

Birchanger Village Magazine

July 2026 Issue 282

GET BACK TO BASICS



LUMPHAMMER
the INTERNET

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." — Mahatma Gandhi

UDC Planning Committee Rejects 180 New Homes on Green Belt Land in Birchanger

Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee has voted to refuse a proposal for 180 new homes on Green Belt land in Birchanger, in a significant win for the village.

At a meeting on 10th June at Council's Offices, councillors considered the Birchanger proposal alongside a linked application for a further 300 homes and commercial development in Stansted. Members unanimously rejected both schemes, taking the unusual step of going against the officer recommendation for approval on key planning grounds.



The decision reflects the strength, determination and organisation of the local response. Residents, alongside Birchanger and Stansted Parish Councils, District Councillors for both communities, and a representative from Bishop's Stortford Town Council presented clear and well-evidenced cases to the Committee. These were supported by more than 1,600 objections across the two applications, ensuring that local concerns were fully recognised.

Councillors based their decision on the Birchanger development on two clear planning grounds:

- **Conflict with the Local Plan:** The site lies outside the defined settlement boundary for Birchanger and is not allocated for development. Members concluded the proposal conflicted with the Council's spatial strategy and would represent unsustainable development.
- **Green Belt Harm:** The Committee found the development would cause harm to the openness of the Green Belt and result in encroachment into the countryside. Claims that the land fully constitutes "grey belt" were not accepted and no very special circumstances were identified to outweigh this harm.

Taken together, the Committee concluded the proposals failed to meet the policy tests required for approval.

Added to this, as these unplanned additional houses in Birchanger and Stansted are not included in the new Local Plan for the district, they would have put a considerable and unaccounted for strain on local infrastructure. Concerns included traffic pressures across Birchanger, Stansted and Bishop's Stortford, as well as impacts on flooding, utilities, schools and healthcare services.

What Happens Next? Following refusal, the applications have been referred to the Secretary of State, who must decide whether to "call them in" for national determination within 21 days. If this does not happen, the developer may still choose to appeal and it's important that we prepare for this. The refusal puts the Council and the communities of Birchanger and Stansted in a strong position however and the developer's prospects of success are likely to diminish once the Council's updated five-year housing supply is formally confirmed in the coming weeks. This represents a major moment for Birchanger, demonstrating what can be achieved when a community comes together with a clear, evidence-based case. It is a result many in the village worked hard for and is a welcome boost as we await the next steps.

Birchanger & Stansted Green Belt Preservation, Birchanger Parish Council and Birchanger Residents Association

The Parish Council were obviously very pleased that UDC refused the two planning applications from City & Country and thankful for all the support from so many people in the village. Their enthusiasm and hard work helped enormously to achieve this result which is being seen as a test case for UDC's new Local Plan. However, we've only won the first battle, not the war, as now the refusal decision by UDC must be referred to the Secretary of State. We should know the outcome of this by the beginning of July. Angie Driscoll, Chair Birchanger Parish Council



magazine@birchanger.com



07488 315349



217 Birchanger Lane CM23 5QJ



The_Ed's InBoxBag ©

My mate's just
bought a dog that
only understands
commands in
Spanish.

He's Espanyol.



Our headline news this month about the outcome of the planning affecting Birchanger and beyond is very welcome. It was characterised by the amount of effort and focus of many people who care deeply about the village they live in, and their way of life.

We all know we don't have an unwavering right for everything to stay the same. Progress is relentless in most walks of life but this proposal is wrong for so many reasons. Will the developer relent? Almost certainly not. There may be reviews, appeals and more questionable 'facts' presented aiming to wear people down, shift focus and try and edge the argument their way.

Our current government is determined to hit their housing targets by leveraging a vacuum of common sense as greed and opportunism raises it's ugly head in the eyes of developers.

Steel yourselves for further battles, and continue to fight them to try and preserve this wonderful village. The_Ed

Magazine Distributors - Our distributors are all volunteers who work tirelessly, in all weathers, to ensure every home in Birchanger receives a copy of the magazine each month. Their work is equally as important as that of the editorial committee, so do please give them a nod or a smile when they come to your door. We wish to thank our 'retiring' distributors, Denise and Lesley. Lesley has undertaken the task for over 25 years. Denise has been distributing the largest round, Birchwood, also for a very long time. We are eternally grateful to them both and wish them well.

We are fortunate to have recruited two new volunteers, David Carey and Sue Gilbey, to take over from Denise and Lesley.. Do you or one of your family members enjoy a bit of exercise and can spare an hour each month? We are always looking for volunteers to help out with holiday cover or to take on a regular round, so do please get in touch with The_Ed..



Plots available at Birchanger allotments



The Parish Council have advised that 9 plots are available to Birchanger villagers for rent. If you are interested please contact the village clerk details here —————>

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

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DavidCarbine@sky.com



Liz Godwin's News & Views



Exams over - or nearly over - for some

It is time to get your head around summer holidays. Always a time of change. New classrooms, new friends are on the horizon but for now the prospects of holidays are on the horizon. Take care if you are going abroad. There is yet another unnecessary piece of bureaucracy to contend with if you are going anywhere in the EU and the form is not a quick fill number. It takes time, you will be photographed and all the details about you which are mainly on your passport have to be copied out all over again. Why? Nobody knows but it looks like punishment for leaving the EU from the point of view of all the Brits using the service. There is no way of avoiding this and many families have missed their flights because of it. Some countries have already dropped this form as neither the airports nor the passengers could cope with the extra space required for the volume of passengers. Apparently the form takes twenty minutes to complete. Imagine trying to fill this in surrounded by an excited group of children.

All you can do is get to the airport early. Make sure you have all the required documents with you and just grin and bear it. This will be a part of our holiday life for the foreseeable future I am afraid. In the days of computers it is hard to believe we still have to fill in long forms at the airport.

Unless you are going to Greece where at the time of writing the Greek government are having nothing to do with this form.

Just wonder how long that will last. Just something else to bear in mind along with the packing and everything else.



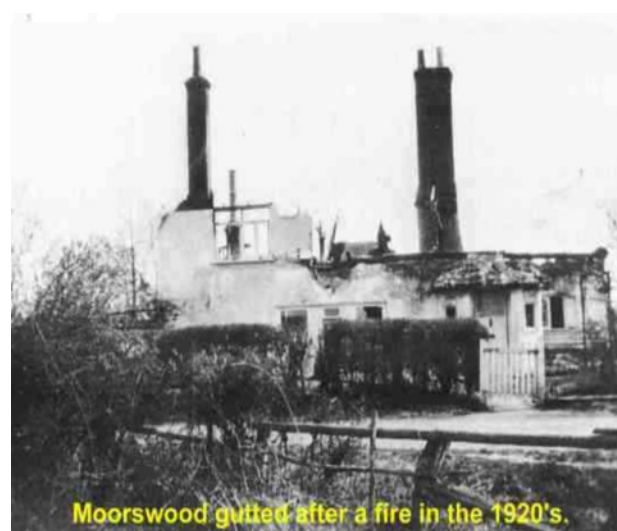
**Wife Who Stared At Phone
During Entire Movie Says Plot
Made No Sense**

The Way We Woz - Moorswood, Birchanger

Moorswood was built by New College Oxford, as a rest house for the Dons when they came on respite to visit Thremhall Priory. There is a date on the chimney inscribed 1450, although it is believed that some sort of dwelling existed prior to that date.

It was built as a two up two down dwelling, with a timber frame, thatched roof, and spiral staircase. Thremhall Priory was razed to the ground in the reign of Henry VIII, and it not clear what happened to the house. There are two large alcoves inside the chimney, which are probably Priest's Holes. It is rumoured to have been a pub or a bakery latterly.

It remained in the ownership of New College until the late 19th century. The rental in 1855 was five shillings per annum. A large extension was added in the 17th century, and various outbuildings, all of which are incorporated into the existing house. The upstairs floor was destroyed by fire in 1910, and the new chimney bears this date. The thatch was not replaced.



POOR SHOW FROM BIRCHANGER - In last months issue I appealed for residents to help out in clearing the churchyard on the 6th June. i would have been there myself but i was away on a much needed holiday.

Upon my return I was shocked to hear that only one person turned up to help Rosemary. How sad is that!

Our churchyard is full of many relatives of current residents who regularly contact me commenting about the state of the area. I tell them all that we do our best to keep the churchyard in as attractive state as possible (a natural environment for wild life but pleasing on the eye) but finances are limited and Richard (bless him) does his best, regularly cutting the grass and removing fallen branches. We are truly grateful to him for his continuing efforts.

Ours is one of only a few churchyards in this area that is still open for burials and I regularly have to refuse requests from others to have a loved one that they want to be interred here. It is a diminishing resource that is protected for residents of this parish. If you are planning to end your days in St Mary's churchyard, as I am, please think about what you can do to help to maintain it - either by removing old floral tributes, fallen twigs from the footpath, attending on tidy up days or at the very least making a financial contribution towards the cost of upkeep of the church. If you all do nothing the church will soon be financially unsustainable resulting in closure. I pray that this at least does not happen during my lifetime.

Finally to those who do already make a regular donation to church upkeep, I am truly grateful for your generosity.

Pam Lee, Churchwarden

suds Launderette

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Large car park at rear
01279 866 183

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last
Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 29th
leaving Birchanger 5:45pm

Private group visit to
Oak Farm, Wakes Colne
An open garden under the NGS Scheme

New Members always welcome
For further information, call Rosemary 01279 814 678

Scribblers

A GROUP FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN WRITING

Write what inspires you...

- POETRY & POEMS**
Capture thoughts, feelings and moments.
- BOOKS & CREATIVE WRITING**
Bring your ideas and stories to life.
- SHORT STORIES**
Share your stories, get inspired and be inspired.

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A friendly, supportive space to write, share and grow.

 When? EVERY 2 WEEKS THURSDAY	 Time 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	 Where? THE APTON CENTRE APTON ROAD BISHOP STORTFORD
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To e mail hilary@hahypnotherapy.co.uk | Tel **07732 221383**

Come write • Share ideas • Be inspired • Make connections

Scribblers Writers Group has been running for over 20 years. We are a friendly group of people who love all things writing. We have novelists, short story writers, poets, playwrights and screenwriters. Some of us have won competitions or had their work published. Others just write for fun. Our age group spans from early twenties to our oldest member, who is 87 (and has just self-published his first book and is writing the sequel). The diverse range of genres covers comedy, psychological fiction, crime, fantasy and romance. Some writers are currently writing their memoirs. Anything is welcome.

We meet twice a month, on a Thursday, at The Apton Centre, Apton Road, Bishop's Stortford, from 8pm to 10pm. There is a car park in Apton Road, just a short walk from the centre.

At each meeting we share news, read out extracts from our work, and give constructive feedback, designed to encourage and help people improve their writing skills. We have a break at 9pm for tea and biscuits, and a chat. There is a yearly subscription fee of £15, then its £5 per meeting as and when members can come along. This just covers the cost of the room hire. The first meeting is free so you can see if you like us and want to come again.

If you are interested, please contact: Hilary Austin, Tel: 07732 221383 or email: hilary@hahypnotherapy.co.uk.

Remembering Brian Gordon Pallett 23/8/1934 - 24/5/2026

Brian passed away at Mountfitchet House nursing home, following a lengthy spell of ill health



He was one of the oldest residents of Birchanger. His parents were also from the village, residing in the road originally known as Park Place.

After marrying his wife Jean, they moved to High View, where they remained for many years. During that time, Brian worked as a labourer for the Bishops Stortford based builders Glasscocks, until the company ceased to trade in 1991.

Brian was also a keen member of the Birchanger cricket team, playing regularly at the Working men's club.

Following his retirement, Brian and Jean moved to Birchwood. He retained his love of sport, regularly watching cricket, horse racing and football on television. He also enjoyed cooking (having served in the catering corps in Japan) and he was also a keen gardener, taking great care tending his garden until ill health prevented him from doing so.

He had no desire to leave the village that he grew up in and greatly appreciated the wonderful neighbours who helped him out and kept an eye on him, for which his family are very grateful

Gil Beckett



Year 5 Adventures at Skreens Park!

Year 5 had an incredible time on their residential visit to Skreens Park and made us proud throughout their visit. As a group they were fantastic—they supported one another, had fun together and worked well as a team. Although the weather was very changeable they continued smiling through sunshine and showers! They approached every challenge with enthusiasm, determination, and a positive attitude!

During their stay, the children enjoyed a wide range of exciting activities, including exploring the Cave Bus, Gladiator Challenge, kayaking on the lake, and testing their skills in archery. In the evening, everyone gathered around a very large campfire to toast marshmallows followed by more fun playing games before the children (finally!) settled off to sleep. The staff who attended, along with the camp instructors, all commented on how wonderful the children were throughout the visit.

Well done Magpie Class!

Well-considered ideas.....

You know that feeling when you slow down to exchange pleasantries with a passer-by and the chat turns out to be a really interesting conversation, they tell you some extremely useful information or make you laugh - it lifts your mood and off you go a little enlivened. Through the u3a you can access that feeling by joining groups and attending varied activities. Local people have decided they want access to some fun and to expand their horizons.



Maybe a weekly dose of line-dancing might set you up, discussing a book you have all read, or brushing up on your school French? Some groups meet once a month, others weekly - you can organise to suit your circumstances.

After the recent Saturday seminar with Dr Hugh Doherty, many felt the pleasant shock that comes with hearing a surprising depth of knowledge imparted with real joy. Dr Doherty, a master of his material - King Stephen and The Anarchy in 1138 - achieved the elusive goal of covering, for most, a sketchily known period with nuance, complexity and clarity, all resting

on a firm foundation of impeccable scholarship. More Saturday Seminars are on the way; these, and all the group classes, can be found on the website, www.stansted.u3asite.uk/.



In the Poetry for Pleasure group, Vicky led a discussion on the American poet Billy Collins. There

was no doubt about his popularity as everyone felt that satisfying sensation of 'when you put it like that, I completely get it!' Some of the best phrasings are not at all opaque but use everyday images in a new way. For example, seeing the earth as an 'orange tangerine', or the sensation of falling asleep and beginning to dream as 'drifting into a story that will never be written'. These reports on a mere two groups do not do justice to the 30+ on offer. Check the website or call 07874 385541.

THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

After the rains in early June ending the spring drought, we are hoping that more typical weather will enable the Gardens to continue to thrive and look lovely through July. We can always count on the water lilies, nepeta and helenium in the Italian Garden.



The Japanese style gardens in the dappled shade in the Glade retain interest from the range of shapes and colours of their foliage. The wildflower spiral, dahlias and vegetables in the walled kitchen garden have started growing at pace (and there should be a steady flow of fresh produce on sale). And we have our fingers crossed that the lavender hedges, which we have renewed, will be just as attractive to the butterflies, bees and hummingbird hawk moths as the straggly old ones were.

In summer visitors enjoy the garden games on the croquet lawn... there's something for all the family, from the skill and interesting tactics in croquet to the clatter of large Jenga toppling to the ground! The Gardens are open on Thursdays, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, last entry 2.00 pm.

And on Sunday 12 July we will have a range of additional activities on our Discovery Day, with the Gate open from 11.00, last entry 4.00pm. There will be a display of our native birds of prey by Fens Falconry and our archivists will share stories about the Countess of Warwick's love of animals. There will be other nature based activities, including pond dipping and children's craft; and a mini-concert from Harlow Concert Band from 11.30 am. Refreshments will be available from the Trust's kiosk and from the Giggly Pig. For further details and timing, please look at our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk. Advance tickets (at a discount) can be bought through Trybooking.com

work

I see you've made a formal complaint about a colleague



Yeah I've been winding him up for a laugh and I thought I'd rack it up a notch



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



WORLD CUP 2026



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



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



MEAT RAFFLE

EVERY SATURDAY

1PM
DRAW

TICKETS £2

COME DOWN FOR DRINKS &
A CHANCE TO TAKE HOME A
SELECTION OF TOP QUALITY MEAT!



Notes from Chef and Latest Special Offers!

Our new menu and daily specials have been a huge hit with guests. Be sure to visit our website at Birchanger Club or simply scan the QR code to browse our menus instantly on your phone anytime, anywhere.

This month's specials...



W/C 6th July
Sticky, Honey
Salmon
£14.95

W/C 13th July
Roasted Lamb Rump
Roast Potatoes
£19.95

W/C 20th July
Sweet & Sour
Pork with Rice
£12.95

W/C 27th July
Oven Baked
Hake Supreme
£17.95



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

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SATURDAY 1st AUGUST 9pm



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By William Shakespeare



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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
Creative Writing	Scribblers	07732 221 383
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
Birchanger Scout Group	Dane Morrisseau	07949 963 865
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

St. Mary's Church



Services at 11.15am unless otherwise stated:

- 5th July Family Service with Pam Lee
- 12th July Holy Communion with Revd Helen Flack
- 19th July at 11am Café Church and Lego play
- 26th July Matins with Hugh Mascetti

Having just returned from holiday and seen the decision made by Uttlesford regarding the development proposals from City and Country, I am reminded that we are fortunate enough to live in such a lovely place that has a strong sense of community. One that pulls together when issues come along that concern us all and for that, I feel truly blessed.

Our Lord told his disciples that they should support each other, working together for the benefit of all his people and for the good of humankind and, in our small way, I feel that that is just what this community is doing. Protecting each other and the environment in which we live. Thank you to those who led the campaign from the front and all those who supported them from behind the scenes.

I hope and pray that people everywhere can come together in a similar fashion to end the conflict that this world is now facing so that we can all live in peace and harmony, no matter where we are.

Café Church/Lego

On the third Sunday in May, no one came to church for this get together, so we held our usual prayer service for our regular congregation. If no one comes along this month then, we will have to assume that this type of meeting is not wanted here in Birchanger, and it will be removed from the regular service pattern.

Whilst we are without a regular priest, every effort is being made to maintain regular Sunday services and a church presence in the village. This is not an easy thing to do, and we are not the only church in this area that is in difficulty. Farnham has similar problems, but we are trying to support each other through these troubling times. You can help by coming along to at least one service each month to join in prayer, sing a hymn, make the coffee, or serve refreshments. Remember, Jesus tells us that when two or three people come together, He is there too! Come and meet Him!

Dates for your Diary

- 28th July at 10.30am - History Talk
- 4th August at 10.30am - History Talk
- August DTBA - Afternoon Tea
- 5th September - Village Fete
- 8th November at 10.45 - Remembrance Service
- 18th December at 7pm - Evening Carol Service
- 25th December - Christmas Day Service

What's On - JULY 2026

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Bradley Common waste collection 1 day after green/black bin dates below						
				1	Green Bin 2 Green Bin	Green Bin 3
4		5	6	7	8	
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw	Church 11:15 Family Service BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast BSSC 14:00 Comedy of Errors	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Poker Night (Members)	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night
11		12	13	14	15	16
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw	Church 11:15 Holy communion BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Poker Night (Members)	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night
Garden Waste BSSC 18	Garden Waste BSSC 19	20		21	22	23
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw BSSC 15:00 Garden Waste	Church 11:15 Family Service Cafe church/Lego BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Poker Night (Members)	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night
25		26	27	28	29	30
BSSC 13:00 Meat Draw	Church 11:15 Matins BSSC 12:00 Sunday Roast	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	BSSC 20:00 Quiz Night	Poker Night (Members)	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night	BSSC 8:30pm Bingo Night

Birchanger Sports & Social Club
Parish Council
www.birchangerclub.com
www.birchanger.com

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

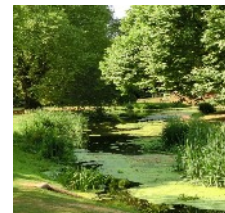
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09:00 - Apton Mini 09:45 - Kids Latin 2 10:30 - Kids Latin 1		16:00 - 18:45 - Ellouise Dance 19:00-20:30 -Apton Latin/Ballroom	09:45 - 10:45 - Apton Dance Ballet 17:30 - Teen Latin 18:45 - Teen Street 19:30 - Adult Street 20:15 - Rock & Roll	10:00-12:00 - 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

The Birchchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchchanger. 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@mbsdesignprint.com.

Editor: John McArthur Tel: 07488 315349 Email: magazine@birchanger.com. Chairman: Elizabeth Godwin Treasurer: Malcolm Roberts



www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Last year's Royal Horticultural Society's State of Gardening Report revealed that gardens cover three times the size of the UK's National Nature Reserves. They support over 50 million trees and thousands of species, providing habitats for over half of the UK's butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and more than 40% of birds. Many of the listed buildings within the Hundred Parishes are surrounded by a private garden which enhances their setting, reinforcing their sense of place. They support a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers - some native, others introduced - providing havens for assorted wildlife.

Gardens associated with such older properties will have been tended by many generations of residents, evolving over time as owners were influenced by fashionable trends. Initially, they were stocked with native trees and shrubs, selected for their ability to provide fuel, timber, fence posts or fruits, while vegetables helped feed the family.

From the mid-17th century onwards, non-native tree species began to appear such as Cedars and Horse Chestnuts, these being planted initially within the estates of trend-setting wealthy landowners. By the mid-19th century, gardeners were able to source an increasing number of exotic species as diligent plant hunters discovered them in various parts of the globe and the precious seeds or small saplings were grown on in nurseries and then released for sale.

Engaging with a garden improves mental, physical and social wellbeing, with 77% of gardeners reporting positive impacts on their mental health. Local residents have access to wonderful, extensive gardens such as Easton Lodge, Audley End House or Saffron Walden's Bridge End Gardens, but enjoying a private garden brings a great deal of pleasure too.

Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk includes an Article on Gardens and the What's On page shows dates of specific local open gardens.

City & Country reacts to refusal to develop on Birchanger Green Belt

Your village magazine got this exclusive feedback from Simon Vernon-Harcourt, Design & Planning Director at City & Country,

"Birchanger is a village with a proud history, a strong community spirit and a character that residents are rightly passionate about protecting. We recognise that proposals for new homes can create concern about the future shape of the village, and we fully understand why local people want to ensure that any change is carefully considered and sensitively managed. While we are disappointed by the Planning Committee's decision and feel that it is fundamentally flawed, we respect they have made that decision in light of residents' concerns. We understand why residents feel strongly about the future of their community but genuinely feel that these concerns have not considered all the benefits and are out of kilter with Government Guidance. You only need to read the officer's report to committee recommending approval to understand why."

"Our interest in the site reflected the Government's increasing focus on delivering sustainable development in well-connected locations. We believe Birchanger is one such location. The sites were assessed by the Planning Inspectorate, planning consultants and Uttlesford District Council's planning officer as grey belt land, and we were therefore disappointed that the committee chose not to follow the officer's recommendation.

"We continue to believe the proposal offered a range of benefits for Birchanger, including enhanced landscaping and bio diversity, long-term protection of land between Birchanger and Stansted, improved cycling and pedestrian connections, highway safety improvements and new affordable homes with priority access for local people.

"We believe this was a genuinely high-quality scheme, carefully designed and properly integrated into its setting, which could have improved the wider environment while helping to meet local housing needs. Indeed, an exemplar scheme can lead to house price increases to the existing adjacent housing stock for well documented reasons. Our proposals include a range of affordable rented, shared ownership and discounted market homes, providing opportunities for local people to remain in or return to the area and live close to where they work.

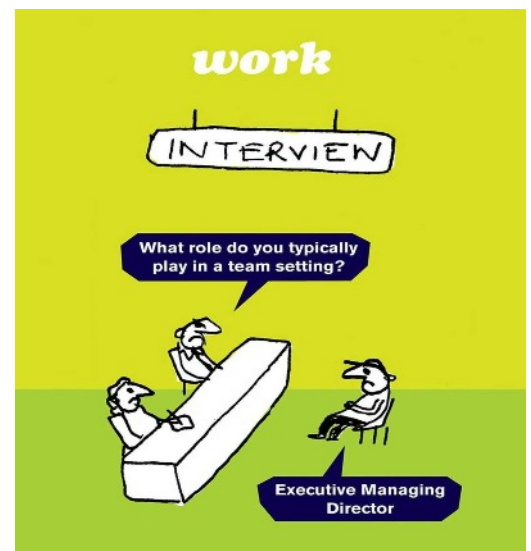
"Throughout the process, we worked with experienced architects, landscape architects and technical specialists to create a scheme that was sensitive to its surroundings and designed to meet local needs. Our aim was to bring forward a thoughtful development that balanced housing delivery with environmental enhancement and community benefit.

"Although we were unable to secure the level of local support we had hoped for, we remain proud of the work undertaken and believe the proposals represented a well-considered approach to meeting future housing needs for the local community. We remain committed to engaging constructively with residents, stakeholders and the local authority as discussions continue."

Kids World Cup ANAGRAM game - unscramble all 48 teams

1. XOCIMEM
2. FRIAT HOSUT ACIA
3. EHROUT KOSA
4. ZIAHCCE
5. DACAAN
6. AINOSB ADN HOGEZIREVANT
7. TRAAQ
8. RZSEALNDTIHW
9. IBZRAL
10. COORCMO
11. ITIAH
12. CTSLADNO
13. ETNIDU EATSTS
14. AGYPAARU
15. ULATSRAIA
16. YEKTRU
17. NAGYERM
18. ORUCAAC
19. VYORI AOTSC
20. UCOAEDR
21. RTHNEEDLNAS
22. NAPAJ
23. EWDSEN
24. IASTNUI
25. MIBEGLU
26. TGYEP
27. RAIN
28. ZWAE NELDAN
29. NPSIA
30. EAPC EVRDE
31. IDSAU AABRIA
32. AYUURG
33. ANCFER
34. GAENELS
35. RQIA
36. YAWRON
37. NATAGRENI
38. GRLEAIA
39. TSARUIA
40. NADJOR
41. OTALPRUG
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43. ZBUEIKSNTA
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