council and the Residents Association to object to this planning application.

We understand that this application will not be decided at the July meeting of Uttlesford Planning Committee but may be decided at their meeting on 21 August. It is therefore not too late to object. More than 200 village residents have already done so. You can object by simply sending an email to: planning@uttlesford.gov.uk with a few sentences saying why you object to the application. Put "Planning Application UTT/24/1282/FUL" in the subject box and provide your name and address at the foot of your email.

The most important point to make is that the site is on Birchanger's Green Belt and the Government's policy is that all land designated as Green Belt should be protected from development. You can add any further points that you feel are appropriate.

The Paddock



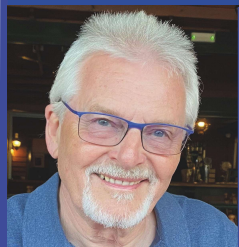
This planning application seeks permission to build nine houses on the paddock adjacent to the sand track. Importantly, the paddock is designated Green Belt land and there is a presumption against allowing any development on the Green Belt. The paddock is also outside the village development limits.

The application was submitted as far back as 8 March and Uttlesford originally set a determination deadline of 8 May. However, at time of going to press, this application has still not been determined and we have no information as to when it might be determined.

It is understood that the reason for the delay is that the applicant asked for more time to address the many objections submitted from local residents as well as from the Parish Council and Residents Association. To date, some 120 objections have been submitted.

If you have not yet submitted an objection and wish to do so, the procedure is simple. Just send an email to: planning@uttlesford.gov.uk with a few sentences saying why you object to the application. Put "Planning Application UTT/24/0642/FUL" in the subject box and provide your name and address at the foot of your email.

Again, the most important point to make is that the site forms part of Birchanger's Green Belt and is outside the village development limit. There are also serious access issues with the site. You can add any further points that you feel are appropriate.



Cyber Crime Continues to Affect Individuals Across the Country

32.7% of people surveyed by Neighbourhood Watch have been a victim of some kind of online scam within the last 12 months.

According to a recent survey from Neighbourhood Watch, nearly a third of Brits surveyed have been victims of cybercrime in the last 12 months, with the most common being telephone or text scams (23.0%), followed by email scams (20.9%) and social media or computer accounts hacked (6.2%).

While information and guidance on spotting and avoiding cybercrime is readily available from organisations including the [NCSC](#) and [Neighbourhood Watch](#), the scammers themselves have been using increasingly sophisticated methods to scam individuals of their money and personal data.

A huge 47.9% of people surveyed see cybercrime as an equal threat to them as physical crime, and 36.9% see it as more of a threat than physical crime, however nearly a fifth (14.2%) would not report incidents of cybercrime.

"In today's connected world, we often share personal information online. While you should always share cautiously, there are ways to be fully empowered online without compromising your safety, privacy or identity. Practicing general caution and having a security software on your devices is imperative," said **Luis Corrons, Security Evangelist for Norton**. "Tools such as Norton Genie can help people detect potential scams. It's also hugely important that when you are targeted by an online scam, you report it to Action Fraud [link: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>] where you can report fraud online and find further advice on protecting yourself and others."

Based on the surveyed base, people from Yorkshire and Humber claim to be the most likely to own a smart device (91.74%), with the smartphone being the most commonly owned smart device (79.5%) – smart fridges were the least commonly owned smart device amongst those surveyed (1.1%), suggesting we're not quite ready for our fridges to tell us when we need to top up the groceries!

The survey also found that less than a quarter of people surveyed (22%) have anti-virus software installed on their computers, and less than three-quarters of those who do (71.3%) keep the software updated, despite cybercrime being considered as an equal threat to physical crime. Several companies offer free anti-virus software, including Avast, whose Avast One product is free and available to all.

According to the survey, cyber-attacks led to 15% of people surveyed losing money, with 17.2% losing up to £2,000, and over 14% losing more than £2,000. It's clear that the emotional impact of being a victim of cybercrime is huge, with over a third of people surveyed (37%) saying they felt unsafe, 30.9% saying they felt anxious or depressed as a result, and some saying their personal relationships and professional reputations were damaged.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch said, "Neighbourhood Watch was founded to help people protect themselves and their communities. While traditionally people view Neighbourhood Watch as largely focused on physical crime, over recent years our members recognise the very real threat that cybercrime poses to themselves, their friends, family, and neighbours. We've heard countless stories from our members about the increase in scams, phishing and hacking they've been subjected to, with a significant portion of our membership feeling more at risk of cybercrime than physical crime. Our Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors play a vital role in supporting our members to know how to spot, report and avoid falling victim to cybercrime. They also empower our members to enjoy the internet and online services happily and safely."

Members of the public can register for free to join Neighbourhood Watch as a member or volunteer here:
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>

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

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

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Childcare Stress

As the school holidays are beginning many parents will be getting stressed over childcare during the school holidays. You might be lucky enough to be going away but what about all the weeks you aren't? Grandparents may not be available or even prepared to take on a lively brood of grandchildren for a lengthy period. More and more employers are thinking that working from home may no longer be a good idea and insisting that their staff should be spending more time actually in the office. The concerns and costs of childcare grow every year and good childcare is very hard to find. Relatives seem to be "busy" or thinking about going away themselves. The excuses go on and on. Friends sometimes come together sharing childcare between them with four or five friends each taking time off once a week to look after the rest of the group's children. That idea works well amongst groups of friends with each adult taking one day off and looking after the other children. Essex County Council have many schemes available to join in most of the larger towns and you could always check what is going on locally. Working from home is a difficult if not an impossible option for so many people. One of the best options is to see what your local school has to offer. There is often a great deal going on there sometimes with lunch included and well worth checking out the different schemes. Maybe if we do work from home and produce better results employers might become happier about parents working from home.

NO PARKING RESIDENTS ONLY

Peak Month for Airport Related Parking

Remember last year? Cars left outside Birchanger homes often causing traffic problems while their owners are away sunning themselves on some overcrowded beach. No doubt they are totally oblivious to the situation they left behind. Most roads in Birchanger are only single carriageway at best. Airport related parking is far from welcome. Airport related parking can be reported to Uttlesford District Council or Stansted Airport. The number to call is **0800 731 2385**. Residents can also report any issues using the online form www.stanstedatf.com/fly-parking-local-access/ If the car is parked in a way which causes an obstruction it should be reported to the police on 101 straight away.

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 25th September 7.45 for 8.00 pm

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Are We Throwing Out the Baby With the Bathwater?

There is a great deal of pressure on mothers to return to work as soon as possible or at least as the baby's first year comes to an end. Is this really the right way of bringing up children? Some mothers can't wait to go back to work, but others who often don't want to admit it find the whole process heart breaking and they feel pressured into believing that there is no alternative. Not every mother can afford to put into place the sort of childcare which would be best for their child. There simply are not enough really good affordable childcare facilities for the over one-year olds. Some mothers are pushed into leaving their child with unwilling relatives where the child may not be guaranteed effective day care. Others feel trapped into staying home when they really want or need to return to work. Daycare places for under twos can also be very hard to find. They vary considerably across the country and the demand for places in the better units is high. What is the answer? Possibly we should ease the pressure on parents so that they do not feel it is obligatory to return to work when the baby is just one year old. There is usually better maternity care for mothers, but care in some areas slips as the child approaches its first birthday. There should be more subsidised playgroups, baby gyms and places where mothers are encouraged to meet with their babies and young children. Years ago, every child was toilet trained and no mother would dream of sending an untrained child to school unless there were other serious underlying problems facing the child. Now mothers are turned away from schools in their first week because their children still wear nappies. Push mothers back to work fine, but who then is really taking responsibility for their very young children? We care for women from the start of their pregnancy, but no care is guaranteed for their babies until they start school. What about the years between?

Check Before You Check-In

Despite the fact that most travellers go through Stansted Airport for a well-earned holiday with no problems whatsoever, there are many disasters at check-in which could have been avoided. And those manning the gates can be unforgiving! Have you checked if you need a visa, permit, or that you have certain stamps in your passport which the country you are about to visit does not like? Is your luggage overweight? If it is, some airlines will not permit you to board with it. Abandoning your luggage at the gate is not exactly a good way to start a holiday. Check with airline online and make sure your luggage complies with the airline's rules and regulations as they could all be different. The most frequently used airline is one of the worst. Have you any allergies? Make sure all your medication is with your hand luggage and you have a copy of your prescription in your hand luggage if you are asked about these medications. If you are flying with a very young baby, the air pressure can affect them on take-off and landing. It helps to either feed them a bottle or let them use a dummy so that they can be induced to swallow to relieve the pressure. If you need a wheelchair or support at the airport, please let them know in good time.

At some airports you need to book your car parking space. Make sure you choose a reputable parking firm and try to find out what happens to your car once you hand it over. Some are used or loaned out while you are away. Check your mileage as you deposit your car and again when you return. If you are not too exhausted, happy holiday.

Who Is Vulnerable?

Everyone is to a certain degree. We are all vulnerable when we are ill, overworked and stressed out, working too hard, suffering long term sickness or disability or a personal problem. In fact, anything which takes up all our attention. When we are travelling, how many times do you hear of people who have lost documents, keys, or personal baggage. These were normal people who didn't think they were vulnerable at the time. It is very easy to take your eye off the ball and the scammers know that. As did that kind man who wants to help you and next thing your document and money have disappeared. The person who offers to clean or service your car, you trusted him but now there is no car, and you cannot contact him. There may be daily ordinary events like shopping, going to work when someone somewhere will offer to help you in some way. They seem helpful and kind and all you were told about trusting strangers is forgotten. A favourite place is the self-service till. You are trying to operate the machine while the handbag you left beside it is losing its contents. Watch out as you do all your normal daily things. Make sure your bag and wallet are closed and in a safe place when you are out and about. Yes, smile and talk to strangers, but remember everyone is vulnerable but not everyone is a friend.



Watch Out There Are Police Teams About

Concerned that speeding is the probable factor in many accidents, the police have created special speed teams who are patrolling

throughout the county hoping to decrease speeding and make local roads safer places to drive on this summer. Probably not too popular with some but if fewer people are hurt this summer, it will be a benefit to all. Anyone who has ever been in a motor accident will know how terrifying it can be and for most, the whole experience is one they never want to repeat. So, watch out, there are speed teams about.

Police Teams Issued With Lifesaving Kits

Police are often the first on the scene when an accident is reported. They often find themselves in a position where urgent medical help is required. Frontline police officers are now equipped with specialist bleed prevention kits that will help them give better emergency care until medical assistance arrives. The kits contain a trauma dressing, a chest seal, tourniquet, gloves, scissors, a foil blanket, and a mouth guard for giving CPR. The kit will supplement their existing first aid packs.

What Would You Do If Someone Chucked a Brick Through Your Window?

Panic probably, then feel very angry. They are not going to get away with it, or are they? The truth is that they probably will. If the incident has just happened call the police on 101. They will want to know if this is just an isolated incident or if it has happened before.



They also want to know the approximate size of the smashed window. Whether the police are going to come or not the house holders first job is to try and get the window fixed before nightfall. Check your insurance company to see if it could be covered by insurance and if not check online to find local glaziers, the police do not have information on these to give

you. If the premises are rented tell the landlord or the council, if you have a council tenancy, tell them straight away.

Beware of Buying Tickets Online

A friend's big birthday was ruined last year when the tickets her husband had bought for a well-known West End show proved to be totally useless phoneys on the night.



There are plenty of phoney tickets for big football matches out there as well. You may want to see that game really badly, but check out just who is selling those tickets and where was the source. Make sure if you do decide to buy that you use your credit card. At least that way you will have some protection.

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u3a

Stansted Mountfitchet

This year Stansted u3a's AGM was held on Thursday 20th June. Three members of the committee, the Chairman, Treasurer and Speaker Secretary completed their terms of office and nominations for all three posts, together with a remaining vacancy for a Publicity Coordinator had been received. The voting for all four positions was unanimous and the results were as follows:

Chair: Pauline Green
Treasurer: Gaynor Mordcovich
Speaker Secretary: Steve Riley
Publicity Coordinator: Susan Sedgebeer

At a time when the weather was still proving extremely variable the Garden Group continued with its summer program of visits and enjoyed a private tour of the half-acre NGS garden, "Pear Trees" at Wimbish which has been lovingly developed over the last three decades. Enjoying a conducted tour by the owner, Julie Bayliss, they found inspiration in the ancient Apple and Pear trees which were underplanted with a large variety of flowering bulbs. There were herbaceous borders to enjoy and a beautiful, productive vegetable garden too. However, in the face of wet weather the group were delighted to return to the house for home-made cakes and tea in the kitchen and delightful garden room.

The speaker for the August general meeting will be former USAAF fighter pilot Don Mobley who now lives in Stowupland, Suffolk, and runs the u3a Flight Inspirations Group.

Don has also been an airline pilot and an FAA Aviation Safety Technician. His talk at our meeting on 15th August is entitled, "And Over Here": a history of USA wartime aviation in East Anglia.

Finally, do please remember that new members will always be very welcome to try out any class before committing. Do check out the website: u3asites.org.uk/stansted or phone 07874385541 to find out more information about the variety of activities on offer.

John Hudson

Closure of Community Tea Room

The Community Tea Room that has operated in the Village Church Hall every Wednesday afternoon for the last nine years is to close at the end of July 2024.

The Tea Room was started in 2015 by Trudy Revell, then hall manager, and Pam Lee. The idea was conceived as a community project to provide somewhere in the village where friends could meet in pleasant surroundings, once a week, for a pot of tea and a slice of homemade cake. It has been run by volunteers ever since.

However, over the last eighteen months the numbers using the tearoom have decreased considerably and currently only a tiny handful of people use it regularly. Cakes are made each week and are not being used, which is a waste of time and effort.

Therefore, reluctantly we have decided to close. The last tearoom will be open on 31st July 2024 at 2pm.

Sue Warr and Rosemary Saward



Jocelyn Donoghue

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what's on in the village...



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

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

Sports & Social Club News



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

HORSE RACE

NIGHT



SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST @8:30PM



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BAD MONKEY DRIVER



SATURDAY
31ST AUGUST



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www.birchangerclub.com

A Potted History of Birchanger

Saxon Origins

The village of Birchanger has its origin in a post-Roman Saxon settlement of 5th and 6th centuries. Indeed, the name of the Parish derives from two Saxon words meaning 'birch tree' (or, more probably, 'beech tree') covered 'place' which refers to the wooded hill upon which the Parish Church of St. Mary's and the centre of the Village now stand. Whilst this hill may seem gentle to us it is, nonetheless, one of the highest points in the local area and that, together with the plentiful supply of wood, provided a good settlement site in those times. Later, in the 9th century, Birchanger fell under the Danelaw as part of the uneasy peace agreement between King Alfred and the Danish invader Guthrum.

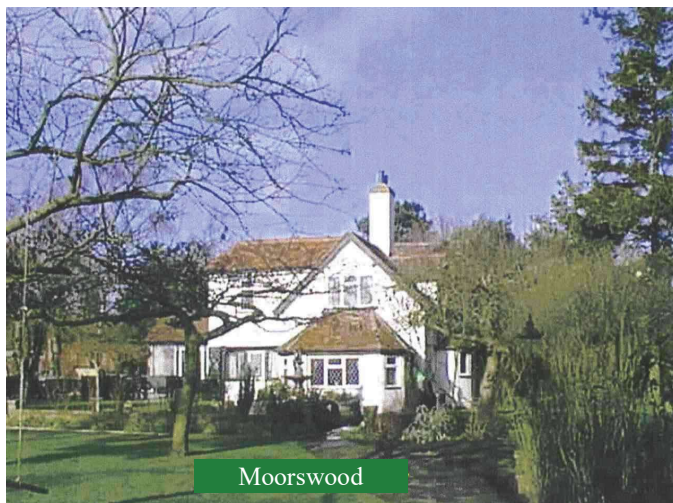
A Domesday Village

Birchanger or Bicangra is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 under the Hundred of Uttlesford with Takely and Stansted and reads "Bicangra was held by Horolf in the time of King Edward (the Confessor) in 1046. Now, Tascalin the priest holds it in almonie of the King. There is woodlands for 28 swine, 5 acres of meadow and 1 mill." Another entry gives its extent as "2 hides (240 acres) and 1 manor". There is also reference to 2 ploughs with their associated oxen, 6 other cattle, 2 horses and 36 goats on 6 acres of meadow. These figures imply a community of some 25 to 30 persons, who would have paid allegiance to the manor, at a time when the population of the nearest major town, St Albans, was only some 200.

The Manor of Birchanger

Birchanger Manor, with the Manor House known to have been located near the existing Church, had, at the survey of 1086, been given to the Abbey of Saint Valery in Picardy. This Abbey had a small Priory, founded in the reign of Henry I at Takeley. The Prior who resided in it was the Procurator General of Saint Valery Abbey and collector for all their lands in England.

The Manor of Birchanger was confirmed as a Monastery by Henry II but was seized by Edward III during his wars with France. It remained in the possession of the Crown until 1391 when it was granted to William of Wykeham for the endowmen of New College, Oxford, which was founded in 1379. The Warden and Scholars of New College from then on leased the Manor collecting feudal dues and periodically holding a Manor Court to settle local disputes. New College remained 'Lord of the Manor' of Birchanger for nearly 500 years until they sold out in 1883. However, vestiges of New College's ownership of the manor still remain in the form of a right to be involved in the selection of candidates to the 'Living' of St Mary's Church.



Moorswood

Historic Buildings

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, the oldest building in Birchanger is St. Mary's Church, built of flint rubble with dressings of limestone and clunch, which dates from the Saxo-Norman period of 1000 to 1199 AD. However, there are also many classic and historic domestic buildings some of which have parts of their construction dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. These include the old village farmhouses of Duck End Farm, Sion House (originally Stansted Mill Farm), and Birchanger Hall farm, together with houses such as Centuries and Old Cottage, that were probably Willow Thatch originally terraces of very small cottages that have become combined into single homes more appropriate to our more affluent living.



Houses such as Spider Cottage (left), Willow Thatch and Moorswood (lower left) have changed and evolved around ancient core structures, prompted by both caring development and disaster recovery, over the years.

Agriculture and Industry

From Saxon times Birchanger has been a farming community with large farms developing around the farmhouses identified above. Two Mills processed grain from the farms and, later as transport links improved, grain found its way to the brewing and distilling industry that grew to feed the London market. However, by the late 1800s farming could not support the whole village and the Brickworks established in the Bradley Common area provided welcome employment feeding the Victorian demand for new building. Throughout the 20th century the sources of employment moved gradually further afield as local jobs declined.



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The Invisible Danger from Aircraft Emissions

A new study by European research group Transport & Environment (T&E) suggests that thousands of cases of high blood pressure, diabetes and dementia across Europe could be linked to tiny particles emitted by planes. Around 52 million people – more than 10% of Europe's population – live within a 20km radius of the 32 busiest airports in Europe (including Stansted) and are particularly exposed to ultrafine particles (UFPs) from aviation, according to new research by CE Delft, commissioned by T&E.

Exposure to UFPs may be associated with 280,000 cases of high blood pressure, 330,000 cases of diabetes, and 18,000 cases of dementia in Europe, according to the new research. UFPs penetrate deep into the body and have been found in the blood, brain and placenta. They are less than 100 nanometres in diameter - approximately 1,000 times smaller than a human hair. To date, there is no regulation on safe levels of UFPs in the air, even though the WHO warned it was a pollutant of emerging concern over 15 years ago.

UFPs from planes are emitted at high altitude and also at take-off and landing, meaning that those living near airports are particularly affected. People living in a 5km radius of an airport breathe air that contains, on average, between 3,000 and 10,000 UFPs per cubic centimetre.

The study found that using 'better quality' jet fuel can reduce UFPs by up to 70%. The cleaner the aviation fuel, the less pollution it generates when burnt. Cleaning the fuel happens through a process called hydrotreatment which has been used for decades to remove sulphur from fuels for cars but jet fuel standards for planes have never been improved, even though this can significantly reduce air pollution.

UFPs are part of the so-called "non-CO2 aircraft emissions", which include other toxic pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide. Although these pollutants did not fall within the scope of the study, they also have known health effects as well as a harmful effect on climate, making aviation's contribution to global warming at least twice as bad as commonly thought.

The formation of contrails - the white lines in the sky behind planes, with a significant warming effect - is also related to UFP emissions. Reducing UFP emissions through better quality jet fuel would not only be beneficial for the population living near airports, but also for the planet.

You may feel that this issue warrants a letter to your recently re-elected MP!

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

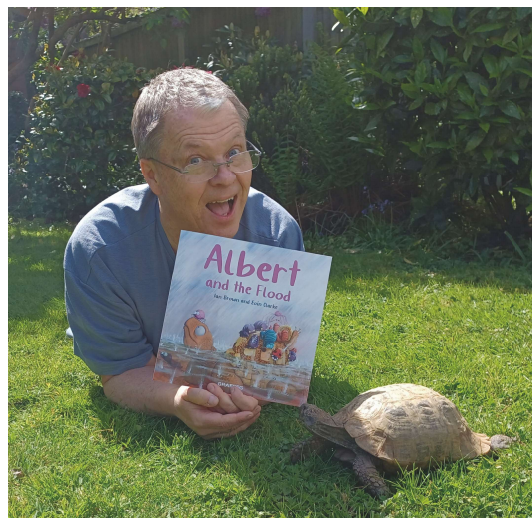
The Gardens have been looking lovely this year, despite the difficulties caused by the weird weather. Our new wildflower spiral in the walled kitchen garden has been gorgeously colourful and the roses very fragrant. But we have been missing the usual butterflies and bees.



We had brimstone butterflies early, in the unusually mild February, before the rains came. But we had very few butterflies thereafter and bumblebees definitely suffered in the cold in April/May. Dragonflies have been flitting around and with the warmer weather and hopefully the right winds from the continent, with luck there will be some resurgence so that visitors can enjoy the delight of butterflies and bees on the dahlias in August.

The Gardens are a great place for family time, on a Thursday or on the Sunday Open Day on 18 August. Children love the treehouse and our stories of the Countess of Warwick and her animals. There are garden games to play with and dogs on leads are welcome. Our volunteers provide refreshments and visitors to the Gardens can snap up our fresh vegetables to take home for dinner!

On Sunday 18th August we will have local author Ian Brown with us to tell children his tales of Albert the tortoise, and music from Woodwind of Stortford. There will be stalls and a trail and craft activities for children.



For more information about our opening hours and discounted advance tickets for the Sunday Open Day go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk/w-hats-on

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Amongst the rich heritage, which is a distinguishing feature of The Hundred Parishes, there are many ancient houses that were built originally as a “hall house”, sometimes referred to as an “open hall house”.

Many surviving houses that were built between the mid-13th and early 17th centuries had a standard three-part layout: a central ‘open hall’ flanked by two crosswings. The crosswings were of two storeys and were the same height as the single-storey hall that linked them. Individual houses sometimes had variations to this basic design.



Great Sampford – Church Cottages

Daily life for members of the household was a communal affair, focused on the large central hall. It was heated by a fire that burned on a central hearth, its smoke rising to escape through vents in the roof. The use of a chimney to remove smoke generally came only in the 16th or 17th century.



Great Waltham – Tudor House in Howe Street

The crosswing at one end of the house contained a parlour with a chamber above called the solar, they were used by the head of the household and their immediate family. The other crosswing was a service area, accessed from a passage with front and back doors at either end. The passage also gave entry to the hall, from which it was partly screened. Each wing had its own stairs to the upper floor of that wing.



High Roding – Black Lion

Between about 1550 and 1650 AD, the open hall concept became less popular, with a desire for more privacy. Most open halls were remodelled with the insertion of a floor to make them two storeys. The open hearth was replaced with a fireplace and chimney.



Hunsdon – Tanners

The Society’s website includes more than a hundred downloadable walk routes. Almost half of the routes pass a former hall house, and these are identified in the route description.

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

- 4th August Family Service with Jo Pratt
 11th August Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
 18th August Matins with Hugh Mascetti
 25th August Patronal Festival with Revd Colin Fairweather

We cannot help but be aware that our world is in turmoil and there is violence and disruption wherever we look. Most of us do not know where to turn to feel some peace but dare I suggest that you look to your church as it is where I go each Sunday to quieten my mind, set aside my worries and thereby recharge my batteries ready to face the coming weeks challenges. If you walk through the church doors and take part in a service, you may not come out believing in God, but I guarantee you, you will feel calmer than when you went in, a sense of wellbeing will surround you and you will feel able to face whatever life brings in the following week.

Last Sunday Revd Helen Flack gave a sermon that I found very interesting. It was based upon Mark's gospel and Shakespeare's play, Macbeth. A sermon on the exercise of power. Helen gave a brief overview of Macbeth, a great well-known drama where, as a powerful general, Macbeth is told by the three witches that he will become king. Macbeth's ambitious wife persuades him that he should kill the current king and take his place. Macbeth murders the king, and the rest of the play is about how he is consumed with guilt and paranoia. He is eventually killed in battle.

Mark's gospel tells the story of the death of John the Baptist. With a cast list of characters including an adulterous king, a scheming woman, an erotic dancing girl and a grizzly murder where John is beheaded, this could also be a Shakespeare production.

These are dramatic stories about power and manipulation. Usually, we equate power with those who have wealth and status but fundamentally, power is about our capacity or ability to influence the behaviour of others. It's about how we seek to control our own lives and the lives of others. We all want power and Mark's gospel asks us to reflect on power. The power that we see at work today, the kind of power to influence that we might have and whether it is used for good or ill. No matter who we are and what our status in society is, we all have the power to influence so if we want a better world, we need to do whatever we can to persuade others to our way of thinking. We are called by God to be a peaceful people so let us try to be more aware of our own use of power, how it affects us and the lives of others.

We are looking for volunteers to open the church for an odd hour or two each week and to welcome any visitors that may come along. If you would like to do this, please let Pam know asap. Contact- 07702171744 or email pam.mark2@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

- 25th August Patronal Festival
 29th September 5pm Harvest Festival

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
 Tel: 07702 171744
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