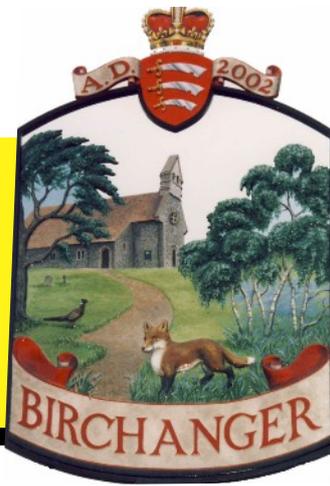


Birchanger

August 2015



Magazine

Issue 152

ITS TIME I SIGNED OFF

After twelve and a half years as Editor of this publication, the time has come for me to step down from the helm of the Birchanger Village Magazine.

We first went into publication in January 2003 when the installation of the Village sign was the main piece of news. The magazine replaced the Parish Magazine formerly produced by the Church benefice office. I took it on instead of my duties on the Club committee.

During that time I have tried to focus on purely village issues keeping things informative and making it entertaining whenever possible. I have ruffled some feathers along the way without intending to give offence to anyone.

Now 152 issues later I have to pay tribute to the people who helped set it up and run it:- Elizabeth Godwin who is still the principal contributor, Ken Wheatley who looks after the money and Ken Devine who still provides the printing function. There is also Trevor Stone who co-ordinates and distributes the printed copies to the small band of deliverers who bring it to you each month.



There has also been a small band of unsung heroes who proof read the copy each month to eliminate the errors that creep in. Currently that is :- Malcolm Roberts, Paul Ferret and Rosemary Wheatley. I also wish to thank anyone who has contributed copy during my time in charge. And all those who helped finance it.

My successor is Tom Granger who is already making a name for himself on the Club Committee I wish him every success in the role.

Ed



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

New Settlement For Birchanger?

Some people might think that we had more than enough new build around us, after all a chunk of Birchanger was lost when Foresthall Park was built. Now it seems they are after us again.

They are suggesting a new settlement for Birchanger as part of the new local plan, currently being debated.

This would appear to encircle most of the village and bring Birchanger closer to being contained in Hertfordshire.

There are a lot of reasons why this cannot be allowed to happen. The identity of Birchanger would be lost forever. We have Junction 8 which was a factor in the Inspector's refusal to grant planning permission for a large number of houses in Elsenham.

With the development already planned for East Herts the situation would be chaotic. No consideration has been taken of flight paths, aircraft noise and the creaky local road system.

As for us, we could lose a lot of the things which make Birchanger a good place to live in. Our fields and footpaths would go, the woods would survive in a sea of housing. Many of the new houses would have to be built close to flight paths and the major trunk routes.

This is not what we want for a village which featured in the Domesday Book.

There has to be a small amount of development in every area to accommodate the perceived housing need, and there is a need for affordable housing for young families, but our Green Belt which is valued, should not be sacrificed for major developments.

There will be consultations on this in the near future and you will be able to have your say.

Will the new Junction 7a on the M11 affect us?

This question is not entirely easy to answer. It is planned to serve The North end of Harlow and the probable new building development there. It might ease the traffic using Junction 8 a little bit, but until the motorway has a direct link from each direction onto it, then the effect would be minimal.

At the moment there is a huge question mark about any development around Bishop's Stortford and our area of Uttlesford, as junction 8 is already at the designated capacity, something which a great many people have said over many years, and it is only just recently that planning inspectors have taken this fact on board in various planning appeals, both in Uttlesford and Bishop's Stortford.

The consultation on this junction is underway, but most people could be forgiven if they wondered just what difference their opinion would make.

Watch out for the "Tuck In" sticker!

There is a great deal of concern about the size of the county. Not the actual landscape, but the people who live in it. We are all getting too fat.

Concerned about this and the effect that this extra weight has on our health, Essex County Council has launched a new initiative to try to help us enjoy the food we like to eat, but this time it will be made of healthier ingredients.

The new initiative, which is to be known as "Tuck In", aims to encourage small businesses to make a few changes in their food, using healthier ingredients, less fat and more grilling to ensure the food we buy is actually better for us, while tasting just as good as before. They are also being encouraged to add healthier options to their menus where they can. It is hoped that more options will expand their business and in return they will receive free nutritional training and promotion through social media and the council's website.

To join the Tuck In scheme is free as is all the support the businesses will be offered . The support is aimed at all restaurants who have a take away element and a Food Hygiene rating above 3. Nobody is suggesting that customers will be weighed as they use participating restaurants so the success of the scheme will literally be hard to measure!

Off roaders wrecking our woods again

Yes they are back, those idiots who each summer manage to spoil our walks in the woods. They drive across vegetation, spoil pathways and go across areas of woodland where aconites, anemones and bluebells were trying to get themselves established. In short they are ruining the woods for everyone else,

are trespassing and are a danger to others as they are not very good at controlling their machines either it seems.

The police should be contacted every time someone comes across this menace. They will eventually come out to sort the problem out, but calls must be made when the incident is happening.

The menace is both in Digby Wood as well as Birchanger Wood. It seems they are after complete wreckage of the woodland scene. The trouble is it is very likely that Digby Wood will be closed to all. It is private property, we actually do not have the right to use the wood, but as long as there is no litter left and no further trouble of any sort, we can do so. We have had to fight for this in the past and we are there by sufferance only. It is a sort of abuse it and lose it situation. To deal with these bikers, the wood will simply be closed to everyone. Nobody wants this to happen, but it could, if the riders continue to spoil the woods.

Police crackdown on speeding drivers

Not that you would notice this actually happening in Birchanger, but where they are in operation speed cameras are becoming remarkably accurate, so much so that the police are in most cases not needing to use the 10% error margin and can fine a motorist at going just 1 mph above the speed limit. Many drivers have already been caught and been quite shocked to receive a speed ticket, fine and endorsement for such a small speeding infringement. Well I suppose what is a seemingly unfair penalty is a useful bit of cash for the authorities. You have been warned.

Art show time

Birchanger Art Show is fast becoming an annual event. It is an occasion where artists can display their talents and perhaps secure sales of their work in the process. For the non talented fraternity, truthfully the majority of us, it is time to salute the achievements of local artists and to perhaps buy a painting we like for ourselves. If you are an artist, there is still time to enter your work for the exhibition by contacting Heather Brown on 815453. For the rest of us, the date for our diaries is the weekend in October 4/5, when we can browse the art works at leisure, enjoy refreshments and meet with old friends.

No breast cancer screening for the 70 + age group

That is, unless you actually ask for it. The medical world is wondering why breast cancer is soaring in the over 70s. I am surprised they even have to ask. Women routinely are invited for breast screening, with an appointment already made until they reach the age of seventy, but after that the invitations stop.

I have never been able to work out the logic behind this. As people get older they forget or put off doing things more. If they had a summons for breast screening most would go, but without this, at an age when people become increasingly forgetful, they have forgotten who to contact, and cannot be bothered or put off making the effort. All this when risks of getting this nasty form of cancer become increasingly high. The mind boggles.

At the end of the day, more money would be saved if the NHS just continued to send out the cards and those at the greatest risk are far more likely to attend.

As it is, the impression is one of ageism and that the NHS simply does not want to be bothered with the over seventies so why bother themselves? What happened to the promise to treat all patients with the care, consideration and respect which they all need, but so rarely get under the system?

Library under threat again

Apparently we are all reading less and there are falling book borrowing figures all over the county. Reasons for this are not yet clear, but it seems that iPads, and Kindles play their part in the decline.

There are those, especially the elderly, sick or living in isolated rural communities who really depend on the service. We have a library in Stansted, at the moment and are lucky enough to have a visiting library service on a fortnightly basis in the village, although I am not sure for how much longer, if we are not using the service enough. We do live in the times of cutbacks after all.

Most people will tell you that Kindles are fine and convenient on holidays, but nothing can actually beat reading a real book for yourself. We do encourage our children to read books, but something seems to stop this by the time they are grown up.

Unfortunately as always it is the less able members in our society who will suffer if the library goes. The library service provides books for the children to read and to take home at school and that will be under threat as well.

Try our library service. The van visits the village at fortnightly intervals and parks outside the club at 3pm to 3.35 and at High View at 15.40 to 16.10 every other Tuesday. It will be there on Tuesday August 25th, September 8th, 22nd, October 6th and 20th. Why not pay a visit sometime. If they have not got what you want, they can get it in for you.

If you miss the visit, you can always change your book at Stansted or any of the other Essex County Council libraries.

Zip wire is vandalised

Well that did not take long! Just one irresponsible smart pants managed to put the zip wire out of commission when it had only just been installed. Hard to understand the mentality of some people who just seem to want to upset as many people as quickly as possible and in the

holiday season as well.
They may not care about the equipment, but there are a lot of people who do!

Birchanger Fete

A definite date for your diary. Birchanger Fete is back for another year, promising to be bigger and better than ever before. It will take place as usual on the Birchanger Club Field on Saturday September 5th between 1 and 5pm.

There will be all the usual traditional attractions, which will include a brass band, hog roast, falconry displays, bouncy castles and much more.

Birchanger Club will be having an Open Day, which means that you do not have to be a member to enjoy the club facilities, especially as there will be a beer festival going on as well.

There will be the eagerly awaited Birchanger Dog Show. You will be able to enter your dog anytime between 1 and 3pm on the day.

This a day for everyone, entrance is free, so come along and enjoy!

All that is needed is yourselves. What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon in Birchanger.

Had a minor injury?

If you have had a minor injury which needs some professional attention, why not try our local Walk in centre at Herts and Essex Hospital? We did last month and had five star treatment.

Ok my husband was dripping blood all over the floor and generally messing the place up, but he was dealt with swiftly and efficiently, leaving the centre stitched up and bandaged some half an hour later.

The downside is that you have to time your injury to suit their office type opening hours, but if you can use it, the service is second to none.

How to complain about helicopter noise

There is not a house in Birchanger which has not been bothered by noisy helicopters who fly directly over their homes instead of the route designated by the airport. There is a way to stop this menace, and if everyone was to actually use it, then the whole of the village might benefit in the end.

All you need to do is to log on to the Stop Stansted Website using the following address.
<http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise.complaintform.asp>

You will be able to fill in a form on line, with details of your complaint and a reference number. You will receive a reply.

The company running the helicopters will be alerted to the correct route and if we all do it, hopefully the message might get across in the end?

A new way to deal with litter louts

A man in a village near us went for a walk down a little used country lane. He noticed a carrier bag from McDonald's restaurants abandoned on the side of the lane. He returned the following day and the first bag had been joined by a second bag full of litter from a McDonald's meal as before. He returned for a third day, and yes, you got it, there was bag number three.

He picked up the bags and went through the contents. There were card receipts in the bags, which he then took to the local police station. The police then handed the bags over to environmental health officers. The man was traced, prosecuted, fined £500 and banned from McDonald's for life.

So when you next see a food bag littering the road, take a look inside and if you find a card receipt, well you know what to do. Take it to the local council!

Scammers new tricks

So many people are alert to computer hackers these days, that these pests have had to learn new tricks. One of them is to call you and tell you that something is wrong with the windows program on your computer and that you need to turn on your computer so that the caller can help you "sort it out".

Whatever you do, don't turn on your computer. You will be sorted out, but not in the way you had in mind. Remember software companies or Broadband suppliers will never call you, and if someone does call claiming to be from a provider, hang up immediately. They will probably call back, ignore!



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB AUGUST 2015

SUMMER FETE:



As the nation is gripped by Bake Off fever and references to soggy bottoms and misplaced cracks abound, the club and fete committee are planning the final touches to their own British Institution, the Summer Fete. A highlight of the year, the fete is open to all throughout the afternoon. Entertainment ranges from traditional stalls, to games, food drink and fun.

Not to be outdone by the members of the Great British Bake Off tent, there will be a special Tea and Cake stall that serves freshly made hot and cold drinks as well as home made cakes from across the village. So whether you are a fan of flapjack, a meringue maniac or one slice short of a fruit loaf there'll be something for everyone.

Birchanger stalwart, Jay Leavers will also be on site serving his own brand of traditional fayre. The now classic hog roast lovingly prepared by Jay's own fair hands will tantalise the taste buds of any lucky guest.

For the shopaholics amongst you don't fret as there will be a chance to peruse many stalls offering some great bargains. Whether you're looking to support a local cause or get hold of some artwork or jewellery there will be something for everyone.

As is the annual tradition, the club will be open to all on this day, making it a great opportunity to come and have a look around. With free entertainment on the Saturday

RUGBY WORLD CUP:

evening from Francisco Sommers this is set to be a night to remember!



Throughout September and beyond the Rugby World Cup will be proudly shown in the club on our very own HD big screen. This is the perfect opportunity to get together and support our nation (or whichever nation takes your fancy). Rugby games are always popular in the club ensuring a proper stadium atmosphere with the advantage of great value drinks and comfortable (and free to members) front row seats.

If you're interested in joining us, keep an eye on the notice boards where we will be showing details of each match. Also with such an important tournament in the offing keep an eye out for some scrum-worthy special offers.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:



There is a range of ways to keep up to date with the club news. If you're interested why not follow us on facebook, which will keep



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

you informed of anything new going on. Similarly you can sign up to our SMS service to receive a weekly reminder of what's happening in the club. There's also the website birchangerclub.com which is up-to-date with all your information needs and finally for the old skool, this very newsletter. If ever you need help or information our friendly staff will always be happy to help.



New Members are always welcome, so if you're new to the village or have never considered the club, give us a try. With a new layout, brand new look and great value food drinks and entertainment we're hard to beat.

ENTERTAINMENT

5th September - Fransico Sommers



Back for a well-earned second appearance Francisco blew us away with his versatile performances last time, whether he was rocking Tina Turner or giving us his very best Amy Winehouse!

Winnie - 19th September



AKA Juanita Diaz, this lady can belt out the greats from everyone from Abba to Madonna



Treasure Chest – 4th+18th September



Wheel of Fortune – 28th August, 25th September

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

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ Tel: 01279 813441 email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Birchanger Ceilidh lights up the night of the blue moon

There has never been a Ceilidh in Birchanger before, at least not that anyone could ever remember, so it was no surprise that those who did manage to secure their tickets enjoyed a night with a difference and not just because there just happened to be a blue moon.

Guests arriving at the Church Hall found a very warm welcome, a band playing traditional country music, a well run bar, and the most delicious supper buffet with pork, salmon and haggis on offer with a delicious lemon posset to follow. There was also a lavish raffle with a wide range of prizes, in decorative packaging as made up by School Secretary Carolyn Field.

There was nothing not to like, except the weather which could have been warmer, although the dancers were very glad of the cool breeze but the rain stayed away.

The event was held in aid of some badly needed remedial work to the school grounds. Unfortunately stretched school budgets find it hard, in these days of cutbacks, to fund work to carry out expensive repairs on a pared to the bone allowance. The whole idea was inspired and led by school chef Mrs McArthur, who led a team from the village with Comper and decor provided by Tom Granger and inspirational menus from Matt Zych. Dave Woods set up and ran the very successful bar.

The combination of a hard working team with the friendly backing of Birchanger Residents and their friends made this an evening which will not be forgotten. The event raised £1843. 88 for the school.

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SUNDAY

20th SEPTEMBER

At 6:30 pm

To raise funds for
the restoration of the Organ

School News

Thank you PTA

The Birchanger School PTA have a history of supporting the school in many ways. Sometimes it is in small practical things, like listening to children read, and helping with school outings as well as organizing the Leavers Ball and other treats. This summer the PTA have really pulled out the stops to raise money to help the school.

This summer term they held three major functions. The incredibly successful and now well known school 10 Kilometre Run, a Parents Party, and a very successful Summer Fair on Sports Day.

These three functions alone have raised over £7000. This money does not come easily, as many hours of planning and preparation are needed to secure a successful event. Thank you from all of us, the school is very important to Birchanger and the surrounding area.

Birchanger School proudly presents "Hoodwinked"

That is what it said on the programme and Birchanger School did the play proud in every way.

The songs were catchy, the solos truly memorable and all the performers seemingly un-phased by the large audience of proud parents, and so many friends.

The actors all knew just what to do and when. The play was well rehearsed albeit in the short space of time since SATS tests. The children were word perfect and confident in their roles.

The play told the classic Robin Hood story, with the wicked Sheriff assisting nasty King John and the heroes triumphing in the end. Robin was reunited with Maid Marian leaving both cast and audience all very happy in the end.

Congratulations to all the cast and to Charlie who returned once again to organize and train the singers and to the three parents who co-ordinated props, costumes make up and much more, as well as the staff who put long hours into ensuring that all the children knew their roles. The production was a huge and very happy success for everyone. A great start to the summer holidays.

Into the woods at last

Finally it was the turn of Owls Class to have some time in the Woods with Laura after the tests were over.

Despite confessing to boredom and not knowing what to do in a wood, as they never seem to play there anymore, the whole class quickly grasped the idea that the woods around Birchanger are a great deal of fun, as well as just how much they actually had to learn.

They loved the sessions in the woods. They learnt how to

play together as teams, it seemed just to come naturally. They always helped anyone who fell or found some task more difficult. They climbed trees, something some had never tried before.

There were no altercations, just enjoyment, which they shared together, while they learnt to light fires, do basic cooking and a great deal about the natural world in the process.

The Forest School has now brought benefits to nearly every child in Birchanger School. The good news is that it will be back again for another year in September.

Summer farewells

The Summer Holidays are looked forward to by staff and pupils alike. They are tinged with a certain amount of sadness, as farewells had to be said to the Year 6 Pupils, and two long serving members of staff as well. Mrs Vessey has worked with mainly Year 3 pupils for 5 years now. Always ready with a smile and willing help, she was a favourite with the children she taught. She had the ability to be a teacher who could be fun, but with whom the children always knew where they were. She was also a valued member of the School Governors. We hope she will not be saying goodbye completely as she intends to come back and help the school where she can.

Judy Manning also left the school to take up a part time post elsewhere.

She has been at the school for some 20 years, and said that when the children you once worked with now have their own children in the school, it is time to consider moving on. She made a huge contribution to the school over these twenty years, and will be particularly remembered for her art work, her set paintings for innumerable school plays as well as the displays seen all around the school.

We shall miss them both, but wish them all the very best for the future.

The fifteen Year 6 Leavers also celebrated their last few days in Birchanger School.

Their parents had worked hard to ensure that their children's last few days at the school were ones which they would never forget. On the children's part, everyone spoke of their happy memories of the school, a lot of them stemming from their first few days in the Reception Class. There was great sadness at leaving their friends and messages for the current Year 5, which invited them all to enjoy their last year at the school, as it goes so quickly and to grab all their opportunities in their final year.

As an innovation this year, everyone chose their own fleece jacket in a colour of their choice, with the names of all their year group on the back. After more cakes with their parents they had Pizzas and a party to look forward to that evening.

August Holidays.

Hopefully all parents and children will have enjoyed or will be enjoying a well earned Summer Holiday, even if the cost of the holiday seemed to be artificially high.

The school cannot do anything about this peak holiday time cost, but it does seem unfair to penalise families in this way.

It is not the school who made these rules. This has come from the government and is imposed by the Local Authority. The school's attendance figures are constantly monitored and if they dip, questions are

asked. Unauthorised absences must be reported, the school has no choice.

Perhaps government could look at the high prices for holidays taken in the summer. Anyone reading the brochures always knows when school holidays are. They just have to look at the prices!

This past school year 16 children achieved 100% attendance for the year, and were awarded certificates to celebrate their excellent attendance record.

What's on at the Church Hall?

REGULAR WEEKLY AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY

9:30 – 11:30 Birchanger Buddies
Mothers & Toddlers
7:30 – 10:00 Ballroom Dancing

TUESDAY

9:30 -10:30 Adult Ballet
8:45 – 7:45 Junior Ballet

WEDNESDAY

9:30 -11:30 Tai Chi
2:00 – 4:00 Tea Room
7:00 – 8:00 Beginners Belly Dance

THURSDAY

1:00 – 4:00 Line Dancing
8:30 – 9:30 Improvers Belly Dance

In addition there are monthly meetings to be slotted in as follows

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1st Tuesday of every month

BAGS (Birchanger All Girls Society) last Wednesday of every month.

Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every Month
Meeting Room in Village Hall
Doors open at 7.30. for 8 – 10 p.m.

'A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'
£5.00 for annual membership and £2.00 subs. each month
Come and give us a try £2.00 for the first two meetings before becoming a member

Forthcoming Events

Wed. 26th August, 7.30 for 8.00

A talk by Terry Taber, an experienced speaker who promises a very amusing and entertaining talk entitled 'My Life in Ladies Underwear' about his work in the rag trade

Wed. 30th September, 7.30 for 8.00

Nadia Walters, a Birchanger resident, will be talking about her amazing walk from Land's End to John O'Groats which has raised over £10,000 for Cancer Research

Tel. Angie – 817376, Michelle - 814481, Barbara - 813007 Rosemary - 814678

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August/September

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Matins

September

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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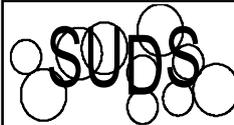
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