



Uttlesford District Council adopts new Local Plan

UDC have formally adopted a new Local Plan which sets a clear framework for future homes, employment and infrastructure across the district.

The plan has undergone a full independent examination by government planning inspectors. Their report confirmed the plan is sound and legally compliant, with all recommended main modifications now incorporated. Covering the next 15 years, the Local Plan identifies where new development should take place and ensures growth is well planned, sustainable and aligned with national requirements. It also provides a clear mechanism for meeting housing needs, including the provision of affordable homes.

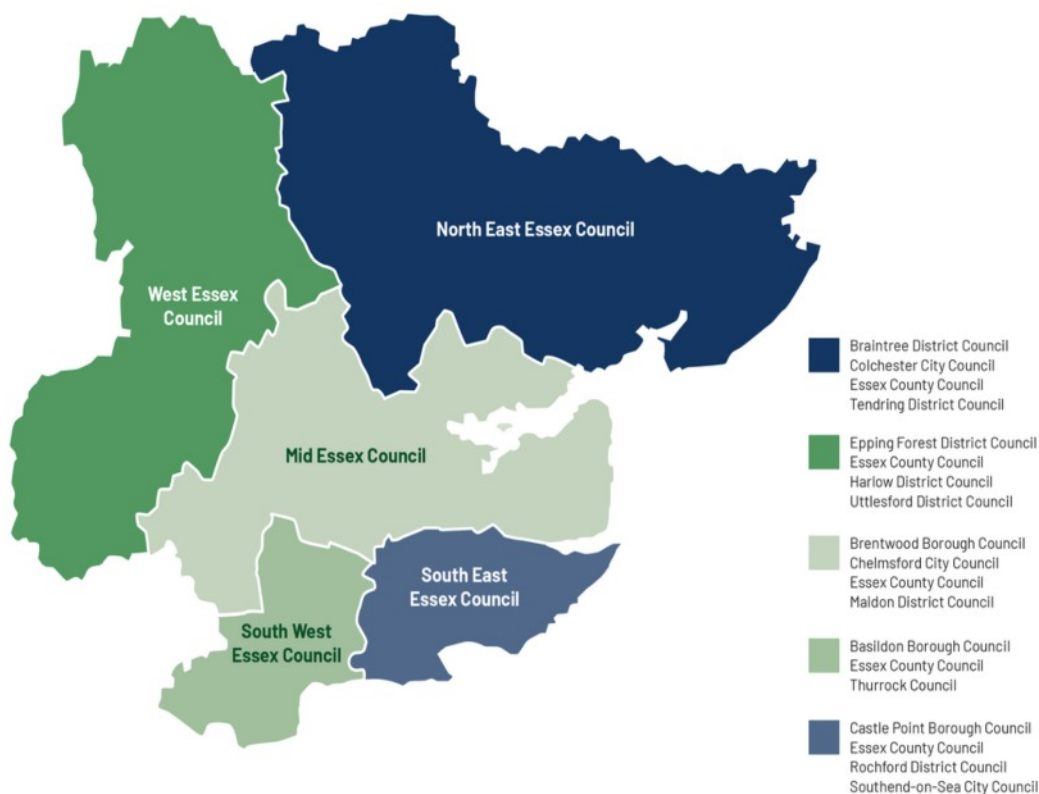
Councillors approved the plan for adoption at a meeting on Wednesday 25 March. It is now a statutory development document, meaning all future planning decisions must take it into account.

Birchanger villagers will of course hope that this puts an end to speculative development opportunities that have rained in and around the village for many years, including applications already in motion threatening the green belt.

Government confirms five new councils for Greater Essex

From April 2028, the new authorities will replace the current 15 councils across Greater Essex and will be responsible for providing all local services, including waste collections, planning, adult social care, highways, children's services and more.

This will include a new council for West Essex which will bring together Epping Forest District Council, Harlow Council and Uttlesford District Council, alongside Essex County Council services for this area.



magazine@birchanger.com



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217 Birchanger Lane CM23 5QJ



The_Ed's InBoxBag ©

Took me all day yesterday but finally finished. A pallet I made from an old coffee table.



Nature Pond gets a major thumbs-up!

The_Ed's InBoxBag © was overflowing following last months appeal for villagers opinions about building a nature pond on the village green. Responses were very nearly into double figures with a jaw-dropping, eye-watering, lip-smacking 100% in favour! It's now for the nature-loving villagers to take the next step to fulfil their nature-loving dream!

Hey Nonny-Nonny it's Morris-stick-thumping joy - An artists impression of the nature-loving villagers dancing around an artists impression of the nature pond, celebrating it's popularity with villagers (if it were to be built and it wasn't simply an artists impression of a nature pond).



Update on City & Country Bid for 480 Houses in Birchanger and Stansted

Dear The_Ed,

Outline planning applications to build 480 new homes on Green Belt land in Birchanger and Stansted are expected to be determined by Uttlesford District Council on 13th May at the earliest.

Over recent months, hundreds of resident objections have highlighted issues such as loss of Green Belt land, pressure on local infrastructure and services, traffic issues and damage to wildlife and character. Many statutory consultees have also raised concerns meaning that, if approved, City & Country would face numerous costly planning conditions.

Crucially, the newly adopted Uttlesford District Local Plan strengthens the case against these proposals. The Plan does not allocate either site for development and makes no allowance for building on Green Belt land, providing the framework within which the planning committee must decide the applications. One area where some uncertainty remains however relates to housing supply.

A delay in the publication of central housing figures means the planning committee is required to assess applications using out-of-date 2023 data which shows a shortfall in Uttlesford housing delivery targets. Councillors and residents have enlisted the support of local MP Kemi Badenoch to press the Government to release the updated figures but until this happens, the developer may argue the applications support housing supply needs. We urge you to continue to protect our village and fight these proposals. Updates will appear on the UDC planning portal and via local social media groups.

Thank You!




Can you spare a couple of hours a month?
Join the Parish Council
 Contact Keith on 01279 814473
 or email clerk@birchangerpc.org.uk

Liz Godwin's News & Views

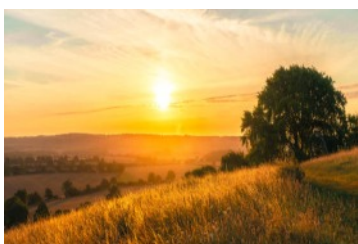


Backing Birchanger

In these days of negativity discontent and constant criticism it is good to know that someone in Birchanger has good things to say about the village. It is a place where many people stay and live large parts of their lives, or, are gone in a flash as a village without a shop is simply not where they want to be.

For those who do like their life in Birchanger there are more battles ahead. Birchanger is in a key position sited at the corner of Essex where it joins with Hertfordshire. It is at the entrance to Essex and should be a small landmark as the counties change - not an overgrown indistinct suburban sprawl.

If we want to keep our way of life in Birchanger we now find ourselves having to fight for it. That needs support from everyone who loves their life here



and would hate to move elsewhere. We may have to support small individual new development, but this must be in keeping with what is a wonderful place to live and thrive.

Be careful if you spring-clean your investments!

We seem to get a lot of investment 'opportunities' online these days and if you do have any spare cash available after paying the heating bills these offers may seem to be very tempting. But are they really what they seem to be? Don't act without taking advice. Speak to a trusted friend who may know something about these kinds of offers.



Check with the Financial Services Register and the new Firm Checker to make sure the company is authorised by the FCA and use their new Scam Smart investment tool to make sure the proposition is safe. If any doubts remain check with your bank. Remember there is a lot out there and it is not all to be trusted.

Word Search Find 10 80's & 90's Pop/Rock Bands

U	K	X	T	S	L	B	H	B	Y	M	U	C	X	S
J	H	R	R	D	L	Q	B	M	E	G	O	F	H	M
C	X	U	S	W	R	N	U	R	R	L	W	W	F	A
X	L	C	J	N	I	A	X	2	D	L	D	D	K	C
B	K	U	C	R	E	B	D	P	Q	L	L	N	M	Y
Y	W	Y	V	X	Y	E	L	I	O	S	W	U	V	X
F	A	A	K	Z	B	A	U	M	O	G	T	L	K	I
W	N	C	A	A	Y	O	Y	Q	A	H	G	S	F	Y
A	E	S	D	M	O	F	N	A	D	O	E	P	P	M
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O	C	N	W	G	K	Q	D	L	S	J	I	E	B	L
E	R	V	A	J	H	L	W	Z	M	Z	Q	O	R	C
M	A	V	K	W	B	K	G	Q	U	G	A	P	S	G



Learning comes to life!

With the arrival of sunnier weather, the children have been thoroughly enjoying their time at school over the past few weeks. One highlight has been our wonderful *Living Chicks* experience, where children in Reception were fascinated to receive a delivery of eggs and carefully watch as the chicks hatched, bringing learning vividly to life. Dove Class have also had great fun enhancing their history topic with a Roman Day, immersing themselves in the past by making Roman shields and creating colourful mosaic pictures, among other activities. After a refreshing break, the children have returned to school happy, settled and ready to embrace all that the summer term has to offer!

Mrs Vessey

For the Love of Dog To a Border Collie –Velke



O bonnie Velke, sleek an' fair,
Wi' silken coat an' thoughtful stare,
Ye bound o'er fields wi' endless glee,
The finest collie you'd ever see.

At Birchanger fete, the folk did cry,
"Behold yon hound that steals the eye!"
Sae proud she stood, both calm an' keen,
The handsomest dog the show had seen.

Her mind's as quick as stream in spate,
She's born to please, she winna wait,
A glance, a nod — she's aff like the wind,
No smarter friend ye'd hope tae find.

An' when TV questions rose sae steep,
Where lesser wits might feign to sleep,
She proved hersel' so sharp an' sleek,
An' joined the one-per-cent o' the unique.

Sae here's tae Velke, douce an' true,
Wi' heart sae kind an' spirit braw,
Fair, weel-behaved, an' clever too
The pride an' joy o' one an' a'.

Brian Ross

(with apologies to Robert Burns)



Village Recipe Lemon Chicken & Avocado Wraps

If May sunshine had a flavour, this would be it. These zesty wraps are bright, fresh, and just fancy enough to make you feel like you've got your life together—even if you're eating them on the sofa in sunglasses.

What you'll need

Cooked chicken (grilled or leftover), soft wraps or tortillas, a ripe avocado, mixed salad leaves, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, a lemon, olive oil, and a little mayo or yogurt. Salt and pepper too—don't be shy.

Simple steps

- Slice chicken and toss with lemon juice, olive oil, salt, and pepper.
- Smash avocado with lemon juice and salt.
- Slice tomatoes and cucumber.
- Spread avocado on wrap, add chicken and veg, then mayo or yogurt.
- Fold and roll your wrap (or call it 'deconstructed' if it falls apart).

It's light but filling, fresh but satisfying, and perfect for a sunny day. Pair with crisps or fruit for a complete lunch.



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Village Church Hall

Information and bookings:

Cat Roberson

07475 092658

birchangerhall@gmail.com

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them
on the last Wednesday of the month at
8:00 pm in the village hall.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday May 27th
7:45pm for 8:00pm

Talk: the History of Birchanger

bags@birchanger.com
Rosemary: 01279 814 678
Liz: 07473 508 056

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-  LPG Boiler Installation & Servicing
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-  Boiler Repairs & Breakdowns
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DavidCarbine@sky.com



VISA



What's that all about then?

Objections to Planning Applications - Does it make any difference?

Yes, planning objections do count and can significantly influence planning decisions, but their impact depends heavily on the quality of the objection rather than the quantity of people complaining. Objections are most effective when they are based on "material planning considerations" (legally relevant issues) rather than personal grievances. Here is a breakdown of how objections count in the planning process:

1. Valid vs. Invalid Objections

Planning authorities (councils) must disregard objections that are not legally relevant, even if they are submitted by a large number of people.

Valid (Material Considerations)

Loss of light/overshadowing, overlooking/loss of privacy, highway safety/traffic, noise, overbearing design, harm to the conservation area or character of the neighbourhood.

Invalid (Non-Material Considerations)

Loss of a private view, negative impact on property value, personal disputes with the applicant, construction noise/disruption, or speculative claims about the applicant's character.

2. How Objections Affect the Process

Triggering a Committee Decision

While small-scale projects are often decided by "delegated powers" (one planning officer), a high volume of valid objections can force the application to be decided by a planning committee of elected councillors.

Influencing Elected Representatives

Decisions made by councillors are often more responsive to public opinion than those made by professional planning officers.

Delays and Revisions

A significant number of valid objections can lead to delays in the approval process, forcing developers to submit amendments to reduce the negative impacts.

Overturning Decisions

In some contexts, higher objection rates correlate with higher rates of refusal for development applications, particularly in wealthier areas.

3. Tips for Effective Objections

- Focus on Policy
- Provide Evidence
- Quality over Quantity
- Suggest Solutions

Birchanger Travellers Site on Green Belt Land

These two contributions are concerning a recent local planning matter. One is provided by a sitting district councillor explaining his decision; the other reflects the views of a local resident. They are published in the interests of informing readers about matters of local concern. The magazine does not endorse any individual, candidate, or viewpoint. Responsibility for the content of each article rests with its author.

Editor and Publisher: John McArthur, 217 Birchanger Lane, CM235QJ on behalf of Birchanger Village Magazine

From Brian Ross, Birchanger Residents Association

THE TRAVELLERS ARE HERE TO STAY

A key opportunity to bring an end to the traveller site at the end of Birchanger Lane has been lost, thanks to, for reasons unknown, a failure to intervene by our local councillor.

Those of you familiar with this long running saga will recall that the reason the travellers were granted permission to remain on the Green Belt site was down to the very special circumstances of the particular families, with the interests of their children being a priority.

That is why two separate planning inspectors imposed an occupancy condition allowing only 12 individually-named travellers and their children to remain on the site. The travellers disregarded this fundamentally material condition and, to avoid enforcement action, they then applied for the occupancy condition to be removed. The Parish Council, Birchanger Residents Association and many others strongly objected to the removal of this key condition and asked for the application to be decided by the elected UDC Planning Committee, not just by planning officers. This was because of a concern that planning officers would simply rubber stamp their approval.

However, only a local councillor can insist that an application is decided by the Planning Committee rather than by officers and, unfortunately on this occasion, and for reasons unknown, our local councillor failed to intervene. The occupancy condition has now been removed by officers. The opportunity has been missed. We now have to accept that the incursion on to Birchanger's Green Belt is permanent. The travellers are here to stay. ~Ends~

From Ray Gooding, Uttlesford District Councillor

There has been some contention about the recent grant of Planning Permission for the travellers at the Birchanger Site to remain despite the fact that the original families who were granted permission have now moved on and their children no longer attend local schools. The application was to allow occupancy of the site by people other than the originally named families.

There was a request that I "Call In" the application, that is, ask for it to be considered by the Planning Committee. However, it is important to note that any such request must be supported by clear material planning considerations; it cannot be based solely on opposition to the proposal. Requests not based on clear planning reasons can be turned down by the Head of Development Management in accordance with the council's scheme of delegation.

In this instance, I was unable to identify any additional material planning grounds beyond those already set out within the application itself. As a result, the application was determined under delegated powers by Officers of the Council in accordance with the council's scheme of delegation.

It is important that we understand the reasoning behind their decision to approve and why permission was granted.

Everyone will be aware that the site which the travellers occupy is green belt land and that in order to be granted permission to reside on green belt land there has to be an 'exceptional circumstance'. At the previous application the Inspector determined that the travellers demonstrated exceptional circumstances that justified granting planning permission. That was some years ago and planning law has significantly evolved since that original decision as has the local position regarding traveller housing need and pitch availability (which are key issues in national planning law / policy and decision-making).

Uttlesford currently has a deficit of 35 traveller pitches. If the existing ones were removed that would worsen the situation. The council's delegated report explains the position and can be read at

<https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do> using reference UTT/25/3455/FUL. The arguments set out in the report are very similar to those a Planning Inspector would have to consider and base his judgement upon.

In addition to this, the designation of the site as green belt is, given the current governments thinking in relation to Grey Belt, becoming more challenging for councils. It is far more difficult for councils to resist development on Grey belt. We all know the history of the site with it previously having been owned by the National Highways Agency as a compound for the construction of the M11 north of Bishops Stortford in the 1980s. It then sat derelict until being purchased by the Travellers more recently. Under the government's new legislation, it would be difficult for the Council to argue that this is not Grey Belt.

I understand the concerns the planning decision and the general situation raises for local residents, and I continue to liaise with the Planning Department to see that the site is responsibly managed and mitigate impacts on the community as far as possible.

~Ends~



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



BIG NEWS for Birchanger Sports and Social Club!

We're incredibly proud to announce that Birchanger Sports & Social Club has been awarded Branch Club of the Year 2026 by Campaign for Real Ale!

This is a huge achievement for our club and wouldn't be possible without our amazing members, staff, volunteers, and everyone who supports us week in and week out. Your support, laughter, and community spirit are what make this place so special.

Here's to great beer, great food, great people, and many more good times ahead!

Thank you to everyone who made this possible — we couldn't have done it without you.



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

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Notes from Chef and Latest Special Offers!

Discover our brand-new menus, bursting with fresh seasonal ingredients and irresistible dishes served from lunch right through to dinner. Look out for Chef's Weekly Specials, delivering bold new flavours to your plate every week. And don't worry—our legendary Sunday Roasts are here to stay, perfectly paired with your favourite pints, gins, and wines.

This month's specials...

W/C 4th May
Traditional
Cottage Pie
£8.95

W/C 11th May
Currywurst
with Fries
£9.95

W/C 18th May
Ham Hock and
Butterbean Cassoulet
£11.95

W/C 25th May
Skate Wings
Baked or Battered
£15.95



For all general enquiries
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Was the “One armed Bandit a curse or the Club’s saviour?”

The 1960s opened with great optimism Harold MacMillan was prime minister who famously said “You’ve never had it so good”. The world was mostly at peace. The western world fell in love with Rock and Roll, JFK won the race for the US presidency and Lady Chatterley’s Lover was published!

Meanwhile the club was undergoing fundamental change.

In January 1960 the rules were changed to add Social to the title, an arrears list for late subs was posted as late as July. Opening hours are now from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm The secretary (Eric Wright) reported a 21% bar profit. George Banks joined the committee, JE Osbourne was elected chairman. We had a new Steward Mr Jack Carter. At the July half yearly meeting the club decides it will now open on Sundays for the first time.

In October the first suggestion of having a fruit machine in the club was made. Also there was a discussion relating to the sale of the plot of land along the eastern perimeter, and a proposal to fit an outside light.

In June 1961 the club got its first fruit machine after much discussion. It makes an immediate impact on club profits. Enabling Bar prices to be decreased. By December there are requests for a second machine to be installed. The machine took six pence piece coins (2 ½ p) per play. At the time jackpots were limited to £2. At a time when average wages were about £14 per week.

In August the Club Trust was set up *“This means that the club is now the property of the parish council held in trust. The recreation ground should be forever used as a recreation ground for the benefit of the working men of the said parish and that the premises if not used as a working men’s club should be let as a source of income to maintain the recreation ground.”*

In October the cellar received a cement base and Marley tiles. There was an on ongoing problem with furniture in the club and a marked reluctance to buy any. Price lists are placed over the bar for the first time and notices relating to *“Standing at the bar”* were placed. No one under

the age of 16 was permitted in the club house. Jack Carter was very firm on this he was also determined to prevent children using the club field.

In 1962 A wash basin for the gent’s toilet is first fitted! George Banks proposed the purchase of a second hand Pavilion for the use of the sports teams. Five tables and 25 chairs were purchased from Rayments. Licensing laws now allow opening until 11pm on Friday and Saturday evenings the Bonus paid to the steward (£15 per six months) becomes illegal and therefore his salary is increased to £150 pa.

1963 The year begins with a particularly severe winter. The Sports pavilion is quoted as £75 for a concrete base, £292 for the building and £43 10s for erection of same Total £410 10s. (The pavilion is in situ by May).

The club opens a deposit account placing £600 into Defence Bonds. A complaint was received from Mr E Haggerwood to the effect that *“The electric fruit machine was affecting a members television set”*. It was proposed to get the machine’s owners to fit a suppressor to the fruit machine. This issue was still not resolved until 1968.

The Steward again complained about boys being on the club’s premises on Sunday evenings. It was reported that the plot of land known as *“The Old Bowling Green”* could be sold and that a Mr Kent was interested in purchasing it. The proposal to sell was carried 9 to 2. The Swarder valuation being £750 There were two potential buyers Mr Kent and JA Elliott. Mr Elliott offered £975 and Mr Kent £1100. The sale was opposed by two committee members, Mr Brown, and Mr Carter. A proposal for the Steward to receive 10 shillings per week from the fruit machine profits was carried.

It was proposed that when the Bar alteration work was done a Bathroom



for the steward’s cottage be included if possible! There is also a proposal to extend the bowling green by some 18 to 20 feet ongoing. There was some controversy as whether the bar or the bowling green extension should come first. Springs were fitted to the club doors for the first time. Inquiries are to be made regarding serving ladies at the bar.

In 1965 it was reported at the half-yearly general meeting that the members did not understand the balance sheet and the auditors were to be asked for a simpler version. The club looks to more lucrative investments for its profits. In March there are complaints about the fruit machine which lead to it being replaced. There are also complaints about spectators watching the other players. The Steward complains about members playing the fruit machines after closing time.

September Eric Wright resigns as Secretary, and stays on until the end of the year. George Banks takes over. The Club buys a typewriter. Fruit machines to go to a 60-40 payout basis. A proposal is made to tarmac the front of the club and take over part of the Steward’s Garden to make a car park.

(The back Car park is still a pond!)

By Eddie Gilbey



For all general enquiries
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

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LOCAL DIRECTORY

Services

Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815 453
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638 359
Bed & Breakfast	The Cottage	01279 812 349
Birchanger Social Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813 441
Car & Van Hire	Practical	01279 850 400
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813 315
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873 492
Dementia Support	Debbie Baker	07927 011 345
Dog Walking	Birch & Bark	07393 400 591
Flooring & Furnishing Care	Art of Clean	01279 945 169
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	01279 655 477
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543 483
Hair stylist, gents	Claire's	01799 542 424
Hairdresser, men/boys	Emma Marks	07527 227 943
Heating & Plumbing	Upstream	01279 944 445
Home Care	GoodOaks	0808 531 0016
Launderette	Suds	01279 866 183
Legal Services	Nockolds	03456 460 406
Painting & Decorating	David Debnam	07973 861 268
Printing	M&B Printers	01371 874 695
Security Systems	Hiteck	0203 092 0566
Soft Play & Inflatables	Andy & Lucie	07956 622 808
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813 429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815 913

Classes

Apton Dance Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251 528
Ellouise School of Dance	Ellouise Wilson	07734 227 479
Line Dance	Shelly Guichard	07824 447 156
Pilates	Mandy Cousins	07713 272 664
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628 935
Zumba Fitness	Vida Wellness Club	07956 667 434

Village Contacts

Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814 473
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814 678
Birchanger Magazine	John McArthur	07488 315 349
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810 800
Church Hall	Cat Roberson	07475 092 658
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904 333
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814 473
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904 333
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904 333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171 744

THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Spring is my favourite season and at the Gardens extends into May, with bluebells and camassia and waving cow parsley under the trees, while the willowy white bracts waft on the handkerchief tree in the Glade at the beginning of the month and in a good year, the Laburnum walk drips gold. By the end of the month the



foxgloves are crowding out the herbs in the kitchen garden and the Allium Christophii are spectacular (if there's enough rain). Towards the end of the month, we are treated to the lovely unusual pink pea shaped flowers of the false acacia and there are also flowers atop one of the tallest of the trees in the Glade, the Indian Horse Chestnut.

The Gardens are open every Thursday in May, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, last entry 2.00 pm. The Trust's volunteers provide refreshments in Daisy's Kiosk and are on hand to answer visitors' gardening questions. And the history and information room is open for visitors to browse the pictures and stories telling the history of the Gardens, gardeners and surrounding area. Sunday 10 May is Nature Day at the Gardens, with a range of fun nature activities, including pond dipping and owl pellet dissection. Essex Bat Group will be with us too. The Gardens are open from 11.00 to 5.00, last entry 4.00, with refreshments available. Woodwind of Stortford will be playing their eclectic blend of light music. For more information go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Insta-dam

[In-stah-dam]

An invisible barrier briefly created while people observe a tourist photo being taken.



What's On - MAY 2026

SATURDAY **SUNDAY** **MONDAY** **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY**

Bradley Common waste collection 1 day after green/black bin dates below

1

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw BSSC 20:00 The Machine Shed Band	Church 11:15 Family Service BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC Poker Night (Members) Church Hall 7.30 Council Meeting		Green Bin BSSC 8.30pm Bingo Night	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw BSSC 20:00 The Sons of Illinois	Church 11:15 Holy communion BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Garden Bin BSSC Poker Night (Members)		Black Bin BSSC 8.30pm Bingo Night 6pm Five Churches service Ascension Day w/Choir	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw	Church 11:15 Family Service Cafe church/Lego BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC Poker Night (Members)		Green Bin BSSC 8.30pm Bingo Night	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Garden Waste BSSC BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw BSSC 15:00 Garden Waste BSSC 21:00 Dance Floor Revival	Church 11:15 Family Service BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Garden Bin BSSC Poker Night (Members)	Church Hall 20:00 BAGS meeting	Black Bin BSSC 8.30pm Bingo Night	
30	31					
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Church 11:15 Family Service					

Birchanger Sports & Social Club
Parish Council

www.birchangerclub.com

www.birchanger.com

Church Hall - Weekly Classes & Activities (holiday period may vary)

SATURDAY **SUNDAY** **MONDAY** **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY**

09:00 - Apton Mini 09:45 - Kids Latin 2 10:30 - Kids Latin 1		16:00 - 18:45 - Ellouise Dance 19:00-20:30 -Apton Latin/Ballroom	09:45 - 10:45 - Apton Dance Ballet 17:30 - Teen Latin 18:45 - Teen Street 19:30 - Adult Street 20:15 - Rock & Roll	10:00-12:00 - Tai Chi 16:15-17:15 - Ellouise Dance 18:30-21:15 - Apton Dance	12:00 - Line Dance 16:45-20:30 - Ellouise Dance	09:30 - 11:00 - Apton Dance Private 15:30 - Ellouise Dance
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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. Printers: M&B Printers Tel: 01371 874 695. Email:sales@mbdesignprint.com.
Editor: John McArthur Tel: 07488 315349 Email: magazine@birchanger.com. Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin Treasurer: Malcolm Roberts

St. Mary's Church



Services

- 3rd May Family Service with Pam Lee
- 10th May Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
- 14th May 6pm Five churches Ascension Day Service with choir
- 17th May Café Church with Lego
- 24th May Family Service with Pam Lee
- 31st May Family Service with Pam Lee

Last month I announced that we would be hosting a café church service on the third Sunday of the month with the first one being held on the 19th April. In fact, we had our first café church in March when 3 visitors from outside the village came along. A lovely surprise.

By the time you see this we will have had our first Café and Lego church and I will let you know how it goes.

A huge thank you to those of you who kindly donated Lego and games for use in church. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Children from Birchanger Primary School came to church for their Easter celebrations. This is always such an upbeat service that is so enjoyable no matter what your age as the children are so enthusiastic. The service was introduced by Revd Helen Flack who also turned into a magician for the day, and it was so lovely to see so many parents and grandparents watching on.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to our Ascension Day Service which will take place on at 6pm on Thursday 14th May 2026.

This is five churches together service so the choir will be present too. Refreshments will be provided after the service so please do join us. Pam Lee

Development application on the 'horse paddock' dismissed (again)

Back in November this magazine reported that the latest appeal from the applicant had been dismissed. Since then, another attempt to develop on the Green belt in Birchanger was raised - and once again refused on April 10th. The key reasons for this refusal were;

- 1) inappropriate development on the Green belt
- 2) visibility regarding vehicular access
- 3) no evidence of adherence to climate change mitigation and adaptation policies
- 4) failure to demonstrate minimum bio-diversity gain.



Sky TV viewers in the village might have seen the above report on prime time TV relating to "Highest Costs for Unreasonable Decisions" and noted with some dismay that Uttlesford District Council are right up there - in fact - well ahead on all other councils on the chart. Rather depressing. The_Ed sought comments from UDC on this "No.1" accolade they'd probably rather not have.

A spokesman for the council advised; "Uttlesford District Council made an offer of £2.1 million to Stansted Airport Limited in full settlement of the costs incurred in their 2019 planning appeal, and the council has been open and transparent about the circumstances and lessons learned. The case is settled and the council regards the matter as closed. It remains focused on delivering a robust, high-quality planning service for residents and applicants.

Since 2021, the council has transformed how it approaches planning applications and appeals, strengthened governance, and rebuilt constructive working relationships with Stansted Airport and other partners. Recent appeal outcomes, including costs awarded in the council's favour, demonstrate the significant improvement in the service. The total costs awarded against the council for the period 2019 to 2025 (excluding the airport) is £94,292. It should also be highlighted that one successful full cost claim against an appellant in 2024 resulted in payment to the council of £75,000."





www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Hazel End, Farnham



Henham



The Romans introduced wine making to the UK and vines were cultivated to some extent until World War I when land was needed for growing food.

Viticulture (the process of growing grapes) began to revive in the 1970s with warmer summers and the development of grape varieties suited to English conditions. Today, we have several successful vineyards in The Hundred Parishes. One of the first was Chilford Hall in Linton parish. It was run by the Alper family for 50 years before changing hands in 2024. The new owners continue to manage the 20-acre vineyard alongside their Grillo Outdoor Kitchen business.

In **Great Bardfield**, Great Lodge produces its own wines from six different grape varieties. The vineyard is open to visitors midweek from May to September and there is also a wedding venue on site. Website:

<https://www.greatlodge.co.uk/vineyard/> In **Farnham**, Hazel End Farm has been growing grapes for over thirty years. Their sparkling white wine is sold as Three Squirrels. This celebrates the fact that the Gosling family who own the land once had a bank in Fleet Street where a sign above the door read "Ye Three Squirrels". Website:

<https://www.corylet.com/> In **Saffron Walden**, the first vines were planted at Saffron Grange in 2008. The family business is now well established, producing white sparkling wines and offering vineyard tours for small groups from mid-April. Website: <https://www.saffrongrange.com/> In **Stansted Mountfitchet**, a new vineyard was planted in 2021 on a south-facing slope. The first grapes were harvested in 2023 and wine from the Gunyah Vineyard is now on sale.

Website: <https://www.thegunyahvineyard.com/>. This vineyard can be seen across the valley from Hundred Parishes walk number 137. Another vineyard has appeared in recent years in **Henham** – and there may be others. Please email hundredparishes@btinternet.com if you find any more! Ken McDonald, Secretary



"I've come to talk with you again."

Paul Simon

u3a
Stansted Mountfitchet

Who wouldn't enjoy an afternoon in good company listening to the soulful sounds of Paul Simon? Such was the very pleasant task of the Poetry Group, as they listened to and discussed just how poetical Paul Simon's lyrics are. His most famous lines: "Hello Darkness my old friend, I've come to talk with you again", certainly seem to qualify. Simon's gentle, plaintive voice sparked a most satisfying discussion for the group. The tea and biscuits were top notch too! Future group topics include the poetry of Americans Walt Whitman and Billy Collins, as well as Zimbabwean poet Batsirai Chigima.

At the Saturday Seminar, David Morson asked whether Donald Trump and Elon Musk are the logical consequence of globalisation. The large audience enjoyed a stimulating, well-researched examination of an important current topic, all laced with humour, Trump and Starmer masks, a touch of mimicry and real insight. Also at the Monthly Meeting, Andrew Baker, a teacher for over 40 years and now an author on British Politics, traced the impact of 'The Profumo Affair' on society with comparisons to modern 'outrages'. He concluded, somewhat poignantly that after the affair a chastened Profumo dedicated himself utterly to service, as a volunteer at Toynbee Hall a charitable institution addressing the impact of poverty in the east end of London. The next Saturday Seminar on 9th May will see the return of historian Dr Hugh Doherty discussing 'The Anarchy', a very bloody period in English history (1135 - 1154), after the death of Henry 1. Remember, if you fancy a philosophical think, tucking in to Pub Grub or unwinding with a Sunday Walk, to name only three possibilities, check the u3a website and click on 'groups' at the top for these and a host of other enjoyable pursuits, or for more information ring 07874 385541.




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