



Birchanger Village Magazine

September 2024

Issue 260



Latest News From Essex County Council Highways Regarding Planning Application for 9 New Houses at the Sand Track Paddock Ref. UTT/24/0642/FUL

The information that was submitted in association with the application has been fully considered by the Highway Authority. The Highway Authority will protect the principal use of the highway as a right of free and safe passage of all highway users.

From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is NOT acceptable to the Highway Authority for the following reasons:

1. The proposal fails to demonstrate that a safe and suitable accesses can be provided in accordance with the current standards, in terms of visibility. The lack of such visibility would result in an unacceptable degree of hazard to all highway users to the detriment of highway safety.

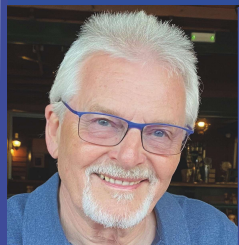
Therefore, this proposal is contrary to the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies, adopted as County Council Supplementary Guidance in February 2011, and Uttlesford Local Plan Policy

GEN1.

- ii. Whilst visibility splays have been demonstrated on DWG no. 20 Rev 1 Titled Proposed North Access (dated 19/04/24) and DWG no. 04 Rev 1 Titled Proposed South Access (dated 25/01/24), these visibility splays appear to be over land outside of the applicant's control, and therefore not achievable. Furthermore, no evidence of a covenant or other such legal document has been submitted to demonstrate that the area of land required to provide the visibility splay is to remain clear and unobstructed in perpetuity.
- iii. It is unclear if the applicant has obtained formal information relating to the widths of the PROW.
- iv. No information has been given about the status and maintenance of the PROW as a result of the proposals (change of surfacing is proposed).
- v. No information on mitigation measures for PROW no 15 (Birchanger) has been submitted.



Keep Our Greenbelt! - Birchanger Sunset (Photograph Courtesy of Paul Ferret)



Editors Letter Box

Dear Readers,

Summer Bonfire Complaints

Several reports from unhappy Birchanger residents have been sent to this magazine concerning people lighting bonfires during the few hot and sunny days of summer. Perhaps those residents that burn their rubbish during the day forget that there are others either relaxing in their gardens and/or have their doors and windows wide open to keep cool. Others may have their washing out to dry! The last thing they want is the invasive smoke and smells from a bonfire! Bonfire lovers, please have some sympathy and respect for your neighbour's health and comfort, especially during hot summer days.

You should be aware that you may not burn domestic waste from your home if it would be harmful to human health or cause pollution, this includes garden waste which you should compost or recycle. While legally you can do this any time of day or night, it is common courtesy to plan your bonfire in a way that it finishes burning at dusk. Early morning and early evening are the best times for bonfires. While you can't always coordinate your bonfire around all your neighbours, letting them know you're planning to burn one will help them defer any washing they might have been planning on hanging out, or how they'll use their garden that day.

Letters to the Editor

Junction with Birchanger Lane and A120

Some weeks ago, I spoke to Alex Bedford, the Senior Contract Manager at Sisk regarding a problem with exiting Birchanger Lane due to vehicles on the A120 heading to J8 blocking the exit. I was told that the phasing of the lights was to be checked and that should ease the problem. I suggested that a yellow hatch junction be installed. His response was it would need monitoring, so I further suggested that cameras be installed. Alex didn't think Essex Highways would pay for this but he would ask. Unfortunately, the answer as predicted, was no. I've been told, and have seen complaints on Facebook, that the situation at the junction hasn't improved despite the phasing being checked. The person to contact about this at Essex Highways is Phillip Cowland email: phillip.cowland@essex.gov.uk

Please email directly to Phillip Cowland with any complaints or suggestions you may have, the more complaints the better as the situation can only get worse once the holiday season is over.

Angie Driscoll - Chair, Birchanger Parish Council

Consultation for Uttlesford Local Plan

As Birchanger does not receive free Uttlesford newspapers and Royal Mail failed to deliver the original consultation booklets, it is possible that Birchanger residents might be interested in the dates to see the latest proposed development plans:

- Monday September 2nd: Ugley Village Hall CM 22 6HR. 5-8pm
- Wednesday September 4th: Foakes Hall Dunmow CM6 1DG. 5-8pm
- Monday September 9th Saffron Walden Town Hall CB10 1HZ. 5-8pm
- Tuesday September 10th Priors Green Community Hall CM6 1YE. 5-8pm

The quickest and easiest way to read the draft plan and to provide feedback is via the website: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan. As well as commenting online, responses to the consultation can be submitted by email or post using a form which is available from the district council and local libraries. Responses should be sent by email to: localplan@uttlesford.gov.uk or by post to: Local Plan Team, Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER.

Although there is little direct impact on Birchanger, the possibility of 1600 new homes in Takeley and 800 in Dunmow is going to increase traffic at Junction 8 and the recent 'upgrade' on the A120 junction has not been very successful!

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 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

Goodbye to the Art Show

There is history to this. Back in the mid-nineties a group of friends came together over a series of happy evenings during which the Birchanger Open Gardens Group came into being. Open Gardens grew and ran for some years until with the help of Birchanger's resident Artists Heather Brown it morphed into the Art Show Group. This involved local artists and the school, with support from many Birchanger residents. It attracted artists from around the local area. There has not been an Art Show for two years now. Those who organised it and did the work are all older and there is nobody wanting to take their place. A pity as there are many in the Art world who are missing the Birchanger Show. It was a good venue to buy or sell paintings. The profits the group made went to help many projects in Birchanger, including the purchase of the village sign. This is in need of repair which will be carried out using the last of the money. In future, the sign will be in the care of Birchanger Parish Council. Those of us who were involved in the projects over the years feel a certain sadness at the end of this era and hope that in years to come residents of Birchanger will come up with bigger and better ideas to make Birchanger an even more interesting place to live. We have lost the tearoom and now we are losing the Art Show. What next?

Is Your Holiday Romance Quite What You Think?

So, you thought you might have met your long-term partner over that incredible Prosecco on that island where there was no smell of petrol, the horse manure made up for that, the birds were of the brightest colours, the sea the warmest ever, and all around was magical and very unlike life as you knew it. Then suddenly you are home. Nothing is the same. The dream evaporates like a punctured balloon. You are lonely, disoriented, cold, and uncertain. What next? After a few weeks you get a call. The man you met is in touch. He is coming over for a business meeting. He has a medium smart hotel room. Can he take you for dinner? It has started! He seems to be in no hurry. Dates are irregular but still fun and varied. You are content. Then things start to change. At the end of a lovely evening suddenly he asks you to contribute to the bill. He has left his cards behind, really embarrassed, not enough cash, terribly sorry but would you mind? Of course you pay. The next date the same thing. The scam is beginning. Things are ok for a while then great dinners and walks in the park start to be marred by the constant talk of money. There is a great business he wants you to invest in, or

times are tricky, his mother needs an operation, where he comes from you have to pay for medical cover and he wants you to lend him the money. You understand, you say you will help, and you do - more and more. The dates become further apart and shorter, then the dates don't happen anymore, he disappears and so does your money!

Be Careful When You Buy Tickets Online

Is that ticket I just bought online the real thing? I wouldn't know. Apparently, I should check the website to see if the ticket can be resold or transferred first. I hadn't. Then what about the seller. Has he any followers. A seller with few followers or who is new to selling tickets should be viewed with some suspicion. Remember not everyone in a fan group is genuine. Try and research websites by looking for reviews elsewhere on the net.

Are Your Pockets Full of Receipts?

Most of us have some lurking around somewhere in our pockets or handbags, and most of them are likely to be card receipts. It is very likely that they will also show your name and some clue as to your address as well. This makes you very open to fraudsters. They need amazingly little information about you to be able to clone your identity. Keep your receipts safely at home and when the time comes try and shred them or tear them up into tiny pieces which are going to be of no use to anyone of bad intent.

Dangerous Dog?

Just about any dog is capable of being dangerous if provoked, teased or treated badly. All dogs should be treated with respect, and all owners should know that even pet poodles are not always perfect. The well-known potential attackers should be kept on a lead and if necessary muzzled reports of dog attacks show that even dachshunds and cockapoos can snap if they feel threatened or insecure.

When out with your dog make sure that you are the one in control at all times. Be especially careful around humans and other dogs. To be sure put them on a lead when other humans and dogs approach and hang on to them. Excited dogs, even little ones, seem to have extraordinary strength. We have more dog wardens in Uttlesford than we used to have, and if they see a dog or owner acting irresponsibly, they will not be slow in taking action. Your dog may be a special pet, but he knows the animals he likes and will give short shift for the ones he does not, even if they do belong to your best friend.

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

A talk by Essex Police Fraud Prevention Unit on avoiding scams

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056



**Poppy Appeal Organisers
needed in your area**

We need volunteers in your local area to help
organise this year's Poppy Appeal.

Interested in helping raise vital funds for
our Armed Forces community?

Search rbl.org.uk/poppyappealvolunteer

Do You Know About the what3words System?

I didn't know either, but this system enables the emergency services to find someone very quickly after a 999 call.

Many people need to call 999 can be travelling and do not know exactly where they are. This means valuable time is lost in reaching the callers. This system is designed to make it easier for the emergency services to understand exactly where the caller is and get help to them much more quickly. The system works by assigning three distinct words for every three-metre grid square on a map. The only problem is you have to have the app on your phone. This can be downloaded to both android and iOS. In an emergency find the three word address for your current location on the free what3words app, dial 999 and tell the call handler the three word address for your location. The emergency services can then coordinate a response directly to your exact location.

Time to Secure Your House

In the run up to Autumn it is a good idea to check your security lighting for the coming winter months. Good lighting helps when you are struggling to come back home on a cold dark winters evening. There is low level lighting which comes on automatically when it gets dark which is probably the easiest way of doing it without an electrician. This low-level lighting is ideal for lighting a porch and garden patches and enables you to get into your house more easily. If correctly sited, you will also be able to see just who is at your door after dark. These lights are low level, and correctly positioned should not be annoying to your neighbours.

Turned Away From Your American Holiday!

Some people have been. USA may have information on you that you have a conviction for an offence, which although it may be spent still shows up on their records. Entry to the United States is usually without the need for any kind of visa, but if you do have a conviction somewhere in your more recent past it would be best to check whether you could be refused entry before travelling. Parking fines and some minor motoring fines shouldn't be a problem but better to be safe than sorry and get this one sorted. With clean records there is no need for a visa at present, but things can change.

Bogged Down by Technicalities

Life was much simpler before we all got technical. Take hospital appointments. You used to get an appointment in the post and that was it. But not now, you get an email and/or book online. You have to provide your email address (if you have one) and a password you haven't got from an email you never saw, play silly games with lots of little pictures and log in only to be told that something was wrong. You try and do the process again, but there was an error apparently, and nothing works. You are told to try later, same thing, again and again. Perhaps this is the latest ploy to bring down the waiting list by arranging the digital disappearance of the patients. Nice and convenient. No apparent response from the patient. Oh dear, goodbye! Why make it so difficult for the patient? Not everyone is a technophile. Some people don't have mobile phones or computers and if they do, they are not computer literate. For a

time anyway the NHS and other organisations should perhaps use snail mail in order to reach their vast number of older patients.

Is Your Shed or Garage Insured?

Probably not, especially if it is some way from the house and just not an attractive proposition for any insurer. It has failed probably on its construction, distance from the house, or perhaps on security alone and insurance company policy. Most of us do not lock our sheds at night, even though they may contain valuable property such as lawn mowers, valuable tools, bicycles or other expensive items which will attract the unwanted visitor and cost thousands to replace. The unwanted visitor often attacks the garage first to obtain the tools he needs to complete the burglary. Having obtained the necessary equipment, he can then turn his attention to the house.



Have a look at your shed or garage from a burglar's point of view. Could a shed panel be easily removed with a screwdriver? Are the windows potentially easy to remove? They could be secured with wire mesh. Get a garage alarm. You can get a battery one which does make a horrendous noise when set and the door is opened. Cover your machinery so anyone outside cannot determine exactly what is there. Don't forget to lock your door while you work outside. We didn't and paid the price. It was goodbye to a strimmer and a lot of small tools. It is horrid to have to live like this, in a world when everyone's property is up for grabs for anyone who cares to help themselves.

Noise From the Airport – Again!

One Saturday in late July the noise from the airport was unbelievable. Planes were taking off in many instances with only 42 seconds between them. This pattern was repeated over most of the weekend. In 2023 the airport handled 28 million passengers. However, after a recent appeal, they are allowed up to 43 million!



Imagine what the noise will be like when they reach that figure. You could say it is airport expansion by stealth - if the planes were not so noisy!

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Festival and Garden Group Delight in Perfect Weather

In a year marked by unpredictable weather, the first u3a Festival at The University of York was blessed with sunshine and the hottest day of the year so far, providing the perfect backdrop for a variety of activities. Held over three days in July, the festival featured more than 80 events, showcasing the best of the u3a community. Organised and enjoyed by nearly 1,000 members, the festival highlighted the vibrant spirit and enthusiasm of u3a participants.

Meanwhile, the Garden Group enjoyed another beautiful day with a visit to the garden of Thorley u3a members Anne and David Willett in Little Hadham. Known for its exquisite design and planting by Anne, the garden features charming borders, a tranquil water feature, and strategically placed focal points that guide visitors through the garden and into a small, well-tended woodland area. In keeping with tradition, Anne and David hosted the group with tea, coffee, and homemade cake on the lawn.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to welcoming Jason Middleton as the speaker for the General Meeting on 19th September. A professional gemmologist, Mr Middleton will share his passion for jewellery, tracing its role from ancient civilisations to modern times. Attendees will have the opportunity to handle items and purchase a selection if desired.

New members are always welcome to explore any class before committing. For more information about the variety of activities available, visit the website at u3asites.org.uk/stansted or call 07874 385541.

As the u3a continues to grow and thrive, these events underscore our dedication to lifelong learning and social engagement, making it a cherished part of many members' lives.

Susan Sedgebeer

Essex Tai Chi Academy in Birchanger

Beginners Class starting 18th September 2024
Wednesdays 9 to 10 am. Ongoing class 10 to 12am.
Birchanger Village Hall CM23 5QJ
Instructor Cait Goddard

I have nearly 10 years' experience of Mr Moy's Tai Chi for Health and have been teaching in Birchanger for 5 years. All ETCA teachers volunteer their time and knowledge to benefit everyone's health and wellbeing.

Tai Chi for Health was developed by Mr Moy Lin Shin in Canada. Working in Canada he recognised the need for a secular form of Tai Chi which focussed on the health benefits of regular practice. Described as a moving meditation by Dr Michael Mosley in his regular Just One Thing to improve your health series, Tai Chi's benefits have been rigorously studied. It is a gentle practice which exercises the mind as much as the body and is very suitable for older people. You do not need any fancy equipment, just comfortable clothing, and footwear.

You are invited to attend a free taster session at 10am and if you are interested in learning more, I will be starting a new beginner's class on 18th September. Starter fee: £30 for 6 sessions. Ongoing fee: £55 per quarter. ETCA also run classes in Felsted and Chelmsford which you can attend as a member. I will aim to run the Beginners class for about 6 months so that once you have learnt the basics you can join our continuing class. Please contact me, Cait Goddard, for further details.



Tel: 07415 628 935 cait.etca@gmail.com

Jocelyn Donoghue

Certified EFT Practitioner
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Emotional freedom technique (EFT or Tapping) is a method some people use to help manage emotions and troubling thoughts that may be affecting their life. Have you felt like you have lost your spark and are yearning to reignite it? EFT can help us break free from self-limiting beliefs and embrace boundless possibilities.

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If you are interested in learning more, schedule a complimentary 20-minute video consultation or to book an appointment feel free to reach out to me on:

07841 098079 or jocelyntd1@hotmail.com.

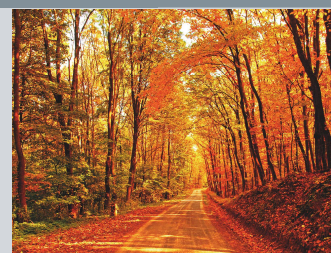
Based in Clavering



What's on in the village...



September 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: 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.**

30

Church Hall:
09.30-12.00
Baby Massage
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance

1

St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Matins Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

2

Church Hall:
09.30-12.00
Baby Massage
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance

3

Garden Bin

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet

19.30-20.15 Apton
Dance Over 25's
Street Dance

4

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance

5

Black Bin

Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

6

Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

7

Church Hall:
09.00 - 09.40
Apton Dance for
Minis
BSSC:
13.00 Summer
Fete 21.00
RedOnizm - Live

8

St Mary's Church:
11.15 Holy
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

9

Church Hall:
09.30-12.00
Baby Massage
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.45 Apton
Dance
Latin/Ballroom

10

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
19.30-20.15 Apton
Dance Over 25's
Street Dance

11

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
20.30-21.15 Apton
Dance -
Dancercise Class

12

Green Bin

Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

13

Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

14

Church Hall:
09.00 - 09.40
Apton Dance for
Minis
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw

15

St Mary's Church:
11.15 Matins
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

16

Church Hall:
09.30-12.00
Baby Massage
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.45 Apton
Dance
Latin/Ballroom

17

Garden Bin

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
19.30-20.15 Apton
Dance Over 25's
Street Dance

18

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
20.30-21.15 Apton
Dance - Dancercise
Class

19

Black Bin

Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

20

Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

21

Church Hall:
09.00 - 09.40
Apton Dance for
Minis
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
21.00 The Time
Warps - Live

22

St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Holy
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

23

Church Hall:
09.30-12.00
Baby Massage
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.45 Apton
Dance
Latin/Ballroom

24

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
19.30-20.15 Apton
Dance Over 25's
Street Dance

25

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
20.30-21.15 Apton
Dance - Dancercise
Class

26

Green Bin

Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

27

Church Hall:
09.30 - 10.30
Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

28

Church Hall:
09.00 - 09.40
Apton Dance for
Minis
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Terry's Big
Quiz

29

St Mary's Church:
5.00 pm Harvest
evensong
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

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

Sports & Social Club News



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB'S

SUMMER FETE

1-5pm 7th September



FREE ENTRY!

- Bouncy Castles
- Hog Roast/BBQ
- Dog Show
- Live Music
- Tombola
- Fun Stalls
- Craft Stalls
- Cream Teas

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

REDONIZM




POP, ROCK AND FAMILIAR HITS!

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

BIRCHANGER SOCIAL CLUB PRESENTS...

THE TIME WARPS



21ST SEPTEMBER 2024

DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES!

SING ALONG TO WELL-KNOWN FAVOURITES

Terry's BIG Quiz




28TH SEPTEMBER	PRIZES TO BE WON, BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED
8PM START	

Birchanger Sports & Social Club
229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, CM23 5QJ
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www.birchangerclub.com

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TUESDAYS
BIRCHANGER VILLAGE HALL
7:30-8:15PM



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BIRCHANGER

*** LATIN & BALLROOM ***
 Join us for a brand new beginners class commencing 9th September at 7:45pm. £9pp pay as you go.

*** SWING JIVE & RNR ***
 Join us for a brand new beginners class commencing 10th September at 8:15pm. £9pp pay as you go.

WWW.APTONDANCESTUDIO.CO.UK



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Dancercise CLASSES


8:30pm - 9:15pm
 Latin/ salsa/ street workout routines
 ✓ HAVE FUN ✓ GET FIT ✓ DANCE!

£9 PP PAY AS YOU GO

WEEK COMMENCING 9TH SEPTEMBER

SHEERING VILLAGE HALL - MON
BIRCHANGER VILLAGE HALL - WED
HERTFORD ST JOSEPHS SCHOOL - THURS

Contact Max on 07854 251528
 www.aptondancestudio.co.uk



New Seasons Dance Classes
From Local Dance Teacher
Maxine Williams
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APTON Mini's

Dance & movement for children to express themselves and have lots of fun! Freestyle, Latin & ballroom basics. Pay as you go!

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SATURDAY MORNINGS 9-9:40AM
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WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Optional exams
- Inclusive & lighthearted
- Shows!
- Build confidence

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New Government – New Policies?

Since May 2010, Government aviation policy has been that there should be no new runway at Stansted. This marked a reversal of the previous Government's policy which supported a second runway at Stansted. With the recent change of Government on 4 July 2024, is there a risk that the policy will again be changed, with the possibility of a new threat of a second Stansted runway? It is worth recapping on the history.

The idea of developing Stansted to an airport bigger than Heathrow, goes back to 1964, when a proposal to expand Stansted to four runways was first mooted. However, an independent inquiry in 1966 concluded that "It would be a calamity to site a major airport at Stansted and there was no national necessity to do so".

Two further independent inquiries – Roskill in 1971 and Eyre in 1984 – also rejected major expansion of Stansted and concluded that it should not be developed beyond the capacity of its existing single runway. Nevertheless, in July 2002, the then Labour Government, under Prime Minister Tony Blair and Transport Secretary Alistair Darling, shocked the local community by announcing outline proposals for up to three additional runways at Stansted, which would make it twice the size of Heathrow.

Following fierce local opposition, the final proposal which emerged as official Government policy was for one extra runway at Stansted. This was still widely considered totally unacceptable and fierce local opposition continued. Nevertheless, BAA continued to advance its planning application for a second Stansted runway. However, after eight years of active campaigning and intensive political lobbying, a commitment was secured from both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats to cancel plans for a second runway at Stansted. Thus, in May 2010, when the Labour Party lost the election and a Conservative Lib-Dem coalition government came to power, the plans for a second Stansted runway were abandoned.

This new Labour Government claims to have far stronger green credentials than its predecessors and has acknowledged the adverse impact of aviation emissions on climate change. We should therefore expect the new Government to follow the recommendation of the independent Climate Change Committee and refuse to approve any further major airport expansion.

A key test of the Government's green credentials will be its decisions on expansion proposals for Luton and Gatwick. These proposals are currently being considered by the Planning Inspectorate who is expected to make recommendations in the next few months. It will then be for the Government to make the final decisions.

Will our new Government prioritise its pro-growth agenda or its pro-environment agenda?

Brian Ross

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

I can't believe I am writing news for September already – where has the year gone? The Gardens have looked surprisingly good, despite the on/off spring and summer. The rains have helped the roses and the trees and the grass has been lush. The Italian Garden borders have changed colours through the season and are now moving into late summer gold framed by the lavender hedge, golden yew and the buddleia. Unfortunately, the dahlia border in the walled kitchen garden has barely recovered from the incessant slug damage in early summer, but our patient volunteers have eventually managed to get vegetables growing and it has been lovely to see our visitors leaving with bags full for a healthy supper!

As reported by others, there have been relatively few butterflies this year, but we have had quite a lot of dragonflies. It will be interesting to find out from our bat walk on 6th September, at 7.00pm, whether we still have the range of bats that usually frequent the Gardens. Contact us through our enquiries email to reserve a place on the walk. Enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



We have been harvesting soft fruit for jams and jellies and the apples have been swelling on their trees. So, things are shaping up for our Apples and Bees Day on Sunday 15th September. It will be a fun celebration of orchard produce, including apple juicing, apple and honey cake tasting, apple crafts for kids and much more. There will be music from local groups: the Rock Choir and Harlow Concert Band; and plant and craft stalls.



For more information about our opening hours and discounted advance tickets for the Sunday Open Day go to:

www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Hundred Parishes has an exceptional depth of ancient buildings. More than 6,000 are “listed”, meaning that they appear on the National Heritage List for England. Each property listing includes a description and many of these descriptions take their text from the guidebooks produced by one exceptional man, Nikolaus Pevsner.

Pevsner, an architectural historian, was born in 1902 in Leipzig, Germany, the son of a Russian-Jewish fur merchant. In 1933 he moved to England and settled in Hampshire. Following the outbreak of World War II, he was taken to an internment camp but was released three months later.

Work on his series of architectural guidebooks, *The Buildings of England*, began in 1945. The edition covering the whole of Hertfordshire was published in 1953; Essex and Cambridgeshire followed in 1954.

Most of the ancient architecture in *The Hundred Parishes* is mentioned by Pevsner in these three editions, either in general terms or in great detail. One example in Essex is Manuden, which he describes as follows: “Manuden has a specially pretty, short village street with timber framed cottages with oversailing upper floors near the church and a small assortment of Georgian houses a little further west”.



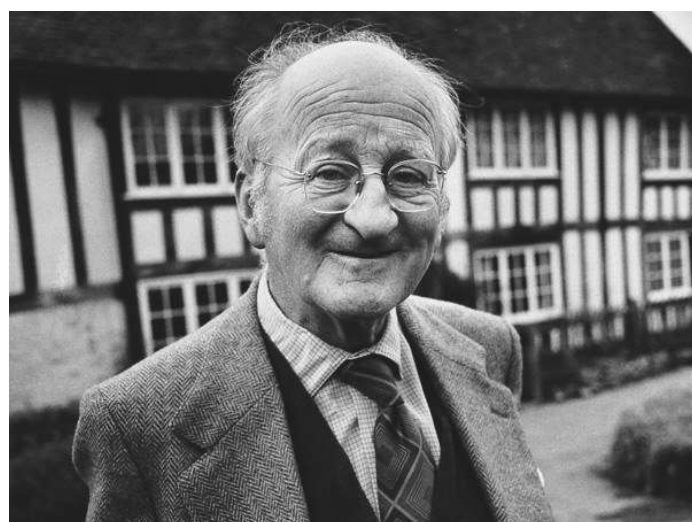
In Cambridgeshire, he described the Norman interior of Ickleton’s parish church as having few equals in the country.



In Hertfordshire, the 17th-century almshouses in Buntingford were described by Pevsner as “the stateliest almshouses in the county”.



Nikolaus Pevsner was granted British citizenship in 1946, appointed CBE in 1953 and knighted in 1969 “for services to art and architecture”. In total, he was responsible for 46 county-wide guides. He died in Hampstead, London in 1983.



The website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has more than a hundred walk routes that can be freely downloaded. The route descriptions draw attention to some of the listed buildings that are passed.

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
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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

1 st September	Matins
8 th September	Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
15 th September	Matins
22 nd September	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
29 th September	5.00 pm Harvest Evensong with Revd Colin Fairweather and Choir

News

Over the last three weeks, Cheryl and I have had the pleasure of watching vegetable seeds that we had sown, pop up in my new raised beds. Never did I think that watching this happen would cause so much excitement in our house! As each green shoot has appeared it has been amazing to see how quickly things are changing and how each new plant is flourishing. All the care and attention that these plants are getting is something that we have not experienced together before, but long may it continue.

Just looking at what we have achieved brought to my mind the parable of the mustard seed which appears in the gospels of Mark, Luke and Matthew. In this parable Jesus teaches the disciples that God's Kingdom would start small then grow and spread across the world to include all nations. Jesus tells them that God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed that starts out small but once sown it grows into a large plant with branches in which birds can perch – that the Kingdom has potential to grow and sustain all God's people. Essentially, the smallest seed holds great power and if cared for can transform into something much greater.

Today, most people do not feel the need to attend church services and have little or no interest in serving a God that they cannot see or touch. However, I would argue that if you look at the world around you there are signs everywhere that God is here with us all the time. There are all the plants that come up each year, the flowers that bloom and then all the animals. These all bring us pleasure and/or sustain human life. God provided all of this, but we need to take care so that people can flourish just like the plants and animals need to be cared for. We are all responsible for the welfare of the world and we need to start acting like it.

Prayer for the Month

Heavenly Father, just as the smallest seed develops and grows may
your word
deepen and grow within us all and produce a healthy and caring
people, a fruitful world
where all can live in peace
Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
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