

# MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL

Well here we are again at Christmas time, the long dark nights are back and the traffic in the town is as bad as ever. It's not all gloom though and I've decided to print some more of the entries from last year's Christmas writing competition to remind us of what it's all about. Of course it would have been nice to run another competition this year but unfortunately space was at a premium in the last two issues and we just never got around to organising it. Never mind, we'll have another go next year! The Christmas Bazaar season is in full swing and the over sixties report takings of £477.57 from theirs. I also understand Canon Jackson attended their Christmas dinner after all, more about that later.

Finally everyone involved in the Magazine would like to wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## CHRISTMAS TIME

By Elliot Field now aged 8



Christmas is a fun time  
When we can write lots of rhymes  
Advent calendars are open wide  
With lots of Chocolates hidden inside  
Father Christmas is now on the roof  
He comes down the chimney with a "poof"  
He leaves lots of presents for me to find  
And I think he is very kind  
Happy Christmas to everyone.



## I LOVE CHRISTMAS

By Anna Field now aged 8



Father Christmas sneaks down the chimney  
with a creak  
He puts our presents neatly on a seat  
We find he has left us a lot  
So we open our presents to see what we  
have got  
Happy Christmas to you all  
Lets hope there will be a snowfall



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

In case you feel you need something to occupy your time, once the bustle of the Christmas season is over, here are some suggestions.

## Parish Plan.

You may have thought that this had been dead and buried, but for the last six months, Tim Bishop has been hard at work on a draught copy of the questionnaire for the Parish Plan. It will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, and the questionnaires will be distributed throughout the village shortly after the meeting.

## Time to fight the Fly tippers.

Last month the fly tipping in Tot Lane nearly blocked part of the carriageway. It is more than time to put an end to this. The Chief Executive of The District Council as well as myself, would like to install CCC TV cameras at the site, but that may not be possible at present. So, it is down to us to keep our eyes open.

If you do see anyone dumping the items they are too lazy to dispose of properly, please remember their vehicle registration number, the nature of the material dumped, the date and approximate time, and tell me, on 812793, or our Parish clerk, Julia Peachey on 503912. The council will prosecute if they are supplied these details.

## A fete on the club field next year?

Well, that largely depends on you! The fete committee would like to have the fete next year, but they are missing the vital person who could make this happen. They urgently need a secretary to handle all the correspondence, and to make the vital contacts which make the whole thing happen. It would suit someone who is mainly based at home, with a few hours to spare. Time is at a premium for everyone, but the chances are that there is the right busy person out there, who has yet to come forward. If you are that person, or you know who might be, please call Geoff Driscoll on 817376.

## Essex Air Ambulance needs your help.

The Air Ambulance helicopter has become a familiar sight in the skies around Birchanger, and some in Birchanger have benefited from its services. It is hard to believe that it does not receive any government or lottery funding. It depends on the support of volunteers or fundraisers to survive, and nobody knows just when it might be needed to save their life, or the life of a family member.

It seems that at this time of year, everyone is after your money, one way or another. This time the Essex Air Ambulance would like some of your time and expertise as well. There are many volunteering opportunities available, whether it is office administration, community volunteering, hosting an event, or speaking on behalf of the charity. In January it is just something you might like to contemplate, when Christmas is finally over. If you are interested, please call Aderyn Gillett on 01787 221828.

## Uttlesford Community Travel.

Uttlesford Community Travel is a registered charity which has supplied transport throughout the district since 1997 for those who are elderly, disabled, or rurally isolated. Users are required to register as members for £3.00 each year. All vehicles are wheel chair accessible, and equipped with electrically operated tail lifts. A phone call is all that is needed to use the book a ride service, to arrange date and time of pick up and return.

The vehicles are also available for hire to groups who take out a group membership. There is one 14 seater, and two twelve seater buses available. Trained drivers are supplied, or training can be arranged for group members. To find out more, please call 01371 875787, Monday to Friday 9am-1pm.

## Citizens Advice Bureau in Dunmow.

The CAB in Uttlesford is more than just an advice centre. Volunteers help clients with a wide range of problems, from benefit advice, housing problems,

landlord disputes, financial difficulties, and much more. 96% of the CAB's clients were satisfied with the service they received.

Volunteers gave more than 9500 hours of service last year, and more are needed, to replace those who leave. A full training is given, which results in an accreditation which is recognised by employers. There is never a dull moment. For further information, contact John Moore on 01799 526557.

The CAB has three offices in Uttlesford, at Barnard's Yard in Saffron Walden, which is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, a Friday only opening office at 7 Town Street, Saffron Walden, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm, in the Council Offices in Dunmow.

### Do you think your home suffers from blight ?

It is an increasingly common fact that many people throughout our area have found it very difficult to sell their house, or have had to accept a much lower than anticipated offer. If this applies to you, SSE or myself would like to hear from you. Please call me on 812793.

### A real Birchanger hero.

Most of the time these days this magazine has to report vandalism, and other anti social activities, and it seems that good news, or the acknowledgement of something good which has been achieved is relatively rare. There is an achievement which we are proud to acknowledge this Christmas, and that is the completion of the Birchanger Wood Trust, which keeps the wood in perpetuity for everyone to enjoy.

One person has been the inspiration behind the achievement, and this is John Gibb. He alongside other members of the Parish Council as it was in the 1970's, with support eventually of the neighbouring town district and county councils, began the long laborious process of acquiring the wood in several parts from many different owners. The process of purchasing the wood was completed four years ago, but setting up the trust proved to be very complicated, and was finally completed this autumn.

John retired from his role as Chairman of Birchanger Wood Trust at the end of last month. A very large thank you is due to John from everyone in Birchanger for this invaluable gift to the community, which will endure, whatever else happens in these uncertain times.

## The Christmas Kitten By Amy Lawrence

One Christmas evening in Birchwood there was a cat called Susie. She was on the Sofa when her owners had gone out for the night. Seeing the great big tree with the beautiful fairy and all the decorations, she was thinking how good it would be to be up there. She climbed up the tree but when she got up there she thought. "Now how do I get down? I know I shouldn't have climbed up here but it was too tempting and I'm not very good at jumping."

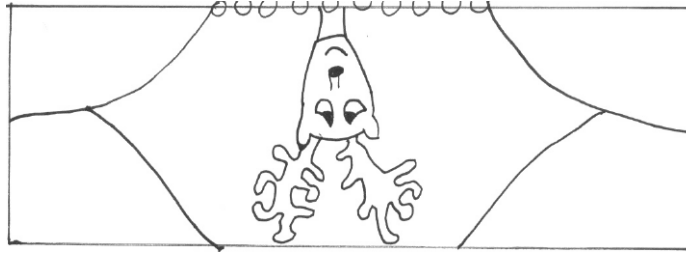
She was scared in case her owners came back and not give her any dinner. She became very tired. "I must go to sleep", she thought, "but I can't get down".

Susie decided to jump so she closed her eyes and leapt, landing on all the presents under the tree, they were ruined. Susie was scared. "What would her owners say when they returned?"

On Christmas day Susie walked into one of the children's rooms to find a little girl with lots of broken presents. Susie was very sad but her owners said. "Don't be sad Susie. Christmas is not about presents. It is about Jesus being born."



# A SPOT OF BOTHER



By Olivia Ward now aged 11

Jack and Lucy like all children were ecstatic about Christmas. It was Christmas Eve and the gradually growing snow was glistening like an untouched page. It was as white as a beautiful Unicorn.

All day the children were singing carols, buying presents, playing in the snow and decorating the Christmas tree with sparkling balls, rainbow tinsel and the fairy lights were like the sun on the morning dew. As they put out their stockings waiting to be refilled they danced for joy!

When they finally settled down for bed they thought about the wonders of Christmas and when they could think no more, they fell asleep.

Thump, crunch, bang, clatter. "What on earth was that?" Cried Lucy nearly jumping out of her skin!

The noise was coming from the ceiling. The children crept up to the window, pulled open the curtains and what they saw would affect them for the rest of their lives.

"Er, hi" muttered an upside down Rudolf. "Father Christmas is stuck down the chimney, he's had one too many mince pies".

The children laughed. "Shall we haul you up"? "You may be able to help" Said Rudolf. "Hold on to my antlers and we'll go and meet Father Christmas.

"Oh hello children", beamed Father Christmas, "I seem to got into a spot of bother"!

"Heave ho, heave ho." Puffed Jack. All of the Reindeer helped Lucy and Jack to heave Father Christmas out of the chimney, finally with an almighty "POP". He shot out.

Jack and Lucy were now so tired that they fell straight asleep in the sleigh. So Father Christmas carried them off through the starry skies to say thank you! They both woke up as the sleigh bolted forward.

The atmosphere was amazing, the glitter swirled and curled all around them and they could see every single house in England because they were so high up. They glided through the air like a hot knife through butter and then they landed onto their beds and were again fast asleep.

Lucy woke up felling happy and when she felt through her hair she found glitter in all the colours of the rainbow. Just the same as the glitter from the sleigh

# School News

## More football successes.

It was another good month for the Birchanger School football team. All the hard work and training is paying dividends, and they are second in the league. They managed to beat Manuden 8-0 last month. Unfortunately the darkness in the early evenings means that further matches have been postponed until the end of the winter.

## Fitness Club, can you help?

Football may be on hold for the next two months, but the fitness program will continue, in the form of a Fitness Club. The school does need a fitness trainer, specialising in aerobics, yoga, circuit training, or a combination of these disciplines. If you can do any of these specialities, and have time in school hours, please contact the school on 812362.

## Garden update.

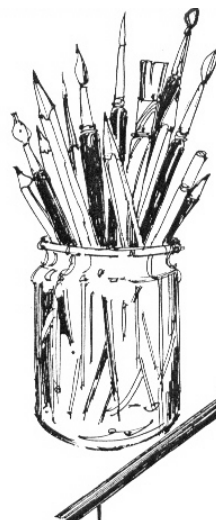
Work continues in the garden, and the children have extended their activities to the rest of the school grounds. All the work is linked to the curriculum, whether it is through Literacy, Numeracy, or any of the other subjects. The PTA are planning to install a greenhouse and potting shed, much to the delight of all concerned. Next year, a further area of the school grounds will be turned into a sensory garden, where it is hoped that some lessons will be able to be held in the summer.

## Funky Friday.

Last month's Funky Friday was all about Guy Fawkes. While having a great deal of fun, the children learnt all about the history, geography, and safety issues surrounding the day. They also wrote poems, stories, created delicious snacks, and painted pictures of the event.

## OPEN GARDENS 2005

The good news is that the gardens will be open next year, and there is plenty of time for you to join them. There will be a preliminary meeting for everyone who is interested, with a buffet supper, at Moorswood, 330 Birchanger Lane, at 7.30 pm on Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is an opportunity to discuss exactly what is involved in opening your garden, and a chance to meet other open gardeners. If you would like to come, please call Sheila Devereux on 813843, or Elizabeth on 812793.



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On September 25<sup>th</sup> Paul Wright and Val Stonehouse celebrated their wedding at Ye Olde Original Inn at Roslyn, Scotland. They spent their honeymoon overlooking Loch Ness.

Before Paul moved to Scotland in April this year to be with Val, Hayleigh and Robbie he had lived in Birchanger all of his life. He is a member of the Social Club and Birchanger Cricket club. Paul and Val now live in the village of Ratho which is about three miles from Edinburgh Airport where Paul now works.

We would like to wish them all, every happiness for their future together.



## STUNNING 3-0 WIN OVER NEWPORT

By Jack Culpin aged 10

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November Birchanger played Newport in the Small Schools League.

After a great save from Ashley Salmon. The teams battled it out for the opening goal. It was Birchanger who broke through. Jamie Glasscock played a brilliant through ball to Jack Culpin who beat one player, shot and scored the opener midway through the first half.

At half time the coach made a substitution Nick Mason coming on for Jamie Glasscock both had brilliant games.

In the second half Jack Gumble played a square ball to Chris Gould who then played the ball down the line. Jack Culpin stopped the ball, looked at the goal, shot and scored in spectacular style.

Birchanger went on to win after William Sykes added a third goal to seal the result.

Results so far

Rickling 2 Birchanger 5

Birchanger 4 Chrisall 0

Birchanger 1 Elsenham 2

Birchanger 8 Manuden 0

Newport 0 Birchanger 3

The Birchanger squad include Ashley Salmon, Jack Gumble (Capt), Mathew Gunn, Jack Culpin, William Sykes, Nick Mason, Chris Gould, Edward Earnshaw, Jamie Glasscock, Sam Irish

# Letters to the Editor

Following the publication of June Brown's letter and your editorial comments upon it, the PCC feels that there is a need for clarification with respect to Canon Jackson's involvement in Birchanger.

Canon Jackson chose to retire as an officiating minister in the parish of Birchanger at the end of June 2004 at which time he ceased those duties as a clergyman in the parish that he had carried out by invitation of the Rector.

There is a protocol, which all clergy observe, of not returning to a parish to perform official functions after they have left its ministry and, having retired from Birchanger, Canon Jackson is obliged to follow this courtesy. No doubt this will be explained by the Bishop of Chelmsford in reply to Mrs Brown.

In following this protocol Canon Jackson is not "allowed" (by the protocol, not by the Rector) to accept any request or invitation that may involve him in any official function in the parish. However, this does not preclude visits to the parish as a private citizen or involvement with parishioners as a personal friend and it is understood that he has already accepted the invitation to attend the "Over 60s' Christmas Dinner. Indeed, as you yourself comment in your editorial, it would be "rather bizarre" if it were otherwise.

Yours sincerely, Tim Bishop Secretary to Birchanger PCC.

Bishopscourt  
Margaretting  
Ingatstone  
CM4 0HD

16.11.2004.

Dear Mrs Brown.

Thank you for your letter of 3.11.04 concerning Canon Jackson and his ministry in Birchanger.

It is my understanding that Canon Jackson retired from his active participation in the ministry in the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger earlier in the year.

The customary protocol is that on retirement from a parish or other ministry, any active involvement should cease, and according to the usual courtesies following retirement, he should not expect to perform any official duties in the parish, except at the invitation of the incumbent.

Andrew Spurr has assured me that Canon Jackson has not been barred from attending functions in the village, and I am sure that his attending your function as a guest would not cause any problems at all.

I hope that this answers your questions.

With very best wishes,

The Reverend Chris Newland Bishop's Chaplain.

I'm pleased to see that this matter seems to have been resolved. It seems to have been no more than a local disagreement between priests. Canon Jackson can now come and go in Birchanger just as he pleases. What's not so clear is what the consequences might be if anybody asks him to say a prayer while he is here.

## Have a great Christmas

Ed Gilbey



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# Village Diary

December 2004/January 2005

December	
18th	8.00 pm At the Club Mark Jacobs
19th	11.00 am St Mary's Matins
25th	11.00 am St Mary's Matins
January	
2nd	11.00 am St Mary's Matins
9th	11.00 am St Mary's Family service
16th	11.00 am St Mary's Matins
23rd	11.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion
30th	11.00 am St Mary's Matins

# CHRISTMAS REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

Birchanger's Christmas Refuse Collections will suffer little disruption this year. There will be a normal refuse collection on Friday December 31<sup>st</sup>. The collection scheduled for Friday January 7<sup>th</sup>, will be take place on Saturday January 8<sup>th</sup>, with collections then returning to Fridays as usual.

Please take care, have a really Happy Christmas, and perhaps give a little time to all those, who for whatever reason, may find themselves out of step with Christmas festivities this 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), eddieb@gilbey54.freemove.co.uk Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.