

# Birchanger

## *Village Magazine*

April 2004

Issue 16

## BOOK WEEK SPEAKS VOLUMES

It is never dull at the end of every term at Birchanger School. This term it coincided with Book Week. There were a series of special events, with opportunity to buy books at special prices at the end of the school day. There was a competition for the best decorated egg, for the design of a cover for a book and for a book mark.

On the last day of term everyone came to school dressed as a fictional character, to find that the staff consisted of Ali Baba, and the Forty Thieves, although the staff could only in reality provide ten thieves.

Our Photos show: *Daniel Crossley as Dennis the menace, Matthew Gunn as Stig of the Dump, Cameron Burnett as The very hungry Caterpillar, Tom Ward as Robin Hood, Elliott Field as The Guinness book of records, Rebbecca Davey as The Cat in the Hat, and Benjamin Mortishire- Smith as The BFG.*

The winners of each event in every year went home with a large Easter Egg. The afternoon finished with an Easter Egg Hunt, and the PTA ran a cake stall. Everyone had a week to remember.



# No Summer Fete this year

There will be no Summer fete in Birchanger in 2004. The fete, which had become an annual occasion in the village, has suffered from the departure of a number of the organising committee since the 2003 event.

The skeleton committee that remained were hoping to recruit replacements for the departed members but have been disappointed by the reluctance of volunteers to come forward.

This is all the more regrettable as there are several people who are prepared to give their all “on the day” yet feel unable to get involved in the months before the event, when all of the more important arrangements are made.

Organising a one day event like the fete takes a lot of work. Apart from co-ordinating the interests of the various village organisations, someone has to book the outside fairground type attractions, arrange insurance for the day and there are a myriad of prizes and coconuts to buy. However when the burden is divided, the individual effort required is a lot less. It takes a commitment from six or seven people throughout the year to get to the point where “The day” can get underway. So the village needs some volunteers!

In the past the committee has been composed of people who each had an interest in the village organisations who benefit from the funds raised. Whether it be the Church, School, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Parish council, the Club or whoever. The problem with this is, that it tends to be the same few people who do everything in Birchanger for the benefit of everyone else. It would be nice to see some fresh faces getting involved, they would bring with them some new ideas and maybe give the event a whole new impetus.

I am sure that there are plenty of villagers with something positive to contribute. So if you would like to see a Summer fete in Birchanger during 2005. Please come forward by contacting Terri Hopkins on 816592 or Elizabeth Godwin on 812793; and give the fete a future.

Ed Gilbey

## Duck End Incident

The Mother of murder victim Ben Hardwige has been in touch and would like to thank those that tended to him when he fell. She would like us to point out that the floral tributes that had been placed in Birchanger Lane since March 2<sup>nd</sup> were removed on April 8<sup>th</sup> at her request.

Due to some legal complications the authorities have yet to release Ben's body and so there is no date for a funeral for him as yet.

As Editor I wish to pass on my condolences to the Hardwige family and hope these matters can be concluded as soon as possible.

## From the other side



Gerry Taylor

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

## Muriel Gibb

John Gibb, and the rest of the family would like to thank everyone for all their support and concern since Muriel's death.

It was very comforting for the family to see so many people at the Memorial Service, and at the reception afterwards. John is expecting to return to Birchanger this month.

## Message in a bottle

"Message In A Bottle" is a voluntary scheme, it is intended for use by anyone who feels vulnerable, or lives alone, who would like to keep a record of any illness, allergy, medication or other vital details, for the use of the emergency services in the event of the person being involved in an accident, or other medical emergency. It can also contain the name of anyone to be contacted in the event of such an emergency.

The bottles are kept in the fridge, and so far, over 50,000 have been distributed throughout Essex. If you would like one, please contact the Community Safety Officer, on 01799 510585.

## Are you interested in becoming a volunteer?

Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau has been helping local people to find volunteering opportunities since 1993. They match skills, time and availability to current volunteering opportunities, and the prospective volunteers lifestyle.

People volunteer for a variety of different reasons. They can find friendship, gain new skills, or even enhance their CV. They discover that they also gain in confidence, when they find the opportunity which is right for them.

The bureau holds details of opportunities with many organisations, from helping with children, families, disabled and elderly persons, to heritage, conservation, and working with animals.

If you are interested, call the Bureau which is based in Saffron Walden, but serves the whole district between 9.30 am to 1.30 pm Monday to Thursday, on 01799 513626.

## Another way to contact the Police

We have been told that we must contact the police every time that we are aware that a crime has been committed, but the long wait to get through, sometimes up to an hour, puts some people off the idea, and they simply give up.

There is another way to report non urgent crime, via the police web site. The address is, <http://www.onlinepolice.uk/english/default.asp>. If you do decide to use this method, please let me know how efficient it was on 812793.

## Council Tax relief for those on low capital and income

If you have under £16,000 in capital or have low earnings, it is possible that you may be entitled to Council Tax Benefit, or Housing Benefit. To find out if you qualify, and to obtain an application form, please call 01799 510335 between 8.30 - 5.00 Monday to Thursday, and 8.30 - 4.30 on Friday.

## Abandoned Vehicles

Abandoned vehicles are an increasing menace in the countryside, and a hazard for children. If you are aware of an abandoned vehicle, or are experiencing difficulty in disposing of a vehicle yourself, please contact Environmental Health on 01799 510575.

## New Road Tax rules

New rules brought in on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, mean that the registered keeper of a vehicle as named on the logbook, is legally responsible for taxing the vehicle until the DVLA has been informed that the vehicle has been sold, transferred, scrapped, exported, or is off the road.

The DVLA will carry out monthly computer checks, and those identified as being without a valid tax disc, will receive an automatic penalty of £80,

which reduces to £40 if it is paid within 28 days. Those who continue to drive without a valid tax disc face prosecution with a fine of £1000. It is a requirement of vehicle keepers to notify all changes to the DVLA. You have been warned.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team is to employ a dedicated officer as a first point of contact for the public, officers and external agencies in the matter of addressing anti-social behaviour. The officer will work with the police, social services, the youth offending team and many other agencies, to try to prevent and to tackle the behaviour of groups of people or individuals. The officer will be able to attend public meetings to give advice on Community issues.

The officer is expected to be in post by the end of May.

### State of the District Public Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7.30 pm at the Day Centre in Stansted.

### Recycling skips at Stansted

Starting from April 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a manned skip in Lower Street car park in Stansted, between the hours of 9am and 3pm on alternate weekends. These skips will be for wood, metal, and green waste only. All other waste will be turned away.

### Independence Day Garden Party

There will be a Garden Party at MOORSWOOD, 330 Birchanger Lane on July 4th, from 2pm -5pm. This is America's Independence Day, and everyone is invited.

It is also the day when Canon Jackson will take his last service at St Mary's Church. We hope to make the afternoon a very special occasion for him, and a chance for everyone to say farewell.

## News from the School

### The big hush

Children and noise are generally known to be something which go together, but on March 5<sup>th</sup> for up to half an hour in Birchanger School, you could have heard a pin drop.

In order to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses the children staged a sponsored Big Hush, when the Infants sat silently for 15 minutes, and the Juniors for a staggering half hour. Altogether over £1000 was raised. The Co-ordinator of the Appeal, John McNeil, was so impressed by the children's efforts that he visited the school to thank the children in person.

### Can you help us please?

As the children return to school, one of the first projects will be to plant the newly created school garden. Help is needed, as plants are very expensive to purchase.

If you do have any spare plants or cuttings, the school would be very grateful to receive these, including aquatic plants for the pond. Please either bring your plants to the school, or contact the school on 812362.

# From the Archive

Here is a look at how Birchanger Club celebrated the Whitsun holiday in **1896**. The account was written by Revd WH Cam who produced the Parish magazine of the day. Communal dinners were major events for working people in the late Victorian era. This one was held in the School, others took place in Barns around the village. The ticket price of One and sixpence (7.5p) would have been a considerable sum for most to find at a time when average earnings were around nine shillings a week (45p). The concerts referred to in the receipts column were regular Piano recitals by the brothers Prior from Stansted. The concerts were held in the Club itself.

A small committee consisting of Messrs Prince, H Levey C Banks, and E J Sayzeland who afterwards invited the Rector to join them, was appointed some time back to arrange for a dinner, a cricket match and some sports on Whitsun Monday. Their labours were lightened by the readiness with which all who were appealed to entered into the project, and the result favoured by fine weather, was in every respect a success. The ground was thrown open and members and friends began to assemble at 11;30 am Cricket was played until nearly half past one, the sides being captained by G Gilbey and A Phillips respectively. Gilbey's side were all out for 27 while A Phillips and P Blake had made more than 50 without loss when time was called.

Dinner was served in the school, The Rector presiding assisted by Messrs Harrison, P Wood, F Levey, J Smith. The Big Joints which were supplied by Mr Mascall at reduced terms were cooked at Sion House the Rectory and Birchanger Place. Mrs Cam, Mrs Prince, Mrs Sayzeland, and Mrs S I Vale sent puddings. Casks of beer were presented by Messrs Rayments and Rogers, and the Stortford Mineral water company gave all the mineral waters which were drunk. Messrs G Gilbey and C Banks also lent flowers for the tables and Mr Levey the boards. There were many loans of knives forks and dishes etc. The dinner was a thoroughly good one and every one present seemed to think so. After dinner the company expressed their thanks to all who had assisted in the entertainment, and the health of the Club's president Mr C Gold MP was drunk with enthusiasm.

Cricket was resumed at about half past three when new teams were chosen. The cricket was followed by a Quoits match and there were some races. Prizes were given by Messrs Rogers, Cooper Green and Minet. The day went off so well that those who originated the plan and carried through the arrangement must have been thoroughly satisfied.

*(I have detailed the accounts for the event below)*

Receipts		Payments	
Sale of 56 tickets at 1/6d each	£4 4s 0d	Mascall Meat	£2 16s 6d
Balance from concerts	£0 10s 0d	Green , plates groceries etc	£1 5s 6d.
Donations to prizes	£0 10s 0d	Postages	£0 2s 9d
Balance required	£0 9s 4d	Wright bread	£0 3s 0d
		Cooking cleaning and sundries	£0 6s 6d
		Vegetables	£0 6s 7d
Total	£5 13s 4d	Prizes	£0 10 0d
		Tobacco	£0 2s 6d.
		Total	£5 13s 4d.

There was a net deficit of 4d because offers had been made for the table cloths at 9/-. So 56 diners ate for £5 13s 4d or £5. 66 in today's decimalised currency.

# GROUND HOG DAY FOR CUP FINAL TEAM

A crowd in excess of 100 saw Potter Street Reserves win 3-2 in the BSSDFL Footprint Div.1 Final on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The match was played under floodlights at Woodside Park, and was the third time this season Birchanger had lost a match against this team by the same score line.

Birchanger deserved their 2-1 half-time lead, with goals from Ross Leavers and Paul Tyler; it seemed they were saving their best football this season for the final. However, a penalty miss by Dave Trott in the second half signalled a reverse of their fortunes. Visibly tiring, two late goals were conceded to surrender any chance of victory.

There were personal battles all over the pitch, highlighted by Birchanger's Alex Francis' contest with Potter Street's Alan Treacher, but it would be unfair not to congratulate all of our players for their efforts and wish them a speedy return to another Cup Final.

Tony Lucas ( Chairman /Secretary Birchanger FC)

Birchanger FC: G Gillard, K Trott, D Trott, (sub P Gillard 80 min), A Francis, (sub R Smith 88 min), B White, P Tyler, Galloway, R Leavers, B Francis, T Hutchins

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## KID'S CORNER

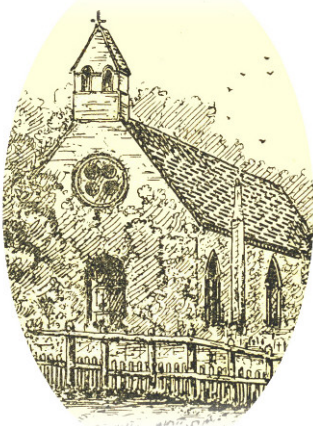
Solution to Quiz word

- 1 ELEPHANT
- 2 APRIL
- 3 SEVEN
- 4 TRUMPET
- 5 ENVELOPE
- 6 ROSES
- 7 EARRINGS
- 8 GRINGOTTS
- 9 GRAPE
- 10 SARDINES

Giving a solution of:-  
**EASTEREGGS**

The solution to Riddle  
me ree was:-

**SPRING.**



# The Friends of St Mary's

## Canon Jackson sets his retirement date

Derek Jackson has been threatening to retire for some years, but this time Canon Jackson really means it. His last service will be on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>, which also happens to be Independence Day.

Canon Jackson has been a well loved and respected part of Birchanger life. His particular strength was the Pastoral Care he gave to all who needed it. He has been a prime fund raiser for the Church, managing to secure tickets from Arsenal and the airlines on an amazingly regular basis. We shall miss him.

His departure will not be unmarked. Joy Wright has already started a fund for him, and this will remain open for donations until June 11<sup>th</sup>. The fund is managed by Joy Wright, who will be able to accept any contributions up until the closing date. It is intended to make a presentation to Canon Jackson at the Church Dinner at Stansted Manor Hotel on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets for the Church Dinner are selling fast, and numbers have to be limited. To secure your ticket, and for further details, please contact either Joy, Terri Hopkins, or Elizabeth Godwin. The evening promises to be a very special occasion, and yet again Canon Jackson has managed to secure some major prizes for a Grand Draw.

## Mrs Betty Ellis

Sadly a member of the Birchanger over 60's club was lost on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2004. Betty Ellis was a lovely person to know and really enjoyed her life. She was a member of the committee of our club and helped in many ways including calling the Bingo numbers, knitting for our bazaar and making jumpers for the children of Romania. She really kept the club together.

Our thoughts are with Cliff and his family.

June Brown  
(Secretary Birchanger over 60's club)

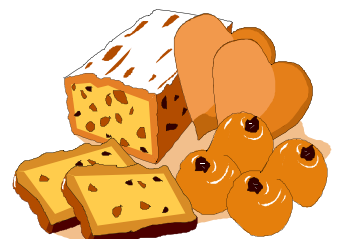


## Coffee Morning In aid of

## The Friends of St Mary's

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## Village Diary

April 2004/ May 2004

### April

18th 11:00 St Mary's  
Holy Communion BCP

24th 8:00 Social Club  
Solid Gold Disco

25th 11:00 St Mary's  
Holy Communion

### May

2nd 11:00 am St Mary's  
Matins

8th 8:00 pm Social Club  
Race Night

9th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Family Service

16th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion BCP

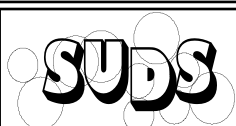
19th 10:30 am Moorswood  
330 Birchanger Lane  
Coffee Morning

22nd 8:00 pm Social Club  
Louise and Bernie

23rd 11:00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

30th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Matins

PTA Barn Dance,  
Saturday June 12th  
at Birchanger  
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