

# Birchanger Village Magazine

November 2020

Issue 214



## Reverend Paul Wilkin To Retire

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> September Revd. Paul Wilkin formally announced that he would be retiring at the end of November and that his final service in Birchanger will take place on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> November. When they leave the rectory in Stansted, Paul and his wife Janet will be moving to Suffolk. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

From December, Birchanger will be served by the Revd. Helen Flack who currently ministers part time within the benefice. However, even in her part time position, she is also required to assist in the parishes of Takeley, Dunmow and Little Canfield whose priest is also retiring. Sadly, there are insufficient clergy available and it is not known when a replacement priest will be appointed for this area. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, many of our regular services will be led by members of the congregation.

Parishioners supported the appointment of Pam Lee as Churchwarden. Therefore, any matters relating to the church can now be referred to Pam on 07702171744.

There will be remembrance service at the church on the 8<sup>th</sup> November but please note that restrictions will apply both in church and in the churchyard.

In common with other organisations countrywide, St Mary's and the church hall have suffered from a drastic reduction of income. Both have had to draw on reserves to cover ongoing expenses and repairs but those reserves have been depleted to almost nothing.

Planning for the coming months is already under way and full details will follow in the magazine. In the meantime, please watch out for what is happening both in church and in the hall and support as many events as you can.

With the re-opening of the Village Church Hall and reinstatement of regular Sunday church services together with a tightening of the fiscal belt, things should slowly start to improve. You can help by supporting one or more

of the groups that hire the hall each week. Subject to Covid 19 restrictions, why not join Tai Chi on Wednesday mornings, the Thursday Line Dancers, or Maxine Williams' modern dance group (Apton Dance Studio) who run several dance classes during the day and evenings. There are other regular events including ballet, tap dancing and fencing. (See 'What's on in the Village', page 6 for details). *Pam Lee - Church Warden*

## Birchanger Bowls Club Closes

It is with great sadness that after 107 years, Birchanger Bowls Club is about to close. The bowls club has had many ups and downs throughout the years but unfortunately the past few years have seen a steady decline in the number of playing members. Without fresh blood coming through it has been a tough decision to make, but with only a handful of members for the coming season it would not be possible to field full teams for league matches.

The club has had many successes over the years. As recently as the mid 90's there were 61 members which enabled the club to enter several teams in various cups, including the Gold Cup where 12 teams were entered, The Arthur Frazer Cup, The J Brazier Cup and many other competitions. In the past, the club was able to host many events including Annual Dinner Dance evenings and Gala Days. The Club was also proud to claim a number of County players within its membership who played both outdoors and indoors.

Unfortunately, since the turn of the century there has been a steady decline in membership and by the mid 2000's the membership had almost halved. This trend has continued and as a result the sad decision to close was made. *Evan Hill - Birchanger Bowls Club*

## Road Closure in Birchanger Lane

Birchanger Lane is due to close on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for 19 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertake to resolve drainage issues adjacent to the junction with Bradley Common. Further details can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=118454058>.



# Editors Letter Box

## Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme opens for applications

Eligible residents can now apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment in Uttlesford. The scheme follows new laws in England, brought in on 28 September, which require all those who test positive for Covid-19 or those identified as 'close contacts' to self-isolate.

The payment scheme, which is administered by Uttlesford District Council, will provide financial assistance to people on low incomes who are unable to work while they are self-isolating because they cannot work from home. Those who are required to self-isolate and who meet the eligibility criteria will be entitled to £500. To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, an individual must:

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- be employed or self-employed
- be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit

The support payment scheme is expected to run until 31 January 2021. Anybody wanting to make a claim has 14 days from the date their isolation ended to complete their application. An online application form can be completed on the council website, at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/test-and-trace-payments](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/test-and-trace-payments).

If a person does not meet the eligibility criteria for the main scheme, they may be able to claim as part of the council's discretionary scheme instead. Please refer to the council's website for further details.

It is important that any person asked to isolate follows the guidance to help reduce the spread of infection to people around them and their communities. Further information about isolation and the current regulations is available on the government website:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

## Community Response Hub

The Uttlesford Community Response Hub continues to help people in the community who need it, particularly those who are finding themselves having to return to self-isolation. The number 03333 408 218 is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm. Alternatively, email: [communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk).



## Protect your loved ones - get the app!

Downloading the NHS COVID-19 App is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from the virus.

Based on an Apple/Google privacy framework, the app has a number of tools designed to help protect those we love, like contact tracing, checking into venues through an in-built QR code scanner, risk alerts by postcode, a symptom checker and test booking. The more people that use the app, the more we can keep each other safe and stop infection rates rising.

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

## The Big Light Up for Christmas

Many people thought it might not happen this year, but Christmas is still coming and even if we are in lockdown, most people light up their own patch of sky, by themselves, or with help from other members of their household. This year more than any previous year I think we need it. The actual light up is planned to happen at the club on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm, when the club lights will be switched on. After that it is your turn to vote for your favourites and put your votes in the ballot box at the club porch as in previous years. The winner will be announced at the club on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9 pm. Birchanger has been a magical place to be at Christmas for many years now, so don't let Covid spoil this as well. We can do it!

## The Club's Future is in Our Hands

Last month's magazine reported that the difficult situation facing the club is in the hands of the village and its members. The message is very clear; 'either use it, or lose it'! This is the time of year the licensing trade expects lower sales ahead of the Christmas season. However, we can help by visiting and supporting the club now.

The club has a temporary steward and there is food available at the weekend. The takeaway burgers and chilli van is a good place to pick up supper on Friday nights. The service is well used, and the cooking is good. Fish and chips are available on Saturday nights, while Sunday roast lunches have made a very welcome comeback. If you decide to buy takeaway food, please buy a drink while you wait for it to be cooked, as every little helps.

The big screen is back, football continues, and fans have a chance to watch matches on the big screen in the club, ideal when football venues remain closed.

Please show your support and use our club as much as possible or we may lose this local venue. The club's fate is in your hands. A message to the club! It would help if the club not only sent out their usual online news on Facebook and other social media but used their mailing system as they always used to do. They would reach a lot of people who do not have a social media account and who would like to support the club as they have done in the past.

## Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' regret that due to the effect of corona virus, all future meetings are cancelled until further notice.

For further details telephone:

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

## It Did Not Take the Fraudsters Long

Some of you may have already had this phone call where someone purporting to be from the Track and Trace Service calls you to say that you have been reported as a coronavirus contact and asks you to ring a number, usually starting with 09 or 087 to speak to someone about this. These are premium line numbers and certainly have nothing whatsoever to do with the NHS. Real tracers call from 0300 013 5000.

The scammers will then proceed to ask for payment for this service and for any so-called necessary items which they claim you will need as you self-isolate. They will then ask for your bank account details, pins and passwords to pay for these totally unnecessary items and even now, frightened people have been giving these willingly. They may even ask you to download some software which they claim you need for contact purposes. No real government agency will ever ask you to do this. So please take care when you answer the phone to anyone you don't know. If there is a stranger on the line and you feel unsure the best thing to do is to hang up. A genuine person who needs to speak to you urgently will find another way.

## Use Our Own Community Response Hub

As we approach what could be a difficult winter season, we should remember that there are resources out there to help us. You may be self-isolating or need support with day-to-day living but you don't have to struggle on your own. There are volunteers who can help with shopping, collect your prescriptions, and even walk the dog if that is what you need, and much more.

Uttlesford Community Hub has volunteers in all areas ready to help you whether you are self-isolating, in a vulnerable group, or simply unable to get out. All you need to do is call them on 03333 408 218 and they will do their best to help you through this very difficult time. They helped us last time round and they are still there.

## Please Dispose of Face Masks Responsibly

It didn't take long before abandoned face masks started appearing everywhere. Nobody would ever want a second-hand face mask, fabric or otherwise, but some idiots clearly think we do. Fabric ones can be washed and used again but only by the same individual. Disposable masks cannot be reused. Cut the elastic bands to prevent them snaring small animals and put them in the non-recycle bin. Please don't litter our paths, car parks and recreational areas, ever. It's your mask, your responsibility, not ours.



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### How Has Coronavirus Affected You?

This virus has certainly had a profound effect on all our lives, but in times to come, nobody will know the full effect unless we capture the story now. It is not too late to keep a corona virus diary. What happens to all of us in this period will be the stuff of history books in years to come. Saffron Walden Museum is certainly looking for any material you may be writing about your daily experiences. Please contact Jenny Oxley at [museum@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:museum@uttlesford.gov.uk) to find out more about the project.

### It's Not Fat, it's Stress

There could be a very good reason why you are just piling on the pounds, even when you think you are keeping to a healthy diet. Scientists have tested a number of volunteers as they performed a number of stressful tasks and non-stressful tasks while having food rich in carbohydrates available. The volunteers did not reach for any food as they performed the non-stressful tasks but almost unconsciously, they were reaching for the comfort of food as the work became more stressful. So, if the diet isn't working, think about what you are doing every day. It could be stress and stress is harmful to your body in more ways than just around your waist line. It might be time for a lifestyle change?

### DIY Composting

Yes, it is that time of year, leaves everywhere and they keep coming. No doubt you are sweeping them up whichever way you can, but you could try to compost them as well. Just make holes in a black bin sack, stuff the leaves in and tie up the sack. Hide the sack away for two years in an out of the way spot in the garden and you will have the best compost possible without the cost!

### Dining Out at the Club

Sunday lunch time sees the return of the delicious traditional Sunday Roast, with beef or gammon as the choice and all the trimmings.



We visited the club recently and the Sunday roast was both delicious and very reasonably priced. All the meals we have tried have been good, more than competitively priced and well worth trying for yourselves. Just being there helps our club survive this

difficult period and with good food and drink prices so low you would be well advised to eat there soon

### There Are Still Children Out There Needing a Home

Essex County Council still has more children needing Foster homes than there are homes available. It seems people think frequently about caring for a child in need but hesitate as they fear they do not have the requisite skills. They worry about the responsibility, whether they are the right person, maybe they should be younger, or their home might not be good enough.

The children in need are just ordinary children who through no fault of their own find themselves in need of care for an indefinite period of time. Some await adoption, some simply need short term care through parental illness or maybe the issues are long term. Care in a normal home is better for a child than a children's home or a home where for whatever reason family life and appropriate care have completely broken down.

You may think although you now have the time you could be too old to be deemed appropriate to care for a child. Foster carers are often in their sixties and having brought up their own families are often very well equipped to foster a child. Carers can be single and live on their own. Foster carers are paid and depending on the needs of the child can earn up to £483 per week. Training and support are provided. If fostering is perhaps not for you, but you still have that spare room you might consider offering it as a supported lodging for a 16-18-year-old who is just leaving care. If you are interested call 0800 801530 or visit [FosteringRecruitment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:FosteringRecruitment@essex.gov.uk).

## News from Birchanger Parish Council

### Education

Cllr Ray Gooding reported that 92.5% of children have returned to school in Uttlesford. This compares with the national average of 88%. A number of people have taken the decision to home educate their children and as such, there is a recommendation that a national register be kept of the children being home educated. There is an increase in children going into care.

### Birchanger Lane issues

The council will try to deter parking along Birchanger Lane past the ambulance station by creating a clearway. This would prevent parking on the verge near the roundabout at the A120. Cllr. Gooding will investigate ownership of the land behind the verge.

### Flooding in Birchanger Lane

Cllr. Gooding has looked at the expanse of water that builds up adjacent to Gower Barn after the recent heavy rain. It was found that there is some concrete obstruction which is causing rain water to back up. He has reported the problem to Essex Highways.



### Emma Marks Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273  
Mob: 07527227943

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## Perfectly Pampered - Holistic Therapy Service in Birchanger

Shelley Williams recently opened a new holistic therapy service called 'Perfectly Pampered' based in Birchanger.

This is what she had to say about her new venture and what made her start up her new company, despite the disruption of Covid-19'

"I previously worked at the airport as a flight supervisor and came to understand that the best part of my job was my interaction with the public. Many of the people travelling are overwhelmed by the demands of travelling as there are an extraordinary amount of reasons to fly beyond a holiday, visiting family, weddings, funerals and studying, to name but a few. It made me realise that often what came across as bad temper or confusion was worry and anxiety and I learnt to hear what they were worried about and help where I could and often just the act of listening helped calm and refocus them.



"My mother became terminally ill in 2014 and in April 2016 she was admitted to a hospice. Whilst there I was moved by the dedication, compassion and love shown to my mother and ourselves as her family. After she passed away in May 2016, I resolved in memory of my mother to move forward from my heart ache and study complementary and holistic therapies that would offer a natural approach to the well-being of women. I have studied for the last 4 years and am now a full member of the guild of holistic therapists. Last year I built a therapy room and this year I opened my own business offering a range of therapeutic treatments such as: LED light therapy, Aromatherapy, Facials, Hot Stones, Swedish and Indian head massage.

"Through the guild I had to complete an intensive covid safety programme and I am now fully certified and carry out a full risk assessment for each client. In keeping with my holistic approach I use Body Shop products as they are not only high quality, 100% natural and chemical free but they are also cruelty free and fair trade and so have become a Body Shop consultant using their wonderful spa and award winning skin care range for my treatments.

"Although I realise that opening a new business such as mine during a global pandemic is not the most opportune time, but with mental health problems on the rise, it's more important than ever to offer a chance to unwind and de-stress and take some time out from the strange new world we reside in. I opened fully in September and managed to raise £450 for Macmillan by holding a raffle and offering treatments as prizes.

"For further information on my holistic services, or for Body Shop

Products, please call me on 07476 279262 or visit me on Facebook 'Perfectly Pampered by Shelley Williams'. In the meantime, I am offering 15% off of the first treatment for new clients and 10% off to NHS staff with ID.



Perfectly Pampered - Therapy Room

## Bird Boxes and Candles



Beautifully hand crafted, bird nesting boxes for sale. Made to order from £60.00

Artisan hand-made candles and diffusers at £10.00 and £12.00 respectively.





We offer a wide range of fragrances and will have two specific fragrances for Christmas.

Please contact Stuart Corben

Tel: 07970561075

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

# what's on in the village...

		November 2020				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>Bin Collections:</b> Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. <b>Garden bin collections marked with #</b>						
<b>Birchanger Parish Council Meetings:</b> Meets on the Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - <b>Open to the public.</b>						
30 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;">All activities listed are subject to Covid 19 restrictions. Check with the event organiser (See Page 11)</p>					1 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins with Pam Lee  <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
2 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	3 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	4 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	5 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	6 <b>Church hall:</b>  <b>BSSC:</b> Burgers or Chilli from Torsbeanie	7 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Fish and chips	8 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Remembrance - Rev Helen Flack <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
9 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	10 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	11 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	12 <b>Green Bin#</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	13 <b>Church hall:</b>  <b>BSSC:</b> Burgers or Chilli from Torsbeanie	14 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Fish and chips	15 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Family Service - Peter Odrieh <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
16 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	17 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	18 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	19 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	20 <b>Church hall:</b>  <b>BSSC:</b> Burgers or Chilli from Torsbeanie	21 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Fish and chips	22 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Communion - Rev Paul Wilkin <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast
23 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	24 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	25 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	26 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Bingo	27 <b>Church hall:</b>  <b>BSSC:</b> Burgers or Chilli from Torsbeanie	28 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio  <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat draw Fish and chips	29 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Communion - Paul Wilkin <b>BSSC:</b> Sunday Roast



## Sports & Social Club News



### Tough Times Ahead

It is becoming increasingly difficult to drive the club forward during this pandemic. Regulations seem to change faster than we have time to implement them and this makes it hard for our members to remember what they can or cannot do inside the club. Only today (15<sup>th</sup> October) we are told we are being moved from tier 1 (medium) to tier 2 (high) with less than two days' notice. This means that the club WILL BE OPEN, and members can continue to visit us but can only do so alone or with members of their own household or support bubble. They must sanitise their hands on entry and wear a mask until they are seated. Once in the club members must sit at a table and await to be served. You will be able to order drinks or food or both. Unfortunately, the 10 o'clock curfew remains, and this is a locking up time not a last-orders or drinking up time.

Despite these disappointing restrictions the committee is determined to do everything to encourage people to support the club with their attendance. Our temporary Steward Terry has been trying out some food offerings to encourage footfall. His excellent Sunday Roasts at the attractive price of £7.99 for one course and £10 for two courses have been very well received. To this he added excellent fresh fish and chips on Saturday nights. Encouraged by the take up of these offers, I am delighted to tell you that Terry now proposes to offer a limited menu on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as his Sunday Lunches which are available from 12 – 5 pm. I am sure that those of you who have tried his meals would recommend them to those who have yet to sample them. Do come along to the club and try Terry's cooking I know you will not be disappointed by the quality or the value.

I am sorry not to be publicising a busy programme of events for the approaching festive season as we have done in previous years. Alas, circumstances prevent us arranging pretty much anything at present, but do keep your eyes open for announcements on our Facebook page or the web site.

We can only hope that the new restrictions have the desired effect of reducing the covid infection rate and that further measures will not be needed. Until then we all need to preserve a little of our hope and sanity – and what better way of doing that than by enjoying a pint in the club.

*Steve Hopkins - Chairman*



### Madness!

The current pandemic is having a major impact upon the aviation industry. The latest projections indicate that Stansted will handle just 9 million passengers this year, one third of last year's total. The experts say that it will take five years before passenger numbers return to 2019 levels. Some say that the demand for air travel will never fully recover.

Despite the current realities, the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), which owns Stansted Airport, is continuing to appeal against Uttlesford District Council (UDC)'s refusal to allow the expansion of the airport to an annual throughput of 43 million passengers. This means that there must now be a Public Inquiry to consider the airport expansion proposals afresh. The Secretary of State has appointed a panel of three Inspectors to handle the Inquiry and, in recent weeks, there have been lengthy discussions between the Inspectors and MAG, UDC, SSE about the arrangements for the Inquiry.

Despite strong protestations from SSE, the Inquiry is scheduled to start on 12 January 2021. SSE argued that it would be madness to start the Inquiry in the midst of a pandemic and in the midst of winter. MAG agreed with SSE on this point but – inexplicably – our own council, UDC, persuaded the Planning Inspectorate to resist any postponement. Again, in defiance of common sense, UDC proposes to hold the Inquiry at the Radisson Blu hotel, immediately adjacent to the airport terminal building. This is a hotel which caters primarily for airport passengers and air crew and all the scientific evidence shows that international air travel has been the primary vector for the transmission of Covid-19.

The Planning Inspectorate's proposed answer to the Covid-19 risk is for much of the Inquiry to be held remotely using video technology. However, SSE does not believe this would provide either a fair or an effective means of presenting evidence and cross-examining witnesses. In addition, SSE has not been persuaded that 'video hearings' could provide the level of public accessibility and transparency that a controversial Inquiry of this type deserves to have.

In view of the above SSE has carefully considered the option of withdrawing from the Inquiry. On balance, however, it has been decided that we owe it to our members and the wider local community to participate. We also believe that we have a strong case to argue and that these airport expansion proposals must be challenged. Keep up to date with developments on the SSE website at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)

*Brian Ross*



## Your Local Primary School

Here at Birchanger C of E Primary School we have settled in well to our new year. The children and staff at our school have worked very hard to make the most of the challenging times that we find ourselves in and as much as they can, keeping things as normal as ever.

The children have become very familiar with the regular hand washing as each child either washes or sanitises their hands at least seven times a day. They have also become used to the way that we have needed to organise our school. We are all becoming used to the word 'bubble' and its new context. We have been able to 'bubble' our early years. Year 1 and 2 together, and all KS2 which includes Years 3,4,5 and 6 together. Each bubble has their own break time and lunch times, and we are supported by our generous site which means that our children don't need to mix during the school day. The children also have staggered drop off and pick up times to minimise the number of people on our site at any one time.

Each class timetable includes an afternoon of catch-up time where the children are focusing on the learning that was missed during the closure. We were very fortunate as most of our children returned to school even for a short time last term and the children who stayed at home worked hard away from school. However, there have been some areas of learning that we could not cover whilst the school was closed and the staff have identified the areas of learning that have been missed so that we include them once again in our curriculum.

We have also adapted our daily acts of collective worship during this term. We started the term with all worship delivered in classrooms and away from other children and now that we are settled, we have been able to introduce collective worship in the relevant bubbles three times a week. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect the school life that we were familiar with before the school needed to close on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

There are many other ways that we have combined new normal and old normal school life. The children have kept their amazing attitude to school life, and they have settled in with new teaching teams very well. This has been especially so for our youngest children in Dragonfly class who have amazed Mrs Miles, Mrs Bright and all the staff with the maturity that our youngest children have shown in settling into 'big' school.

During this term we have continued our commitment to the development of good physical and mental health. We have continued to fund additional lunch time sports clubs so that all of the children spend Monday and Tuesday lunch times building on their fitness.

The children have also reviewed their learning about the 5 ways to wellbeing recommended by the NHS and the children have reflected how they can support their strong mental health.

Earlier this month the children marked World Mental Health day with a range of activities which included the planting of 100 trees. These trees had been donated by the Woodland Trust in March and were originally going to be planted in March when we were hoping to invite the community into the school to join us. Sadly, that was not possible this time, however the children worked hard and had great fun filling an area of our school with trees.



These trees will enrich the lives of the children currently at our school as well as enriching the lives and experiences of many future cohorts of children as they grow up through our amazing school.



This is just one way that we are embracing the challenges of living with Covid 19 whilst enjoying the current learning opportunities, with an eye on the future and the excitements that will lie here for all of our children.

*Claire Berry - Headteacher*





## Bishop's Stortford & District Footpath Association

Safeguarding your Public Rights of Way in and around Bishop's Stortford



Well, October started off being rather wet with not so much wind as forecasts predicted. For all Sunday walks, owing to the current situation, please check our website to see if they will be taking place. Sunday Walks depart at 10.00 am and normally cover 4-6 miles. Please wear a mask at the meeting and have the mask available during the walk. November dates remain questionable.

BSDFA have received an update from Herts CC regarding the problems that we highlighted on several PRoWs south of Thorley Parish. Please advise us of any issues you come across here.

Elms Farm, Stansted - we will continue to check on the condition of the new Permissive Paths but please if anyone else is walking this area then do let us know if you encounter any issues. Regarding dog poo-bins, and owing to the cost of collection, please be aware that these bins can only be positioned where there is easy road access for collection. The cost of their provision is being considered by Stansted Parish Council.



The Elm Farm paths encompass a huge marshland area, and it would be lovely to have some Information Boards.

The Parish Council are considering this, but it is subject to Stansted PC's small funding tub, which of course has many calls upon it. I recommend that you read Jonathan Forgham's article placed in the Stortford Independent a few weeks ago. Meantime the Gemmill family are to be thoroughly thanked immensely for putting in these great new Permissive Paths



Despite the rain, the BSDFA walk on Sunday 4th October was a great success and ended with a good meal at the Three Horseshoes. Sorry, no photos, as being rather wet it was not really suitable to wave cameras about!

Regarding our Programmed Walks, please go to our website and check with the Walk Leader to see if the walk will take place as Government restrictions can change instructions very quickly.

### Latest on Covid-19

The BSDFA walks are currently considered an outdoor physical activity, so we can meet and walk as long as walkers follow social distancing rules during meeting up and whilst walking. We have also to limit numbers according to Covid restrictions. Before setting off, the Walk Leader will take participants names, addresses and contact details which will only be used if it is necessary to make contact in relation to corona-virus track and trace.

The photograph comes this month by courtesy of Jonathan Forgham and shows the marshland alongside these lovely new paths. I also personally add many thanks to the Gemmill Family for providing them. *Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Publicity Officer:* dwjjwj.444@gmail.com [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### Getting Ready for Next Year

We are now starting our closed season, a time to take stock and look forward to 2021.

The rains of early October were welcome as the groundwater is still well down in the area, following three years of low rainfall. The Peto lilypond's water level is a good indicator: it is normally entirely dependent on rainfall as we do not have a mains water supply. We refilled it from a standpipe in March 2019 when we had cleaned the pond and it is still well below its ideal level. The rains helped the dahlias finish their season in style: tall and covered in flowers; and watered in the 1000 cuttings we took at a workshop led by Christine Walkden, one of our new Trustees.

October was particularly exciting for us, because we signed the contract to restore the balustrade around the lilypond. The work will involve replacing 91 of the 134 balusters and then rebuilding the balustrade, hopefully in time for the first full season open day in 2021. We are now fundraising to help ensure the project does not completely exhaust our reserves and leave us exposed for the uncertain times we are living through.



### Funding needed

Please consider helping us. A donation of £250 will fund a new baluster but any donation, however small, would be fantastic.

You can find more detail on our website:

[www.eastonlodge.co.uk/support-us/fund-raising](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/support-us/fund-raising)





## The Hundred Parishes Society

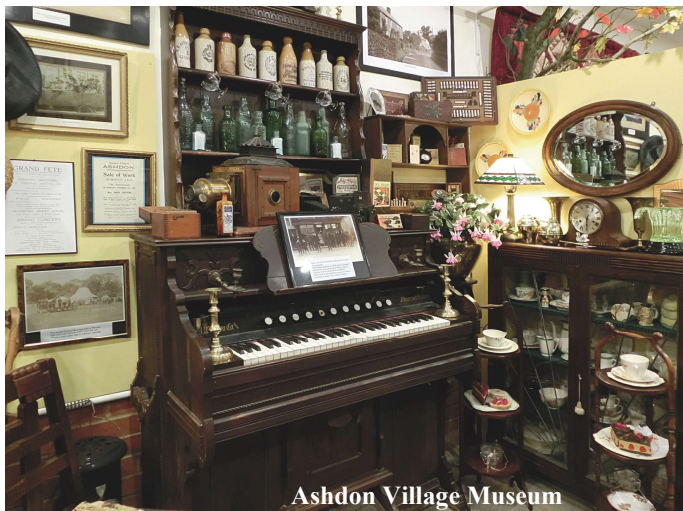
Since March, getting out in the countryside has been greatly encouraged. Successive generations have shaped this fertile land. They have planted hedges and cut wood from ancient, coppiced woodlands, tended animals, planted orchards, and harvested honey from bees. Profiting from this productive land, many constructed beautiful buildings that reflected pride in their locality. Today, a significant number of these are listed buildings. Our rich architectural tapestry is brilliantly recorded in *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There are a few copies still available by mail order from the Society's website or from local bookshops and Tourist Information Centres.



Forge Museum, Much Hadham

Museum collections of assorted artefacts and documents add another dimension to the human history of the area. Saffron Walden Museum opened in 1835 and houses a real treasure trove of historical and other material relating to the local area. A recent grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is enabling the development of plans to attract new visitors to the museum and adjacent castle.

Smaller museums hold collections of agricultural implements, local artefacts, and archive material. The Grade II\* building of the Forge Museum in Much Hadham houses a collection of metal tools while striking medieval wall paintings reveal details of Tudor fashion. The Ashdon Village Museum has exhibits about life in the 20th century and the curator is updating information on the family trees of seventy local residents and preparing displays in anticipation of re-opening in the future.



Ashdon Village Museum

We look forward to the time when our museums can safely reopen. Meanwhile, we can enjoy our heritage and celebrate the past by continuing to explore outdoors.



Saffron Walden Castle

With regular additions of new walks to the Society's website, we can use these descriptive routes, some as short as 1 mile, to explore the cultural landscapes that make up the

Hundred Parishes. *Tricia Moxey, Trustee*



At Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school we have been pleased to welcome back all our children as we create our own bubble.

We have also welcomed 23 new children and their families. We have been so impressed with how the children returned to preschool and settled back in so quickly.

During last term we kept in contact with the children via weekly Zoom meetings and this certainly seems to have helped their return. We also gave parents daily ideas of things they could do at home with their children via Tapestry (Our online Learning Journal). This term we have been looking at 'All about Me'. During this time, the children have considered where they live, who lives in the family and what they look like.

Our Forest School sessions continue on a Wednesday afternoon, although we have had to change this slightly, so the children now use the school field as it is not recommended that such a large group use public spaces. The children have still been able to explore the natural environment and all types of weather! We are now looking forward to planning what will be a different Christmas this year at preschool but still have some exciting things to organise.

Our qualified, experienced team are pleased to be able to take children from 2 years old and offer up to 30 hours per week. The sessions we offer are; 9am-12noon, 12noon-3pm, 9am-3pm. If you are interested in a place at our pre-school please contact us via email; [admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk) or call on 01279 810 800. We are currently taking registrations for September 2021. Please note, we do have a small waiting list for this academic year as we only have very limited sessions left.

*Karen Reilly - Pre-school Manager*



## The Three Horseshoes

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Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
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Over 60's club	Jean Camp	07843 707249
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Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Police Special	Martin Halls <a href="mailto:Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk">Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk</a>	
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	Barbora Dragoskova	01279 815243

## Village Church Hall



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Email [st.johns.church@btinternet.com](mailto:st.johns.church@btinternet.com)

**Key Holder** - Cat Roberson Tel. 01279 813474

Email: [stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com)

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 11:15 am Matins service led by Pam Lee

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 11:15 am Remembrance led by Rev. Helen Flack

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 11:15 am Family service led by Peter Odrich

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 11:15 am Holy Communion by Rev. Paul Wilkin

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 11:15 am Final Communion with Rev Paul Wilkin

### Church News

#### Forthcoming Events

5<sup>th</sup> December 10 am to 2pm in the hall. Christmas Fayre (smaller scale than usual but still lots of goodies for sale).

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 after the morning service. Epiphany Lunch in the hall - numbers will be limited.

#### Remembrance Service 8th November 2020

Led by Revd. Helen Flack, the first part of this service will take place at the Memorial in the churchyard. Please assemble there at 10.45am. COVID 19 restrictions at the time of the service will apply which means at time of publication, no more than a total of 30 people may attend. If numbers exceed this figure people will be asked to leave.

Attendees will not be permitted to mingle with others outside their own family group or in groups of more than 6 people. All attendees must wear a mask both in the churchyard and/or in church. Track and trace arrangements apply so all persons are required to complete the record of attendance book. Social distancing must be maintained so all groups are required to stay 2 metres apart from the other groups. In the churchyard this effectively means leaving a grave length between each party/person.

After the laying of wreaths at the memorial there will be a communion service in church. Again, a maximum of 30 people will be permitted in church and social distancing will apply. Please keep your distance as you enter the church and when you leave. Every other pew must not be used (the cushions will be up turned). Masks must be worn and Sanitiser must be used. Although our organist will be playing there will be no singing by the congregation in church. There will be no formal collection, but should you wish to donate a plate will be placed at the entrance to the church for your use. In these strange times, please co-operate with us so that we can all keep safe and well.

#### Prayer for the Month

Lord, may we this day have positive thoughts  
In the days ahead, joy in our hearts  
In the weeks to come, peace  
And in the years that we face,  
May all our troubles fade away to nothing  
We ask this in your name  
Amen

Pam Lee

Churchwarden

Mobile 07702171744

Email [pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com)

## Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact;

Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243

[st.johns.church@btinternet.com](mailto:st.johns.church@btinternet.com)

Key Holder: Cat Roberson Tel. 01279 813474

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Email:

[frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org)



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