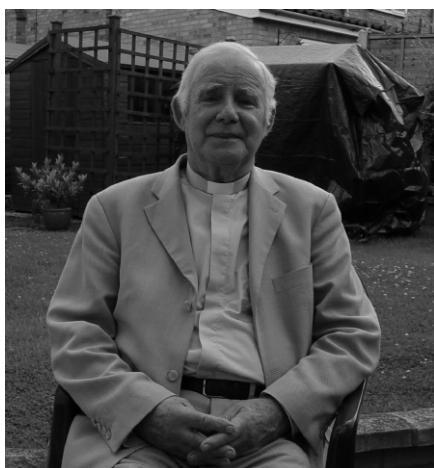


CANON JACKSON RETIRES

Canon Jackson gave his final Sunday service at St Mary's in Birchanger on July 4th, after performing as a relief Priest for the past six and a half years.

Derek Jackson was ordained at Southwell Minster Nottinghamshire in 1953 and has ministered to congregations in locations as varied as Cerne Abbas in Dorset to Ibiza and Bermuda. He is best known for his time at St in Bishop Stortford between 1974 and 1985 at St Michael's.



Canon Jackson in
The Editor's garden

During his final service he spoke about the variety of places and Church communities he has served and about his long association with the Delhi Brotherhood and the Gurkha Welfare Trust, that began when he served as a Captain in the 4th Gurkha rifles. He paid tribute to the warm reception he has enjoyed in our village and reported the outcome of an appeal made on his behalf by Joy Wright to mark his final retirement. A total of over £2500 was raised and a cheque was presented to him at a dinner held at The Stansted Manor Hotel on 25th June.

As he was speaking Caroline Curren, who will become an assistant Curate in the Benefice was being ordained at Chelmsford. She is expected to begin taking services in Birchanger during August. We look forward to seeing her in and around the village.

We wish Derek and his wife Janet a long, relaxing retirement, it is very well deserved!

In the nick of Time



Apathy rules OK!

Birchanger is changing , this summer the difference in attitude from one segment of the population, (those who join in and take part in the community based aspects of village) and those who live here, come and go but are happy to ignore whatever is going on and everyone else and has become more marked.

Let me explain. On the one hand, the retirement of Canon Derek Jackson from conducting Sunday services caused over ninety guests to cram themselves into the dining room at the Stansted manor Hotel, most of whom being the kind of people who join in, turn up and get involved. Then the Canon's final service in the village was attended by a congregation of over sixty just to say farewell.

On the other hand a Coffee morning and Fun day held at the village hall on June 19th to raise funds for Cancer research UK drew only moderate support from the village in general and the event was only really made a success by the family and friends of the organisers. It is true that some of the villagers were generous by donation of goods and time but what was lacking was support in terms of people coming through the door.

Similarly the Garden Party held at Moorswood on July 4th was supported mainly by the same people that had attended the other events as well. The question is. Where was everyone else? Were you in front of the telly watching the final at Wimbledon ? Were you all shopping, or was there some vital DIY task that kept so many villagers away from what turned out to be a pleasant afternoon?

Village events take a lot of organising and there are few enough people prepared to take the time to organise events in the first place, so it is really galling when the people who are intended to benefit from these efforts fail to turn up.

There is still time to redeem yourselves. The resurrected Village Fete at The Three Willows is still taking place on July 25th. I do hope you all get out and support it!

Ed Gilbey



Andy and Rosemary Cameron enjoying
The Fun day with Maureen Tucker

MURDER TRIAL DATE SET

The trial of Lewis Cartwright, who is charged with the murder of Ben Hardwige has been provisionally scheduled for October 19th.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

Rochford's.

The emerging local plan shows Rochford's Nursery Site to be designated to have 720 new dwellings. The upward increase is directly due to pressure to accommodate more houses in the South East by the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister and will be a hard one to fight.

The concern is that as two acres of the site are to be saved for Greater Crested Newts. The rest of the site will have to find more space for the larger numbers and that will only be at the expense of the internal open spaces, and play areas. Densities will have to be increased and this could lead to the creation of three storey units, and a far more urban style, than what was originally proposed. There are also traffic implications and there should be a further traffic survey, due to other population increases and the change in traffic flow patterns when the new A120 is fully open.

The amended Local Plan goes out for public consultation shortly and your own individual opinions really do matter. If the numbers, traffic, or any other matters concern you, then you must write giving your own views to the District Council. Each representation does count.

House prices in Birchanger.

If you are selling or planning to sell your house, or have had recent valuations done upon your property, I would like to hear from you. This will of course, be in confidence. Stansted Airport claims that house prices in the CM23 5 post code area have risen by 25% in the past two years. So far there is no evidence of this in Birchanger.

I need more positive proof if I am to try to secure any compensation for any home in Birchanger. For this I need actual evidence from valuations two years ago, and from now onwards. There is no guarantee that there will be a positive result, but we believe that we are suffering from blight, and we must prove it, before we can make a claim.

Essex Ambulance Service.

We are all familiar with the Paramedics who operate from Birchanger Lane. Many of us are grateful for their prompt assistance.

The Essex Ambulance Service has just been given an award for its paramedics scheme, which includes the Paramedics Service, and First Responders. The response time within 8 minutes is above 70%, which given the rural aspect of much of Essex is very good.

An apology.

The hedge around the recreation ground was cut late this year. The contractors arrived for the regular cut, but discovered several birds nesting in the hedge. They were reluctant to disturb them, and will definitely be back when the birds have flown!

Dumpers are back in Digby Wood again!

We use the path through Digby Wood, but we do not have the right to the rest of it. Our use of the path is regularly endangered by bikers and those who decide that it is far easier to dump their rubbish in the wood, rather than take it to the dump or use the skip.

Someone is dumping in the wood again and putting our use of it at risk, as the landlord will simply seek to close the wood for everyone. The people who are doing this know who they are. Perhaps it is time that the rest of us knew who is to blame for the desecration of a much valued, quiet recreation area for Birchanger.

It would be nice if the person who dumped the red flymo, could have the decency to remove it!

What to do if there is a fire in your home.

The recent serious house fire in Birchanger has brought it home to everyone just how easily fires can start, and how incredibly quickly they spread. Fortunately in this case everyone escaped, but it could very easily, have been an even bigger tragedy.

Everyone, even from a very young age should at least know some very basic rules when fire starts. When a fire is discovered or a smoke alarm goes off, everybody in the house must be alerted and leave the house immediately. There may be some members of the household who would need help and other members must think ahead as to how they would do that if the worst was to happen. If doors are closed, check them first, with the back of your hand, to see if they are warm. If they are, do not open them. The fire is in there. If there is a lot of smoke, crawl along the ground with your nose near the floor, where the air will be cleaner. Don't stop, or go back for anything. Ask a neighbour to call the Fire Brigade. Make sure the address is clearly given.

It is possible that your only route will be through a window. If you need to break the glass, make sure you cover the jagged edges with towels or bedding. If your escape has to be from upstairs, throw some bedding out first, then lower yourself as far as possible with your arms. If your escape route is blocked, get everyone into the same room, seal the gap at the bottom of the door as much as possible with whatever soft fabric is available, and attempt to call for help from the window. Not a happy prospect for anyone to contemplate, but we have to be realistic, and it could happen to anyone at any time.

Smoke alarms give early warnings, and do save lives. Make sure you have them, and check the batteries regularly.



Birchanger Fete
At
The Three Willows
Sunday 25th July
From 1.00 pm onwards

Bar open all day

Lots of Stalls

A Pig Roast

And A Jazz band in the Evening

Ring Paul or Paula on 815913 for more information

Cub's Sunday Funday

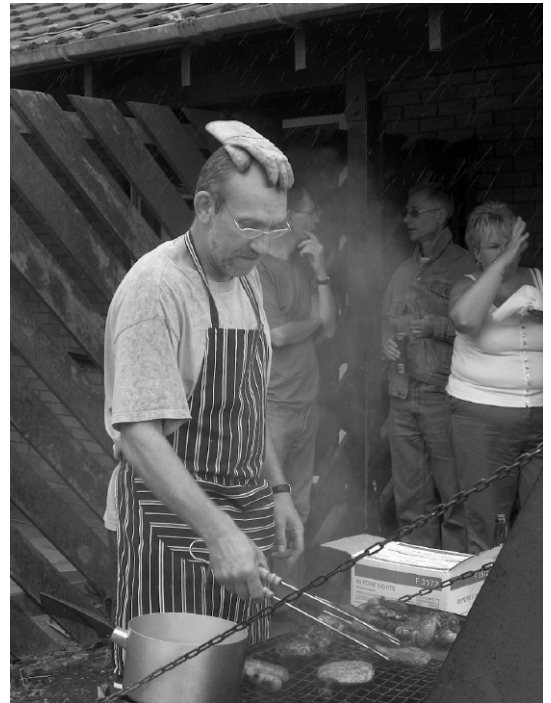
Birchanger cubs held their annual fun day at the end of June in the grounds of Birchanger Primary School, and a fun time was, appropriately, had by all!

The proceedings started with games and activities of all descriptions being enjoyed on the playing field, these included riding the wonky bike (a firm favourite with anybody joining the afternoon from the pub), splat the rat, lawn darts amongst many others

After a decent interval the silliness was replaced by a soccer match that would have rivalled anything that took place in Euro 2004 (or was that "They think it's all over 2004"?), and as you can see from the photo(s) there were a few dads and helpers who needed a bit of a lie down at the end!

Never mind though, sustenance was at hand as Dave Dartnell and his trusty B-B-Q drove into town, rolled up the shutters and served traditional cub fayre (burgers and hot-dogs) to all and sundry

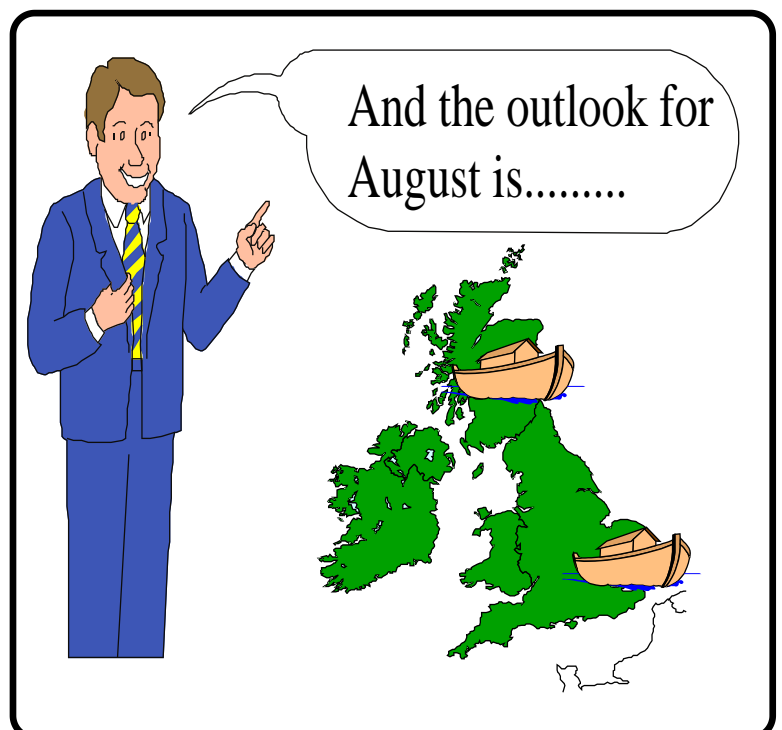
A good afternoon was had by all, roll on next year!



The Invisible man lends Dave
A hand with the barbeque!



Trevor Stone takes a breather





Runway Ramble 2004

Sponsored Walk and Fun Day

Molehill Green

Sunday 12th September 2004

Stansted Airport as it is now is a fact of life and many of us use it. However, we are totally opposed to the unsustainable expansion of Stansted Airport and we ask you all to show your feelings by walking with us on 12th September and raising as much sponsorship (optional) for your walk as you can for the Judicial Review fighting fund.

Runway Ramble 2004 will walk through areas of beautiful countryside and past many homes, including listed buildings, which would be obliterated or blighted if an additional runway was given the go-ahead.

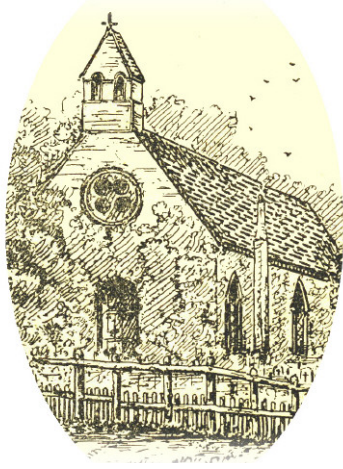
There are three easy and family-friendly circular walks all starting and finishing at The Three Horseshoes pub, Molehill Green. Choose your distance and join us on the "SSE 5", "SSE 7" or "SSE 10"-mile walks and for the Fun Day at Molehill Green at the end of the walks.

- q Free parking close to Molehill Green, just follow signs from The Three Horseshoes
 - q "SSE 5" and "SSE 7"-mile walks suitable for pushchairs/assisted wheelchairs
 - q Refreshments available at 5-mile checkpoint on the "SSE 10" walk
 - q Entertainment and refreshments, including beer tent and barbecue at Molehill Green at the finish and throughout the afternoon
- The Three Horseshoes pub at Molehill Green open all day

Sponsorship forms are available from SSE

More information/directions: Stop Stansted Expansion

01279 870558 info@stopstanstedexpansion.com www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



A Very big Thank you

I am absolutely amazed to have received such a bumper Cheque at the dinner on June 25th

Together with other donations the total is £2500. The generosity of Birchanger people together with Farnham and Stansted far exceeds anything I deserve for the pleasure it has given me to minister during the past six years. Thank you all very much indeed.

The offertory at my last service on July 4th I shall divide between the Delhi brotherhood and the Gurkha Welfare Trust, my connections with both go back many years.

Derek Jackson

William McLeod Ross aged 74

Bill and Shirley Ross have lived in Birchanger for 23 years. Bill who was an electronics engineer was educated at Aberdeen Academy and was a graduate of London University.

Their two Sons Alastair and Neil both died a few years ago and Bill's ashes are buried alongside theirs in Birchanger churchyard. Bill was a former president of Hockerill Cricket Club and was a life member. He and Shirley were faithful members of Birchanger Church.

Bill will be greatly missed and their many friends extend their sympathy and support to Shirley.

Queenie Wren aged 86

On July 6th Queenie Wren passed away at Braintree Hospital. Queenie was a true Birchanger girl who lived in the same house by the village green all of her life. She attended the village school, Married her husband Cyril and brought up their Daughter Shirley. She was a kind and loving person who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

We extend our sympathy to Shirley and her family for their loss. The funeral was due to be held at St Mary's on Monday 19th

Joy Wright

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your support at our Fun day on Sat 19th.

We all had an enjoyable day and after a lot of hard work from many people we raised £941.53.

We were surprised that despite the magazine article and our other efforts to publicise the event so few local people supported us.

It was good for us that so many close friends and family attended. They came from Bournemouth, Tunbridge wells, Goffs Oak, Hornchurch, Loughton, Woodford and so on.

Terri Sorenson, Ken and Jackie Stapleton

Funday Prize winners

Raffle list of winners

1 st Prize	Hamper	Jenny Garvey
2 nd Prize	£30 M+S Vouchers	Jannette Stapleton
3 rd Prize	Luggage Set	Lucy Meader
4 th Prize	£20 M+S Voucher	

Colouring Competition

1 st Prize	£15 Argos Voucher	Ashley Chaplin
2 nd Prize	£10 Argos Voucher	Ross Chaplin
3 rd Prize	£5 Argos Voucher	Bailey Sullivan

Sweets in the Jar

175 in Jar	Nearest guess 178	Winner Natalie Smith
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Village Diary

April 2004/ May 2004

July

25th 11:00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion.

25th 12:00 pm The Three Willows
Village Fete

August

1st 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

8th 11:00 am St Mary's
Family Service

15th 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

22nd 11:00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

29th 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

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CM6 1DA

alzheimers@uttlesford.freereserve.co.uk
or phone us on (01371)872519



Yes Dick was wearing this cap for a bet,
at the Garden Party on July 4th

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