

# Birchanger

## Village Magazine

February 2008

Issue 62

## BRILLIANT BURNS NIGHT IN BIRCHANGER

The very fortunate 100 guests who were able to obtain tickets for the big Burns Night at the Church Hall found themselves participating in a true Birchanger night to remember.

Everything was there, the Cock a Leekie Soup, the tatties, the neeps and the guest of honour, which was of course the Haggis, who was piped in with proper Scottish style, accompanied by two drummers in their full regalia. The food was excellent and from the moment the Scottish Music Group started to play, everybody knew they were in for something rather special.



For some it was a completely new experience as this was an authentic Burns Night, from the Selkirk Grace, to the address to the Haggis and on to the Immortal Memory, and Toasts to the Lassies and the Laddies. The scene was colourful and vibrant throughout the evening. Everyone had their chance to actively participate in the fun. There was a quiz to compete, and guests were asked to come with a party piece for each table to perform to celebrate the occasion. The contributions were many and varied, reflecting the Scottish and Essex mix in the hall.

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,*

The whole evening for everyone had to end too soon. Evenings like this do not happen without a great deal of hard work from a lot of people both inside and outside the village. Brian Ross must take the credit for the idea, organization and a great deal of sheer hard work, helped by Carol Barbone, Maggie Sutton, her family and the team at SSE, with help from a great many with the cooking and general labour from Birchanger.

Everyone who attended would like the occasion to be repeated. Maybe the rather exhausted organizing team will be thinking about it when they have recovered. But if it ever does happen again, you will have to move fast to get a ticket.



*"Were doomed, doomed I tell ye"*

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

## Domestic Violence.

Sadly many of us will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives, most probably through a friend who comes to you for support. It affects adults and children and is always very hard to talk about whatever the age of the victim may be. Women's Aid is very aware of just how much domestic violence is experienced by families throughout Essex, and can offer help and advice to all age groups. It has launched a series of free downloadable resources for children and young people as well as adults on <http://www.womensaid.or.uk>

It could help someone you know. There is also a new Men's Coalition, as surprising as it may seem, many men are often the victims of domestic violence, although that is perhaps even harder for them to discuss. For those who are perpetrators there is also help available and an opportunity for them to discuss their situation. The men's coalition aims to work in partnership with women's organizations. To find out more log on to:- <http://www.themenscoalition.org.uk/Welcome.html>

## Free Loft Insulation For the Over Seventies

British Gas is offering free loft insulation and cavity wall insulation for everyone over the age of seventy, regardless of income. This offer is not means tested and you do not have to be a British Gas customer to qualify. It is possible that they may try to sell you various packages along the way, but you do not have to accept any of these. It is certainly an offer worth exploring.

To find out more, call 0845 9717731 and British Gas will arrange for one of their surveyors to call.

## Uttlesford Checks its Thermostats

Following the sad death of a baby in her home in Taunton, Uttlesford District Council will be checking on all the thermostats in council owned properties. It is however something which could happen to anyone's heating system, particularly those which are older and have not been fitted with

the latest safety cut out devices. Particular attention must be given to those which are over 10 years old. There are warning signs. Water in the taps may be very hot, and may even be coming out of the cold taps. You may hear a bubbling noise from the hot water cylinder or a high pitched whine. In the loft space there may be steam. If you are worried about your system and have noticed any of the warning signs, please contact your service engineer as soon as possible.

## Rats and Mice a Problem?

Uttlesford still runs a rodent elimination service. This is currently free to householders, but it may not always remain so. There have been many reports of rat and mouse infestations. These can cause major health problems, so please do call the council for help. They can be accessed on 01799 510510. Later this year the council will take over the stray dog service from the police. They are currently in negotiations with kennels and rescue centres to help provide the care for the stray dogs. Owners if found will have to pay the boarding fees, but if dogs are not reclaimed within 7 days they will be rehomed. Meanwhile the council is considering adding the elimination of grey squirrels to the list of pest elimination services which it currently provides. Grey squirrels do cause a great deal of damage to wiring and to goods stored in lofts. If you do suffer from pest problems, which are not of the human kind, please contact the council for advice.

## Open Gardens in 2008

The Open Gardens Group is still very much alive and well even though support for the Open Gardens initiative has failed among the punters in recent years. It has been a very successful village project, and over £7000 was raised for Birchanger since the project began in 1994. There was still money in the kitty to distribute in the village again this year.

The Open Gardens Group have agreed to mount a top rate art exhibition in the Church hall, to promote a big draw, and to stage a flower show with the archives both displayed together in the Church, along with refreshments. Work on the project has already

started, and the exhibition which will also include live demonstrations from our two resident artists Heather Brown and Brian Gough, is scheduled to take place on September 20th and 21st.

Meanwhile another £150 from the Open Gardens has been given to the magazine, £50 to the Church to pay for tree work in the churchyard, and a further £50 will be spent on planting more bulbs along the lane in the Autumn.

## Epiphany Lunch is a Big Success

We may not be able to have Joy Wright actually present with us any longer, but her influence was certainly felt at the very successful Epiphany Lunch last month. A good number of people attended, the atmosphere was happy and the food delicious, thanks to the efforts of Pam Lee and her team. It was a great opportunity for everyone to get together and relax as well as to raise over £330 for the Church Funds. There will be a full program of events for everyone to join in to support the Church and to make friends throughout the year. These will include the following: Coffee Morning at Moorswood at 10.30 on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome, including those with children at home. There are plenty of toys at Moorswood to play with.

March 30<sup>th</sup> Easter Lunch in the Church Hall.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Coffee Morning at Moorswood.

June 29<sup>th</sup> Summer Garden Lunch at Moorswood.

Date to be Arranged Harvest Supper in the Church Hall.

October 14<sup>th</sup> Joy's Coffee Morning at Moorswood.

October 17<sup>th</sup> Quiz with Fish and Chips in the Church Hall. November 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall

December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood.

December 19<sup>th</sup> Carol Service in the Church.

Additional ideas for events are welcomed, please call Pam Lee on 815938. A plant sale in May is also planned as is a summer walk which will end at the pub or the club.

There are also going to be changes in the Church Services. There will be two Holy Communion Services each month on the second and fourth Sundays. The family service will move to the third Sunday, with Matins on the first and fifth Sundays. There is an exception to this next month as Easter is so early. Mothering Sunday will now be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and there will be a family service on that date instead of the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

## Rail Track Widening Not Yet Out of the Frame

Network Rail and for that matter BAA have said very little recently about widening the track between here and Liverpool Street. In fact you might think that it has been altogether forgotten. Plans to make a four lane track are still being considered, but don't be too excited, they are a long way away from materializing! Meanwhile alternatives to level crossings do not seem to be mentioned at all. I have not forgotten them. Meanwhile there will be 188 new coaches to help to cope with rush hour passengers on our rail network.

## Remembering the Holocaust

The horrors of the treatment of the Jews by the Nazis may seem to be a long way in the past to many, but the fact that the atrocities ever happened at all must never be forgotten. In fact there are people alive today who still deny the fact that is ever happened at all.

We did not forget what happened in Uttlesford. Holocaust Memorial Day was marked by an exhibition entitled "The Last Goodbye" which focused on the experiences of Jewish children who were sent to Britain and elsewhere to escape Nazi Europe under the Kindertransport program which ran between October 1938 to September 1<sup>st</sup> 1939. Jewish parents made the heartrending decision to send their children away, an action which they found unbearably hard, but which did save the children's lives. Sometimes their treatment was not as good here as should have been expected, but many did find caring and loving homes. Most never saw their parents again.

Children in Uttlesford were especially invited to see the exhibition, and to meet someone who had been a member of the Kindertransport Program as well as a lady who had been born in a concentration camp in 1942, the only member of her family to survive. They had the opportunity to hear their stories at first hand, and as one young man said when interviewed by the BBC it is something we and generations to come must never forget. They remember what happened, we must live it through their eyes.

# Sally goes “Down Under”

On my travels I had met and made a new friend who was an Australian. Yvonne and I had something in common as we were both caring for someone who was terminally ill and were having a much needed break in France. We spent four days getting to know one another and decided to keep in touch via email.

My new friend very kindly asked me to stay with her in Australia when the time was right. I knew that that would be when my sister finally left this world. In October after a two year battle I was able to rethink about the offer Yvonne had made. My one regret was that this time I would not be able to tell her about my wonderful experiences, but I needed to get away at a sad time in my life and return with a positive outlook on life.

This is an account of my time in Australia. I do hope you like reading my news.

Firstly I did not go alone, I took my Mum along as she too had been caring for my sister and was invited to join me. We flew to Hong Kong as a stopover. Hong Kong was spotlessly clean and the people so friendly, We stayed on Hong Kong island across the water from Kowloon for two days.

We arrived in Sydney for what I call my tourist Australian holiday. We did all the typical tourist things. Our first point of call the famous Sydney opera house. We booked to see *Le Grande Cirque* a first time performance in Australia. We walked around the opera house and I particularly liked the sale of worn ballet shoes signed by the famous Australian ballet company dancers. We walked across the Sydney Harbour bridge (But not over the top as you had to wear a harness, book in advance and we were on a budget as we were away for a month)



One of the World’s most famous views

You can read more of Sally’s Aussie adventures in future editions

We purchased a weekly travel ticket which we could use on the ferries, trains and buses. We took the ferry to Taronga Zoo to see the Australian animals etc. We went to Darling harbour where Nicole Kidman and her husband reside. They were in the newspapers as it was reported that Nicole and Keith were going to be proud parents. Mum and I visited the aquarium to see the variety of sea creatures found in the great barrier reef and throughout Australian waters. We walked beneath the ocean through 160 metres of underwater tunnels to face the sharks, manta rays and turtles.

We visited the Sydney observatory for a fun 3D adventure across Australia and a 360 degree view of Sydney. Next a ferry trip to Manly beach where the sand was hot, hot, hot and we sat and ate fish and chips at the famous Manly Wharf Hotel. There was so much to see and do.

Off course we had to fit in shopping and so we went to the famous Rocks a historic old town quartet. The days were passing by and on our list of to dos was a visit to the famous Bondi beach. The name itself derives from the aboriginal Boondi which translated means “the noise of water breaking over rocks”.

The beach itself looked like any other beach but the surfers were out in force battling with the huge waves. There was a beautiful coastal walk from Bondi to Coogee. We set out but after about an hour turned back as it was rugged and Mum had not been feeling too well. The walk was about two to three hours. I did not complain as Mum was coping well with my plans for each day.

The next day we packed ready for our flight to Melbourne It was the first week of the Australian open. There is more to the Australian open than just tennis, it was just like a great party. Street performers top bands, visits to the Rod Laver Arena, media area, outer courts etc. Mum and I took the free circular tram so that we could get our bearings and choose where and what we wanted to see. We visited various tourist sites and took a trip up the Yarra river, past the Olympic stadium, the tennis arena, the Melbourne cricket ground etc. Mum was not keen on the crowds so we sat in Federation square and watched the match between roger Federer and Frenchman Fabrice Santoro on the big screen.

Our next flight was to Perth to stay with Yvonne and this part of the holiday was what I would call the real Australia.

Sally Tilstone

# A Letter from Kernow

As many of you will know Molly and I packed our bags and left Birchanger last Easter, after more than 28 years of happy village life, to spend our retirement in the South West. We now live in the picturesque fishing port of Padstow on the north coast of Cornwall.

Reading Brenda Cook's two letters from France in the Village Magazine (which Eddie kindly e-mails to us) has prompted me to write because you can experience a similar friendly, laid-back culture with a confusing language without having to travel overseas – although you do have to travel further from Birchanger than France.

As with France, Cornwall is a foreign country – **'the Country of Kernow'** as the locals would have it – and here also the people seem to have more time, or make time, for other people. It would be a strange day if I was to take the short walk to buy the milk and morning paper without having several cheery greetings and conversations on the way – with Sarah, landlady of the Golden Lion, as she chalks the days 'specials' on the menu board, with Debbie as she feeds the pigeons (never seagulls) outside her 'Christmas Shop' which trades well all year round (??), with Adrian as he prepares for yet another fully booked day at Margot's Restaurant (it is just that good), with Bob who runs the SPAR and with other locals anxious that I should know the latest gossip. Of course very few people commute from Padstow (where to?) and so people live and work in and around the place all day every day – hence local friendships are key to both business and community life.

Also, as with France, the local language takes some understanding. I refer not to the ancient Cornish Language which only a select few Bards now speak but to the Cornish dialect. Holidaymakers are referred to as **'Emmets'** (literally Ants) and if you try to walk round the Harbour in August you soon see the reason. [ Oh why don't these trippers ever explore the acres of superb golden beach less than half a mile's walk along the footpath – because they can't drive there of course!! ] More permanent visitors, like ourselves, are known as **'Incomers'** who come from **'Up Country'**. Not that this is derogatory as our neighbour Nancy, who is Cornish and has lived in our close for over 50 years, says she is still an incomer because she was born across the estuary in Rock.

The locals love people who love their Padstow and are prepared to get involved in their community. We have found nothing but friendship. Molly and I, having joined the St Petroc's Church Choir, were invited to join the rehearsals for the Padstow Carollers who maintain the age old tradition of singing in the market square, several hostelrys and at various houses on each Sunday in December culminating with a rendition to the family and friends of the 'Lord of the Manor' in the Great Hall of Prideaux Place on Christmas Eve. So what's so odd about this – only that the 17 Carols in the repertoire are unique to Padstow in words and/or music. All very confusing when you think you know 'Hark the Herald Angels sing' and they start 'Harky Harky', as it is known in Padstow, to a different tune.

Really confusing is the word **'Dreckly'** (literally Directly) which is used in phrases such as "I'll do that work dreckly". However, when so used in Cornwall it takes on a meaning akin to the Spanish **Mañana** but without the sense of urgency. Of course we cannot complain as it was just this laid-back approach to life that attracted us to Padstow in the first place and, on a positive note, it is said that the Kernow Liberation Army's battle chant is "What do we want – **A free Kernow**, When do we want it – **Dreckly**"

Tim Bishop.

# Memories of Joy Wright.

I knew Joy from a child, the church was already part of her life. I joined the choir in 1940 at the age of 7, many of the choir were older but there were a few young people like myself. Joy was part of the choir and sang beautifully but also would step in to play the organ if Mr Millbank the church organist at the time was unable to. Joy was a very good pianist and I remember her giving piano lesson to my youngest sister.

The church then had a large choir, we practised on Thursday evenings and would practise anthems for our Sunday and special services. I would often walk to church with Joy and her Mum and in those days by torch light as there were no street lights.

Mr Millbank the organist was by trade a piano/organ tuner. I would help him tune the Birchanger Church organ for which he would pay me the sum of ten shillings! Some years later Joy played the organ regularly for services, wedding etc.

Joy's parents, Mr & Mrs Gilbey and sister Gwen were kind people and Joy also had these good traits, she always had a smile, always caring and no matter who she met from whatever walk of life welcomed them as a friend. She never seemed to have an unkind word for anyone, she was always encouraging and thoughtful and keen to lend a hand with events in the village if needed. Village life as a child was different as just about everyone knew each other and families often stayed in the village and did not venture too far away from where they grew up.

Time moved on and village life changed with new people moving in to Birchanger as it was developed with new houses etc. Joy's friendliness was extended to all new residents of the village and her commitment to the church never changed. Bazaars, fund raising events, coffee mornings etc. Joy was always involved and put in a huge effort to make everything a success. More recently albeit older and not always in such good health she continued where possible to work for the cause she believed so passionately in.

There is no doubt that she will be very sorely missed by many villagers whether they had known her for many years or just for a brief time. I do not think we will meet again such a dedicated lady who gave much of her time to the village and to our church.

When Pam & Peter look back and think of their Mum I am sure it will be with pride and that they will know as we all did what a special and wonderfully caring Mother they had.

Rest in peace dear friend in God's loving care.

Mary Burrows

# Renee Florence Brighten



Back in November, Birchanger lost one of the original residents of Birchwood when Renee Brighten passed away. For me Renee was a lifelong friend, as I grew up opposite her house. In the 1960s I used to run errands for her, carrying shopping back from Mr and Mrs Bean's post office. She paid me a shilling a time (5p) which went some way towards paying my fare to Tottenham for home matches.

In 1996 Renee wrote a poem about her life in Birchwood that I am reprinting here. It is significant for me because it prompted me to start writing my own stuff that was duly published and eventually led to me editing this publication. So I have my own reasons for missing her.

There is a tribute to Renee written by two of her grandchildren below which sums her up perfectly!

Ed

## OUR NAN

Sadly our Nan passed away on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2007, peacefully at home with all her family around her, just as she liked it!

Our Nan first moved to Birchanger 53 years ago with our Grandad William Brighten, where she brought up her four daughters Jean, Gwenda, Pamela and Judith. Our Nan became a valued member of the village by involving herself in many activities. In the early years she helped maintain the inside of the church while our Grandad maintained the outside, always keeping it clean and tidy. Nan always attended village bazaars, fetes, and in later years the over 60's club, she would also enjoy a game of bingo at the working mens club! Throughout her years in Birchanger she made many loyal and close friends of whom many she stayed friends with up until the day she passed away.

Our Nan, as we her Grandchildren saw her, was the most loving, caring, trustworthy, (the list goes on) lady you would ever meet.

Visitors were always popping in and out of Nan's, the kettle was always boiling and there was always a steady stream of cakes and biscuits. Nan's world revolved around her own children and grandchildren, the busier the better, the box of toys was always open in her sitting room. Our Nan will be missed greatly by many people and will always be remembered.

**Sleep peacefully Nan Love Esther and Carly xxx**

Forty three years have now passed  
Since first I came to live in this place.  
Sorry to say the calm didn't last  
Times have changed, we're in the rat race.  
So many changes came this way.  
No more garden fetes, such fun,  
At the Old Cottage, where guests now stay  
Once owned by Mr and Mrs Nunn.  
Also at Major Godwin's home.  
Tea parties under the cedar tree tall  
In "The Place" where Miss Nash and Miss  
Harrison lived alone.

Christmas time, the nativity play  
In our lovely church so old.  
A beautiful scene at the end of day  
Snow glistening, but we didn't mind the cold.  
Many a happy evening spent  
In the village hall.  
The W.I. acting plays with good intent  
Some thin, some fat, some short, some tall.  
A happy crowd flocked in to see  
The show that they did perform.  
Sitting on hard seats with cups of tea  
And not feeling very warm.  
Gone are the days of whist drives, Bazaars, beetle  
drives and shows.  
The hall is in darkness after five.  
Now when do the door lamps glow?

The Working Men's Club is a happy abode  
Where women are welcome to join,  
Not now in a lane, but a busy road,  
And it'll cost you more than a coin.  
The Post Office Stores on brow of hill  
With gas lamp shining on polished shelves.  
Jars of sweets, sugar, tea, candles near till,  
Potatoes in sacks where hands would delve  
Biscuits stored in glass lid tins,  
Bacon hung from a hook.  
You either paid or bought in sin  
If recorded in the little red book.  
Yes, it's 43 years since we made our home here  
A village of old world and charm.  
It was happy with husband and children so dear  
And we didn't need a burglar alarm.

Ah, happy days long since past.  
Times must change we all know that.  
But how I'd have loved those days to last.  
Alas, they will never come back.

**Renee Brighten**

# School News

## School Clubs

Over the dark and damp days in January school clubs continued, but happened at lunch time in most cases. On offer were opportunities to improve computer skills in the computer suite, an indoor games club, and a Friday afternoon knitting club. Parents are also coming in for Golden Hour when they read their favourite books from their own childhoods to the children and tell them why they are so special to them.

## Play Leaders

Children in Class 4 have just completed their Play Leaders Course and have started to put their newly acquired skills into practice. They now instigate a wide variety of playground games for all age groups, including ball games. They encourage children to play them with each other, and this promotes a friendly atmosphere in the playground. They are also in a good position to make sure that all the children are included and ensure that nobody is left out or marginalized. Their work is already preventing arguments, and it certainly discourages any bullying.

## Saving for a Weekend Away

Class 4 is busily saving for a special weekend on the Isle of Wight in June. They will spend the weekend doing coastal studies, and walking part of the coastline. They are organizing stalls where items are sold to everyone who comes to the school, and they plan to do a sponsored walk later in the term

## Egyptology In Class 3.

Class 3 are studying the Egyptians in the first part of this term, and this does not mean studying the Egyptian Culture just from a book. They have actually practiced the ancient artistic skills the Egyptians used and made their own mummies, pendants and a replica of the cat goddess. They discovered the Rosetta Stone, and made their own messages in hieroglyphics. They proudly showed their creations to a Friday assembly in January. The display is colourful and eye catching and can be seen in Class 3.

## Big Bird Watch

RSPB Co-ordinator Malcolm Allen came in to school for the RSPB Big Bird Watch in schools. Birchanger School is very well equipped for such an event, with special bird feeders and nest boxes with cameras inside installed in the school garden. There were also cards to identify the birds, and there is a rota to ensure that the bird feeders are kept topped up. Species spotted included all the usual suspects, with an unusually large contingent of house sparrows. Malcolm Allen will return to the school in April when the Bird Watch Results are announced.

The school has joined the Woodland Trust nature Detectives Club. Each week the club sets a challenge for the children to do which arrives by post at the end of the week. This might involve finding some particular berries, drawing a wildlife related picture or making a model. The project is being coordinated by Mrs Culpin.

## A Sorry Note on Parking

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find a letter from Essex Police regarding inconsiderate parking at the school. It is very much regretted that this has happened again, and all the more so as the person who parked inconsiderately was also impolite when asked to move the car.

It is very frustrating when someone blocks you in, particularly as it might make you miss a train, or late for an appointment. Nobody wants it to happen to them, all the more reason not to inflict the inconvenience on anybody else. The police will be called when this happens, and penalties will be imposed. It should never have been necessary to have to write in this way in the first place. Most parents would never dream of obstructing anyone.

# ESSEX POLICE



## Reminder to all parents / guardians

On Behalf of Stansted Police and Birchanger primary school can we remind all parents that when dropping off and collecting children from the school it is not acceptable to park right outside the school gates. It blocks the view of pedestrians hence the ZIG ZAG lines. As you will understand moving vehicles and moving children is potentially very dangerous in the small turning space there is. Also in the case of an emergency, emergency vehicles would be unable to reach their destination.

Can we reiterate that the school is very lucky in that it benefits from two nearby car parks that can be used during the school rush, therefore there is no reason to park outside of the school or block any of the surrounding pavements or driveways.

We understand it is only a very small time frame of each day but if in that time frame it obstructs or causes and inconvenience to the school or local residents, the issues will have to be dealt with.

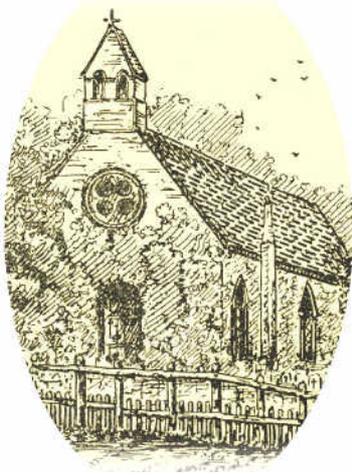
There will be increased patrols at these times and if the problem persists officers will be issuing parking tickets.

The consequence for parking on or obstructing ZIG ZAG lines is three penalty points and a £60 fine.

We would much rather you use the car park then have to go home with a penalty in your hand.

Thank you for your co- operation  
Stansted Mountfichet Community Policing Team.

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# News From St Mary's

Now that Paul has had an opportunity to get his feet under the table and see how services have been

conducted in the benefice, he is starting to put his ideas into practice. He will be introducing changes over the next few months.

The most significant change so far as Birchanger is concerned is that there will be at least two communion services each month. Paul is making a real effort to spend as much time as he can getting to know people who live in this community. For many years we have only been able to offer one communion service per month and I do hope that parishioners will show the same enthusiasm for worship that Paul is displaying. On dates when Paul cannot be with us, Caroline Curren will be stepping in. The new pattern of services started this month (by the time you read this it will be February). Please make a note of the new service dates which are detailed on the back of the magazine.

On another matter, I know I am always asking parishioners to support St Mary's on a financial basis but we really do need your help to maintain the fabric of the church and develop facilities for future generations. Just before Christmas, we discovered that there was a problem with the lighting system and following an inspection by a diocese representative, we have been told that the fittings are obsolete and must be replaced. The exact cost is not yet known but

you can be sure that it will not be cheap. Also, as part of the enquiries that we have been making towards developing the church, we have been advised that work is urgently needed to protect the exterior frame on the main stain glass window and on some of the smaller structures. Again, to carry out any of this work will be expensive but maintenance of the church is a priority and so the funds must be found.

Many people that I have spoken to are under the misapprehension that the cost of maintaining our church will be met from some central fund operated by the Church of England. I assure all of you that this is not the case and whilst we may get a small contribution towards the cost of any work needed, the vast majority of the monies required will have to be raised by the PCC by way of grant/charitable applications and fundraising. This will be on top of the fund raising efforts that we already make and which barely cover everyday running costs.

If we want a church that is kept in reasonably good order (it has already survived for about 1,000 years) then we **must** provide financial support now - and I am not talking about a few pounds in the collection each week (not that I am belittling the regular donations that are made in this way. Without these monies, the church would have failed long ago). We need thousands of pounds and if you can help I ask that you do so now by either contacting me 07702171744 or Peter Odrich 323927. **Act today.**

Pam Lee

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB



**February**  
 Sunday 24th      200 Club  
 Draw

**March**  
 Saturday 15th  
 Cabaret Show  
 With Comedian Alan  
 Wallace And Vocalist John  
 Paul  
 Easter Saturday 22nd  
 Mel Walker  
 Sunday 30th 200 Club Draw

**April**  
 Saturday 26th    Cockney  
 night With prize raffle  
 Kev Reynolds  
 Sunday 27th 200 Club Draw

Don't forget Monday night  
 Quizzes, Bingo every  
 Thursday and the Tote is  
 drawn every Friday

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Here are some useful telephone numbers. If there are any organisations who would like to be included in this list please forward them to the editor.

<b>Birchanger Church of England Primary School</b>		
Head Teacher Mrs. Denise Howell		<b>812362</b>
<b>Birchanger Bowls Club</b>		
Secretary Elaine Wright		<b>813473</b>
<b>Birchanger Brownies</b>		
Jenny Jameson		<b>815396</b>
<b>Birchanger Cricket Club</b>		
Secretary Kevan Reid		
<b>Birchanger Nursery Unit</b>		
Enquiries to Tina Crossley		<b>814037</b>
<b>Birchanger Over Sixties</b>		
Secretary Bernie King		<b>655497</b>
<b>Birchanger Social Club</b>		<b>812810</b>
<b>Birchanger Village Magazine</b>		
Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey		<b>816171</b>
<b>Church in Birchanger</b>		
The Benefice office		<b>815243</b>
Church Wardens		
Peter Odrich		<b>323927</b>
Pam Lee	<b>07702</b>	<b>171744</b>
<b>Church Hall</b>	<b>Janet Gage</b>	<b>813507</b>
<b>District Councillor</b>		
Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin		<b>812793</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator</b>		
Mrs Ann Kent		<b>813204</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>		
Chairman Mr Phillip Hoy		<b>812703</b>
<b>Clerk to the Council</b>		
Mrs. Julia Peachey		<b>503912</b>
<b>Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow</b>		<b>444455</b>
<b>Cubs and Scouts</b>		
Trevor Stone		<b>812994</b>
<b>Essex Police</b>	<b>07801</b>	<b>461666</b>
<b>Saturday Football Club</b>		
Ben White	<b>02074536468</b>	
<b>Sunday Football Club</b>		
Mr. Neil Gilbey		<b>816039</b>

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# Village Diary February/ March 2008

## February

3rd St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins

10th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

16th At the Club 8.00 pm  
Valentine's Evening

17th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Family Service

24th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

24th At the Club  
200 Club Draw

## March

2nd St Mary's 11.00 am  
Mothering Sunday  
Family Service

9th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

16th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Palm Sunday  
Matins

23rd St Mary's 11.00 am  
Easter Sunday  
Holy Communion

30th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins

30th At the Club  
200 Club Draw



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