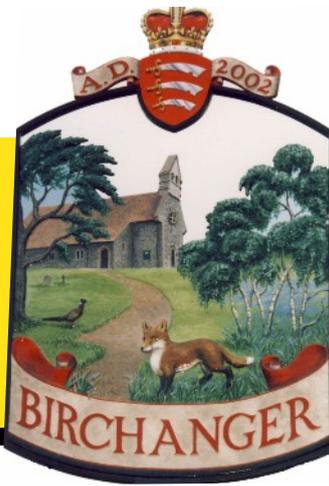


# Birchanger

June 2013



# Magazine

Issue 124

## FIRST FUN DAY OF THE YEAR

The Fun Day organised by the Three Willows was a great success raising over £200 in aid of the Essex air ambulance. Children enjoyed the bouncy castle and the games, while their parents took part in an extensive raffle. There was also a guess the weight of the cake stall and the age of a bonsai tree on what proved to be one of the best days of the year so far.



Sue has a punt at the raffle



Enjoying the bouncy Castle

Around 270 people attended the event

Congratulations to Dan, John and their team for a highly successful afternoon. Dan and John are also celebrating a 2013 Certificate of excellence from "Trip Advisor" This prestigious award, which places winners in the top performing 10% of all businesses worldwide on Trip Advisor, is given to businesses that consistently earn high ratings from Trip Advisor travellers.

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## New Chairman For Birchanger Parish Council

Angie Driscoll took over as Birchanger Parish Council Chairman at the Annual Parish Council Meeting last month. She replaces Maria Davey who has been the Chairman for the past five years. Maria was standing down as her work will take her away a great deal in the next few years.

Maria has had a steady hand at the helm of the council. She was well known for her sound practical approach to problems and her reasoned thinking abilities. She will remain a member of the Parish Council

Most of you will know Angie Driscoll. She has lived in the village for 18 years and is a long serving member of the council. She approaches her problems in a calm logical way, and is always ready to speak to and to care for those who have particular difficulties.

We would like to wish Angie all the very best in her new role. She leads a strong and experienced team who will all support her throughout her time in office.

## A Club Fete Special Occasion

This year's club fete will be held on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>. All the old favourites will be there, but the fete will also celebrate the finale to Birchanger Bowls Club's Centenary Celebrations. There will be an opportunity to watch our bowling team in action and to perhaps be instructed into the art of bowling which might be of interest to many who have never actually tried the sport.

In addition to all the usual attractions, and some new ones as well, it is hoped that there will be a truly village Dog Show. There will be prizes for the winner, but it is primarily for any dog which is a family pet, living in the village. Spectators will also be given a chance to vote on their favourite dog as well. It will be an event open to every dog, regardless of their pedigree. New dogs abound in the village this year. Now is the chance to come and show off your dog or puppy.

The club will be open for business so there will be plenty of good beers and drinks on offer to supplement the traditional Hog Roast, afternoon teas, delicious cakes and burgers. There is something for everyone at our fete.

## Quick thinking neighbours avert a tragedy

A car on fire is a terrifying experience for the driver, particularly when the air bags deploy and leave the driver unable to get out.

This is what happened to a Birchanger resident when he started his car one morning. Fortunately the fire was spotted by neighbours, who without a care for their own safety, managed to pull the driver out, relatively unharmed.

Congratulations for their prompt action to those concerned. They saved a life and prevented a very serious fire which could have spread to neighbouring properties.

## Treasure Hunt with a difference

John Mac Arthur treated several groups of friends to a Treasure Hunt with a twist last month. He challenged all the participants to follow his route around Essex, taking in various visits and points of interest along the way. The route was challenging, but everyone who took part actually learned something, whether it was the fact that Bardfield actually had its own miniscule jail, or that you can learn pole dancing on the way to Thaxted.

We passed interesting and recommended pubs, and stopped at one or two along the way. The results were all very close, with seven teams getting just about everything right. The decider was the drawing which each team had to submit along with their answer sheet. The pictures were exhibited later at the club, where the winners were announced, and showed the various laughs and mishaps the teams had experienced along the way. Congratulations to Clare and her team, who in addition to hosting one of the best evenings in the club, managed to enjoy the Treasure Hunt as well.

All the proceeds were going to cancer research charities with a big "thank you" to John from everyone who took part.

## Ambulance services in difficulty

If you have to call the ambulance service when someone you know is in difficulty, you are always relieved to see them and trust them implicitly to do the right thing for their patient.

It is therefore very sad to discover that the ambulance service itself is now sick in our part of the world.

We are now part of the East of England Ambulance NHS Trust, and all is not well. The trust has a recruitment problem which means that there is an expensive and unacceptable use of private ambulances to do the job our service should be doing. As a result nearly one million pounds is lost to the service each month. Morale among existing staff is threatened and staff dissatisfaction is widespread. Triage which everyone goes through, as a relatively unskilled operator assesses each case before categorising it and passing it on, misses many very serious cases and puts patients at risk. Some of the questions are totally irrelevant to the condition which the patient actually has and which could be life threatening. This means that some serious and urgent cases are not picked up.

The whole structure is under resourced. The Management Board have changed, and too many are "interim governors". The same applies to the staff as many having "acting" or interim roles as well. One starts to wonder if improvement is a mountain which is just too hard to climb.

However, there is the will to improve and plans are being put into place. They include improved training for all members of staff, including those at the call centres. Needs of categories of staff will be addressed and it is hoped that this will lead to better morale which will in turn reduce the high staff sickness rates. Response times are currently below acceptable levels. There is a drive to improve this and to improve cross border working. There is also a move to reduce corporate support in favour of more and better trained ambulance responders.

There is a need to encourage local teams to take their own initiatives, to empower staff, and to allow paramedics to actually speak to patients where possible to establish their needs and to support them. We still respect our ambulance crews. It would perhaps be better if they were allowed to do what they believe to be right more often

## Harlow staff try to do their best for their patients

I am certainly guilty of having moans about conditions in our hospitals and we all know they are far from ideal. It is very positive that although the appointment system at Harlow hospital is desperate, waiting times are much longer than we are told, individual staff members at whatever level are taking a bright, and appropriate interest in their patients.

At a recent procedure I found that the all the staff were friendly and relaxed, even if the system was crumbling around them. They were happy to explain procedures to you, make sure you understood, and to ensure that refreshments were on hand for those who needed them. They explained why the procedure list had needed to be juggled which meant some of us had to wait longer, but at least we knew why so it helped us to understand. This rubbed off on the patients as well. We actually spoke to each other, found out what other people were suffering from and expressed our best wishes or commiserations when we met up at the end.

Their system is creaking, but a little bit of human kindness, common sense and explanations go a long way. The staff were cheerful, caring and courteous to each other and it was interesting to hear the relaxed banter between the consultants and the assistant nurses, which for once actually included the patients. This does not cost money, but it is a step in the right direction.

## Is everyone really better behaved?

According to the police figures we are. Crime is apparently considerably reduced all over Uttlesford in the past 6 months. Impressive when you consider the police cuts which lead to the closure of police stations, and a considerably reduced police presence, as man power was also reduced.

It could be that the police are taking a new initiative. Instead of just issuing ASBOS all over the place, they are actually targeting events and areas where problems are likely to occur.

Sounds like a triumph of common sense?

Possibly, until the time comes when you cannot reach a policeman when you need him.

## Would you knowingly drink recycled sewage water?

Apparently that is what Thames Water will be asking their customers this Spring. Whether this will actually happen is perhaps somewhat worrying, although many of us have had our suspicions for years. Does a simple consultation now make it OK? What precautions are taken to ensure it is safe?

Fortunately most people actually living in Birchanger will not be affected, although many work in the London area and they are likely to be. One thing is certain, if some water companies adopt the practice, in these days of general water shortages and over development, they will all be at it soon, with or without the consultation.

## WRVS Changes Its name.

The WRVS has been around longer than some of us care to remember. We became accustomed to seeing uniformed ladies bustling about in their small vans, organising meals on wheels, catering for disasters and large events, or just simply being there to help. Now their focus is firmly where they perceive the greatest need. This is in providing care and support for older people which the state no longer seems to be able to do. Now it is recognised that men have needs just as much as the ladies these days.

Hence there is a need to change the name. With men now volunteering as well as receiving care, they needed to be acknowledged, otherwise it could mean that most of the male population would fail to get the message and valuable volunteers could be lost. The answer was simple, the Royal patronage is still there so simply drop the "W".

So instead of the Royal Women's Voluntary Society, they are now the Royal Voluntary Society and as such, will continue their care for everyone.

# Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Hello Halong

Our journey from the airport to the centre of Hanoi was like a baptism of fire! The traffic, mainly scooters, has to be seen to be believed!! There is not an inch of road between the vehicles and the scooters carry everything from Gas bottles slung across the saddles, to a 6 foot mattress and everything in between. They dart in and out of lanes, cross in front of one another without warning and this great mad mass somehow moves across the city, largely without incident, creating a heaving, honking monster jam that is present wherever you go in this chaotic place. Wow!



The first thing we noticed was the difference in temperature, North Vietnam is cold. We were in the old city with its narrow streets, packed shops and the ubiquitous scooters. The only way to cross the road here is to literally walk into the traffic! The first time you step off the pavement and into the oncoming mass is the worst, after that it becomes second nature and every scooter car or truck simply goes around you until you reach the other side. So, shunning the outdoor restaurants and pavement cafes, we opted for a warm, open plan building of 5 floors where it seemed like the whole of Hanoi was dining. A superb 5 course meal of enormous proportions was topped off with a complimentary liqueur which I can only describe as a cross between honey and petrol!! The whole thing cost around £7 for the 2 of us, which was nothing as we were already millionaires: the Vietnamese Dong trades at 28,000 for every pound so changing £100 gave us 2.8 million, I was warming to Vietnam already.

One thing you have to do as a tourist here is visit the mausoleum containing the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh, the revolutionary leader of Vietnam. We decided to combine this with a visit to the Hoa Lo prison commonly known as the Hanoi Hilton. This was a place built by the French to subdue the local population, this they did with gusto, even installing a guillotine!! Nice to know WE were not the only colonial power to keep our colonies by iron rule! Anyway later the place was used to house American prisoners of War and it contains many interesting artefacts including John McCains' flying suit. (The US senator shot down over Vietnam).

A visit to 'Uncle Ho' is a very sombre affair indeed. The mausoleum is inside an enormous walled garden which also has his house and office as well as a few of his cars. There are guards everywhere and even an X-ray machine that your bags have to go through. After passing our bag through Barbara and I were immediately surrounded by grim faced guards. The chief guard approached us and said in an officious voice "please take your bananas out of the bag" When I looked I could see a mound of uneaten bananas to the side of the machine so obviously we were not the only tourists to have their lunch snack taken! I have to say that for a 129 year old man Ho didn't look bad, in fact it just looked as though he had fallen asleep 5 minutes ago. He never wanted to be embalmed, his wishes were to have his ashes scattered over North, South and central Vietnam but ironically now the old radical leader is a tourist attraction as well as a source of much revenue for the communist government. Bizarre!

There is a famous puppet show in Hanoi unlike any other in the world; the auditorium is set round a mini lake and with an orchestra mounted to the side an amazing show is performed by puppets operated under the water. It is a fascinating story of creation featuring, Dragons, mystical birds and crowds of Chinese children all played out to the most hypnotic music, a stunning show and certainly a "must see" for any visitor to Hanoi. With that we said goodbye to Hanoi and Hello to Halong bay.

A four hour taxi ride took us to one of the most beautiful sights in Vietnam. Halong Bay is a world heritage site and is an astonishingly beautiful archipelago of islands and lagoons. We were met by the captain of our 'Junk Boat' who would guide us around this bay. As our tour company had arranged this trip we did not know what to expect, in fact as it was all inclusive I thought it might be a bit of an economy tour. I could not have been more wrong. The ship was beautiful, traditional and yet luxurious. Our cabin, all mahogany panelling and oriental pictures was a joy. We were served gourmet food in the light airy dining room and quickly formed a bond with our fellow travellers. The 2 day trip saw us scaling Tip Top mountain where Ho Chi Minh entertained Russian Cosmonaut Gerhmann Titov. Also we managed a swim in the bay and some shrimp fishing off the boat by moonlight! But the highlight was the cruising between the limestone monoliths that pepper the bay giving it a fascinating beauty, a truly magical trip.

Tony Wilson

# School News

It was that time of year again for the school. The SATS exams were held for a week in the middle of May.

Possibly the staff are more concerned than many of the pupils. The children were welcomed to school with a special breakfast every morning which included bacon butties. Sitting with their friends and enjoying the food, meant that exams were quickly forgotten until the time came to actually go into the hall. It helps to go in with a relaxed manner and a good breakfast the school has found. The format has been tested over the last few years. The children are all better able to do their best: especially with a few of their favourite chocolate biscuits, to help them on their way. At the end of the week this year there was a "sleep in" party at the school, which was said to have included a water fight, eating doughnuts from a string and trying to speak with a mouthful of marshmallows. The verdict was, "I like SATS week. We get extra chocolate and extra playtime and the exams are not too bad"

Invitation to the School Play.

You are invited to the Annual School Play which features the Key Stage 2 children on July 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> at the school at 7pm. Tickets are available from the school.

This year, expect a lot of fun. The children will be performing "Pirates of the Curry Bean". Need I say more? Miss it if you dare!

## Art Classes in Birchanger

Artist Heather Brown will be continuing the classes held in her Wood Lane studio in 2013. They are small friendly classes to suit all abilities from complete beginners to those with some experience. The studio walls are filled with a variety of original paintings. Just make an appointment to go and have a look. Artist and Tutor Heather Brown has been painting and teaching art for over 30 years. Phone 815453 to find out more.

Friday June 21	10am to 4pm	Bring your own subject and materials, individual advice and guidance will be given -£30 per person
Monday July 1	10am to 4pm	Landscape in oils on canvas using brush and palette knife step by step - £35 per person
Friday July 26	10am to 4pm	Textures and special effects with watercolour, ink collage etc. step by step - £40 per person
Wednesday August 7	10am to 4pm	Bring your own subject and materials and individual advice and guidance will be given - £30 per person

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF LESS THAN ONE WEEK'S NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR A CANCELLATION WHATEVER THE REASON HALF THE FEE MUST BE PAID

Materials will be available at extra cost

Tea and coffee are provided – please bring a packed lunch

Please book early as places are limited

For further information or to book please call Heather Brown on

01279 815453 or e mail [heather.highview@googlemail.com](mailto:heather.highview@googlemail.com)

If you would like to receive the next list of dates please supply a stamped addressed envelope or your email address.

# News from Birchanger Social Club

## New toilet facilities on the way!

After a lot of careful deliberation and several quotations, Another Level Construction Ltd will start the building work for Phase 2 renovations covering the new boiler and toilet facilities on the 10th June. It is estimated that the work will take around 7 - 8 Weeks to complete. Unfortunately, due to the necessary renovation work, there will be some disruption to the daily use of some club facilities. Members should use the toilets in the pavilion and changing rooms which will remain open. Unfortunately the showers will be out of action while the boiler is being replaced and the snooker room will be closed for the duration of the work.

## Car treasure hunt for Charity

Birchanger saw its first Car Treasure Hunt for many years on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized by village club member John McArthur and his wife Liz. Fifteen packed cars took part carrying over 50 Birchanger villagers around a 40 mile trip through many Essex villages where they had to answer questions en-route. Over £250 was raised for Cancer Research on the day, so a huge thank you to everyone who took part. The day was rounded off by most Treasure-hunters attending a karaoke 80's night at BSSC. The evening was a great success and the prizes to the winners of the Treasure Hunt were also awarded. Cat Roberson and Claire Jones team, The Chocolate Teapots, won first prize, getting all questions right and produced a tie-breaking sketch of their car with all its passengers. Brian Ross's team came a close second, and Ken Wheatley's team a very respectable third place. Getting the village together for event's like this is something that cannot be over-valued. Look out for next year's Hunt – there will be a twist and a few surprises. To receive information in early 2014, email [Birchanger-treasure@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:birchanger-treasure@hotmail.co.uk) or link to Facebook page Birchanger-Treasure

## Treasure Chest Key Game a success

Last month, the club introduced an exciting new prize game called "*The Treasure Chest Key Game*" and this has turned out to be a huge hit with members. The game is played by buying Treasure Chest raffle tickets at £1 each. The winning raffle ticket is selected at random by the machine and the winner then picks one key from a selection of 13 keys in a bag. One of these keys opens the Treasure Chest and if the key fits the winner wins the main prize. If the key does not fit it is carried over to the next draw and the Jackpot could reach several hundreds of pounds or more! Tickets are available from behind the bar or from committee members. Read more about the game on the website at <http://birchangerclub.com/news/Treasure-Chest>

### Bowling Club Forthcoming events

- 30<sup>th</sup> June - Essex County Men's team
- 21<sup>st</sup> July - Essex County Group 2 Men's team
- 4<sup>th</sup> August - North West Essex Men's team
- 12<sup>th</sup> September - Bowls England president's men's team

For people interested in becoming a member of the bowling club please contact Elaine Wright on 01279 813474 or for

### Weekly events:

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.

The club also offers food and amenities for; Football, Cricket, Bowls, Darts, Snooker and Cribbage.

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

**June Entertainment**

22<sup>nd</sup> - Red & Black Duo  
29<sup>th</sup> - Charity Race Night

**July**

5<sup>th</sup> Poker Night  
6<sup>th</sup> Abba Queens  
27<sup>th</sup> Premonition

Follow us at [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)  
229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

# News from St Mary's



## The table top sale on 1<sup>st</sup> June

### 10 K the best yet

After the previous year's experiences of organising the 10 kilometre run for the school, the PTA had got it all just about right. The weather was perfect, and the runners really did turn out with some 167 official starters.

The course had been modified slightly from last year, and avoided roads as much as possible. Runners came from several local clubs, as word must have spread amongst the running community from the previous year. It was truly as race for everyone. The elite runners seemed to enjoy the varied surfaces, hills and scenery. For the fun runners it was just that, a time to have fun on a run and challenge yourself alongside your friends. Some found the hills a challenge, but loved the bluebells in Digby Wood and the excellent running weather.

Last runner back was Chester, the giant schnauzer and well known village character who escorted his owners on the run. He had found the route insufficiently challenging, and had taken them on a 12 kilometre variation of his own choosing instead!

The children had their own 1 mile run through the fields and Digby Wood. The long line snaking through the rape seed then through the bluebells will be one of the outstanding memories of the year.

There were goody bags for all the runners. Bacon rolls were available for everyone, along with a large variety of drinks and cakes. The runners all told the organisers that they would be back again next year.

The event raised over £1700 for the school. Congratulations and thank you to the PTA for making the event happen and for all their hard work.

## Work to start on the church Hall

Work is scheduled to start on the Church Hall extension on June 24th. While disruption to the regular hall users will be kept to the minimum, one of the entrances to the car park will be closed for the duration of the work.

Hall users will still be able to park there, but great care will be needed in entering and exiting the car park.

It is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of November.

## Dog poo in the church yard

I am writing to your magazine after a visit to the village where I was born. I lived the rest of the Waterman family at 14 Digby View. There were 7 of us and I was the youngest. My name is now Janice Farrel.

We were brought up to respect other people and their properties. While visiting St Mary's church yard my niece and I were putting flowers on our Mother's grave we needed to clean some leaves off of the grave and then we found we were picking up dog poo. It was most upsetting to think these dog owners have no thought for our feelings by letting their dogs desecrate the church yard. Perhaps if it were their mother's lying there they might know how we felt. I was one unhappy visitor at the time.

Janice Farrel



**strawberry  
Cream Tea**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
2 Pm to 5 pm**

**Hybanks 214 Birchanger Lane**

In aid Children with Leukaemia and  
St Mary's Church Birchanger

*Paul Davall*  
*Carpentry & Joinery*

Traditional time served carpenter and Joiner

All Carpentry and Joinery  
Traditional box and casement sash windows  
Door Fitting Service  
Kitchen cabinet fitting service  
Fitted wardrobes and cabinets



11 Rainsford Road  
Stansted Essex CM24 8DU  
01279 814058 Mob 07962 963987  
pauldavall@btinternet.com



Friendly, Professional & Reliable  
Sustainable Garden Services Provider  
Gardening, Landscapes & Tree Works

T. 01799 550032 M. 07866 752713

One off Garden Tidies Regular Garden Maintenance  
Hard & Soft Landscaping Tree Pruning, Felling  
Hedge Cutting & Trimming & Reductions  
Advice & Planning Fencing & Timber Structures  
Planting and Plant Sourcing Traditional Countryside Crafts  
Log Splitter & Operator Hire Leaf & Snow Clearance  
Chipper & Operator Hire Soil, Log & Aggregate Delivery

Free No Obligation Quotes  
[www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk](http://www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk)

## Village Diary

June/July

June

23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

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

Charity Race Night

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

Matins followed by

Summer Lunch

At Moorswood

July

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

Poker Night

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

ABBA Queens

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

Holy Communion

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

Holy Communion

14<sup>th</sup> 2 pm Hybanks

Strawberry Tea

21<sup>st</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

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

Premonition

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

Holy Communion

## 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

**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

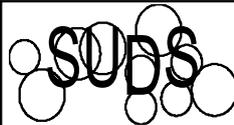
State Registered Chiropodist

**Home Visiting Practice**

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Est 1994  
01279 873492  
Dunmow Road  
Takeley CM22 6SH

A professional service at a competitive rate



LAUNDERETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

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



Painter and Decorator

**Roe Smith**

9 Churchfields, Stansted  
Essex CM24, 8RJ



Tel 01279 816459  
Mob: 07798 936627



Qualified and experienced freelance hair stylist  
offering a full range of services at reasonable prices

To book an appointment please telephone  
:- 07840 995848 or 01279 814037

[www.beautifulhair4weddings.co.uk](http://www.beautifulhair4weddings.co.uk)

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), eddie.gilbey@btinternet.com Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.