



ON THE ROADS AGAIN

Less than a year after it opened the newly rebuilt Pesterford Bridge was closed to road traffic on June 5th for four days reopening on Tuesday 10th. This was apparently due to a burst water main under the northern approach ramp which caused subsidence. Happily Forest Hall road remained open so traffic to and from Stansted was still possible via a small detour. The photo below was taken on the Sunday morning and you can see there was an urgent response from the highways department to get it sorted out by the number of staff present. This latest problem only highlights the existing parlous state of the roads around the area with Birchanger Lane which was still closed at the bottom end when this piece was written happily they are both now open!



Ann Kent gives a fuller perspective of the issues surrounding the road closures below for which I thank her.

It was not until the last minute on the afternoon of Friday 9th May that the transport department issued a timetable for the provision of the shuttle bus service. Now I'm not very computer literate and I could not get my computer to access the timetable. So my thanks must go to Julia Peachey (Parish Clerk) and Elizabeth Godwin for frantically accessing my forwarded information and printing and distributing copies of the timetable. As when the train operators have problems and lay on shuttle services between affected stations the shuttle bus service is only meant to provide access to the 301 bus at the most convenient and safe point on its normal route. (Health and safety controls again)

We could not expect a completely separate service into Bishop's Stortford or anywhere else just because someone wanted to go there. Upon close study of the timetable, the longest wait for the connecting 301 should only have been 20 minutes. Why go to Stansted? Probably because it was safer and possibly a shelter to wait in. If going to Bishop's Stortford would anyone have preferred to wait at the layby in Dunmow road behind the M11 service station? An exposed position in bad weather and you would have only caught the same bus as in Stansted anyway.

I hope this goes some way to explaining to Birchanger residents the kind of problems that Parish councillors have to deal with quietly behind the scenes.

As a footnote, it was the Water company digging up the road. They apparently informed Stansted Parish Council (Why?) who did not pass the information on to us or tell the water company they had got it wrong.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

NHS is 60 years old

It is hard to believe that the NHS in Britain is actually going to celebrate its 60th birthday in July. It is an institution which has come in for a great deal of criticism since its inception in 1948, but it has been a true lifesaver for thousands of people throughout its sixty years.

From the word go the NHS has been the subject of bitter criticism, but over the years the service has consistently improved and developed, and has offered top line treatment to many. Some of the criticisms such as too many managers and not enough cash were around from the start, but there are thousands who owe their lives to the work of the service, and the dedication of the staff.

There is still a long way to go before we get an ideal service, if in fact we ever really do, but the fact remains that the quality of life has improved for millions through their use of the service. It is something we need to cherish and support for the next 60 years. Hopefully in that time cancer will be easily treated and coronary heart disease an illness of the past.

More Dentists for Uttlesford?

It is very hard to find a NHS dentist in our area. Hopefully this will change, as the Primary Care Trust has launched an all out drive to recruit more NHS dentists for Uttlesford. They have finally realised that we are the worst served area in the county and are determined to do something about it.

We are expecting to have a Dentists Surgery when the new surgery opens on the Rochfords site. They will be part of the new range of facilities which will be available to patients and will stop people having to travel many miles in order to find dental treatment on the NHS. Hopefully the services will be available on Rochfords inside the next 3 years, but it should be easier to find an NHS dentist in Uttlesford

who does not have an overflowing list sometime before then.

Last chance to get tickets for the Lamb Roast!

Tickets sales are going very well for the SSE Lamb Roast and their numbers are strictly limited. Rain or shine this promises to be a very memorable occasion. There will be a licensed bar and a jazz band to add to the fun. Gates open at noon at Moorswood, and the tickets cost £15 for adults, £5 for children under 12 and children under five are free. To obtain yours call 812793 or 870558.

Area Panels become Area Forums

The South West Area Panel proved to be an enormous “turn off” to most people in Birchanger. There was very little on the agenda other than airport and infrastructure matters to interest people, and indeed some of the meetings simply became the province of the larger Parish Councils. Any decision taken had to be ratified by a District Council Committee and this simply prolonged the decision making process.

The three area panels will now be replaced by two Area Forums, one each for the North and the South of the district on a one year trial basis. They will not be able to make decisions but they will be able to submit resolutions from the meetings to the appropriate body of the District Council. They will invite the Police, PCT, Essex County Highways and as necessary all those who provide services to the district to come to the Forums to provide up to date information on their services and proposed initiatives as well as to hear directly from the community and their needs. It is also hoped that the forums will be a venue for inter agency communication and shared working.

The forums will meet three times each year, but where there are special matters arising they can meet to discuss that specific issue.

Funds Available!

There are a variety of funds which are available to small organisations which will benefit in many different ways the people whom they serve. Details of these can be found through the Council for Voluntary Service on 01371 878020. They can be located at the Council Offices in Dunmow. Some of which are of particular interest to Birchanger include the following :-

My place is a capital program for those who want to deliver youth facilities, contact Miranda Mc Coy on 01223 449000.

Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund to create or enhance a physical asset, Contact Beverly Davies on 07929 54352

Barclays Age Concern. This is of direct benefit to the elderly in the community and small grants of up to £150 are available to small organisations towards new and expanding services which directly benefit elderly people. There are many more and it almost requires a degree to negotiate a path through the minefield, so please do call the number at the top of this item for

details of the hundreds of other grants which just might be of benefit to you.

Phone Box to stay

Birchanger will still have a phone box, at least for a little longer as BT are to let it remain, although the one in Stoney Common is scheduled to go. Another case of use it or lose it.

WHO TOOK MY FROGS?

Vandalism continues, with the weekends being particularly bad. There will soon be little to take, and the road furniture is disappearing now. As have my frogs!

Last month a pig was missing, but finally found tossed in a ditch. The vandals had no purpose for their theft, and simply chucked it, oblivious that the pig was special for its owners. My house sign covered with frogs was special for us. It is probably languishing in a ditch somewhere. Those who stole it are oblivious to the fact that the man who made it cannot possibly now make me another.



BIRCHANGER LAMB ROAST

Moorswood, Birchanger Lane
Sunday 20th July, 12 noon to 3.00

Three course lunch, Live Jazz, Marquee cover, Vegetarian option

£15 Adults, £5 Children, under 5s free

Advance tickets from SSE on 01279 870558
or Liz and Pim at Moorswood, Birchanger Lane

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

Sally Tilstone recalls a day out with Win

An elderly lady by the name of Win lives in a warden assisted home and rarely has a day out. She telephoned me one evening for our regular chat and during the conversation mentioned that she had put her name down for a day trip to Felixstowe. The only thing was she had no one to go with her and she would have to go in a wheelchair. She asked me if I could take her and I said that I would.

The day arrived and I had to leave home at around 7.45 in order to collect her and be at the coach ready to leave by 9.00. At first I was unable to get into the home as the warden was not on the premises and it was not possible for Win to let me in. Eventually I was able to attract the attention of another resident who let me in once I had identified myself.

Win was up bright and early and had been beautifying herself in the bathroom while I was trying to buzz her. She was so excited. We gathered all the necessary items she might have needed and I got her settled in the wheelchair.

Going in the lift was a nightmare as it was only just wider than the wheelchair we had to be contortionists. I had pre-telephoned the man who organised the outing asking if it was possible that we sat at the front of the coach this was because Win is unable to walk far. But as I suspected the seats were already occupied for about six rows. Boarding was a slow process as no one would offer to change seats. Eventually we were on our way. Unknown to me we only went a couple of hundred yard and stopped for another pickup, then another and another.

I remember remarking to Win that we were passing the end of my road at 10.30 and I had been out nearly three hours.

We arrived in Felixstowe at 11.30. It was a good journey. Everyone got off the bus either in the town or at the beach. After getting Win into the wheelchair and finding a dropped kerb I headed to the promenade. But Win said that we all had to go, into the "hut" as tea and coffee was laid on.

The "hut" was facing the sea and was a larger version of a beach hut: with a refreshment area and toilets. By the

tune we had drunk our teas I was informed that it was not worth departing yet as the fish and chips were pre ordered for 1pm.

I helped to put out the cutlery, bread and butter, salt and pepper etc.

It was a lovely day but I had not seen much of it yet. Still we would be able to get going once we had eaten our fish and chips.

Finally after the lunch and a visit to the cloakroom we were able to start walking along the promenade. By now it was 2 pm. I took Win along to the pier where she wanted to play a game of bingo. There was a steep ramp to get up onto the pier but we managed laughing at my efforts. After half an hour on the bingo Win exclaimed that we should be getting back to the hut soon as there was tea, cake and a raffle at 3 o'clock.

On pushing Win down the ramp we nearly went off the pavement and across the road. We laughed but it was hard work! We bought ice creams and did a detour through the gardens. As asked we went along the prom with the sea breeze blowing in our hair. We arrived at the hut. I won a tin of baked beans in the raffle, and everyone was chatting about what they had done or bought. Now it was 4pm and the coach was ready for all to board. We drove back and the traffic was a lot heavier than when we had come. Win was finally back in her flat at 6.30 tired but so grateful. She thanked me and said that she enjoyed it so much. In fact I arrived home near to 7.30 and my phone rang, it was Win again thanking me. Two days later I received a thank you card

I laugh at my day at the seaside but at the end of the day it made Win happy!

NEWS SHORTS

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

Coming Soon another helpful initiative from Essex Police. It is a scheme called Nominated Neighbour. It is intended to help fight the despicable crime of Bogus Callers posing as council or utility workers in order to gain access to peoples homes to steal money and property.

Anyone living alone who feels vulnerable, (eg. the elderly or single parent) can be given a card to be kept just inside their front door. On this card will be put the name of a nearby neighbour, friend or relative who is willing to be contacted if the resident does not know the caller at their door. Useful contact telephone numbers and safety advice can also be added. Essex Police hope to launch this scheme from mid June. As soon as I have a supply of the cards, I will let you know through the village magazine, and I will hand them out to anyone interested, through the suitable village organizations or by a personal visit with our Community Police Officer.

Ann Kent Neighbourhood Watch

Birchanger Primary School Summer Fair

**Saturday 12th July
2 pm to 4 pm**

**BBQ, Pony rides, Face Painting,
Bouncy Castle, Stalls,
Tombola, and lots more**

**Please come and support
your local school**

THE STANDON MORRIS MEN

Will dance at The Three Willows

On
Thursday 17th July
At 8.15 pm.

Sporting success at the club

Snooker

The Club snooker team won the League Knock-out trophy and Ross Leavers & Kevin Roberson won the League pairs competition.

Darts

The Club had 2 teams in the League this season - Birchanger Flights and Birchanger - and their haul of trophies is very impressive:

Birchanger Flights

League champions
Knock-out cup winners
Charity 5's winners
League Singles winner
League Pairs winners
League Mixed pairs winners
League Fours winners
League 3's runners-up

Birchanger

Singles Plate winner
Travellers Cup winners
Captain's Cup runner-up
Stan Turner Trophy runners-up

We're going to have to get a bigger trophy cabinet.

Dave Dartnell

Thanks Dave

Scott Taylor would like to publicly thank Mr David Kent for searching for and finding the body of his missing cat, Poppy.

SCHOOL NEWS

Invitation to the school play

Birchanger School Play has become an eagerly anticipated event in the past few years. It has proved to be so popular that the play is now being performed in the larger venue of the Church Hall, as the school has been full to capacity and more over the last few years.

This year's production, entitled "Fiends Reunited", which takes well known fiendish characters and brings them all together in a new context will be performed at the Church Hall on Monday July 14th at 2pm and on Thursday July 17th at 7pm. Everyone is welcome, but admission is by program only and these are available at the school.

Open Evening

Birchanger School opens its doors to the entire community to come and to see the school and the work which has been done throughout the school year. There will be an opportunity to meet everyone associated with the school and to have some idea of just what it is which makes the school so special. The Open Evening will be on Thursday July 10th between 5 and 7pm.

Sports day and school fete

For some years now the school has run a very successful Sports Day followed by a School Fete at which everyone can relax and enjoy which is an extremely pleasant afternoon in the School Grounds. There is no need to change what has been a very successful format, and this year's combined Sports and Fete Day will be on Saturday July 12th with the sports taking place between 1 and 2pm and the fete from 2pm and 4pm. Come and enjoy what will be a very happy occasion. There is no need to buy a ticket for this event.

Leavers' farewell service

One of the things which Year 6 children will be doing in the next few weeks will be organising their own leaving celebrations, one of which will be the Leaver's Service, which will be on Tuesday July 22nd at 9.30am in the Church. They will have their own unique "take" on the occasion, and everyone is welcome.

Another Successful Inspection.

Birchanger School is a Voluntary Controlled School. This means that although it is not supported financially in any way by the Church, the school remains with a degree of control and very strong links to the Church. The Rector visits the school every other Tuesday to take assemblies and Mrs Pam Lee takes the assembly in the intervening weeks. The school has a strong religious ethos, but it is one in which those of other faiths are welcomed.

Following on the OFSTED inspection the Diocese carries out its own inspection of the school. The result was a

resoundingly excellent report. The Inspector the Revd Richard Maudsley found a school which was very much at the heart of the local community, which he recognised as a key feature of the school and which is an important feature in the school's continuing growth and improvement.

He found a school in which all children can develop in all areas of learning and social development. The school provides a safe and secure environment in which parents speak very positively about the strong Christian values. These underpin everything which the school tries to achieve. The school is at the heart of Birchanger and both Governors, Staff and the recently appointed Rector Paul Wilkins are actively involved in both the work of the church and the school. He was present at the assembly lead by School Governor and Church Warden, Pam Lee and he found the content to be excellent and that all the children and adults present clearly understood its meaning. They had an opportunity to think and to ask questions as well as to pray and to reflect. He admired the cross made by the children which is decorated everyday with fresh flowers and he appreciated the children's singing.

He acknowledged that the school was good at meeting the needs of all its learners. Christian values were explicit and permeate the life of the school. The parents spoke highly of the dedication of the staff. There is a strong emphasis on developing the whole child and this means that every child is given the opportunity to succeed. Relationships within the school are strong and children's feelings and views are taken seriously. In fact children do play an important part within the decision making process through the school council and at all levels within the school. The school studies and learns about other faiths, and has links with a city school with a very different religious ethos.

Mrs Howell has achieved a great deal. All stakeholders in the school are involved, and those of other faiths also select the school for its ethos and values. He found strong parental satisfaction with both parents and pupils having a very clear understanding of what makes Birchanger School so very special.

Congratulations everyone.

SATS week over for another year

Year 6 children once again took SATS week in their stride. There was the usual special breakfast to start the day with a very special bacon breakfast on the last day. The final test was celebrated with a special Ice Lolly. The PTA arranged a disco to celebrate the months of hard work which had been put in by everyone. The rest of the summer term promises to be a lot of fun with the trip to the Isle of Wight, Sports Day and the Play all featuring in the weeks to come.

Kwik cricket fun

Birchanger School does have a cricket team under the very able leadership and coaching provided by Mrs Gunn. The team recently enjoyed a fun day of Kwik Cricket with the Mountfitchet Cluster of schools. They won one match and lost the other, with Sam Roberts proclaimed as man of the match for the day. It was a very enjoyable day and an opportunity to meet children from other schools.

Recipe of the Month, Sue's Chicken Liver Paté

This is a delicious starter or snack dish which I have been making for years. It is really simple to make, and is more tasty than any supermarket paté.

Ingredients

8oz [230g] Chicken Livers.
4oz [120g] Cream cheese.
5oz [150g] Bacon.
1 ½ Tabs Tomato Chutney.
1 Small onion.
Garlic to taste.

Method

1 [Cook the Bacon in a non stick pan.
2 [Add the livers and cook in bacon fat.

3 [Cool and liquidise or mince with onion and garlic.
4 [Cream the cheese with the chutney.
5 [Mix the cheese with the liver in the blender.
6 [Put in one large souffle dish or several small ramekin dishes.
7 [Melt some butter, decorate the top of the paté with peppercorns and bay leaves
8 [pour the melted butter over to seal.
9 [Cool in fridge until ready to serve with some toast.

Vera Higgs

On Monday May 19th there was a memorial service for another of Birchanger's longer term residents, Vera Higgs who passed away on April 25th. She was 84 years old.

Vera originated in Newcastle and married Husband Les soon after the Second World War. Vera, along with Les and Daughter Myra, became the first occupants of 5 Birchwood in 1954.

She will be remembered as a lady who kept an especially tidy house and garden, indeed Vera's garden was a model all of the time I knew her. As a child in Birchwood during the fifties and sixties you knew the one place you did not play football was outside her house as she would quickly chase us away.

Vera was a lady with quite strong opinions on the matters that concerned her and it was never a good idea to argue with her. However she possessed a sharp sense of humour that I came to appreciate as I grew up.

As one of the original residents of Birchwood there was a long standing friendship between Vera, Les and my parents so much so that they were selected to be my God parents when I was baptised.

Vera will be fondly remembered in Birchanger and this was shown by the number of her friends and neighbours who attended her memorial service and the reception at the social club afterwards. Her Daughter Myra has asked me to pass on her thanks to the committee at the club for allowing the club to be used for the reception.



Ed

Donate a Ball of Wool Month

Over the last few years Renee Kadwill has been knitting jumpers and blankets to send to disadvantaged children in Romania. Every few months the items that she has made are collected from her home. At the last collection, she handed over 17 jumpers and 2 blankets. Subsequently, Renee has made 3 blankets and some hats and gloves.

You can help Renee to continue with her work, by donating some wool for her to use. New balls, only please, of double knitting wool in any colour. Either deliver them to Renee or hand them in at Church at the Sunday service.

THE THREE WILLOWS

01279 815913



More than just your village Pub!

D Bonney & Sons



Motor Engineers

MOT TESTING, SERVICING
DIAGNOSTIC, MECHANICAL REPAIRS

SELECTION OF NEW AND USED CARS

Yew tree corner Manuden
Ring Malc or Neil on
01279 813315 or 815946

Village Diary May/June 2008

June

22nd St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

28th At the Club 8.00 pm
Too Hot Group

29th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

29th Moorswood 12.30 pm
St Mary's Church
Summer Lunch

29th At the Club
200 Club Draw

July

6th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

13th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

20th St Mary's 11.00 am
Family Service

27th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

27th At the Club
200 Club Draw

ALL BUILDING AND LANDSCAPING
WORK UNDERTAKEN

FENCING, PAVING, DECKING, DRIVEWAYS, DRAINAGE,
BRICKWORK, EXTENSIONS AND CONSERVATORIES

For a local service call Sean on
07703 115079 or 01279 813818



LAUNDERETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

- * Open 7 days a week
- * By Hockerill lights, Bishop's Stortford
- * large car park Tel 866183

Summer Lunch

On behalf of St Mary's Church

At Moorswood 273 Birchanger Lane

Sunday 29th June

12.30 pm

Tickets £19 each are available
From Pam Lee on 07702171744

Organic vegetables for sale

The children have started their own allotments in the school garden. Their aim is to grow fresh organic vegetables which they hope to sell once the allotments are established. Caretaker Gary dug over the ground which gave everyone a head start, and then it was all systems go. Watch this space for special offers!

Published on behalf of the people of Birchanger, and distributed free to each household in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not automatically reflect those of the Editor or any of the organisations or institutions represented. Editorial team: Eddie Gilbey (816171), eddieb.gilbey54@virgin.net Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley, Michael Daw Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.