



# CRIME WAVE HITS VILLAGE

Birchanger was struck by a spate of crimes in late July. Beginning with a house burglary in Birchanger lane when a car and various valuables were taken. In two other separate incidents on July 28th a van was broken into in Highview and tools were stolen that were apparently used later to help break into the Social club where the fruit machines were targetted. All of these incidents occurred late at night.

As this is the holiday season and there will be empty properties in Birchanger, please be extra vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour you can find all of the local Police contact numbers elsewhere in this issue.

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## FIENDS REUNITED

Without doubt the main highlight at the end of the school year is the School Play. It now has such a reputation that the venue is now the Church Hall as the school is not large enough to accommodate everyone who wants to see it.

Each year it is hard to believe that anyone can improve on the previous performance, and somehow every play just seems to go on getting better.

Fiends Re-united feature all the main fairy tale characters who hold a reunion every 100 years in the Sleeping Beauty's palace. The handsome prince hacks his way through the undergrowth to be accosted by Cinderella who becomes very irate when she discovers he belongs to the Sleeping Beauty. She accosts every fairy tale prince who comes to the reunion, refuses to kiss the Froggy Prince and has to be restrained by the ugly sisters. As in the very best of fairy tales the right prince finally turns up riding his horse called Ferrari and the slipper fits.

Along the way we met Snow White and her Handsome Prince, a group of witches with a strong resemblance to the Spice Girls, an incredible hunk, Little Red "Head" with "Goldie", Axel and Throttle who were now living in a council house with the old woman whose candy house they ate, Fungus Wolf with the best wolf howl ever, a truly Scary Fairy, a crowd of very pretty Fairy Folk, cheeky Red Hot Goblins, and trees who were really not so scary!

As in the best tradition of pantomime, boys were girls and vice versa. Thanks to the very clever make up and costumes designed and made by Tina Crossley, it was hard to tell which was which. Miss Williams and Mrs Augustine produced the show which provided very imaginative casting for roles in which every child excelled. They were able to deliver their lines in a good clear, and their singing under musical director Mrs Sherriff was outstanding. Everyone was able to sing clearly and confidently. As always Mrs Manning and Mrs Culpin both made, purloined and provided all the props and the scenery, and these were full of imagination and were, like all of this production, a lot of fun with a great deal of very hard work from all concerned. Congratulations everyone your audiences loved it!

Photo on page 7



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Gen 2 still needs your views

A staggering 70,000 letters regarding proposed expansion at Heathrow has resulted in the government giving itself more time to catalogue and to consider these responses to their proposals.

Letters regarding Stansted Generation 2 are still coming in, but unless more people start writing, Stansted 2 will not even begin to come near the 70,000 total. In the light of the Heathrow response they could be forgiven for thinking that people around Stansted don't really care and the fact that a great many people do care will never be made known without a large response from the community affected.

What happens with Stansted Generation 1 is a very different matter from what might happen with Generation 2. It is a very different airport and the trade at Stansted is very different. Even if it does mean improved transport links, and this is likely to be very inadequate, these links will be prioritised towards the airport. Birchanger will be faced with a massive spaghetti junction overlooking the centre of the village, an influx of low cost houses not readily available to the local community, unimagined noise and light pollution, more fly parking and rat running, in fact all the things which people are complaining about now, but on a much larger scale.

It is even planned to have access to junction construction traffic and a new shack city in Birchanger again. Remember last time? There are plans to site this behind the ambulance station with access via the road to the sewage works. We are experiencing a certain amount of blight on house prices now, just imagine what the impact of Generation 2 will do.

Your response does not have to be technical. Just say what you think, whether you are against the proposals or not. Your response can be very simple, but you may have something to say which has not been said before but whether it is original or not, your response is vital.

You have up to September 26<sup>th</sup> to make your views known. The Inspectors will be looking at, amongst other matters, the effects of noise and pollution along with sustainability and traffic impacts at the Inquiry. The District Council is still receiving and cataloguing all the responses which will be submitted to the government after this date. A Preliminary Meeting is scheduled to be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Hotel, but the full inquiry is expected to start on January 13<sup>th</sup> at Endeavour House. Some of the aspects of the Inquiry will run in parallel to save time. The Inquiry could last a year to 18 months. The result is expected in 2011.

The address to send your response to is,

Uttlesford District Council (Planning) London Rd Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER or email

[planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk) with "second runway" as your reference.

## Birchanger's first arts festival

The gardens may not have been open in recent years, but the Open Gardens Group has not exactly been idle. Led by Heather Brown and Sheila Devereux the first ever Birchanger Art Festival has been arranged for the weekend of September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> between 10am and 5pm each day along with an exhibition of the Birchanger Archives and a Flower Show. Artists from miles around are planning to exhibit their work, most of which will be for sale.

There will also be a chance for you to participate in the first ever TURNIP PRIZE. This is open to anyone of any age, artistic or not who would like an opportunity to try to show their work, or to try out their artistic skills. The work can be a painting or sculpture and the stipulation is that all the works must be collected by their owners at 5pm on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no objection to an element of fun in the exhibits, in the style of the Turner Prize. The exhibits will be judged by our two resident artists, Brian Gough and Heather Brown.

The paintings will be exhibited at the Church Hall, with additional space for the Turnip Prize entries in a marquee outside. The Scout Hut will also be used as required. Refreshments will be available throughout both days in the Church Hall.

The Archives Exhibition and the Flower Show will take place in the Church. It is another opportunity to see a great floral display organised by Rosemary Saywood, and our editor Eddie Gilbey will be making the archive contents available for exhibition of which will include some hitherto unseen photographs.

It should be a great weekend, and unlike the gardens, the exhibits will be in the dry if it does rain. Enjoy!

## Farewell to Ann Kent

Sadly Ann Kent is to leave Birchanger at the end of August to live in Lincolnshire. Ann has been a hard working member of the Birchanger Community for more years than most of us can remember. Over the years she has held many roles, but is perhaps best known for all her work on the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch.

Ann has served on the Parish Council for over 13 years. She has worked hard on Planning Applications and all the airport matters. Her work with Highways, County

Footpaths and Bus Transport Services has been appreciated by most people at some time or other in the village. She was instrumental in the fund raising, planning purchase and installation of the Youth Shelter in the Recreation Ground. She has been the chief liaison link with the Police Team in Stansted, and the success of Neighbourhood Watch. In Birchanger is due to her efforts over many years. Her involvement with these organisations has meant that Ann has delivered thousands of newsletters, informative items and parish magazines to everyone in the village. Ann has a very real concern for everyone less fortunate than herself and has always tried to make life in Birchanger much better for everyone.

Lincolnshire, you have no idea what a very special person you are about to have come and live with you. Very best wishes from all of us here, and a very big thank you for everything you have done for us all. We shall miss you. Very best wishes to Ann and David for a very happy future in Lincolnshire.

### New style at the Club

There is more than just a wind of change about Birchanger Sports and Social Club these days. It is more of sea change to make the club more user friendly, to offer longer opening times and an opportunity to buy good food at incredibly reasonable prices.

The club is now open all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Food is available on Friday and Saturday lunch times, with a special fish and chip takeaway on Friday evening, between 6 and 8pm and a full menu on Saturday nights. There is the usual full menu on Tuesday nights with a lunch time menu on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Traditional Sunday Roast is available between noon and 4pm on Sundays.

Vegetarian meals and specials are also on offer along with an "All Day Breakfast". There are also special "meal deals" on many items on the menu featuring two meals for £4 including take away cod and haddock. You can even order in advance by phoning the club on 813441. Large parties are also catered for and special buffets can be arranged. You can hire a room for Christenings, Birthdays etc, or simply book a meeting. Major credit cards are accepted.

It is our club, it is up to us to use it or the obvious will happen! After all the meals are so reasonable it is not worth cooking sometimes!

### Beer festival at the Club

For many in Birchanger there is another important diary date. The club is to host a Beer Festival from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The beers will be from smaller local breweries, and will offer an opportunity to taste a wide range of less well known beers.

**Petrol Economy Tips.**

Fuel prices are still ridiculously high, and even with practising the strictest fuel economy there is still far too large a pay out at the pumps. Here are a few tips from America, where they are finally feeling the petrol crunch and they don't like it!

Keep your fuel tank topped up. There is less evaporation that way.

Fill up more slowly. There is a vaporising unit at all the pumps which directs petrol vapour down to the tanks.

Faster fill ups increase the rate of vaporisation.

Never fill up at a petrol station when fuel is being delivered,( this is not usually possible in this country) or just after a delivery has taken place. The new petrol disturbs the muck at the bottom of the tanks which could end up in your car and cause you problems.

### Eco Town update

Following the meeting which Ray Gooding, myself and other council leaders had with Caroline Flint last month, at which she listened politely, made her points clearly but promised nothing, there is to be another round of consultations in September after a further shortlist of possible sites has been announced. It is to be hoped that Elsenham will not be on the list but after the developers pulled out in South Cambridgeshire, the chances are that Elsenham will still be in the frame.

The minister acknowledges that water issues, highway links and transport are issues. She did spend some time stuck behind a tractor when she visited the site, but does she truly understand the impact all these houses would have on Stansted and the surrounding area?

### News from the Church hall

We have unfortunately lost our Pilates class on Wednesday evenings, Michelle is going to pastures new and we will be very sorry to be losing her.

This means that there is a slot available on Wednesday evenings, so if anyone would like to take a class please get in touch.

We also lost our Keep fit class which was on a Friday morning, they have moved to the Stansted leisure centre.

Don't forget you can also hire the hall for all other occasions; Children's parties are especially popular at the moment, so please get in touch if you want to arrange one.

# In the shadow of Vesuvius

## Or Sally goes to Sorrento part one

I have just returned from a wonderful guiding holiday in Sorrento, Italy. I met my fellow guides and blind and partially sighted companions at Heathrow, unfortunately our airline had changed our flights and arrived very tired at our hotel in Sant'Angelo. My room mate was a lovely young lady called Jenny, we got on famously. As always we accompanied our room mate to breakfast and after breakfast changed to a new day partner. This gave everyone the chance to get to know one another. On the first day we had a guided tour of Sorrento, on our way round I spied an orange and lemon grove that invited you in to taste their liquors.

When the tour ended we were given free time, Liz and I wandered the streets had a seafood lunch and a fruit cocktail drink. In the town there was a wedding ceremony taking place and I noticed at one side of the church door there was a container holding paper cones. One side the cones filled with rice and the other with paper confetti.

My companion and I decided on route back to the hotel to visit the lemon grove where we tasted lemon orange, mandarin, fennel, walnut and liquorice liquors. Once back at the hotel we were nicknamed the cocktail girls.

Day 2 was a trip to Pompeii. In 79 AD there were 18000 inhabitants of which 500 became victims of the eruption of Vesuvius. After which, the people were unsettled for a long time.

One third of the total area is still uncovered. There are plaster reproductions of the victims were covered by a rain of ash mud stones etc, which solidified and the bodies decomposed, leaving a body shaped hole which was filled with liquid plaster and produced perfect plaster reproductions. We visited the gladiator school, and the large amphitheatre where they fought. The gladiators paraded along the main streets on route to the amphitheatres. The large amphitheatre is still in use today, during July and August for concerts. The smaller amphitheatre is a half circle and creates perfect acoustics.

We walked the streets and stood on the stepping stones which were used to cross the street. Cart wheel grooves were between the stones. There were one way traffic streets and two way. Pedestrian malls were blocked at either end by marble pillars.



A Pompeian after a really bad day at the office



Sorrento, Santa Agnello is way over to the right

Water fountains were in each street and were meeting places. The houses were of baked brick covered and painted white red and yellow, no one has successfully recreated the Pompeii red. It came from a red mineral stone which made a powdered mixture.

There was a red light district and erotic pictures were on display, it is said that people who visited these houses would point to the picture that they desired.

On day 3 several people went to a local house for a cookery lesson. They made and cooked traditional Italian food and ate it. Which everyone enjoyed. The national flag of Italy is red white and green and this is reflected in their Cooking. Red chilli, white cheese and green basil. The area is a rich and fertile land and is very good for farming. Olive oil is exported all over the world. Chilli peppers hang outside the houses to ward off evil spirits.

**See next month's packed issue for the conclusion of Sally's travelogue**

## RECREATIONAL GROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

Guy Robins and Mathew Crossley have conducted a questionnaire about the "Rec" and how it is used amongst the 10 to 19 age group in the village. This is what they found:-

There were 23 questionnaires returned. From those returned 74% said they used the "Rec" regularly, 21% said occasionally and 4% said they never used it.

The most popular reason for using it was Football and to hang out with friends. There were some positive comments about the good quality of the play equipment, the amount of space and the shelter. However most people felt that the equipment was aimed at the younger children and that there is not enough to do for the older children /teenagers to do.

The reason given for never using the "Rec" was because of the amount of broken glass there and also because of the graffiti. There were also comments about the football pitch not being useable due to the slope of the ground.

They asked people what new feature or equipment they would most like to see at the "Rec". The most popular suggestion was a basketball hoop with some tarmac, a skate/ bike ramp and the football pitch being made level. Other suggestion included a multi purpose court, a mini zip wire and a rugby post.

The conclusion they reached was :- "Although the "Rec" is fairly well used at the moment, improvements could be made to the facility and if there were more things for the teenagers to do it would be used more often."

## News from St Mary's

Also at 8pm on Sunday the 21st September we shall be holding a Harvest Auction in the Social Club. Some people have already offered produce from their gardens or allotments. If you can help please let Pam Lee know asap. Our Reverend Paul has agreed to be master of ceremonies and, since he has not done this before, it should be a Fun (sorry - entertaining) evening!

The Harvest Gala Evening will take place on Saturday 11th October. Entertainment is all booked ( a little culture followed by a good old fashioned sing along) and with the menu now to include game pie, it should be a good event. Tickets available soon at £15 each to include welcome drinks.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> next year there will be a marriage vow renewal service at our church. Afterwards, refreshments will be served at the Church Hall. Should you be interested to attend the service, please contact one of the church wardens. In case you know a couple who had moved away from Birchanger but who were married at St. Mary's, please inform them or give the address to the churchwardens. Many thanks!

Pam Lee and Peter Odrich

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Rain did not stop play at the sports and fete

The weather tried its worst with a short sharp burst of rain with thunder and lightning thrown in, but it got the timing wrong. The races were just about over, everyone had a very convenient burger break and then the fun of the fair resumed. Many stalls were a sell out, the bar did not quite run dry and it was a truly enjoyable afternoon.

It was great to see some old faces as past pupils came in large numbers. They were able to meet old friends and to tell us about life after Birchanger School. They all looked very grown up and very smart indeed and it was really good to see them all again. The school was also able to meet their new member of staff Miss Karen Chinnock who is to take Mrs Augustine's place in Class 4 in September.

## Record breaking Tesco voucher collection

A staggering 16,434 Tesco vouchers have been collected for Birchanger School and a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the astounding total. The amount that has been spent in the stores to achieve this total must also make Tesco smile, but at least the school will benefit from it. If you still have some vouchers lurking around the house somewhere, we can keep on banking them with Tescos until early September.

## Visitors return

There was a flying visit from Essex Schools in Manor Park at the end of term. In contrast to their previous visits, the Year 6 children were able to see Birchanger on a fine day. They had the opportunity to join in with a game of football, to visit the Village Hall to catch the dress rehearsal for the school play and to tour the school again.

Birchanger School is very different to their own school which has over 1000 pupils. They find us very small in comparison, but do enjoy their visits here. The new Year 6 will return again at Christmas time to watch some of the Christmas Festivities, and Birchanger will return to visit them at some of their Hindu and Muslim festivals.

## Sad Goodbyes All Round.

July is always a bitter sweet month at Birchanger School. There is a great deal happening with Sports Day and the play not to mention all the parties, but it is the end of the school year, and there are many farewells to be said. At the Leavers Service the Year 6 Leavers shared their favourite, funniest and most embarrassing memories with us. They had written a poem about their journey through each year of their

life at the school. They then entertained the school at a party before lunch which was followed by the Leaver's Assembly. The final treat was a surprise visit to the Snow Dome at Milton Keynes.

So we said goodbye to a very hard working Year 6 in true Birchanger style, but we also said another sad farewell to Mrs Augustine who is returning to her home in Canada with her husband after over 6 years at Birchanger School. Her contribution to the school was huge, with her happy personality, her great practicality and clear liking for all the children she taught. Her classes were full of interest, innovation and overall fun. Her enhancement of the curriculum through IT has been outstanding. Along with all the children who are leaving Birchanger School, she will be very much missed. The last line of the Leaver's poem summed it all up.

Birchanger has prepared us very well,  
Where we go in the future, only time will tell.

## Welcome

At the start of term there will be a new face in Class 4. Miss Karen Chinnock has been appointed as the new Class 4 teacher. We all wish her well in Birchanger School.

## Home grown vegetables are a sell out

Under the careful supervision of the school's maintenance man the children have been growing their own vegetables in the school garden. Their produce which includes courgettes, new potatoes and beetroot is now regularly for sale in after the Friday assembly. You have to be quick to get it as it is a regular sell out, completely organic and very good.

## School uniform recycling

Children seem to grow very fast and their uniforms need replacing long before they are worn out. With this in mind the school has started a uniform shop, where parents can bring in their children's outgrown uniform's and hopefully be able to buy at a very low cost, something which will actually fit. Those who have used the scheme have said that the bargains were excellent, and seemed to be as good as new.

## First aid starts early

Children in Class 4 have just completed their initial First Aid Course, and have certificates to prove it. They are now all Young First Aiders and are starting to learn valuable skills which will be a benefit to everyone.

## Ola Senhors e Senhoritas este The Three Horseshoes

If you're at a loss for somewhere different to go for a drink or a bite to eat, you may be pleasantly surprised by our newest sponsors, the Three Horseshoes at Hazel End. The old pub which reopened at Easter is open 11 to 11 every day.

New operators Paul and Sid have invested in a front of house decking area to add to the beer garden and the rest of the pub's facilities. And are promoting a family friendly policy which could solve a problem for those who like to eat out with their children.

The cuisine at The Horseshoes is decidedly Spanish so if Iberian specialities like Paella and Tapas are your thing? Then this could be the place for you to go. On the day I visited, the menu included Cod in red wine, Caramelised Chicken with honey and apricots, Tortilla Espanol and a Spiced lamb stew with herbs and pistachios.

For those with smaller appetites there are a selection of varying tapas dishes to try or a simple Ploughman's for the traditional at heart.

Apart from the traditional role as a public house there are regular Sunday morning Car boot sales to raise funds for our servicemen in Afghanistan and Iraq. The funds are converted into parcels of useful stuff for the troops especially socks, and boots etc.

To date they have despatched over 200 parcels to our soldiers over seas. I am sure you will agree a very worthy cause!

We would like to welcome The Three Horseshoes as our latest sponsors and wish them every success!



You can't see the sign, but the pub's still there!



## A scene from the school play

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**Village Diary**  
**August September**  
**2008**

August

- 23rd At the Club  
Open day
- 24th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion
- 31st St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins

September

- 7th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins
- 12th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion
- 20th Church Hall  
Art Exhibition
- 21st Church hall  
Art Exhibition
- 21st St Mary's 11.00 am  
Family service
- 28th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

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**Local Police contact numbers**

Birchanger comes under Essex Police and is  
Beat code C325E  
Stansted Village Police Station 01279 812211  
ext 484850  
Stansted Community Mobile 07801 461666  
Dunmow Police Station (our area main station)  
01371871100  
Braintree Police Station Service Desk ( our  
area HQ) 01376551312  
Essex Police Non Emergency /Help desk  
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If you already play bridge but would like to improve your game and feel more confident about playing in a club you could join our Monday classes for "Improvers".

New term starts at 8.00 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Classes are run by our English Bridge Union trained teachers :- Brian and Penny Hassell who can be contacted for more information by telephone on 01279 721428 or by email on penny-brian@hassell10.wanadoo.co.uk

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