



# Birchanger Village Magazine

March 2025

Issue 266



## Barn Conversion To Go Ahead

The planning application for the barn conversion situated on the sand track near Harrison's has been accepted. Paul Hunt, the Planning Officer for Uttlesford District Council, explained the reasons in a letter sent to the parish council as follows:

In making the decision the LPA was careful to fully acknowledge every point of the Parish Council, and we and the officer sincerely understand the reasons for residents and the PC to object to the scheme and the history at the site. In the Officer Report the planning team try to lay out all the areas which the national legislation and government guidance explicitly exclude us from taking into account.

Applications under Class Q and other 'Prior Approval' application under Permitted Development rights do not allow the LPA to use all policies and narrowly limit what can be considered. The headline change is that the building now meets all criteria to be converted because national legislation was changed in early 2024. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2024) explicitly removes our previous control and allows many of these types of buildings to be approved for conversion.

As per the officer report, under the new legislation they must only show the building is in an agricultural unit and applicants no longer need to even consider the building's own history. We are required by case law to read the legislation in a common-sense manner and we cannot argue that the building is outside of the whole farming unit, even taking full account that the building is on the fringe of the farm and has not been used as part of the arable farm.

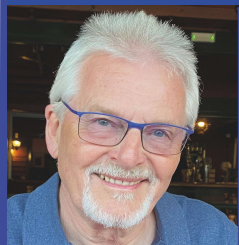
In my professional view based on 9 years' experience refusing Class Q applications in four rural districts, based on the new legislation it would have been unreasonable to refuse the application and opened the Council up to an appeal that I believe we would have lost incurring cost to the taxpayer.

In terms of the access and construction management, we have put on a condition to plan out construction traffic and noise control during works. Use of the main road by HGVs is a Highways matter and a matter for the developers to resolve be it with smaller deliveries or another access on their property. Planning permission does not overrule any Highways restrictions, the developers' responsibilities under other legislation or private covenants on the land and access. However, we must make clear that these are not Planning Law and are outside of the planning department's control.

In the LPA's approval, noting the concerns over use of the Public Right of Way (PRoW), the report makes clear that if the applicant has a right to drive on that track, which is not uncommon on PRoWs across the country. Because the track has passing points and is clearly a decently finished track that is safe for a sensible driver to use, even with it being busy with walkers and horses, then we are confident we would have lost any appeal if we had refused it on grounds of use of that access. Driving on a PRoW does not constitute obstruction and the law on what does count as obstruction is very specific. Any obstruction that occurs should be referred to Essex County Council Highways team as the statutory Public Rights of Way authority.

I hope this information is helpful, and again we appreciate the Parish Council's position on protecting the village character and especially the Green Belt, however these are issues that central government have reduced our control over through new legislation.





# Editors Letter Box

*Dear Readers,*

## Millennium Tree is Now Officially Protected

Birchanger Parish Council (BPC) has informed the magazine that there is now a provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in place for the Millennium Oak Tree. BPC has also applied for pruning and balancing the tree after it was seriously cut back on one side by vandals. However, on advice from the UDC Principal Landscape Officer, it has been decided to delay the work until after the bird nesting season is over in order to give the tree more time to recover.

## Supporters Rescue the Fate of the Magazine

I am happy to report that due to donations and new advertisers who answered our plea for help last month, our monthly local magazine is safe for another year.

Many thanks to Birchanger Parish Council and Sue Naylor who have given generous donations to keep the magazine afloat. New advertisers have also contributed by increasing our income. All the help and support we have received has resulted in giving us a positive balance sheet for 2025.

We would like to thank our new printers, M&B Printers Ltd of Dunmow, who have helped us considerably by offering very favourable printing costs for 2025. This edition is the last copy printed by our generous and long standing printer, Ken Devine of Keeley & Lowe who retires at the end of this month. Thank you and good luck Ken.

## Football Nets Damaged on the Recreation Ground

For the second time in a year, the football goal nets on the playing field have been damaged and need to be replaced. It beggars belief, when the council provides a beautiful playing field incorporating a host of facilities for Birchanger youngsters and at taxpayers' expense, only to find a few vandals who think its fun to damage the nets.

This is ridiculous and unacceptable behaviour and spoils it for everyone else in the village. Parents, please be observant and see if we can catch these hooligans!

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Ed,*

### That's Just Rubbish!

I thought I would just send the magazine a little gem that sums up life in most places these days. For the last week or so I have driven or walked past a small number of plastic bottles and the remains of someone's lunch pack on the edge of the pavement, this being forty yards from my house in High view.

Having laid there for over a week, I assumed some kind soul would eventually nip out and clear it up, but that wasn't to be! I had no option but to clear up the rubbish myself. My wife said to me, "why should you do it"? I agreed with her but just couldn't leave it. so I cleared it up myself. Having lived here for some thirty-four years I find it sad that some people don't seem to care about keeping their neighbourhood clean and tidy or what goes on outside their homes.

*Name supplied*

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

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

*Peter Sampson*



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



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

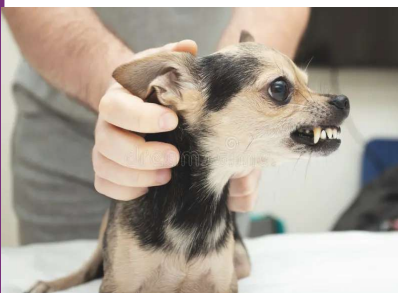
## Our Magazine Good to Go for a Few More Years

Our printer, Ken Devine, is due for some well-deserved retirement. Ken, who has given us 'mates rates' for many years, plus our regular advertisers and those who donate to us are the reason we can keep the magazine afloat. We would like to thank Ken for all he has done for us in the past years. We could not have done it without him. After a worrying few weeks, our editor has found another printer, M&B Printers of Dunmow, who is prepared to give us favourable printing rates and we look forward to working with them.

## Time to Get Out and About?

Some of us may be getting twitchy and restless at this time of year and are ready to get out in the great outdoors. For the rest of us, it is probably: wait a bit longer and keep the heating turned up. Some say you can't trust warm weather now, it cannot last, but look at the calendar, spring isn't far away. Easter will be late this year, April 20<sup>th</sup>, so there is a better chance of fine weather on an Easter break. But there is always a snag, fine weather means people pouring out onto the roads in their thousands and with the way our roads are now, that often means traffic jams for miles, fractious kids, and bad-tempered drivers. Is it worth it?

Easter at home doesn't have to mean gardening, decorating, or chucking out your wardrobe. It is a time to go outside, if it has actually stopped raining and perhaps catch up with friends again. Just have a weekend to unwind perhaps. Even indulge in an Easter egg or two. If it rains, well at least that saves you from all that spring gardening. So, enjoy a happy Easter whatever you do and wherever you go.



## Every Dog Can Be a Biter

Most of us who have dogs never believe that their precious pet could ever bite any animal or human. How wrong can they be. Dog biting statistics show only too clearly that dogs who bite other dogs or humans can come from every breed.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> March 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Easter Food Tasting. Come and enjoy a selection of Hot X Buns and Easter Chocolate and compare the different brands!

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

Rosemary: 01279 814678 Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Your little darling is just as capable of becoming a little horror as mine! Mostly, attacks happen when they are provoked beyond their endurance. Too many young children making a fuss of a dog unwittingly try the dog's tolerance levels too far. The dog feels intimidated and frightened. They may give a warning bark. If this happens, dog and children should be parted immediately. When children and dogs meet each other, special care must be taken. There is no telling how any dog may react, but unless dog and children are very familiar with each other and happily ignore each other most of the time they should never be left alone together.

## Winds of Change are Blowing. Will They Affect You?

With a relatively new Government and Prime Minister in this country and a new president in the White House, the winds of change blowing in America must be felt over here very soon. How will the mantra putting America first affect this Island? Is the special relationship gone for ever? I did not see Mr Starmer's name on the guest list at the Presidential Inauguration!

## We Are Going Digital

Digital phone lines, also known as voice over IP (VoIP), are replacing traditional landlines. Whether we like it or not, land lines will be replaced by digital lines throughout Essex in the near future. Most residents should have their switchover completed by the end of 2025 but those classified as vulnerable will have their switchover delayed until 2027 to make sure they are moved over safely. Not sure about that. Seems they are expecting problems, although it is your provider who will tell you of any steps you need to take. Essex County Council is warning that there may be many scams during the switchover period. If you receive any requests for money call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Looks like there could be a tricky period ahead but to help you there are various events to explain the changeover to digital. You can also visit the Digital Essex website at <https://www.superfastessex.org/> to find out more about digital communication services.



## Who are Vulnerable in the Digital World?

If you are over 75, have a personal alarm, do not have broadband at home, have no or poor signal on a mobile phone and have special needs you are classified as a vulnerable person and need to register as

such. You can do this by using the telephone number on your latest telephone bill and tell them you are a vulnerable person and will need extra support and possibly some additional equipment. Vulnerable people could receive a free battery backup unit. They can choose which types of back up unit is best for them, and they can nominate a trusted friend to assist them with the switch. Nothing will change if you do not have a landline and only use mobile phones in your home, or already use a digital phone line. All this may seem like a recipe for

*Continued on page 4*



confusion for some people, but there is supposedly plenty of help to support those who already have problems with the internet. If you need help you must say so. No Broadband? Complicated Business Connections? You will be helped temporarily with special equipment to keep you connected while your permanent connection is sorted out. Hopefully, the switchover will be just a matter of plugging your phone into your broadband router, but your broadband provider will contact you with any action they need you to take. Remember that after the switchover your phone sockets will stop working for most people. You will be notified when you need to act and what you need to do. If you need help, contact your provider. At the time of writing there is no known date for the switchover in Birchanger, but it is set to happen this year.

### Farmers Get Property Marking Kits

With thefts of farm machinery at a record high, Police have supplied farms in this area with property marking kits for farm equipment. It is hoped this will help to stop the many raids on farms and to help identify stolen property.



### Been to the Lion and Lamb Pub in Little Canfield Lately?

If not, you are in for a big surprise. Newly refurbished bright and clean with a totally different menu. Choice is limited but the food is good and very plentiful. The pub has been made over and there are views across the fields still not built on. Staff are friendly and polite and the menu different from most pub menus.



### Speed Warning

Police say that one factor which determines serious injury in a road accident is speed. Police are appalled at the number of serious injuries they find at the site of an accident which could have been entirely avoided if the driver had kept to the speed limits. With this in mind they are checking motorists' speeds on all roads around us at various sites and different times of day. They know the trauma speeding accidents can cause. Most of the rest of us don't and most accidents are avoidable and down to a speeding driver. We might not believe it but the police know it!

Nearly 100 drivers were caught speeding in just two hours on two of our major roads as police officer's work to keep you safe. Our Roads Policing Unit and Special Police Officers carried out speed enforcement on the A12 at Mountnessing and on the A120 in Takeley on Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> February). In just two hours they captured 95 drivers speeding, including five going more than 100mph.

### War on Fly Tipping in Essex

The war on fly tipping Has begun. At last, Essex County Council has woken up to the fact that fly tipping is the scourge of the Essex countryside. To help the towns and villages tackle this problem, Essex County Council will support a new campaign in an attempt to educate Essex households on the blight of fly tipping across the county. This may be good publicity for Essex, but stopping Fly Tipping is a major project. There are roads going through our area which are supposedly cleared three times a week, and it seems like nothing has happened. The remains of an entire meal are frequently found. Why would anyone do that? Whatever Essex does for its residents, the rest of the country needs to step up and do the same.

### Is too Much Expected of Our Police?

They are faced with a rising workload. Some of it very serious and complicated. They are now expected to campaign to make sure that newly qualified drivers follow their probation rules. In their first year there are a lot of new rules with which the new young drivers must comply. As most of them never wear their probation plates they will only be identified when something happens. There are so many tragic accidents leading to unnecessary deaths and survivors whose lives are ruined, and it is yet another responsibility for the police. We know we can't recruit enough police for the entire country, but why not use more civilians for the desk jobs, some of which do not actually require a fully trained policeman other than in a supervisory capacity.

## Birchanger Sports & Social Club

The club is looking for someone to join their team at the bar. The applicant **MUST** be over 18 and must be willing to work weekends and evenings. Own transport would be an advantage due to the location.

No experience necessary as training will be given. To apply please call 01279 813441 and speak to Terry or Tasch.

## ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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



**DANIEL ROSS**  
**07703484090**

City & Guilds Qualified  
Part P Registered  
DBS Checked



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



**Taylor Landscapes**  
Landscapes For Living

  
07941 357934

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

   
@TaylorLandscapesLtd





# Edited Minutes of Birchanger Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## 1314. Planning

### 1.UTT/24/3011/PAQ3 – The Barn

It is noted that this application has been approved. There is some concern regarding access for construction traffic.

### 2.UTT/25/0104/HHF – 1 Birchwood, Birchanger

Proposed alterations and two-storey extension - No objections.]

## 1315. Draft Local Plan

The Plan was submitted in December. Two inspectors and an administrator have been appointed. It is likely to be Spring 2026 before completion.

## 1316. War memorial

GD advised that the memorial is in poor condition and needs renovating and cleaning. He is awaiting an estimate for the work to be carried out. It was agreed that the memorial be registered as a Listed Monument.

## 1317. Birchwood

The condition of the pavement in certain places, which was referred to Highways some time ago, has still not been addressed. Some orange markings have appeared but no action. GD suggests that the lack of action should be publicised. It was agreed that GD should approach the local newspaper.

## 1318. Village Green

ST had produced a detailed report. It seems that the existing borders cannot be altered.

AD suggested that the Village Green be registered with the Land Registry and that the PC should employ a solicitor to make the application. It was agreed that AD should obtain an estimate of the solicitor's costs.

There is now a provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in place for the Millenium Oak.

A quotation of £730 has been received for pruning and balancing the Millenium Oak. KE pointed out that as the tree now has a TPO the contractor will need to obtain permission before commencing any work. This was agreed. It was further agreed that the work should proceed subject to the permission being granted. ST will make the application.

## 1319. Finance

### 1. Account Balances b/f 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Unity Trust Bank 26372.55

### 2. Payments due for January 2025

Castle Water (Keith Williams)	Online	23.52 (Water rates Oct24-Mar25)
A&J Lighting	SO	45.90 (lighting maintenance)
Npower	DD	237.20 (electricity for December 2024)
Birchanger Church Hall	Online	30.00 (Hire of hall Oct-Dec 2024)
Payroo	Online	6.00 (payroll expenses December)
TBS Hygiene	Online	178.20 (dog bin emptying)
Taylor Property Services	Paid	314.40 (Installing new dog bin and post Harrisons/Sandtrack)
Keith Williams	Online	540.13 (salary for January 2025)
HMRC (Keith Williams)	Online	135.00 (PAYE for January 2025)
Keith Williams	Online	20.00 (office rent for January 2025)

### [2025/310]

Unity Trust Bank dd 6.00 (bank charges)

Total payments for January 2025 1536.35

**24836.20**

**Allotment rent 80.00**

**VAT refund 1158.52**

**Account Balance @ 31/01/2025 26074.72**

## 1320. Donation request from the Village Magazine - A donation of £500 was agreed.

## 1321. Recreation Ground

- HAGS have advised that they would like to carry out a site visit before providing a quotation.
- LP has been monitoring the damage to the football nets.

### Allotments

GWB have visited the site to assess the work required. LP has obtained quotations which she will circulate to councillors. This is to cut back and clear the over shadowing vegetation and to cut back the oak trees.

## 1322. Weekend garden skip schedule

The schedule has been agreed. The charge to the council is £87 per hour. The first collection outside the club between 3.00 and 4.00 pm is on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Dates are published in the Birchanger Village magazine under the heading: 'What's on in the Village'.

# What's on in the village...



March 2025



**Household Bin Collections:** Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. (Some exceptions)

**Garden Waste Skip Outside the Club on Saturday Between 15.00-16.00:** 1/3. 29/3. 26/4. 24/5. 21/6. 19/7. 16/8. 13/9. 11/10. 8/11.

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.**

31

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

## Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm

In the village hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend

1

**Church Hall:**  
**Apton Dance:**  
09.00 Apton Mini  
09.45 Kids Latin 2  
10.30 kids Latin 1  
**BSSC:** Meat draw  
21.00 Machine  
Shed Band - Live

2

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

3

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

4 **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

5

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

6

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

7

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

**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

12

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

13

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

14

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

15

**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

16

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

17

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

18 **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

19

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

20

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

21

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

22

**Church Hall:**  
**Apton Dance:**  
09.00 Apton Mini  
09.45 Kids Latin2  
10.30 kids Latin 1  
**BSSC:**  
Curry Night &  
Blondie - Live

23

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

24

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

25

**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

26

**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**

27

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

28

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

29

**Church Hall:**  
**Apton Dance:**  
09.00 Apton Mini  
09.45 Kids Latin2  
10.30 kids Latin 1  
**BSSC:**  
13.00 Meat Draw

30

**St Mary's Church:**  
11.15 am Family  
Service  
**BSSC:**  
Mothers Day  
Lunch





BIRCHANGER SPORTS  
AND SOCIAL CLUB

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

**CURRY NIGHT**  
22nd March  
**BOOKING REQUIRED:**  
£5.00 DEPOSIT / £16.00 A HEAD

**PLUS...**

**BLONDIE & THE ATOMIC 80's**

**MOTHER'S DAY  
Lunch**  
SUNDAY 30 MARCH  
**3 COURSE MEAL**  
LIVE ACCOUSTIC MUSIC FROM ANNA WELLS  
PRE BOOKINGS ONLY - £25.50

**THE MACHINE  
SHED  
BAND**

**ROCK, SOUL, BLUES, CLASSIC POP,  
ROCKABILLY & ROCK N' ROLL  
1ST MARCH**

**QUIZ  
NIGHT**  
15th MARCH - 8pm

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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



For all general enquiries  
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)  
Website: [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

Follow us on Social Media  
For all news and announcements





# Child Criminal Exploitation

Child criminal exploitation is when someone uses a child (under 18 years old) to commit crimes for them. It includes things like forcing a child to work on a cannabis farm, or targeting, grooming, coercing and exploiting a child to sell drugs in county lines operations.



Child criminal exploitation can involve bribery, intimidation, violence and/or threats. The child does not need to have met whoever is exploiting them - children can be exploited via the internet or using mobile phones. They can also be targeted via social media platforms and gaming forums.

A child may have been exploited even if it looks as if they have been a willing participant. Many young people do not see themselves as victims.

Children can be exploited by individuals or groups, men or women, and adults or young people. People who exploit children use the fact that they have power over children, because of an age difference or some other factor like gender, intelligence, strength, status, or wealth.

Any child can be a victim of child criminal exploitation. Look out for signs of exploitation or abuse.

Is a child or young person:

1. Travelling alone, particularly in school hours, late at night or frequently?
2. Looking lost or in unfamiliar surroundings?
3. Anxious, frightened, or displaying other behaviours that make you worried about them?
4. In possession of more than one phone?
5. Carrying lots of cash?
6. Wearing expensive designer clothing and/or jewellery?
7. Being instructed or controlled by another individual?
8. Accompanied by individuals who are older than them?

For more information visit [Child criminal exploitation | Child abuse | Essex Police](#)

If you are concerned about a child and think it's an emergency dial 999 or if it's not an emergency call 101, report online, or contact CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**DON'T WAIT, REPORT IT!**

# Let's SCRAP Fly Tipping



We all hate fly tipping littering our roads and countryside, and, unfortunately, illegal waste operators target everyone from householders to big businesses with offers of cheap waste disposal. So next time you have something to get rid of that can't be reused, remember to follow the SCRAP code:

- Suspect all waste carriers
- Check their registration
- Refuse suspicious offers
- Ask what will happen next
- Paperwork is your proof

Look out for the SCRAP fly tipping campaign on social media and in your area.



## Recycling... Let's Get it Right!

If recycling bins containing non-recyclable items – such as black plastic sacks, nappies, food waste, polystyrene, or garden waste – are not spotted by the crews before they are picked up, this can cause a whole lorry load of recycling to be spoiled.

A very small percentage of non-recyclable items in the bin can result in tonnes of otherwise reusable waste being diverted away from recycling and sent to landfill.

**We must stop this from happening!**

If refuse crews identify a recycling bin which contains non-recyclable items, a bin hanger, like the one in the picture on the right, will be attached to the bin highlighting which items need to be removed. Once these offending items have been removed by the householder the bin will be emptied on the next scheduled collection. The crew will not return to empty the recycling bin before this. You have been warned!



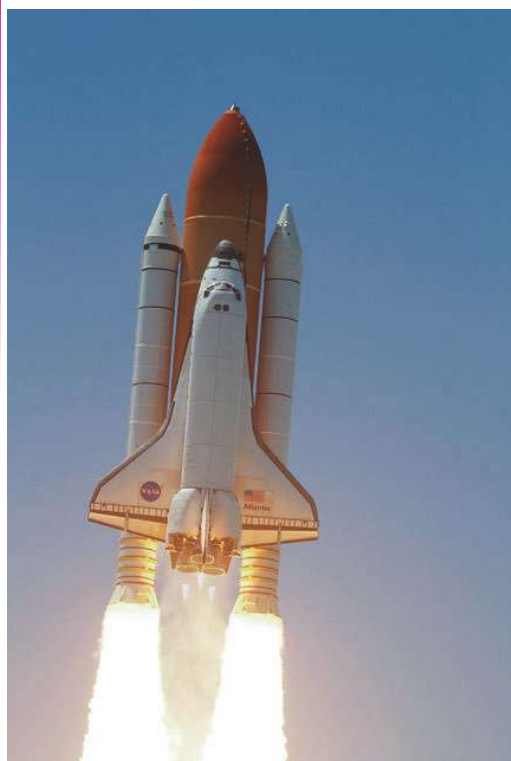


# u3a

## Stansted Mountfitchet

The increased provision of comfortable seating was necessary for the first General Meeting to be held at St Theresa's Centre, when a record audience of 107 gathered to hear a personal account of one of the RAF's most daring World War II missions: the raid on Amiens Prison, often referred to as "Operation Jericho".

The following Saturday, the first Seminar of 2025 took place at the same venue.



Our next Saturday Seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> March is entitled "Rockets and Space flight". The speaker, Professor Tony White is an Emeritus Professor of Systems Engineering, Middlesex University and is a member of Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.

The seminar will start with the history of rockets from their invention by the Chinese

to the rocket pioneers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will move on to the rise of amateur rocket groups in the 1930's to the massive expansion during WW2. It will cover post-war delivery systems, the moon shots and manned space flights along with a comprehensive explanation of rocket propulsion.

A wonderful collection of short stories has been published by the Stansted Mountfitchet u3a Creative Writing Group. Entitled "After the Twa Corbies and Other Stories" it contains a fascinating pot-pourri of styles and genres; from surreal to the ridiculous. Loss, love, mystery, nostalgia and humour; it's all there. The limited edition of 100 copies was so popular that it sold out by Christmas 2024. However, the book will be available in the local library for those who were unable to purchase a copy.

Having negotiated any difficulties in producing their first book, the group, which meets monthly and has been running for 5 years, is intending to publish a second in time for Christmas 2025. With even more stories, it promises to be just as sought after. Will there be a third? That remains to be seen!

*Susan Sedgebeer*

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Daffodils follow on from the snowdrops at the Gardens and have a lovely long season. Did you know, there are 80 wild species (only 2 native to the UK) and over 30,000 different varieties of cultivated daffodils on the International Daffodil Register?

At the Gardens we have planted Tete-a-tete for their early show – they give a really vibrant splash of colour along the top of the Italian garden from late February. They are followed by a host of naturalised varieties near the elephant statue and in the Lime Wood. Some of those were on the market in the early 1900s, so were probably planted when Peto redesigned the Gardens and built the treehouse for the Countess of Warwick in 1902.



The memorial area in the Glade was established with daffodils and hyacinths. More recently we have planted late flowering narcissi to complement Camassia in the mini orchard at the top of the kitchen garden. This will brighten up the tree cathedral in the Glade. We will also add to the Japanese style garden near the platform with views onto the fishing lake.

The Gardens are not routinely open to the public in March but, if the weather is set fair, we sometimes open on Thursdays in late March. We announce this on our Facebook page, Instagram, or website [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk). So, keep an eye out!

Of course, our volunteers, who keep the Gardens looking so lovely see the flowers as they emerge week by week. We take on new volunteers all year round and will be holding a new volunteer's session on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. As well as gardeners, we are pleased to welcome volunteers who like to help with maintenance work, catering and front of house roles. There is something for everyone! You can find information and contact details on our website.

*Jill Goldsmith*  
[www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)





## The Hundred Parishes Society

One of the main crops of the rich agricultural area covered by The Hundred Parishes is barley, the main ingredient of traditional ales and beer. In the past, much of the barley was malted locally before being taken to a nearby brewery to be combined with water, hops and yeast for fermenting into beer.

Brewing was initially a domestic activity in the home for family consumption, on farms and estates for the landowner's family and workers, and in various institutions such as religious communities for those who lived in and visited them. As the demand for beer grew (safer to drink than 'fresh' water at the time) so did the brewing industry: public houses having their own brewhouses, commercial brewers working out of stand-alone breweries, and then the development of industrial scale brewery complexes.

### Stansted Mountfitchet – Brewery House



Evidence of all these different types of breweries is to be found within the Hundred Parishes in the form of place names such as Brewery Lane in Stansted, Brewery House in Little Hadham; Little Brewers, a cottage in Matching Green; Brewery Cottage in Searsville End; and Brewers House in Dunmow.

### Little Hadham – Nags Head and former Brewery House



### Felsted – former brewery at Hartford End - 2022

There are also surviving examples of the breweries from each of the various phases of the development of the industry. At Audley End House the estate's brewhouse survives although the internal features have been lost. An example of a public house brewery survives as The Old Brewery in Radwinter, now a private house. In Hatfield Heath, the former stand-alone brewhouse was converted to a corn mill before becoming commercial offices.



### Furneux Pelham – former brewery

Three examples of brewhouses which were a part of industrial brewery complexes survive in Furneux Pelham, Wethersfield and Hartford End in Felsted. All three have been renovated and converted to private residential use.

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



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
Legal Services	Nockholds	0345 6460406
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
Printers	M&B Printers	01371 874695
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

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Family Service with Pam Lee
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Matins with Hugh Mascetti
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Family with Pam Lee
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Family with Pam Lee

### Church News

All over the country, the way in which we live and practise our traditions is changing and even in church, we are having to adapt to meet the needs of our congregations whilst also managing resources. Ever increasing costs are being stretched to breaking point and it seems there is no respite to be found.

One way that we at St Mary's have decided to effect change has been to ask the question with falling attendance numbers, can we continue to hold regular Sunday services in church through the winter months when heating costs are so high.

As you can imagine, for those of us that want to attend a Sunday service, this has been as difficult question to consider. None of us want to close the church building up for the winter but we have had to accept the reality of a difficult situation. So, what we have decided to do is in future, during the cold winter months, we will still hold a service, but in a different format and either in the warm village church hall meeting room (when available) or in a volunteer's home.

Holy Communion service will for the time being continue to be held in church on the fourth Sunday of each month. As the weather improves, we will, of course, return to church.

You will as always be welcome to join us at these services but please check with either myself, Sue Warr or Rosemary Saward so that you will know where each service venue will be located.

### Dates for the diary

27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Annual Parochial Parish Meeting

### Prayer for the month

Lord, our world is in turmoil and your people are suffering. Engage with all leaders and others in authority. Make them compassionate and fair minded so that they bring peace for all your people.

Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden)  
Tel: 07702 171744  
[am.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:am.mark2@btinternet.com)

## Village Church Hall



**Modern hall, superb kitchen and additional meeting room available for hire**



For bookings or further information please contact:  
**Manager:** Cat Roberson  
**Telephone:** 07475 092 658  
**Email:** [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07475 092658

Email: [birchangerhall@gmail.com](mailto:birchangerhall@gmail.com)

## THE THREE WILLOWS



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

## B.K.AUTO'S

Fully Qualified And Insured  
Mobile Mechanic

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



Contact: Ben  
07786461813

## D. Bonney & Sons



Motor  
Engineers

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

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

## State Registered Chiropodist

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Home Visiting Practice

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

## Painting & Decorating



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

David

Debnam

Tel: 01279 815214 Mob: 07973861268



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



Contact Will Grange - 07516783138



WASH & IRON SERVICE  
CLOTHES - BEDDING - DUVETS

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

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



Legal Services for You  
or Your Business

0345 646 0406 | [nockolds.co.uk](http://nockolds.co.uk)



01371 874 695

[sales@mbdesignprint.com](mailto:sales@mbdesignprint.com)

[www.mbdesignprint.com](http://www.mbdesignprint.com)

For All Your  
Printing Requirements

UNIT 9 ZONE D CHELMSFORD ROAD IND EST CM6 1XG



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

Tel: 01799 543483 Mob: 07866 752713

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

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



## Perfectly Pampered

Complementary & Holistic Therapies  
By Shelley Williams MGHT

07476 279262

Birchanger CM23 5QT

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

MGHT Accredited & Insured

The Birchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the magazine or any organisations or institutions represented. Material sent to the editor will generally be printed as received providing it is considered suitable by the magazine team. The editor reserves the right to edit content if considered unsuitable or where insufficient space is available. All material should be submitted by the 16th of the month to be published the following month.

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

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

Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin.

Treasurer: Ken Wheatley.