



# Birchanger Village Magazine

December 2020

Issue 215



## Halloween went ahead despite lockdown

No door to door trick or treats this year but kids still managed to celebrate Halloween as can be seen from some of the many photos sent in by parents.







# Editors Letter Box

*Dear Readers,*

## Help is Available During Lockdown and Beyond

Birchanger has a number of volunteers who would like to help people who are self isolating with their shopping and collection of prescriptions or any other essential requirements during lockdown and beyond.

If you, or someone you know needs help, please contact me on 07817904333 or Email me at [peter.sampson@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.sampson@talktalk.net).  
**We are here to help!**

## Flooding Problems Finally Solved? - It Seems Not!

Extensive work on the drainage in Birchanger Lane was supposed to have solved years of flooding at the bend near Bradley Common. The work closed the lane for just under two weeks between Monday 26th October and Monday 9th November causing the usual disruption to local traffic that Birchanger has become accustomed to!

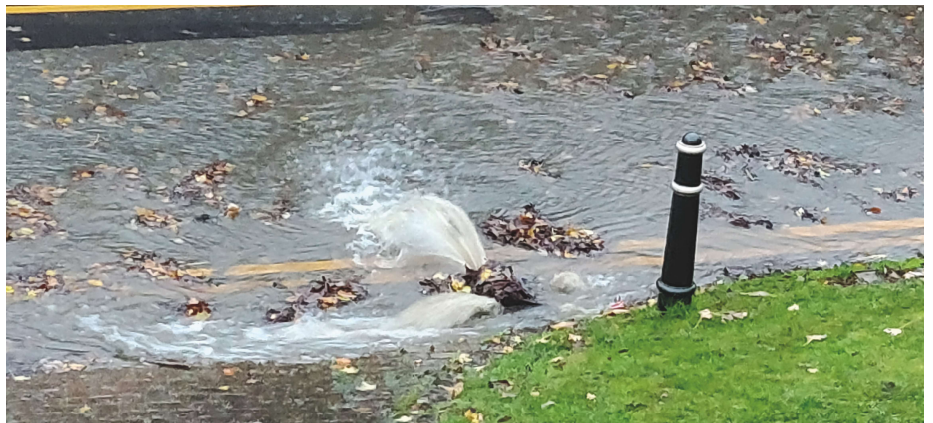


The lane near Bradley Common has been flooding from the drains with heavy downfall over several years and thought to be due to old pipes that had been damaged by tree roots. Several previous attempts to repair the drainage failed to solve the problem but it was hoped that the latest, more extensive repair, would finally put the issue to rest.

The recent work was only carried out after numerous complaints and the tenacity of local residents who kept an extensive record of the flooding and were in constant contact with the councils and Essex highways over the years. Residents even contacted Local MP, Kemi Badenoch, to try and get a resolution.

Unfortunately a few days after the work was completed and during the first rains, the flood was back with a vengeance. It seems that we haven't heard the last of this saga and local residence will have to put up with the floods for some time yet.

On the positive side, residents reported that the on-site workers were very helpful and made sure that there was always clear access to their houses and cleared up any mud to give a clear path for pedestrians and cyclists. The job was actually completed ahead of schedule and the yellow lining lorry arrived to finish the job as soon as the tarmac was down.



In the meantime, I guess its back to the drawing board!

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,

*Peter Sampson*

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07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

# VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

## The Big Village Light Up – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

The big light up will happen in Birchanger again this year. The lights will be switched on at the club at 7.00 pm on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> together with all the homes in the village, a date when we hope to be out of our current strict lockdown rules and onto the next phase. How much we can do on the night will depend on the Covid rules, but the hope is that we shall be able to mix at least a little bit with a few friends. Whatever the situation, the lights will go on, hopefully with a few Christmas goodies thrown in as well.



Everyone will have a chance to walk around Birchanger and see the Christmas lights for themselves. Birchanger was really an incredibly special place to be last Christmas. We can lift the Covid blues this year by doing it all again and creating a little more magic in a year of sacrifice and hardship. At the time of writing we expect to be out of the current lock down and if we are, it could be the best light up ever.

Due to the restrictions, there can be no placing of votes in a ballot box this year. Instead a small team of Birchanger residents will visit all areas in Birchanger and make what is certain to be a very difficult decision! The winner will be announced at the club on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 pm. There's still time to get your lights out for this year, remember how lovely we made it last year? Well let's see if we can make it even better this year despite it all.

## 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

## A Big Thank You to Our Own Birchanger Takeaways

Even when we are home all day sometimes it is just too much to contemplate preparing yet another meal. Well we don't have to, at least not every night. As with the last lockdown we are once again being well looked after by our own Birchanger pub and club. Both establishments offer freshly cooked takeaway dishes from their menus for us to enjoy at home.

Prices are reasonable and the food is fresh and hot despite the cold evenings. All you have to do is phone either establishment and place your order. The club offers a particularly good homemade burger. Cheesy chips are also available as an accompaniment if you actually imagine you have room for them. Fish and chips is also a popular choice. The Three Willows have a good selection from their usual menu to choose from and again, all meals are freshly cooked made to order and ready at a prearranged time. Sadly, the beer has been drunk!

Lockdown is stressful for everyone and although this current one may be a little easier to cope with second time around, it is the services that our two Birchanger venues provide for us which will help many of us through yet another difficult time. Thank you to everyone at the pub and club who make this possible. At the time of writing the pub is open for takeaway on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunch times. Likewise, the club is open on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes. If you haven't already, try them before lockdown ends or enjoy all they have to offer when they do open this Christmas.

## Forced to Isolate?

Many of us will receive a nasty little text or letter telling us that we have quite unwittingly been in contact with someone with Corona virus and we have to self-isolate. A bit of a double whammy after just going through a second lockdown. For many of the lower wage earners this will come as a disaster blow, even more so at this time of year and the future of the furlough scheme is uncertain. If you are receiving the national minimum wage or similar and you are losing earnings as you cannot work from home, contact Uttlesford District Council to find out if you are entitled to financial support from the council while you have to remain in isolation. It could help, and you never know what you might be entitled to under these circumstances.



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### Something to do in the Long Winter Evenings

The nights will be long and dark over the next few months and although we may be busy in the run-up to Christmas, many of us will be having more time during the day to get out and about. However, due to the lockdown, some of us are still reluctant to be out in the way we did before. Well if you are stuck in on those cold winter nights, here is an idea to pass the time. Why not find out more about who you are and where you came from? For a small reasonable fee, with the help of an app from Essex County Council Libraries Website, you can trawl through masses of data related to your searches for your ancestors in Britain and throughout the world without leaving your armchair. This new app is particularly useful these days as so many of us have forebears from all over the world.

Find out more on the website: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

### The Effect of Christmas Overindulgence



We have been doing it for years, buying far too much food at Christmas which ends up in the overflowing rubbish bin which is not emptied until January. We don't even think of the cost until the dreaded January bills come in. The actual cost is in fact bigger than we think. Food waste is not just a devastating misuse of natural resources, it's also a huge part of the world's carbon footprint. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world throws out about 1.3 billion tons of food every year -- a startling one-third of the food produced. Food thrown away by domestic consumers alone is responsible for 6% of all total emissions and to put this in context, that is around three times the global emissions from aviation.

In the last few days before Christmas we all tend to buy far too much of everything. I have done it for years. We have to learn that not only is so much food unnecessary but also that it causes irreversible harm to our world and the environment. How much better the planet, and my bank balance would be if I actually realised I did not need to buy so much food in the first place. Trouble is, it is Christmas, and we can all be carried away. I know I do - every year!

### Cannot Foster Full Time?

Many of us would find full time fostering too much. But if you would still like to give a child-in-need some care, there is another possibility. Full time foster carers need a respite from time to time for holidays, periods of ill health, hospitalisation, or any number of temporary difficulties. If the idea of part time foster care appeals to you, or you would like to find out more, please call 0800 801 530.

### Working from Home

The last time we had lockdown, it was summer, we had lovely weather and the kids were at home. You probably found that organising your working day was quite difficult. This time round, the kids are at school. Great, but now Christmas is on the way, the weather is bleak and perhaps you are simply not coping with working from home. The only way out is to set a timetable and keep to it. Learn to prioritise the important things, not just the things you want to do or like best, but your entire day. With luck you will be better organised and have achieved something by the time the family comes home. Your family need to understand that your work goes towards paying the bills, buying Christmas presents and supplying the trimmings for Christmas Dinner. Tell them that you need their help in keeping to a routine and to respect your work time. For all the doom and gloom, it is still a festive time of year. Here in Birchanger we do have a lot going for us compared to many places in the world. Let's enjoy what we have and hope that we make it through a virus free Christmas with our friends and family. After all, it seems that a vaccine is just round the corner!

### The COVID-19 Christmas Diaries

After an extraordinary year we can expect a rather different Christmas in 2020. Hopefully, our experiences will never be repeated but for all of us they are unique and should be recorded so those in centuries to come can find out from us just what it was like. We are the only ones who can tell it as it really is. Some months ago, Saffron Walden Museum appealed for our COVID-19 experiences which they would collate and keep, so people in centuries to come may understand how this pandemic was for us. We are living through a vital piece of history and are now about to have a Christmas which may be quite different for many of us, whether we are in lockdown or not. So please record your experiences add the title CV Walden and send them to [Museum@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@uttlesford.gov.uk).

Writing is its own therapy. Times are strange and writing about them just might make you feel better.

### Dark Nights Need a Personal Light up

There are streetlights in Birchanger, but we are somewhat short of pavements throughout the village. It is especially important to wear reflective clothing throughout the long hours of darkness the winter evenings bring. Without it, whether you are walking or cycling you are very difficult to see until the last moment. Light clothing is not enough. There are many reflective gloves or hats on the market, some coats have built in reflective panels, but if you have neither of these, it is very important that if you are out and about in the village you get something reflective ASAP and carry a torch.



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## Local Care Company Finalists in 7 Categories at the 2020 Great British Care Awards

Chesterford Homecare are delighted to announce that they have been shortlisted at the Great British Care Awards in every one of the 7 categories for which they entered, which were:

- Homecare Worker of the Year
- Dementia Carer of the Year
- Putting People First/Personalisation Award
- Palliative Care/End of Life Care Award
- Care Assessor/Care Planner of the Year
- Frontline Leader's Award
- Registered Manager of the Year

The nominees are: Registered Manager, Amanda Mudie, visiting carer, Rebecca Hurst and live-in carers, Shelly Henry and Beth Chapman, with Amanda Mudie having been nominated in an unprecedented three categories. Director, John Towers, told our reporter: "There are typically over 100 nominations for each award, so to be shortlisted in every category for which we entered is an astonishing achievement. What is especially pleasing is that our carers were nominated not by the management team but by the very clients whose lives have been so transformed by their outstanding care."

Amanda Mudie



He went on: "Through this challenging year the hard work, dedication and commitment to keeping all our clients safe by our team I am very proud of each of them as well as all the other carers and office team. I always knew we had struck gold when we appointed Amanda as our Registered Manager. I am even more delighted that, thanks to her exceptional

leadership qualities, other members of the team are now also being recognised for the fantastic care they deliver, day in, day out. Amanda was a finalist last year and I hope that this year she can go one better and win the top award in at least one of the categories for which she has been entered."

"The next six months will continue to be difficult for everyone, but I am extremely confident that each and every one of our clients will be fantastically looked after and kept happy and safe during the winter and beyond."

For more information, call 0800 411 8636



## Action Fraud is warning people selling items online to be on the lookout for criminals sending fake PayPal emails

Between January 2020 and September 2020, 21,349 crime reports were made to Action Fraud about fake PayPal emails. Victims reported losing a total of £7,891,077.44 during this time. Those targeted included people selling jewellery, furniture, and electronics via online marketplaces. Reports of fake PayPal emails to Action Fraud made up a third of all reports of online shopping and auction fraud during this period.

### How does it happen?

Criminals have been targeting people selling items online, by sending them emails purporting to be from PayPal. The emails trick victims into believing they have received payment for the items they are selling on the platform.

Typically, after receiving these emails, victims will ship the item to the criminal. This leaves them at a further disadvantage having not received any payment for the item and also no longer being in possession of it.

### How can you protect yourself?

Sellers beware: If you are selling items on an online marketplace, be aware of the warning signs that your buyer is a scammer. Scammers may have negative feedback history or may have recently set up a new account to avoid getting poor feedback. Do not be persuaded into sending anything until you can verify you have received the payment.

### Scam messages

Do not click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

### How to spot the difference

A PayPal email will address you by your first and last name, or your business name, and will never ask you for your full password, bank account, or credit card details in a message.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



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# What's on in the village...

		December 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>						
	1 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	2 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	3 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	4 <b>BSSC:</b> 19.00 <b>THE BIG LIGHT UP</b> at the club and the whole village. Mulled wine & mince pies	5 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> Meat Raffle & Members Night with 'That Girl & This Guy'	6 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am Matins with Pam Lee <b>BSSC:</b> Christmas Sunday Lunch
7 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	8 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	9 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 15.30 Apton Dance Studio	10 <b>Green Bin#</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> 19.30 Bingo	11	12 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat Raffle	13 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Service of the word with Hugh Mascetti <b>BSSC:</b> Christmas Sunday Lunch
14 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	15 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	16 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	17 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	18 <b>BSSC:</b> 20.00 Winner of The Big Light Up	19 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> 13.00 Meat Raffle	20 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 Communion with Rev. Helen Flack <b>BSSC:</b> Christmas Sunday Lunch
21 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	22 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	23 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	24 <b>Green Bin #</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> 19.30 Bingo	25 	26 <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.00 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> Bottle Draw	27 <b>St Mary's Church:</b> 11.15 am TBA
28 <b>Church hall:</b> 19.30 Apton Dance Studio	29 <b>Church hall:</b> 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	30 <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 17.45 Apton Dance Studio	31 <b>Black Bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 11.00 Line dance 19.30 Apton Dance Studio <b>BSSC:</b> 19.30 Bingo	<b>NOTE!</b> Activities shown above are subject to the pandemic lockdown and social distancing safety rules at the time. Please contact the organisers for confirmation		



## Sports & Social Club News



### Club AGM held with social distancing

The Club annual AGM was held on the night of Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> in unusual socially distanced circumstances. Sufficient members attended to hear Chairman Steve Hopkins deliver his report.

In the current circumstances The Club's finances are all important. The chairman outlined some of the measures being put in place to ensure the club's survival for the foreseeable future. The Annual accounts were accepted as accurate by the meeting after some members' queries were addressed. The Temporary Steward Terry has agreed to remain in post at least until January.

The Club's Officers were unopposed and the club has a committee of 12.

As the country has been put into another lockdown our club is required to suspend normal trading until the restrictions are lifted, hopefully on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Until that time we intend to offer a takeaway food service to our members. The club has a licence to sell alcohol on an off sales basis we have established that we will be allowed to supply alcohol on a takeaway basis as well as food, so long as it is pre-ordered.

We are acutely aware that Christmas is rapidly approaching and so we are making arrangements to provide some festive events in the club within the constraints that COVID 19 allows us to. This is assuming that the lockdown is indeed lifted. No one can accurately predict what may happen in the short term. We can only hope that Our Club can navigate the difficult times ahead and prosper again.

### TAKEAWAY MENU

Available Fridays, Saturdays 5.00 to 10.00 pm

Sundays 1.00 to 3.00 pm

Please call 01279 813441 to order

#### Starters

Cheesy Nachos for 1 or for 2 Served with Sour Cream, Guacamole & Salsa £3.95/£6.95  
Homemade Chicken Goujons Served with a BBQ Dip & Mayo Dip £3.95

#### Mains

Scampi, Chips & Mushy Peas £8.95  
Beer Battered Fish & Chips, Served with Mushy Peas £8.95  
Aberdeen Angus Beef Burger in a Brioche Bun Served with Chips £7.95  
Chicken Fillet Burger in a Brioche Bun Served with Chips £7.95  
Homemade Chicken Casserole Served in a Giant Yorkshire Pudding £6.95  
Vegetable Lasagne Served with Chips and Garlic Ciabatta (V) £7.95

#### Kids

Fish Fingers / Nuggets & Chips

#### Sides

Chips £2.50  
Cheesy Chips £3.00  
Onion Rings £2.45  
Garlic Bread £2.00  
Roast Potatoes £2.50  
Cheesy Roast Potatoes £3.00

Birchanger Sports & Social Club  
229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, CM23 5QJ  
Tel: 01279 813441 Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com)  
[www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



## Birchanger Wood

has restarted its volunteering activities, which are focusing on a number of projects, including the seasonal coppicing as well as cutting back vegetation away from the paths so that visitors can continue to walk unhindered with social distancing.

We are building dams along the stream through the wood in order to maintain the golden saxifrages that thrive in damp and produce a carpet of golden yellow flowers. Damming the stream can also encourage wildlife, particularly amphibians.



## Wood to Purchase

As usual, our firewood store is open at the compound next to the water tower every Saturday. Our firewood is well-seasoned, which ensures a good burn and is within the moisture level limits due to come into force in January. We hope to see more of our regular buyers, as well as new ones, as people stock up on sustainably sourced and locally grown firewood, which helps fund our conservation work.

Daniel Brett danielbrettdotcom@gmail.com

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## Bishop's Stortford & District Footpath Association

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



**Owing to the current pandemic restrictions, please check all communal walks on our website below**

Do enjoy walking but remember, all land is owned by someone and you should respect this. There are a great number of Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in Hertfordshire and Essex and anyone has a right to use these for free!

The Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps identify PROWs and are published to show where you can freely walk. If you are simply walking across land and it is not identified as a PROW, footway, bridleway, route, or path open to all traffic, you could be charged with trespass. Many field paths are not PROWs, so be careful where you walk. Additionally, there are a number of 'Permissive Paths'. These are found all over the Countryside. However, they are not always identified. Where they are identified, you can freely walk along them. Permissive Paths can be closed at the owners' discretion. There are two main types of PROWs both of which may be used by farm vehicles.

**Footpaths** - these are for walkers and should not be used by any vehicle including cycles

**Bridleways** - these may be used by horse, cycles, and walkers.

Enjoy rambling, it is sociable, brings solace and provides places to exercise. Rambling is suitable for persons of all ages (although sadly not of all abilities, as often the surfaces are rough and uncompromising).

You can find a printable map of Stansted which shows its PROWs and Permissive Paths on the following link.

<https://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BS DFA-Footpath-Map-StanstedNhood-Plan-20208043.pdf>

You will note that this map does not include the two new Housing Developments of Walpole Farm and Elms Farm and for this I apologise. In the meantime, keep walking, keep fit and keep safe.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Publicity Officer:

[dwwjwj.444@gmail.com](mailto:dwwjwj.444@gmail.com) [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

## Why move to a care home when you can have all the support you need in your own home?

### Live-In Care

**Live-in care involves one of our team of trained and experienced carers coming to live with your loved one and becoming their full-time companion, house-keeper and personal carer.**

Our carers are all tested regularly for Covid-19 and support our clients for several weeks at a time. When they need to take a break, a second carer comes in and stays until the main carer returns. Wherever possible, continuity of care is provided by the same two carers working in tandem.



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Client Satisfaction Survey 2020

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The Government's Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') have rejected all calls to delay the Public Inquiry to consider the Appeal by the Manchester Airports Group ('MAG') over the refusal of its 2018 planning application to expand Stansted Airport to 43 million passengers per annum (about the same size as Gatwick).

Despite the current pandemic – and the fact that Stansted will handle only about 8 million passengers this year – PINS are insisting that the Inquiry must start at 10am on 12 January 2021.

The venue will be the Radisson Blu Hotel at Stansted Airport and the Inquiry is expected to last for 10-12 weeks until about the end of March.

SSE will be involved throughout the Public Inquiry, presenting evidence on all the main topics and, with the help of our QCs, we will be cross-examining all MAG's witnesses. The SSE team, supported by external consultants, is currently hard at work preparing its evidence.

As well as the technical evidence, it is vital for the Planning Inspectors to hear the view of local residents. Anyone can register to speak at the Public Inquiry and it is important that local voices are heard. Your statement need not be lengthy, technical or complicated. A heartfelt, personal, view from a local resident can be far more powerful than an 'expert' consultant's report.

You would not need to appear in person. Arrangements are being put in place for evidence to be given by video link, either from your own home or a designated safe venue.

Applications to make representations (i.e. to speak) at the Inquiry should be sent by email to:

[info@programmeofficers.co.uk](mailto:info@programmeofficers.co.uk)

copied to:

[elizabeth.humphrey@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.humphrey@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

You should then be advised of further information about the arrangements.

SSE expects that there may be a word limit of about 1,000 words and a time limit of about 10 minutes. However, these are only 'guesstimates'. PINS have yet to advise.

Please make every effort to ensure that your voice, and the voice of Birchanger, is heard!

*Brian Ross*

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

It has been a year like no other, hasn't it? Last December the marsh cypress was spectacular in the sunshine and we looked forward to 2020, but the year kicked off with storms Ciara and Dennis and we lost trees and scarcely managed to open for snowdrop days.

Locked down in March, we wondered when anyone would be able to enjoy the gardens again. However, we were allowed to re-open again in July and it was lovely to welcome our visitors back with new weekly open days on Thursdays. We also had a record number of visitors for our October open day to finish the season.

Despite the pandemic and latest lockdown, we are optimistic for 2021. We know we can open the gardens safely by following government guidelines and provide a pick-me-up breath of fresh air in lovely surroundings for our visitors. We have been busy adding bulbs to start the coming year with a big burst of colour and will open for snowdrops on 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. We will of course be open every Thursday from March to November as usual and maintain our full open days during the main season. Details to follow.

The fishing lake (below) is looking beautiful even during winter.



For the rest of the closed season we will be working on a wide range of projects adding interest to the forgotten corners of the Gardens and extend the area open to visitors. The stonemasons will be busy restoring the balusters around the lilypond.

For details of how to support our restoration project go to [www.eastonlodge.co.uk/the-gardens/restoration](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/the-gardens/restoration).

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

*Jill Goldsmith*

### Help During Lockdown and Beyond

Birchanger volunteers are standing by to help those who are self-isolating with collection of their shopping and prescriptions or any other essential requirements during the lockdown and beyond.

If you, or someone you know need help, please contact Peter Sampson on 07817904333 or Email [peter.sampson@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.sampson@talktalk.net).





## The Hundred Parishes Society

With Christmas just around the corner we are thinking of calling friends and family but not, I suspect, from a red telephone box!

In 1924 the Royal Fine Art Commission invited three architects to submit designs for new telephone kiosks. The winner was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who also designed Liverpool Cathedral where he is buried. Scott was at the time a trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum and he topped his kiosk with a dome similar to that on the mausoleum Soane had designed for himself. It was produced in cast iron as GPO model K2, replacing the K1 concrete kiosk.

Later designs had a similar appearance. The most common, the somewhat smaller K6, was introduced for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935.

The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot, although Scott had suggested silver. These robust and iconic survivors of the 20th century, found in almost every town and village, are worth preserving. At the last count, 51 within the Hundred Parishes had been listed.



Westmill with defibrillator

Most red phone boxes have now been decommissioned although a few, like the one in Anstey, still operate as

a pay phone. Many villages have used the box to house a defibrillator; others have inventively turned them into informal book exchanges and information points.

Some villages have been even more imaginative: the box in Standon has been transformed into a greenhouse full of colourful plants.



Standon with garden

With Christmas in mind, the Society still has a limited supply of its book *The Hundred Parishes: an Introduction*. The 400-page hardback with a thousand photos is available for £25 from tourist information centres and good book shops, or by arrangement with me – 01279 813226.

The Society's trustees wish you all a very happy Christmas.

**Ken McDonald, Secretary**

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



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Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm



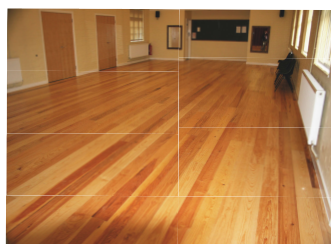
## Village Services and Activities

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Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	Karen Reilly	01279 810800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders - Another Level	Matt Marks	01279 814273
BSSC Club	Steve Hopkins	01279 813441
Car Service	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Holistic Therapist	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Over 60's club	Jean Camp	07843 707249
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814773
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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**Administrator** - Barbora Dragoskova Tel. 01279 815243

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

**Key Holder** - Cat Roberson Tel. 07475092658

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

## St. Mary's Church News



### Church services

Sunday services start at 11.15 am but are subject to the current Covid restrictions being lifted.

6th Dec - Matins with Pam Lee

13th Dec - Service of the Word with Hugh Mascetti (lay reader)

20th Dec - Communion with Revd. Helen Flack

25th Dec - Christmas service with Sue Warr

27th Dec - to be advised

In the event that current lockdown restrictions continue, there will be no formal services. However, the church will be open at 11.00 am each Sunday for 30 minutes individual quiet prayer.

### Church News

Given the government lockdown announcement made last month, all of the efforts to organise how regular services at St Mary's would be maintained over the coming months seems now to have been a complete waste of time! The fact is that for the time being we can no longer hold any regular services but that does not mean that the church will be closed. Indeed, it is important for the wellbeing of some people that the church remains open providing spiritual support and guidance.

As you can imagine, the closure of the church and hall has had a disastrous effect on finances, so bad, that for the first time in living memory our church has had to suspend payment of the "Parish Share" (the amount that the Diocese asks us to pay each month to meet diocesan overheads, salaries, pensions and other parish costs). We suspended contributions in September, so this year, we will be short by £5,200. For the coming year we have been asked to make up this shortfall and contribute a further £12,000. The PCC has already stated that it cannot pay these sums whilst at the same time maintaining the church and hall.

Sadly, we have had to close the Village Church Hall to all groups save those that have young children involved. We will reopen as soon as we can. On the subject of the hall, some children have been using the west end of the building as a goal mouth, kicking their football against the wall and the window. There is the obvious attraction that on these dark evenings the security lights provide a floodlit area that the children take advantage of. However, sooner or later, it is very likely that the window and/or the security lights will be damaged. In either case, we shall have to look to the parents to cover the cost involved. We really do not have the funds with which to install CCTV but if the problem persists then we shall have no option but to install a system to protect the hall. Please make sure that it is not your child playing with a ball in the car park otherwise you could end up paying for the cost of repairs.

There will not be a carol service in church this year, nor can we hold the Christmas Fayre, coffee mornings and the Epiphany Lunch. We wish you and your family a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.

#### Prayer for the Month

Lord, let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me

Let peace reign over all the peoples of this earth  
Amen

Pam Lee (Church Warden) Tel: 07702 171744

[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)  
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