



Birchanger Village Magazine

November 2024

Issue 262



Police Increase Speed Checks in The Area

We asked for Speed Checks and we have got more speed checks. Speeds in excess of 40 mph were recorded in a 30-mph limit recently in Stansted resulting in prosecutions to drivers.

It is hard to estimate a vehicle's speed as a pedestrian but most of us feel that some inconsiderate drivers in Birchanger Lane are going a lot faster than they should.



Just a few weeks ago a young man driving down the lane at speed managed to miss two parked cars only to smash into a garden wall on the corner of High View, leaving a pile of brick's strewn across the pathway and in a resident's garden. The driver's car had to be towed away. Luckily, no pedestrians were injured! The Police were called but did not attend.



We can only hope that as people get to know that police have increased their presence in the area the idiots who regularly speed through the village will think twice before exceeding the speed limit - if they ever think at all.

Dog Bins Overflowing Again!

Yet again the dog bin on the sand track opposite the barn near Harrison's has been completely over filled. Poo bags have been seen on top and around the base of the bin allowing other dogs to play with and tear the bags open before their owners can stop them.



What's wrong with people? What don't they understand about hygiene or keeping our village clean? Apart from causing a mess and an awful smell, it is illegal to leave your rubbish and / or dog waste on the ground.

Occasionally, through illness or emergencies, the dog bin collector may be unable to make a collection for several days. If this is the case and you see the bin is full, take your dog's waste home with you and put it in your own black bin. Do not leave it for others to take care of. It is the height of ignorance and laziness!

Birchanger Sports & Social Club Elects New Chair & Secretary

Paul Richardson delivered his last chairman's report at the AGM of Birchanger Sports and Social Club last night, Sunday 20th October. He has stood down because of family commitments. In his speech he said that, despite challenges, the club was thriving due to help from many people, including the committee. He especially thanked Sarah Wellard, who was both treasurer and secretary. Brian Ross thanked Paul for his service on behalf of the membership.

Paul's departure meant that a new chair was required and for the first time in many years there was a contested election for the post. The contestants were evenly matched. Both have been members of the club for decades; both have years of committee service under their belts, and neither had sought the position: they were cajoled into standing because a shortage of officers threatened the very existence of the club.

In the end it was Roy Brown who triumphed, defeating Ed Gilbey. Ed pledged to support Roy and the new committee. Sarah Wellard was re-elected, unopposed, as treasurer and will continue for a further year. However, she stood down as secretary. Jon Sellar was elected unopposed to take over this demanding role.

There were elections for vacant committee posts. Three new members were elected, Roger Bird, Wayne Lewsey, and Lauren White, but three places remained unfilled. The chair appealed for volunteers who would like to be considered for co-option onto the committee.

Later in the meeting the membership agreed to a committee proposal to increase the annual subscription to £25, but despite a lively debate, proposals to charge an annual fee to life members were unresolved, with one proposer withdrawing his proposal and the new chairman stepping in to say the situation was complicated and would be studied by the committee with a view to making a recommendation next year. This was the liveliest and best-attended AGM for some years. Birchanger residents are lucky to have such an institution in their village.



Have you been to Green Dot Café yet? If not, please pop in and treat yourself to a **FREE Organic 'Exhale' Barista Coffee** or a **TeaLab Loose Leaf Tea** with any breakfast with our compliments.

All our food is freshly cooked from scratch on site with (where available) organic and locally sourced produce.

- Welcoming Community café
- Regular Events
- Pie Nights
- Weekly Meditation

We are all about health and well-being here at Green Dot Café, with delicious & nutritious food for breakfast, brunch or lunch but don't worry we have wonderful homemade cakes and

FREE Organic Exhale Barista Coffee or Tea Lab Loose Leaf Tea with any breakfast on production of this coupon

Green Dot Café

**40a Hockerill Street, Bishops Stortford, CM23 2DW
01279 898818**

Tisdalls

HAIR & BEAUTY

38 Hockerill Street, Bishops Stortford, CM23 2DW, 01279 757755
www.tisdallshairandbeauty.co.uk

Tisdalls has been in Bishops Stortford for 21 years now and we pride ourselves on our loyal, regular customer base but we are always delighted to welcome new clients to the salon. So, if you are looking for a new salon, please give us a call and quote **NEW10** to receive a 10% discount off your first appointment and bring this advert with you.



We are a Kevin Murphy Salon, specialising in providing the best possible care for your hair with our Kevin Murphy Color.Me products and treatments. We also have the full retail range available to purchase from the salon.

Our fully qualified and experienced stylists can cover all aspects of hair dressing. Please do book in for a free 15-minute consultation where they can discuss your requirements, give recommendations, and apply a patch test if needed. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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

Peter Sampson

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



magazine@birchanger.com



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Getting Ready? 'The Big Light Up' is Back

The Big Light Up is back and promises to be bigger and better than ever this year. Many people have been planning ahead for their lighting and already checking and renewing their displays. The Big Light Up switch-on will be on Friday 6th December at 7.00 pm at the club, with children playing a major part in the proceedings. The winner will be announced in the club on Friday 20th December, although everyone in their own way is a winner.

Recycling Set to Look Very Different in 2050

As we can see from current data, we are not doing particularly well in our attempts to battle climate change. The world just keeps getting warmer and we need to do something about it now as a matter of urgency. Everyone throughout the world has to do something about it, or fry! Locally there have been new initiatives but we need to have a far more comprehensive strategy from the one made in 2005. We need to provide more comprehensive waste collections. This will mean more and different waste containers and a new strategy to reduce waste by 2050. Hopefully plans will be implemented long before then.

At least Uttlesford District Council has started to review its options for the future. It is hard for some people to visit tips, where there is a booking system and with the possibility of a charge and of course not all people have the transport to visit the tips in the first place. (Note! Bishop's Stortford Recycling Centre has just announced an 8 week closure for refurbishment). To make it work comprehensively, it has to work for individuals so that recycling becomes easier and a way of life for everyone. Sadly, climate change is here to stay until we take much stronger action. Some countries are far ahead of us and many of these are not so well developed as we purport to be. Expect to reuse and repair more, and to use a more comprehensive waste service. There will be a better waste food service, far more recycling containers and much more. A small price to pay to keep the world as we once knew it.

Fire Brigades Have Fire Masks for Pets!

Well cats and dogs anyway. Animals suffer the same effects from smoke inhalation as we do, and many lose their lives in a fire. Heart breaking for owners and firemen alike. Now a range of conical tie-on masks are available to help pets through the sort of effects of a fire and may save the lives of many pets in the process.

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month at 8.00 pm in the village hall.

Next meeting: A Christmas Craft Evening
Wednesday 27th November 7.45 for 8.00 pm
bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Buying a Second-hand Car?

You do need to be very careful. The car may look lovely, tyres apparently ok but is it as perfect as it seems? Are there two keys for instance? Check the keys. Most stolen vehicles are only ever taken with one key. You need to ask a lot of questions if the car only has one key. Check the actual key itself. Make sure the metal part which may be inside the actual key, fits the door locks and actually opens the vehicle. If possible, when buying a car, take a trusted friend with you who knows something about cars. There are so many pitfalls and scams in the process. You need someone who knows more about these things than the average prospective purchaser. Not all car salesmen are out to get you, but as many have found, not everyone is honest.

When And How to Report a Crime

The easiest way to report a crime is online at:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/>. For those who don't use internet you can use the phone by dialling 101. This service is available 24/7.

If the incident is ongoing always use the 999 service. If someone is injured or is in immediate danger, always call 999. If damage to property is in progress, always report it immediately via 999.

A Healthier Breakfast?

Apparently, we should all start thriving on muesli, if it is the right kind of muesli and prepared by yourself. You need to use the muesli in small portions of 45-50 gram of the muesli which should contain a balanced mix of rolled oats, nuts, seeds, and a small amount of dried fruit. A bowl of decent muesli provides a tenth of your daily protein target, and a part of your daily vitamins. A proper homemade muesli is higher in fibre and protein, but most of us just buy off the shelf. No time to fiddle about during these colder mornings.

Modern Life is Not for The Old

In recent years it is becoming clear that modern life is becoming increasingly difficult for the over 75's or anyone who grew up in the age when computers were something that only big business corporations could afford. Computers were enormous machines that needed a large dedicated room and special ventilation to keep it working. Eventually, in the early 80's, the car phone, commonly known then as the 'brick' was introduced. It was fixed in the car, so if you needed to make a call you had to go to the car to do it or use a public phone box. From that point on, mobile phones became smaller and more readily available until they became today's mini mobile phone, computer and camera we have today. Computer science became part of the curriculum for all school children, but not so for most of their parents and grandparents. Most of us 'oldies' groped our way about and eventually found a way of coping. A few may have learnt to use computers at their workplace. Have a problem with your phone or computer? Just ask a child, they will whiz through the keyboard and the problem is solved. For those of us without access to children, the only answer is to battle it out on our own or give up and request a phone call or hard copy! With the demise of letter writing, we will soon lose our postal services and have to pick up our letters from the post office, or if we are lucky, put up with a postal service once a week. For the majority, computers and mobile phones have changed lives for the better, but not for everyone, and we need to remember that.

Police Attend our Schools

You research the school that your child is going to and are satisfied that it is a good school. You may be somewhat alarmed if your child comes home and tells you that the police were in school that day. Not to worry, it is all part of a police initiative to work closely with schools and build a good relationship with the children.



They are there to talk to the children about a variety of subjects. They want the children to be able to talk to them freely about anything they like. The police want to help in the children's general education and their understanding of the

community in which they live. All part of the children's education process.

Protect Yourself From Street Robbery

The time before Christmas is the burglars dream time. They want to get presents too but it is much easier if they just help themselves to some of yours. Beautifully wrapped if they are lucky and it is just bad luck if Aunt Emily gets the mini skirt. These people simply don't care. They can always sell the gifts later. So, when you are out and about, move with confidence and purpose. Be very aware of your surroundings.



Plan your route, especially in a place you may not often visit. Try and keep to busy streets and areas which are likely to be covered by CCTV.

Use only licensed cabs or mini cabs booked by telephone. Keep all your valuables out of sight. If you are using your mobile phone, you are not paying attention to what is around you. Never leave a purse or phone on the table. Best left in your pocket or on your lap if you can. In your hand, your phone can be easily snatched as many are discovering to their cost. Mail order has never seemed so easy you may think, but you need to be careful. Try to be in when your delivery is expected or have your parcel delivered to a trusted friend who will be in. Some crooks earn a living from picking up doorstep parcels! Don't let these gremlins get you and have a really happy Christmas!

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

Friday, 8th November 2024

HENHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR

OSCA & VILLAGE HALLS, 1PM - 7PM

A wonderful range of gifts from local, independent retailers

UCAN - the charity supporting the residents of Uttlesford



Henham Christmas Gift Fair

The Henham Christmas Gift Fair on Friday, 8th November is the perfect place to start your Christmas shopping. Held in both the Village Hall and OSCA Hall from 1.00 pm until 7.00 pm, a fabulous group of local, independent stallholders are waiting to offer you a unique selection of gifts and goodies. There are delicious refreshments for you to enjoy too!

The fair is hosted by local charity, UCAN (Uttlesford Community Action Network) and money raised will help them to continue to support improving the quality of life for people in Uttlesford.

Make a difference this Christmas and shop at the Henham Christmas Fair.



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u3a

Stansted Mountfitchet

At the November General Meeting, Stansted u3a will welcome Ian Keable, a Gold Star member of the Magic Circle, as the guest speaker. His presentation, entitled "The Unparalleled Necromancer," will focus on Charles Dickens's lesser-known role as a performing conjuror. Between writing *A Christmas Carol* and *David Copperfield*, Dickens performed magic for seven years, describing himself as a "necromancer." Ian will not only reveal Dickens's tricks but also perform them live, offering insight into Dickens's talent for magic and how it influenced his literary works.

In other news, following a consultation with members, the proposal to move the monthly meetings from St John's Church Hall to St Theresa's Centre in Stansted has been approved. The move will be effective from December, with the Christmas Tea Party scheduled to be the first event in the new venue on the 5th.

In late September, twenty-five u3a members travelled to the Suffolk coast for a day out in Southwold. Upon arrival, groups dispersed to explore the seaside town. Some headed to the pier arcade, while others took a walk along the promenade to the River Blyth. After a satisfying lunch of fish pies at the Harbour Inn, they strolled back through the marshes, spotting kestrels in flight. The trip was a success, and more outings are planned for next year with Richmond's Coaches.



Additionally, ten members of the Garden Group recently revisited the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. Their first visit two years ago in summer had sparked curiosity about how the gardens would look in autumn. Following a peaceful lunch, they explored the grounds, discussing the benefits of forest bathing before seeking shelter from storm clouds in the glasshouses. The visit offered a refreshing contrast to their summer trip, and the group looks forward to future return visits. *Susan Sedgbeer*

What is Social Engineering And How do You Protect Yourself?

Social structures can be 'hacked' just like physical and digital structures can. Hacking a database, for example, would require significant technical ability, whereas tricking the owner of the database into revealing the password to access it is comparatively easy. Fundamentally, social engineering is about tricking people into doing what you want them to do. More often than not, a trickster will use various psychological manipulation techniques to obtain sensitive information from the victim, such as passwords or financial data. The attacks often come from apparently trustworthy sources, and victims do not even realise they're being conned until it's too late and their sensitive data has been accessed.

Types of Social Engineering

Though social engineering can happen in person, over the phone or online, attacks often appear as an email, text, or voice message from a seemingly innocuous source. Here are some examples:

Phishing

Phishing is an attack in which emails are disguised as being from a trusted source and are designed to trick victims into giving away personal or financial information.

Baiting

Baiting is when an attacker leaves a malware- infected device, such as a USB drive, where someone is likely to find it and use it.

Vishing

Also known as "voice phishing," attackers call and disguise themselves as technicians, fellow employees, or IT personnel to gather personal or financial information.

Smishing

Smishing comes in the form of text messages or SMS. Attacks usually threaten and solicit immediate action from a victim, such as a click on a link.

Pretexting

Pretexting involves pretending to be someone else to obtain private information. Attackers often do a lot of research to pass themselves off as authentic.

How to Prevent a Social Engineering Attack

The best way to prevent social engineering attacks is to know how to spot them. You don't need to be a tech expert to practice good social engineering prevention, just use your intuition and consider the following tips:

Double-check the content

In the case of email or text message, if the sender's domain looks suspicious, it could mean the message is malicious. If the content includes grammatical and punctuation errors and an over-dramatic sense of urgency, this may indicate the same.

Research the source and links

If you receive an email, SMS, or phone call from an unfamiliar source, search for that address or phone number and see what comes up. Even if the sender looks and claims to be legitimate, check anyway because the email address or phone number may turn out to be just slightly different from the real source.

Question the context

One simple rule applies: if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Ask yourself, "Would they really ask me for this information in this way? Would they really share this link with me?"

Install a strong antivirus

Ensure your devices and applications are always up-to-date, and install strong antivirus software with an anti-phishing feature to ensure your personal information is secured.

What's on in the village...



November 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: 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.**

Note to Animal Lovers!

Birchanger Sports & Social Club will be holding their firework night on Saturday 2nd November at 7.00 pm.

1

Church Hall:
09.00 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

2

Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC
13.00 Meat draw
19.00 Fireworks

3

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

4

Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

5

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

6

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

7

Green Bin

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

8

Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

9

Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
21.00 Trax - Live

10

**St Mary's
Church:**
10.45
Remembrance
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

11

Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

12

Garden Bin

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

13

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

14

Black Bin

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

15

Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

16

Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw

17

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

18

Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

19

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

20

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

21

Green Bin

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

22

Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

23

Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
21.00 Primal
Replay - Live

24

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

25

Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

26

Garden Bin

Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

27

Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance
20.00 BAGS

28

Black Bin

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

29

Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

30

Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Quiz Night



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB



QUIZ Night

30TH November

8PM START. FREE ENTRY. MUSIC,
PICTURE & WIPEOUT ROUNDS.
PRIZES TO BE WON.



SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER



PRIMAL REPLAY

Primal Replay
23rd November
Starting at 9pm

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome new members. To join you can either complete the online application or speak to a member of staff at the Club. For more information visit www.birchangerclub.com



For all general enquiries

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements





The Hundred Parishes Society

One of the best ways to enjoy and appreciate our wonderful area is on foot, so the Hundred Parishes Society's website has always included a selection of walks.

The suggested walks have generally been focused on footpaths but last winter's exceptional rain made many paths difficult. This prompted us to develop a new series of walking routes that do not use any footpaths.

We hope our "Quiet Lane Walks" will appeal to anyone who does not like cleaning boots and also perhaps to families, people with mobility problems or less-energetic cyclists.



Duddenhoe End



Great Easton



Great Waltham

Our website now has almost 40 Quiet Lane Walks in addition to over 100 established routes. You can find a route that suits you by either scanning the lists of walks or by going to a specific parish introduction to see which route numbers go there – the Quiet Lane walks start with the number 3. We have put together quiet lane routes that visit 41 of our hundred parishes but we would welcome suggestions for more – just email a simple route outline to hundredparishes@btinternet.com and we will put together a full route description.

The new routes range in distance from 1 mile to 12 miles and pass through typical Hundred Parishes territory: lovely villages and attractive countryside, often with an inviting café or pub.

Hatfield Broad Oak



Helions Bumpstead



Langley



Route descriptions can be freely downloaded from our website and then printed. The descriptions should ensure that nobody gets lost and they include snippets of information about places along the way.

Little Hadham



Strethall



If you do not have access to the internet but would like some walk suggestions, please write to The Hundred Parishes Society, 2 Greenfields, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8AH. We will send you a list of available routes and then print some for you. There is no charge.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

October was a busy month for the Trustee who is leading the work to consider the next steps for the restoration of the Italian Garden. We have photos of the sunken garden as it was completed, with its stone-faced parapets and walls, stone steps and paving, fresh, smooth and pale. We restored the balustrade around the lilypond in 2021 and have now built up the Trust's funds again, so we can support more match funding.

There are lots of potential options for the next project, so we are drawing up plans to help us determine the best order for our investments in the Garden. It will be challenging work for specialists, so will take a while – but it is exciting to be on the case again and we will report on progress!

With the gates closed and no visitors till the snowdrop season in February, volunteers' efforts will be to put the Gardens to bed for the winter and seasonal planting. The big departure will be to lift the dahlias to look after the tubers that survived the insatiable slugs and snails in the early summer – it will be a chance for a stock take, ready for a big refresh of the dahlia border next year. Damage from local deer continues to be significant, so we will need to work on making new tree plantings even more secure.

1a Easton Lodge and Gardens 1903-1904



We have other big winter projects in mind too, including further work to extend the Japanese style garden, improvements to the entrance area and erecting a greenhouse to enable us to do more propagation from our plants. For more information about the Trust go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk. One of the Trust's volunteers provides talks to local groups about the history of Easton Lodge, the Countess of Warwick and the Gardens. If you would like to arrange a talk contact us on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk. *Jill Goldsmith*

Stansted Airport News

Expansion Plans

Local residents may have been concerned to read a press release issued by Stansted Airport on 14 October under the headline. "London Stansted unveils £1.1bn investment programme as it embarks on exciting new chapter".



Picture by Mirror Group

The story went on to provide details of a five-year £1.1bn investment programme most of which will be a £600m extension to the airport terminal, enabling Stansted to handle up to 43 million passengers a year (mppa), compared to its current throughput of about 30mppa. Plans for an airport solar farm were also announced. However, there's nothing new in any of this.

Stansted Airport obtained planning permission for expansion to 43mppa on 26 May 2021; they obtained permission for the solar farm on 24 August 2022; and they obtained permission for the terminal extension on 31 October 2023.

All of this has previously been announced and well publicised. The press release on 14 October was simply a re-packaging of a number of previously approved proposals, timed to coincide with the Government's Investment Summit for London. This may have been good PR for Stansted Airport and good PR the Government, but it caused unnecessary anxiety for many local residents.

Stansted Airport Annual Profits

Interestingly, Stansted Airport did not issue a press release to highlight its latest annual accounts, which were published on the Companies House website on 7 October. The accounts show that Stansted Airport made an operating profit of £106 million for the year ended 31 March 2024, a healthy 8 per cent increase on the previous year. However, when the accounts are looked at closely, it becomes clear that the core aeronautical functions of the airport – i.e. handling the arrival and departure of aircraft and passengers – are loss making.

The most interesting number in the 2024 accounts is Stansted's income from car parking, a staggering £104 million, or £2 million per week – almost the same as the entire operating profit of the airport. Perhaps that's why Stansted Airport did not want to draw attention to its financial results, by issuing a press release.

One final point to make is that the £150,000 a year that Stansted Airport allocates to local good causes is equivalent to its car parking income for just half a day!

Brian Ross

Take Care Walking the Fields



A number of residents are reporting nasty falls because they tripped over the brambles lying across our footpaths.

Unfortunately, these brambles are looped over into the earth forming a fixed loop and it is very easy to trip over them which often results in a nasty fall and some nasty scratches as I know only too well. Be careful but enjoy your walks and mind the brambles.

Elizabeth Godwin

Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood



There will be a Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood on Tuesday December 3rd from 10.30 to noon in aid of absolutely nothing at all, just for friends to meet up with each other and relax a little before the start of the Christmas season. Come and join us if you can. You will be very welcome, whether you have been to Moorswood before or not.

Elizabeth Godwin



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 814473
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

3rd November	Family Service with Pam Lee
10th November	Remembrance Service 10.45 am at the cenotaph
17th November	Matins with Pam Lee
24th November	Holy Communion with Revd. Colin

I was going to write about the rewards of volunteering where you hopefully can do things that you know are of benefit to other people and that you can yourself have the pleasure of seeing your efforts come to fruition, but after the past few days I am faltering.

Volunteering is a very rewarding thing to do, particularly as you get older. It gives you a purpose and keeps your mind active. You remain socially involved with like minded people and you have the opportunity to meet new people.

What is not so great is when others that you are close to have a disagreement and the fallout begins to affect the group. Leaders that you relied upon to sort out these sorts of issues don't step up and the problems gets so big it becomes unmanageable. Now, I am not talking about the church here, all is well at St Mary's but I am just flagging up a recent experience that I have had and that any one of you may come across.

When you become part of a group that is there for a specific purpose, you all have the responsibility to do your part and not cause disharmony in the ranks. Helping your colleagues is part and parcel of achieving the aims of the whole group. You will not all agree on a way forward all the time but discussing an issue and coming to an informed decision is the way to go.

Christ told us to be a caring people, compassionate, loving and responsive to others that need support. If we all lived our lives by his prescription, then just maybe our world of which we are a small part would not be in such turmoil as it is today. Many leaders listen to the cries for peace that the vast majority of the world's population want, allowing us to get back to being the sort of people that Christ wants us to be.

Other News

A few weeks ago, I put out a post on Birchanger Residents Facebook asking if anyone would be interested in a Christmas gift wrapping service and left my contact number. So far, I have no response, so it looks like no one is interested, but just in case you missed the post I repeat the offer here. If you want our help call me on 07702171744

On Friday 20th December at 7.00 pm, we will be holding our annual Evening Carol Service. If you would like to do a reading at the service, please let me know ASAP.

On Saturday 21st December at 7.00 pm, we will be singing carols at the Three Willows. Why not come along and join us for both events.

Finally, please don't forget that we hope to complete the Bethlehem Trail this year so that it goes all the way from the lych gate to the church door. Get painting your cobbles with scenes or items that remind you of the birth of our Lord and bring them to church as soon as you can.

Future Events

10th November	10.45 am Remembrance at the Cenotaph followed by Holy Communion in church.
20th December	7.00 pm Evening Carol Service
21st December	7.00 pm Carols in the Three Willows

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
Tel: 07702 171744
pam.mark2@btinternet.com



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For bookings or further information please contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07475 092 658

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

Village Church Hall



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Telephone: 07475 092658

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS

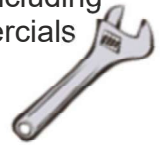


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