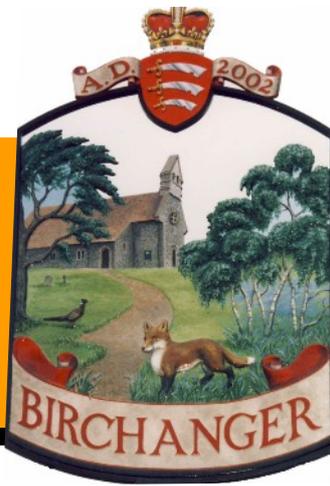


Birchanger

September 2013



Magazine

Issue 129

THE AIR QUALITY MONITOR IS HERE

So here it is at last, our long awaited Air Quality Monitor, complete in its own compound and finally installed at Duck End. Hopefully it will tell us just what is happening to the air we breathe in Birchanger.

For years we have smelt the odour of kerosene at locations between the hall and the Duck End bend on several occasions each year. There were also concerns about harmful particulates from the heavy motor way traffic. The Air Quality Monitor should be able to tell us how real our concerns were.

That is of course if we really do have the monitor in the right place. It is shielded from the motorway and aircraft by one of the barns. Should there not be a direct view? It is protected by a row of wooden posts but as it is not one of the most attractive installations and it is unlikely that anyone would want it at home.

It took a long time to get the monitor. We had odour cards which proved that people spread over a good half mile reported the odour of kerosene at the same time, hardly a central heating oil leak, as they tried to tell us. We asked for the particulates to be properly measured as the traffic on the M11 and junction 8 increased but there no convincing answers.

It is here for a year then hopefully we shall get some results which will establish whether or not some of our noses were imagining things..



Birchanger CC secure title after win over Willingale

Birchanger Cricket Club enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in its 118 year history by being crowned champions of the Herts and Essex Cricket League Division Two on Saturday 31 August 2013. The team went into their final match at Willingale knowing that gaining just 6 points and losing the match would be enough to secure the title they so desperately craved having already sewn up promotion two weeks beforehand. But Birchanger were not going to give up on their, hitherto, 100% away record and duly produced a typical display of grit, togetherness and skill to win the game by four wickets, taking the championship in style and leaving South Loughton as runners-up.

The teams that Birchanger have left behind in Division Two will be glad to see the back of a side that became incredibly hard to beat. The batting line up, that was so strong and deep that it could have been reversed in many games and not affected the result, continuously irritated bowling attacks by eking itself out of positions that the team ought to have lost from. Most notably the team were 110-8 chasing 190 to win against a good Takeley side when the number 10, Jamie Davis, joined a settled Paul Parker at the crease. Takeley were rightly confident of a second win against the champions elect having inflicted one of only three defeats upon Birchanger earlier in the campaign. But they had not read the script; Paul Parker batted beautifully for his 75 not out to see the team home with a couple of balls to spare. He was ably supported by Jamie Davis who remained unbeaten on 22 as the celebrations began. The end of season batting averages illustrate that there was always someone who put a high price on his wicket and fought hard for the victories. Jack Squires began the season as a bowler that batted a bit and ended it as a batter that bowled a bit; which summed up the team's season in a nutshell. He ended up with a batting average of 47, aided by some not outs and notable knocks of 60 against South Loughton and 40 versus

Continues on page 4



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Building for a better Birchanger.

This month will see the completion, or near completion of the many Birchanger projects which have been happening through the summer months. A good proportion of these projects have been as a result of the Section 106 awards from the new estates which are themselves nearing completion as well.

The club has a new roof and refurbished toilet facilities, with the long awaited toilet for the disabled. There is still the internal reorganisation to come. The children who returned to school found that there was a brand new class room for the older children as well as a larger than usual intake in the reception class. The recreation ground has a new junior size football pitch, while the church has at last had water and toilet facilities installed, as well as a sink and miniature kitchenette.

The Church Hall has additional car parking space to ease overcrowding in the already busy car park. The extension which includes a kitchen with cooking facilities and additional storage should be in use at the end of November. The new room will mean that two different users will be able to use the hall at the same time. They will be able to use the same entrance and toilet facilities, but will otherwise function separately or as one large unit as required. Anyone interested in using the new facilities should contact the new Hall Manager for details. It is hoped that the many small groups who could not be accommodated in the hall, as there was no spare slots available, will now be able to make their bookings.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with the projects, as well of those who have been inconvenienced by the construction traffic in the lane, the diversion of the buses, the difficulty of parking at the hall and elsewhere for their understanding and patience. Birchanger is highly unlikely to see this ever happen again. Now enjoy!

Our ancient sewers.

Mains drainage did not come to most parts of the village until some 60 odd years ago. They were buried at a depth of some 15 fifteen feet, which was the practice at the time. While some of the village enjoyed the instant traffic calming in the lane, the rest fumed at the disruption, shaking fists at unfortunate passers by and turning both angrily and inappropriately with no thought for the householders drives, or their vehicles.

The worst happened when the bus drivers collectively decided, for whatever reason, to stop turning round at the club. This left all the regular bus users stranded, with no transport and no information as to when the next bus would come. This cavalier treatment of those who are regular users of the service is totally unethical, inconsiderate and cannot be tolerated. Notice should have been given to passengers, posters displayed, and the service should be returned to normal as soon as the road works are complete. There was no attempt to provide a smaller vehicle, if bus size had been the main issue. The sewers are old and it is just a matter of time before this happens again. The other issue is that while this work was going on, the lane was a much safer and pleasanter place. Traffic has dramatically increased in the village in the last few years, with the near completion of Forest Park, exacerbated by the traffic calming in Church Lane.

Is it time to rethink the situation in Birchanger Lane? Traffic calming is intrusive and noisy, but which is the worse of the two evils? Continue with the increased traffic in the lane, or try to mitigate this. What do you think?

Planning an extension?

Many people are extending their homes as an easier option to moving and facing the vagaries of the property market. The whole process of planning, making sure that your home's structure

is suitable and just what is required for your needs can be daunting.

Uttlesford District Council's own surveyors may be able to assist you with this. They offer various services throughout the process and might even save you money in the long term. Why not discuss the possibility with a member of the building surveyor's department on 01799 510510?

Watch out, there are thieves about.

Sorry to have to say this, but last month saw the return of the thieves to prey upon the elderly and vulnerable in the village. This is probably the most cowardly theft of all. The older people in our community tend to be very regular in their habits, and there are those sadly close to home who realise this and who think it is smart to help themselves to property when the owner is away.

Please take extra care. Until the culprits are nailed, just about everyone is at risk. Vary your routine if you can, but above all make sure your home is completely secure when you go out. Put valuables in unlikely places if you can. Above all, don't be afraid to report anything suspicious to the police. Write down the details as you see them at the time. You might save yourself and others from becoming the thieves next victims.

The duty mobile phone number is 07801 461666. In emergencies, dial 999 as usual.

Gateway to Birchanger.

Highways have proposed to install village gateways at each end of Birchanger. Not only are these signs supposed to create a sense of place, they are also supposed to calm traffic, although I am not quite sure how this is achieved.

While anything to curb the speed of drivers who put people at risk as they barge through the village is to be welcomed, I can't help feeling that traffic controls such as there are in Church Lane in Stansted, might be a more effective option.

No you do not want to buy an alarm over the phone.

You may think you need some kind of burglar alarm these days when it seems that crime figures may be on the increase, but buying one after a "cold call" on the phone is definitely not your best option.

The police have become so concerned about this latest attack on our gullibility and our pockets that they have issued a strong warning. The people offering you the burglar alarm are intending to target every telephone number in the CM postcode. They

will claim to have the endorsement of the police, who they actually say are working with them. This is absolutely not true and everyone who receives this call is strongly advised to have nothing whatever to do with this outfit. You may feel you need an alarm, but it is important that it is purchased and installed by a tried and tested source. It might be a lot cheaper in the long run!

Are we going to get super fast broadband?

Answer is, I really don't know. I got quite excited when I read that the Essex Broadband deal was going to be rolled out in the next few months and is due to be completed in April 2014. That was until I visited the website and saw the maps. Like a great many other people it assumed that Birchanger is part of Hertfordshire, and the map is drawn accordingly.

Understandably I was not impressed. Although drawn in Hertfordshire, it appears that some houses in Birchanger might be able to pick up on the Stansted provision, although this seems to be patchy. I do not know what the Hertfordshire provision will be or when it will happen, but we could miss out on that as well.

You can find out more for yourself by visiting www.superfastessex.org and you might like to try and educate those masterminding the project, into our local geography as well.

Bizarre or what?

Following my warning on shed break ins, it seems that someone had a go at mine, ripping off the security light and pinching the sensor. Bizarre or what.

None the less the police took this very seriously and think they may know the perpetrators. They were very supportive throughout. If anything odd happens to you, or something is inexplicably damaged, tell the police. All these seemingly unrelated incidents build up a pattern of criminal activity which will eventually lead to an arrest. As the slogan says, every little helps and they are very understanding and helpful even if they are based in Saffron Walden these days.

Stop Press

It seems this incident was a dry run for a bigger burglary in the vicinity two days later!

From page 1

Thorley. Seven batsmen averaged over 30 for the season; a feat unlikely to have been achieved previously and has to be noted as a considerable achievement. To prove it's not a young man's game, veteran Justin Bass amassed the highest innings of the season; oddly enough his 106 came in the home defeat against Takeley. Although it was the batting that assisted many of the wins throughout the campaign it was the quality of the bowling attack that put the batters in the position to win the games in the first place. The bowlers were consistent all season and were particularly potent in setting up nine and ten wicket victories over Cloghams and Aspenden Standon & Puckeridge where those sides were dismissed for 84 and 92 respectively. New ball bowlers Griffiths and R Tyler were ably supported by Davis and Ahmed with the four regular seamers taking 72 wickets between them at a cost less than 4 runs per over. It was a reflection of the bowlers working in tandem throughout the season that not one bowler stood out in the end of season statistics but seven bowlers took 10 or more wickets. Opener Alex Griffiths produced the outstanding match figures of the season, taking 7 for 30 from his 9.5 overs in that epic victory over Takeley.

The bandwagon only wobbled off course three times along the journey with home defeats against Takeley, Woodford Wells and, most alarmingly, Thorley – who were ultimately relegated. There were two home games lost to the weather in an otherwise arid summer. The second of which threatened to derail the title charge. It was the penultimate weekend of the season and Birchanger were due to play second placed South Loughton in a title decider. Sadly, the weather Gods denied Birchanger the chance to wrap up the title by beating their nearest rivals on their own patch. In what were perhaps rather more nervy circumstances the sun shone and the champagne moment was delivered a week later.

Captain and all-rounder, Elliott Sellears, who scored the most runs and took the most wickets, has had a lot to do with the excellent camaraderie the team has experienced this season. This was echoed in his summing up of the season, "This has been an historic season for Birchanger CC, claiming its first divisional title. Every member of the side has played their part and the success of the side is underpinned not only by a talented group of players but also by a superb team spirit. It's been a pleasure to skipper not only a talented bunch of cricketers but also a great group of lads."

The club will now look forward to the 2014 season with relish; a chance to try and prove just how good a side they have become. They will be testing themselves against higher class outfits such as Ilford Catholics, Theydon Bois and Epping Foresters and will be rekindling some local rivalry with Hockerill, Matching Green and Stansted. One thing is for sure; the club will not be out of place in the top flight in terms of facilities. Sellears alluded to this, "...none of this would have been possible without the top class facilities we have at the club. The new net facilities and improved all round facilities have no doubt aided our improvement this year. Special thanks to Jim Reed and Justin Bass for providing us with what is now without doubt one of the best wickets in the league. Also thanks to Graham and the club for their hospitality during and after games." The players will be itching to go come 3 May 2014 and will be hoping the winter doesn't drag.

Sadly it was not such a successful season for the Second XI as they finished bottom of Division Six, registering only three wins and losing thirteen in a record that strangely mirrored the First team's record. The club will now be in the unique position of having a First XI in the top division and a Second XI in the bottom division.

Report by Ross Leavers 2nd Sept. 2013



Back (L to R) Elliott Sellears, Simon Ager, Justin Bass, Paul Parker, Jamie Davis, Alex Griffiths
Front (L to R) Rob Smith, James Reed, Rob Tyler, Mark Thornton, Laurence Ahmed.



Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool – Football - Cricket - Bowls

New toilets completed

Finally the new toilets have been finished and what a fantastic improvement they are over the old ones. With automatic lights and hand taps, fast efficient hand driers, a new disabled toilet and hygienic surfaces all-round, the committee are proud of the results and hope that members enjoy the upgraded facilities.



And there's more....

Yes we have been busy little bees this year! We have fitted a new roof which means no more leaks and a new HD Big Screen has just been installed giving a fantastic picture for sports coverage etc. A new Glass washer ensures squeaky clean glasses.

The football pitch has been renovated and looks and feels fantastic and last but not least the snooker room has just been re- decorated and carpeted. In the near future we plan to spruce up the outside of the building and will also fill in the pot holes in the parking area. There remains just one more major decision to make and that's for the proposed renovation and expansion of dance floor and stage area. Notices will be issued soon in this regard.**New Draught beer** Estrella Damm 4.6% ABV now available at a special introductory price!

Bowling Club

The bowling Club enjoyed a lovely dinner at the end of the Chelsea pensioners match held at the club recently. The president and captains of both teams were positioned at the top table (pictured here) and a special cake was made by Kim to commemorate the clubs 100 year centenary. The next celebration game will be against the BOWLS England president's team on 12th Sept. At 13:30 so why not come along and support the club on this important day. You could also help and Join in the fun at the Fete on the 14th Sept. for target bowls. The Bowls Club is always looking

for new Members and enrolment will take place in March 2014. You can also contact Elaine Wright on 01279 813474 for further details.

Charity Race Night 28th September

Another successful race night was held at the club recently with 8 races being shown on the



big screen. The club raised £150 for Grove Cottage. The next race night will be held on the 28th September so please come along and give your Support.



Cricket Club

Birchanger Cricket Club enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in its 118 year history by being crowned champions of the Herts and Essex Cricket League Division Two on Saturday 31 August 2013.





Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool – Football - Cricket - Bowls

BSSC CLUB ENTERTAINMENT FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2013

September 21st

September 28th

October 12th

October 26th

Mike & Beamy - Surprise act

Charity Race Night – please come along and give your support

Jamie Callis - Great solo artist with a mixture of songs from all decades

Paul Lillie - Award winning Elvis impersonator, Freddie mercury and others



Jamie Callis 12th Oct



Paul Lillie 26th Oct



Charity Race night 28th Sept

Club Opening Hours

| Day | Open time | Closing time | Food available |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---|
| Monday | 19.00 | 23.00 | Food not available |
| Tuesday | 19.00 | 23.00 | Full menu & takeaway |
| Wednesday | 11.30 | 14.30 | Full Lunchtime Menu |
| Wednesday | 18.00 | 23.00 | Steak Night |
| Thursday | 19.00 | 23.00 | Food not available |
| Friday | 11.30 | 23.00 | Full Lunchtime, evening and takeaway menu |
| Saturday | 11.30 | 23.00 | Full lunchtime & evening menu |
| Sunday | 12.00 | 22.30 | Full lunchtime menu only |

Other hours may apply during holiday periods and when the Steward is away. Also Sunday opening hours will alter in the summer and spring. Please see current opening hours on the door.

Other events & Amenities: Events throughout the year include Weekly Bonus Ball, Bottle Draws, Cash Raffles and Prize Raffles. The club also serves hot and cold food, CAMRA beers and offers amenities for; Football, Cricket, Bowls, Darts, Snooker and Cribbage.

Free snooker, pool and jukebox: On Saturday and Sunday Evening's from 7.00pm to close, the club offers free Snooker, Pool and jukebox. Offer excludes entertainment nights.

Pavilion Hire: The club has a small cricket pavilion suitable for private parties, kids' birthdays, meetings, clubs, first aid training, band rehearsal etc. The pavilion holds 30-40 people and has tables & chairs, kitchen and toilet facilities. For details contact the club on 01279 813 441 or download and complete the application form from the BSSC website at <http://birchangerclub.com/news/pavilion> and hand it in to the bar staff at club.

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813 441 Email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

School News

New classroom for year 5/6 children.

The oldest children at Birchanger returned to school to find that their brand new classroom was there and ready for them. The fact that it was up and ready for use is entirely due to the chair of Governors, Mrs Haggerwood Bullen, staff and supporting governors who worked hard throughout the school holidays to make sure that everything needed to start the term was there when the children arrived back to school. The hall was also painted, which meant that everything which had been moved to enable the painting process had to be put back or stored in the new container storage. This meant for many that the term "school holiday" became a non event. This was no small task and the school is very grateful that the process has been as trouble free for the children as possible. Congratulations and thank you to all concerned.

We do not want your rubbish.

They are getting very fed up with the people in Birchanger who are dumping their rubbish in the school bins. Even green waste is being deposited as it seems that some are just too mean to have their own bin, or too lazy to take their junk to the tip.

The school is not a refuse centre. The bins are used and paid for by the school. It is not a community benefit. A word of warning. The school does have CCTV. It could be used to identify the culprits.

New faces at Birchanger School.

In addition to the larger than average annual intake at Birchanger School, there were three new staff members to get to know. Two new teachers had been appointed last term and during the school holidays Mr Slide was appointed to help the school during the absence, through sickness of Mrs Warbrick.

Mr Slide is a very experienced teacher. He comes recommended by the diocese and has served as a primary school head for over seven years. He will take on the role of Consultant Head Teacher and will be in school three days each week. The school would like to welcome all the newcomers and hope that their association with the school is a fulfilling and enjoyable one.

Watch out, there are a set of very clever thieves about.

It seems that our area is in the grip of an epidemic of tool snatching from building sites, sheds and garages. This lot know exactly what they are doing, although the same cannot be said for the local police, who may not even bother to attend the incident. We do not have a police presence, in Stansted, so it is open season for the criminals. The motor-way makes escape very easy.

This lot are very professional. They may case the joint a few days beforehand then return equipped with bolt cutters and the means to disable burglar alarms.

Please report and note anything you see that is suspicious. They are around looking for likely targets, and you have vital information.

I shall have a few unpleasant questions for the Police Commissioner when he visits the District next month

News From Birchanger Wood Trust

Thank you all for using Birchanger Wood so much during these last few months.

The weather has been interesting, swinging from cold, wet, windy and generally nasty to hot, cloudless, hotter, and a few showers. This has helped all the trees, shrubbery and undergrowth to put on a lot of growth and greenery thereby providing shade in which to enjoy your own particular activity.

However, some whinges:

There are still a few people, however, who are not picking up their dog poo. Please do this no-one wants youngsters and others becoming ill through infection that this so often carries. It is permitted for you to place poo in your rubbish bin at home as it is an acceptable waste item. In addition, there are poo-bins, one at the Water Tower entrance to the Wood. one at the Birchwood School end. And two on the field at Northholt.

In addition, please take your bags, bottles, wrappers, paper, any other containers, and tissues home for disposal as these spoil the beauty of the Wood and are dangerous if eaten by pets or wild animals, cause bad wounds, or death. Birchanger Wood is to be Enjoyed by All, people, pets, nature and animals.

Lastly, will all cyclists who use the Wood please respect walkers, children, the elderly and otherwise disabled, as they have Right of Way. The paths in this lovely Wood were not constructed for cycle-racing purposes and those who feel the need to do this would be much better suited where there are proper tracks for this purpose. Cycling, is not promoted in Birchanger Wood, but it is permitted so long as cyclists ensure they understand that persons on foot, those with children, with buggies, the disabled and those seeking solace have priority. Cycling can be enjoyed without the necessity to race along.

What's New:

Many of you will have seen the art work on the side of the store, this was provided by a group of youngsters currently part of the Girton Project and they will be back to complete similar artwork on the front of the new store.

We have a new volunteer working from the compound (Water Tower entrance) and she is providing tea on those Saturdays when she is at the Water Tower Site. Please be aware, however, that this is not every Saturday.

Two of the big signs for the Wood provided by Stort Valley Rotary are now in situ and the QR signs will be going in later this year.

St. Elizabeth's School are now enjoying working with the Warden in the Wood on a regular basis.

Next Event:

Art in the Wood is due to take place on the weekend of 19/20 October 2013. These are paintings submitted from pupils from the local primary schools and this year it will be combined with the official opening on the 19 October, (time to be advised) of the final woodland path, and the new compound. The person carrying out the opening will be chosen from one of the participating young artists.

Again, just to say, if you would like to volunteer yourself, your group or school by offering support for the Wood in administration, publicity, woodland maintenance or an event do not hesitate to contact me or see our voluntary Warden, Pat Forrest, at the Compound or around in the Wood.

News from St Mary's

Produce Auction

What a great night! Many people turned out to support and participate in this event. It was a lively night with fruit, vegetables and other items being snapped up at a brisk pace. A huge thank you to all who took part either by donating items for sale or buying them. Particular thanks go to the Barway Packing plant near Ely who kindly donated onions and lettuce. They have already said that we can call on them again next year! Also, thanks to Scott Taylor who gave a number of plants which on their own raised over £100! Altogether we raised an incredible £580 for church funds. See you again next year.

Church Hall

Work on the hall is progressing well now that the wasps nest has been removed. The current hall manager has decided to step down but we are pleased to be able to announce that Trudy Revell is to take over as from the 1st October. Her contact details will be given out very shortly but in the meantime for any hall enquiries please continue to contact Janet Gage.

Flower & Music Festival

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September 10am to 4pm

Although there is no Art Show this year, the church will still be decorated by Rosemary Saward ready for the Harvest Festival weekend and on display will be arrangements and artwork by the children at Birchanger school. Please come along and spend a few minutes looking around or stop a little longer and enjoy the refreshments that will be available on each day.

Memorial Tree

This year we are putting together a tree of remembrance where you can record the name(s) of loved ones. Special tear drops have been made, with the help of pupils at MMCC, for hanging on the tree. These can be purchased for £2. The names of the people to be remembered will be put inside each tear and then on Christmas Day all names will be read out with a special prayer during our inter sessions.

Tear drops are available in church and can be kept for you to hang on your own tree.

Dog Walker Required

I am looking for a reliable dog walker for my 3 dogs (2x labradors and a sheltie) Mon to Thurs mornings between 7.30am and 8.15am, reply to Kate at 2 Birchwood 07834910630

AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING



In aid of Church funds

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Village Diary

September/October

September

28th 10.00 am St Mary's
 Flower and Music
 Festival till 4.00 pm

29th 10.00 am St Mary's
 Flower and Music
 Festival till 4.00 pm

29th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Harvest Festival
 Holy Communion
 3.00 pm Baptism

October

6th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Matins

13th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Holy Communion

20th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Family Service

27th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Holy Communion

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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.

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.