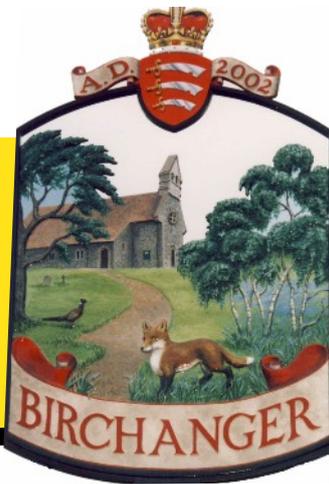


# Birchanger

July 2013



# Magazine

Issue 127

## BIRCHANGER BOUNCE BACK

### SC Birchanger FC returns to Premier Division at first attempt

Birchanger's Sunday football team will be playing Premier Division football again after finishing third in Division One of the Terry Reed North West Essex League. The team were relegated from the Premier Division following a dismal campaign in 2011/12 but bounced back with a solid season in Division One during 2012/13. Ordinarily, finishing third would not warrant a promotion, but Birchanger were asked to be promoted by league officials after three clubs in the Premier Division folded.

Birchanger led the division for much of the early stages of the season but had some indifferent results in the second half of the season that culminated in a third place finish. The wet winter weather did not help momentum, as the club played only one match in ten weeks in late 2012 and early 2013. In fact, the pitch lost 28 matches due to the weather during the course of the season. This issue was addressed by Birchanger Sports & Social Club and money has been recently spent on refurbishing the pitch for the start of next season.

Team manager, Paul Tyler, was generally satisfied with the season as a whole and is quietly confident of the team holding their own in the top flight next season, which starts in early September. "At the start of the season I knew that I had to instil belief in the boys after last year's relegation." Tyler said. "We played some magnificent football to get us into a prime position by Christmas and although we lost a little momentum we nevertheless came through and deservedly, in my opinion, got promoted at the first time of asking."

It takes more than just a set of players to run a football club and Tyler heaped praise upon the supporters and his backroom staff, who all helped to guide the team back to the Premier Division. "I'd like to pay a special tribute to the fans that have stood by us during this campaign and to my staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the progression was as smooth as ever. And of course to my players some of whom have displayed outstanding skill and dedication."

Sources close to the club have indicated that Birchanger could benefit from the demise of one of the teams to fold in the Premier division by signing a number of their players in a potential merger.

It is thought that negotiations between officials from both clubs are well under way. If the merger comes to fruition the club should be in a strong position to cause a few upsets in the Premier Division next season. Tyler at least thinks so. "Next year promises to be gruelling but with a new pitch being laid and signings of quality likely, I would suggest our continued success will face no obstacle."



Back row from left to right; Neil Gilbey (fan and linesman), Paul Parker, Mark Hainsby, Ritchie Morris, Paul Tyler (Player Manager), Rob Morgan, Luke Robinson, David Perkins, Duncan Vincent.  
Front row from left to right; Stuart Miller, Toby Trundle, Paul Richardson, Luke Breed, Alex Griffiths.

Anyone interested in playing for the team next season should contact club Secretary, Ross Leavers, on 07801 493753.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Chaos and Confusion in Birchanger Lane.

From the start the urgent electrical work needed to maintain supplies of electricity in Birchanger was a recipe for disaster. A simple replacement of two sub stations and the installation of underground cabling should have been a straight forward matter. It certainly was not. The sub stations had been condemned years ago and needed to be replaced before the electricity supply to half the village was cut off on what could have been a long term basis. It went wrong from the start. The first notification of road closures in the lane was posted in February.

The problem was that Essex County Highways knew nothing about it, so the work was postponed. The second batch of notices promoted a date in March. This time the bus transport companies did not know anything about it and there was a problem with the school bus getting access in term time. So they went for the Spring half term break instead. Unfortunately they had not thought out the bus route and when they did they omitted to inform anyone of the change of route and service to the end of the village.

Cutting a long story short, I did finally manage to first of all make my own poster, then I persuaded the agency to deliver some small posters for individuals who might be affected, to me. I had intended to deliver small notices myself, except they came to me when work had already started. There was supposed to be a shuttle bus service from Duck End to Bishops Stortford, but I never saw it. In the end the lane was blissfully quiet for some and very busy for others as the rat runners still attempted to get through. Those of us who came to enjoy the quieter end of the village are starting to think that some physical measures to slow the traffic down, might actually be better than those currently proposed.

The lane reopened, the work continued with single file traffic for a while, but the rat runners were back. The whole issue was confused by the fact that the lane was closed for a short time at the other end of the village for resurfacing. Nobody knew which notice applied to which set of works. Then there were emergency repairs to an electrical supply elsewhere in the lane.

The works seem to drag on interminably. Some days nobody was there, and at other times, such as when the lines came down and the power switched off there were umpteen workers. At the time of writing, there is still work outstanding, but remember these are power workers,

contractors at that and we never did get the footpath properly reinstated behind Birchwood!

## Air Quality Monitor for Duck End Soon?

For a long time we have wanted an air quality monitor at the southern end of Birchanger. This would not only monitor the possible air pollution from the airport, but from the motorway and junction 8 as well. The problem was that there was difficulty in finding the best possible site. This will hopefully be solved soon. The air quality monitor will be sited at Duck End, although at a cost to the District Council. The farmer concerned wants a fee and a legal agreement before the monitor is put in place. When all this is finally agreed we will get one, the question is, when?

## Flower Festival On, Art Show Postponed.

Work has finally started on the extension to the Church Hall, and it is hoped that there will be as little disruption as possible for all the regular users of the hall. However, the car park is reduced in size and as yet nobody can be quite certain just when the new extension will be knocked through into the hall.

The Church Flower Show and Harvest Festival will proceed as usual throughout the last weekend in September and it is expected that there will also be a display of work by children from the school at the same time, as well as organ recitals throughout the weekend.

However the Art Show with a large number of exhibiting artists and limited parking space is a different matter. It was felt that the building work posed too many problems setting up as well as for the artists and visitors, to be a sensible proposition this year.

The Art Show will be back next year, where the larger facilities in the hall will mean that the show will be bigger and better than ever.

## Offers to Buy Your Home or Garden.

Many people receive letters from so called companies and individuals, mostly with very posh London addresses, offering to buy your house or garden at what they say will be a very advantageous price. Beware these letters. The company as suggested frequently does not exist and the deal will turn out to be a sham, advantageous only to the sender of the letter. These letters should go straight to the bin. The senders

are simply flying a kite and there is absolutely no need to deal with them, ever.

Yes, estate agents do seem to soak up too much of the sale price of your house. However if you are approached by a local firm which is well known in our area, that is an entirely different matter and the safest route to choose should you have land or property which you might consider selling.

## Allotment Watch For Birchanger?

All over Uttlesford allotment sheds are being raided, not just for expensive equipment, but for everyday forks and trowels as well. I never thought the day would come when we would be advised to mark our spades with our own protective mark, but that is the advice we are being given, following a spate of raids on all the allotments in the area including our own. It is probable that these raids happen after dark, but the allotment holders would appreciate vigilance on everyone's part. Allotment holders are not the only ones at risk. All garden sheds and invitingly open back doors in the so called better weather, are open invitations to society's parasites. If you do see something suspicious, tell the police. If a vehicle is involved, take the make and registration number and call the police on their mobile number 07801 461666. If in doubt, call me on 812793.

## Broomfield Hospital, an Alternative Place to go For Emergency Treatment?

When we need to go to A and E, most of us in Birchanger think about going to Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow. However Broomfield hospital on the outskirts of Chelmsford is almost equidistant to Harlow and has a brand new casualty department. Of course all A and E hospitals have their busy times, but I had reason to be there one afternoon when the department was relatively quiet. It was operating in a calm quiet and methodical way. The department was clean and it seemed that many areas were not being used, although they could be, should the workload warrant it.

The children's casualty was particularly impressive with paediatric nurses always on hand to look after their smaller patients. Parents were always included and made welcome. Even the resuscitation unit which unfortunately we had to use, was well laid out and spacious. Explanations were given at all times. The only downside is that the four hour rule is very strictly applied. This means that the patient must have left casualty for whatever, within the four hour period. In our case that might not have been the right road to follow. We were admitted to the children's ward to await an operating theatre, and the care stopped at this ward's door. They appeared to have forgotten that we were there.

It seems that in designing the new unit they did not provide enough theatre space, which although the department was relatively quiet, there seemed to be several patients requiring surgery.

All in all this was an improved performance to my visits to Princess Alexandra Hospital.

My advice should you need emergency treatment is that wherever you go, ask questions, and make everyone understand clearly what your needs are. If you feel something is not right, say so. It is only too easy still to be forgotten in the system.

## Want to Start Your Own Business.

Many people dream about becoming their own boss. Some have their own ideas, some just want to do it, but don't have a clue about how it could be done. Others may be up and running, but would value some advice along the way.

Whichever you are, there is an organisation run through the Uttlesford Business and Development program which could help whichever category you are in.

The group runs a series of courses and you can select a course which is most appropriate to your needs. You can call to find out more on 01376 340770 or 03176 340940. You can also find out more on [admin@ignitebusiness.org](mailto:admin@ignitebusiness.org)

## Hacked off with the Hackers?

Well I am. Twice this year my computer has been hacked into, despite the so called up to date protection, regular password changes and the routine running of virus scans. Each time I have lost all my email addresses, as everyone on my list received a sad news email, informing them that I was stuck in Manila and needed funds to bail me out.

The first time this happened I am not sure how they reached me. The second time it came inside an email which was a colourful brochure type picture captioned "News from the Shard". As soon as I saw the letter alongside the picture, I deleted it, but it was too late. I had booked tickets for the Shard earlier this year, so I was obviously on their contact list. This has led me to question everything I order on line and more. Could they access the Inland Revenue?

How easy is it to get my bank details, despite the fact that I do not do online banking and am very unlikely ever to do it now. Every time I order on line, book an air or train ticket it seems that I put myself at risk. How safe is the so-called safest website? Does it really exist?

We live in the age of the internet, but unless something is done to stop these hackers worldwide, it is a very unsafe age indeed. However, a very big thank you to everyone who was concerned about me. I never stayed in any hotel in Manila!

## 111 is Ditched.

North Essex PCT has stopped using the 111 number. The difficulties have overcome any benefits which the service might have provided. It may come back, but not in the foreseeable future.

The NHS helpline is still in use, so there is still someone 24/7 to call on for advice. The number is 0845 4647.

# Hoi An to Saigon and tunnels Viet Cong style

Cooking! That would not be my first choice for a holiday pastime, but, as with everything in Vietnam, nothing is quite as it seems!

We arrived in the pretty town of Hoi An in the full heat of the afternoon sun and were very glad to be shown to our air conditioned Hotel room in the town centre. After a quick dip in the pool and a freshen up we went off to explore. This place is not typical of Vietnam it has more of a “seaside” feel to it and it also has a beautiful waterfront being built along the estuary of the Thu Bon river, where restaurants and shops occupy buildings of every shape and design as this was a trading port from the 15th to the 19th centuries. There are influences of the Chinese, Dutch and Japanese who all traded here at some time.

A very interesting feature here is the fact that there are several ancient houses that you can visit and each time you visit a house you are shown around by a member of the family who then invite you to have tea with them. Some houses are enormous and are occupied by the same family that has lived there for generations.

Our tour company had arranged for us to have a cooking class so we set off very early to meet our guide. The first stop was the market where it is hard to describe the variety of foodstuffs on offer; great mounds of okra, aubergines onions, courgettes, tomatoes and every fruit and veg are heaped up freshly every morning. There are live chickens, fish, squid, eels, octopus and the biggest tuna I have ever seen. Vietnam is a fertile and bountiful place for fresh food of every description.

Having sourced our ingredients we made our way by riverboat to the cooking school set in the grounds of a restaurant. Next stop the herb garden where the guide explained the medicinal and health properties of each and every herb. Finally we meet the chef, a young Vietnamese whose cooking class is delivered in the style of a stand up comedian, making the whole process a very fun and enjoyable experience. We made fresh spring rolls, deep fried squid and a traditional clay pot stew, each of us had our own ingredients, cooker and utensils and the results were varied but all was edible so in the end we took our meals to the restaurant where a hearty lunch was accompanied by cool drinks and the company of our fellow “cooks”. All in all a surprisingly interesting and delicious day!

The other thing Hoi An is famous for is its tailoring shops, people come from far and wide to have garments made, particularly Australians who spend a week here waiting for their suits, shirts, dresses and blouses. The quality is perfect and of course the price is right!

Well, Saigon was not so busy as we had feared, mainly because half the population had left for the country to be with their families for the Tet Holiday, which we call Chinese New Year. Everywhere you look there is Red and Gold the colours for luck and happiness. We took an evening trip to the night market in a Cycle Rickshaw, an unnerving experience slicing in and out of the traffic with nothing between you and oblivion, but nonetheless a wonderful feeling on a warm night and the drivers are skilled in keeping you alive to your destination, otherwise they don't get paid!

Next we took a trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels, these were the tunnels used by the Viet Cong to hide from the Americans during the war, they are very complex, with sophisticated ventilation and rooms for cooking, sleeping and they even had a hospital. despite the fact that the tunnels have been widened for western visitors they are very claustrophobic and a few minutes down there is enough! Hard to imagine how people spent years in that environment with bombs dropping above and the constant threat of discovery.

One of the nicest days of our trip was the journey up the Mekong Delta. We saw the natural life of those to whom the river is everything. It is a highway, a source of food, a place of commerce and a way of life. The boats that ply the river carry, rice, timber, watermelons, machinery in fact anything that needs transporting can be moved on the Mekong.





During the day we visited a place where they make rice into sweets and "popping rice" similar to popcorn. I didn't even know you could do that. We sampled both and they are yummy! Stopping for lunch at a village restaurant we were persuaded to handle an extremely large Python which was kept in a cage, I can only say I would not want to encounter one in the wild!

We cruised on until 7 PM arriving at our hotel by moonlight, very atmospheric. So tomorrow we say goodbye to Vietnam, we have travelled from north to South and some fabulous places in between, the people have been a delight and the food delicious.

The whole journey has been great but we spend our last night tonight at Chau Doc from where we go in the morning by Hydrofoil along the Mekong and into Cambodia.

**Tony Wilson**

## School News

### A Feast for Father's Day.

Thirty fathers went back to school for a special Father's Day Lunch laid on by the school cook. They enjoyed a special Friday Lunch which included fish and chips in large portions. They all enjoyed the occasion which chef Amna made very special. There was just one complaint, no Tartare Sauce. The father had to make do with ketchup instead!

### Wild West Fun!

Perhaps one of the best dressing up days yet! All the children came to school dressed as cow girls and boys. The theme extended to the fete the following day, and was the start of two days of fundraising, sport and fun at the school.

The problem was that the weather thought otherwise. The PTA and the staff worked extremely hard to set up the stalls. The children turned up in force and the staff dressed up in specially acquired inflatable horse outfits. They paraded around in their costumes to the delight of pupils and their parents. The sports proceeded with one stop for rain, then one of the biggest thunderstorms seen in Birchanger began, complete with thunder and lightning. Everyone was soaked.

Sports and the stalls came to a standstill as everyone rushed for cover. Staff pupils and their parents who ventured out became cold and soaked in seconds. It was a disaster for the PTA who had worked so hard to make the event a success. I cannot remember such a washout in recent history. By 3.30 most people had gone home. At 4pm the rains stopped and the sun came out. It was all too little too late, as the remaining parents struggled to pack up in the sodden field.

There may not be a fete in June next year. The month has a history of unreliable weather. I can remember Open Gardens being subject to 2 days of heavy rain, and summer storms have disrupted other events in recent history, such as the Jubilee and Millennium celebrations. September has a better track record, so unless the long range weather forecasts are good, the event may move to September next year. Despite everything, the PTA still managed to raise £1200, and plan to hold more events at the football tournament as well as the other special days to come in the rest of the term.

### The Dentist Calls.

Most of us do not exactly look forward to a trip to the dentist, but how do you feel when the dentist comes to call on you. A local dentist visited the school to host an assembly called "Smile". This was all in the name of promoting better Dental Health and Hygiene and there was a lot to learn.

Another innovation, let's hope it makes a lasting difference.

### Girls Football Team off to a Great Start.

The newly formed girl's football team have been exercising their skills in the four months since they were formed in local matches and with hard training in between. This training was put to the test last month when they entered their first tournament and did not lose a game. They won two of their matches and drew the other two, failing to become the outright winners by just one goal. Congratulations everyone, that hard work really paid off.

# News from Birchanger Social Club

## **New toilet facilities progressing well**

The renovation work is progressing nicely and pretty much according to schedule. Apart from the first week of building works which caused some confusion about temporary toilet facilities disruption has been kept to a minimum

## **New projector**

Due to the deterioration of the big screen projector in the club, the committee decided to make good use of club funds and replace the old unit with a brand new one. Sports events should be a better experience for all in future the new projector should be installed in July

## **New closing time**

The club will now stay open longer on entertainment nights (subject to the steward's discretion). The new closing time in future will be at 11.45pm

## **Charity evening at the club**

Pam Lee will be holding her annual sale of produce to raise funds on behalf of the church at the club. Proceedings start at 7.00 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, so please come along and give her your support and buy something for a good cause

## **Summer Fete**

Don't forget, the Club will be holding its annual Summer Fete on the 14th September in the club sports field. The fete is combined with a beer festival and open day. As usual, there will be plenty of stalls and fun stuff for the kids and of course live entertainments in the evening. This year the attractions will include; a brass band, raffle, hog Roast, classic motorcycles and cars and a dog show for local mutts (a friendly and light hearted event). A gladiator game, bouncy castle, fresh cake stall, Pimms drink stall, craft and children stalls. So put it in your calendar now in case you forget

## **Football pitch undergoes a facelift**

The club committee recently made funds available to repair the damage to the football pitch which was caused by the poor weather conditions during last winter. Being a source of revenue for the club it was felt important to keep it up to a high standard. The pitch has been drained, sanded and re-seeded and is now in pristine condition

## **Charity Race Night**

Another successful night held at the club recently with 8 races being shown on the big screen. The race goers were there studying the form! Or was it the numbers and names that took their fancy, probably the latter? For those that had been before they would recall a horse called "Wunderbra" and yes it was running this time around and sure enough it won by a short head, much to the pleasure of those who backed it. We also had couple of generous members who gave their winnings to our chosen charity which helped bolster the amount raised for Grove Cottage to £150. A big thank you to those who attended. Our next race night will be on 28/09

## **Poker Night**

These nights have become very popular with 26 players at our last Poker Night night. We now run them every 2 months with our next one on 06/09. They are fun nights and you don't have to be a serious card player, just make sure you come with a poker face and dark glasses!! Our club has now been established as a grade one venue and we have many guests from other playing venues who all enjoy the atmosphere and hospitality our club has to offer.

# News from St Mary's

## Church Hall Manager Required.

Our long time manager is stepping down and we need to find a replacement. The person eventually appointed will need to have good communications skills (both face to face, by telephone and electronically) and be (or prepared to be) a regular church service attendee. They will also be required to join the Parochial Church Council which meets once a quarter and to produce a report on the hall including a financial statement. A number of people have already

indicated an interest and to be fair to all, we must go through a selection process. If you would like to be considered please contact either Peter Odrich at [peterodrich@fastmail.fm](mailto:peterodrich@fastmail.fm) or Pam Lee at [pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com), by not later than 31st July 2013, giving details of previous experience.

## SUCCESS IN THE SUNSHINE



The warmth of the sun came out in abundance on the day of the Annual cream Tea charity event and so did the generosity of the people of Birchanger. Our garden was filled with happy families, friends and guests who all gave magnificently for their scones and strawberries helping us to raise a record £575. 75.

This was all helped by the donations of raffle prizes which this year included among others 2 tickets to the Hammersmith Apollo and a voucher to have your favourite photo placed on canvas via the inter

net together with various alcoholic beverages and plant gifts.

All in all a great success which enabled us to give a cheque to both Birchanger Church and the Children with Leukaemia Charity.

So thank you to everyone who helped in any way, a special thank you to all those who made cakes and scones and most of all to the people who attended and made the day so rewarding.

Barbara Wilson

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

July/August  
Entertainment

**July**

27th Premonition

August

10<sup>th</sup> Brett Falconer  
Singer Song writer

24<sup>th</sup> Back In Time  
Rock and Roll  
Jerry Lewis tribute

Follow us at [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

## Footpath Madness

Within the last weeks the council have mowed a number of the Birchanger footpaths which is fine but in our cash strapped times a questionable use of our council resources as most paths were perfectly walk able before this expense. However last month they have they came back and cut a 7ft wide path though 300 yards of wheat crop to make a path, which may be on a map but was not walked even when there was no crop on this land as the farmer has left a track around the field next to Digby wood which makes a much more pleasant walk than the newly opened path. Now I do not know the cost of transporting the mower to Birchanger the cost of labour and fuel to cut this path but to this must be added the loss to the farmer of his crop and I am sure there is a better use for this money

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## Village Diary

July/August

July

27<sup>th</sup> 8.00 pm At the Club

Premonition

28<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

August

4<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

11<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

18<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

25<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

25<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm At the Club

Sale of Produce in aid  
of St Mary's

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**Weekly events At the Club:**

Weekly	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evenings

Plus Weekly Bonus Ball, Bottle Draws, Cash Raffles & Prize Raffles  
throughout the year.

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