

Birchanger

Village Magazine

June 2004

Issue 18

VILLAGER GETS UTTLESFORD TOP JOB

By Mark Crossley

Congratulations are in order for long time village resident Elizabeth Godwin who has been honoured with the Chairmanship of Uttlesford District Council

Elizabeth, who was first elected to the council in 2000 and now stands as an Independent, was recently elected by her fellow councillors and installed at a ceremony in the council's Saffron Walden offices

Most people will know Elizabeth as a school governor, parish councillor, open gardens committee member, village magazine contributor or one of the hundred or so other jobs she tirelessly takes on for the good of the village, and so this honour is richly deserved, although the office does come with its challenges

"I've never been so busy, said an enthused but tired Elizabeth when I met her recently at one of the many village fetes she is attending in an official capacity, "to think that my predecessor said things would start slowly and build up through the year. Goodness knows what I have in store!". Indeed Elizabeth is so busy on the village fete 'circuit' that on some days she is doing multiple visits "Everybody wants to see you there" she says

The Chairmanship of UDC is, in itself, strange. Uttlesford is the largest single area within Essex, and Uttlesford Hundred dates back to Domesday times, but nobody seems ever to have heard of it (until Stansted is mentioned of course), even the Queen has asked where her subjects would be if they resided in Uttlesford, even though the district was named, in a Sunday Times survey, as the area that "offered the best quality of life in England and Wales"

Another oddity is that, because the geographic area is so large (It takes in over 60 parishes), the district already has two Mayors in its boundaries (Dunmow and Saffron Walden), so the role of Chairman was created to represent the whole district, and I am sure that Elizabeth will do us all proud in the coming year. A year that looks like being every bit as hectic as she had imagined, what with the up-coming Stansted Airport judicial reviews to add to an already packed calendar



This recent photo shows Elizabeth
Wearing her Chain of Office

We wish Elizabeth all the best, and any photo of Pim in his official 'partners' chain of office will get printed straight away!

Well there I was sunning myself in Spain thinking “There’s not much going on in Birchanger this summer”. How wrong I was! We now have a village Fete to look forward to on the 25th July by courtesy of Paul and Paula at The Three Willows. As well as a number of other summer events. Just see the adverts on the other pages.

Isn’t it amazing how people suddenly pull irons out of the fire just when you weren’t expecting it? All we need now is the weather. Anyway, thanks Paul and Paula for rescuing our fete.

The funeral of Ben Hardwige has now taken place, it must be a great weight off of his families shoulders, we hope the legal proceedings go well and that Justice is done.

One poignant reminder is the place on the verge where the floral tribute had been placed. Since they have now been removed, the grass underneath is rather greener than that around it. I wonder if this is the result of the plant food washing into the soil from all the flowers that were left there.

It’s really good news about Elizabeth’s appointment as Chairman of the UDC. I do hope she still has enough time to do all of the things she does for Birchanger.

Have a good Summer!

Ed Gilbey

Fire in Birchanger Lane

In the early evening of June 16th a fire broke out in a caravan parked at a house in Birchanger Lane. The emergency services were called arriving at about 5.30.

The fire destroyed a garage, the caravan and caused substantial damage to the house. A number of neighbours rallied to the emergency and happily, there was no one harmed in the fire although a number of the residents pets needed to be rescued.

Some of the pets are being cared for at The Three Willows, the remainder of the family will be staying with relatives while their home is cleared up.

Four appliances attended the fire, one of which had been sent by the Tower at the airport, as a result there was some disruption to traffic which was quickly redirected. The cause of the fire is as yet unknown.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

A New Role

Last month I was elected Chairman of The District Council, a role I never expected to have. It is also very important for Birchanger as well. I am very proud to remember that Dolly Haggerwood was the last person from Birchanger to hold this office. There have only been three ladies in the role in the last thirty years.

The District Council in its present form was inaugurated on April 1st 1974. There are ten members of staff, and one councillor who have remained in post for over 30 years. They were all presented with a hamper of locally grown produce to mark the occasion.

It is usual for Chairmen of the Council to sponsor a charity that will benefit the entire district. I have chosen **Crossroads**, an organisation that allows carers some respite from a job which would otherwise be 24/7, and one that also benefits people in Birchanger. Crossroads is at risk, due to severe cut backs in funding, and has ceased operating in some parts of Essex. I do not want this to happen here. There are several fundraising events planned, but I am going to start in Birchanger, with a buffet lunch, on Friday June 25th at my house. I know the date is far from ideal, but my diary is not my own these days. I would like as many Birchanger residents to join me if they can. Tickets, to include a lunch and a soft drink are £10 each, and the lunch will run from 12 noon. I hope you can come.

Meeting with Terry Morgan

Members of the Parish Council met with Terry Morgan, and Alasdair McDermid to discuss airport issues relating to Birchanger.

The good news is that there are no plans to increase night flights in the foreseeable future.

There are no plans for compensation schemes to address blight for Birchanger, although if householders were able to prove loss of value of their homes which is directly related to the airport alone, they would be able to seek compensation in the usual way. The airport executives are very good at claiming that

most of the noise, pollution and blight in Birchanger, are related to the motorway, and the A120. Noise compensation will be available to those residing in the appropriate noise contours, which have yet to be confirmed.

The airport claims to have funding for the second runway in place, but gave no details as to how this could come about. They certainly could not afford to fund the infrastructure which will be needed, and seem to have a totally unrealistic view of the actual cost required. It cannot be funded through section 106. Agreements with developers, and the government will not contribute the necessary amount either.

There are plans to shift the responsibility of Air Transport Movements to the District Council. Currently this lies with the Government. Stansted is the only airport whose ATMs are controlled by the government.

The first draught of the new airport layout, is a close mirror image of the existing one, with the two terminals facing each other across the short stay car park.

Architects have been appointed, and an application for the second runway is expected in about ten months time. In the meantime, plans will still be submitted to increase the airport to 35 million passengers per annum are expected at the end of the year.

Anti Social Behaviour Officer appointed

It is a sad reflection of our time that the Uttlesford District Council has found it necessary to point an Anti Social Behaviour Officer. Sadly, even in this village, we all know that this appointment is necessary. The Home Office has provided funding for the post.

Fiona Gardiner has been appointed to this post. She will provide training on best practice for Council officers, and will be available to attend public meetings. She will assist the Community Safety Officer, and the Community Safety Action Team.

Another warning

We are all used to flashing lights at a car we see being driven without headlights. This may make you think again.

An initiation practice has started in South East London, and is moving into Essex. It involves the initiation of young men into drugs related gangs. The initiate has to drive his car without lights. The first motorist to flash their lights at him will be treated to a shower of bullets aimed at his tyres and windscreen. Serious injuries have been caused, and the practice is spreading. You have been warned.

New voluntary sector centre in Dunmow

A new Voluntary Sector Centre for the district is to open in the Council Offices in Dunmow, with the support of the District council. This will provide a one stop shop which will support the wide range of voluntary work in the district. It will enable groups to share resources, and will be an important access point for those who need to use their services.

At present seven groups are due to move into the centre when it opens. These are the Council For Voluntary Service, Uttlesford Community Travel, Uttlesford Alzheimer's Society, Uttlesford Mind, Uttlesford Carers, Stroke Association and ResCu, an organisation which organises respite care for children with learning disabilities. Other groups can be accommodated for shorter periods if required, and there will be provision for any voluntary group to hold meetings, use photocopiers, and computers. There will be access for the disabled to all the meeting rooms on the ground floor. New toilets are being provided, and there will be a large display area for all groups to advertise their services to Uttlesford residents.

New guide to volunteering

Many people know that they have something to give to the community, and would like to volunteer. They may not really know what they would, or even could do, but would like to be involved somewhere.

There is a new Guide To Volunteering in Uttlesford. Copies of the guide, and further information may be obtained by contacting the Uttlesford Volunteers Bureau on 01799 513626. There are volunteering opportunities out there for everyone, whatever their age, or background.

Independence day Garden party July 4th.

This will now start at 12.30 pm, after Canon Derek Jackson has taken his last service in Birchanger Church.

There will be a barbeque, tea, cakes, bouncy castle, stalls, boules, and much more. If you would like to have a stall on the day, please let me know on 812793.

It is to be a real family day, all we want is the weather, and yourselves.

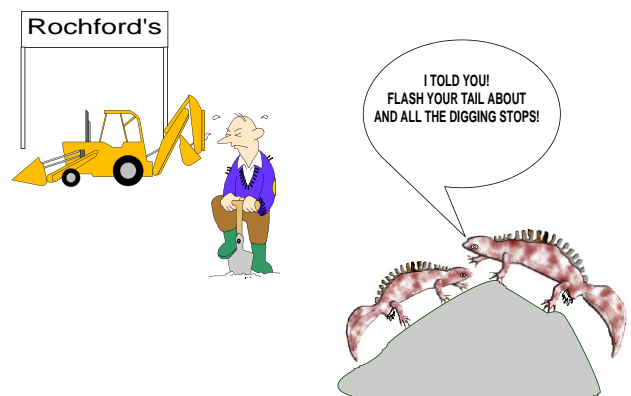
Rochfords update

You may have been wondering why there has been no news from Rochfords for a long time. This is because one of the developers, Taylor Woodrow, has found crested newts on the site. There may have been sustained objections to the development in the past, but the power of the crested newt puts everyone else in the shade.

As a result of this discovery, a special two acre site bordering Forest Hall Road, will become the newt's private property, and will be left in as natural a state as the newts require, with appropriate planting and maintenance. The developers have to apply for a licence from DEFRA to move them, and can then only do so at specified times of the year. Unless they obtain the licence by the end of November, work will be on hold for yet another year.

If the licence is obtained, it is planned to start work on Pesterford Bridge in October. This work will last a year. Work on the through road will start early next year. If all goes to plan, we should see the occupancy of the first houses in early 2006.

It seems that anyone opposing development should consider growing a crest and a tail!



News from the School

The whole school have been working very hard for the SATS tests throughout May. To reward the children for all their hard work, the PTA organised a Disco with a Caribbean theme, on the last Friday before the Whitsun break. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the event, most dressing up for the occasion in suitable beach attire.

After half term work will start on the school play, Robin Hood. There will be a matinee performance on Monday July 19th, with an evening performance on July 20th, Tickets and further details can be obtained from the school. The older children are also looking forward to the Proms in the Park concert, which will take place in the grounds of Newport school at the end of June.



Year six girls Lauren, Alice, Olivia, Eleanor, Sherridon and Laura enjoy the Caribbean Disco

School lunches are proving popular, and now cater for around 70 children each day. The menu is evolving and focused on healthy foods. Local suppliers of fresh produce are sought, and will be used as a matter of choice.

The children are also very much enjoying the chance to become involved with the new garden and pond. Much to everyone's delight, the garden is visited regularly by a pair of ducks. It is hoped that they may nest next year, when the vegetation has grown.

The school is to hold an open evening on Thursday July 15th, when the garden will be open for visitors.

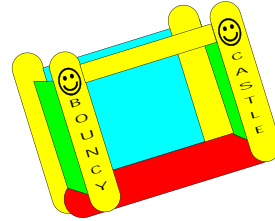
The school sports day and summer fair will take place on Saturday 17th July everyone is welcome.

Garden Party

In aid of the Friends of St Mary's

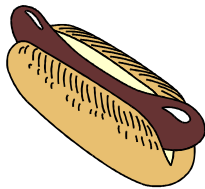


Sunday



From 12.30 pm

BBQ, Teas, Stalls, Bouncy Castle and much more



Moorswood
330 Birchanger Lane



Birchanger Fete

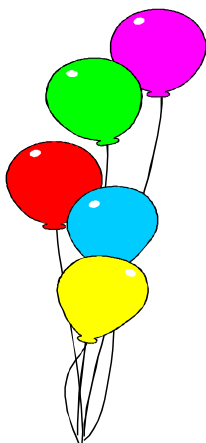
At

The Three Willows

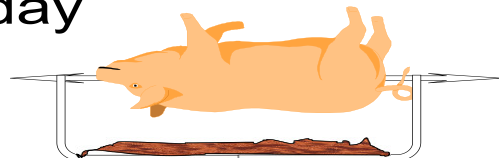
Sunday 25th July

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

Birchanger Primary School
Presents its
Annual Sports Day and Summer Fair
On Saturday 17th July
From 2.00pm
Everyone welcome!



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 3RD JULY 2004 8 PM START

AT THE SCOUT HUT, WOOD LANE

TEAMS OF 6 TO 8

TICKETS £6 PER PERSON OVER 60'S £5 EACH

TO INCLUDE SUPPER BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLY FROM TREVOR 812994

ELAINE 815887, PAULINE 831811, LINDA 814938, OR DAVE 814311

Stansted Manor Hotel

Wyndhams Restaurant

Open daily to non residents
for Lunch and Dinner

Why not try us

For bookings and enquiries
please ring

01279 859800

FOR THOSE WITH A DRIVING AMBITION

Richards School of Motoring

BLOCK BOOKINGS AVAILABLE
GIFT VOUCHER SCHEME
FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
INTENSIVE COURSES
DRIVING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING



01279 815 101

Mobile 07768 512152

305 BIRCHANGER LANE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD



PESTELL & CO

ESTATE AGENTS VALUERS
SPECIALIST LAND CONSULTANTS

29b North St

Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2LD

Tel (01279) 656400

**MORE HOMES IN
BIRCHANGER ALWAYS
REQUIRED**

SUDS

LAUNDERETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

* Open 7 days a week

* By Hockerill lights, Bishop's Stortford

* large car park Tel 866183



Magnolias

FLOWERS AND BALLOONS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

WEDDINGS FUNERALS BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES PARTIES ETC

FREE CONSULTATIONS
AND REASONABLE PRICES

CONTACT CAROLE OR SUE

01279 817478 / 01438 311918

G.T. WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES

VILLAGE BASED COMPANY
UNDERTAKING RESIDENTIAL
AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

CALL Rob Lee for a quote on
07876 563072



ANWAR'S



INDIAN CUISINE

6 South St Commercial Centre

Bishop's Stortford

01279, 755260, 755262

Luxurious Indian Tandoori Restaurant & Bar

Fully Air Conditioned

The largest and probably the best Indian
restaurant in Bishop's Stortford

Live Entertainment

20% Discount on Takeaway

Buffet on Sundays

Alzheimer's Society

Dementia care and research



We are a National charity caring for those
with dementia and we need **your help**.

You can help us by,

Joining our Society, Making a donation

Fundraising, Becoming a Carer

Alzheimer's Society 12 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow, Essex
CM6 1DA

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

Village Diary April 2004/ May 2004

June

19th 12:00 to 16:00 pm.
Church Hall
Coffee and Fun day

19th 8:00 pm Social Club
Ash

20th 11:00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

27th 11:00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

July

3rd 8:00 pm Scout Hut
Quiz Night

4th 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins
Canon Jackson's last service

4th 12:30pm Moorswood
Independence day Garden Part

11th 11:00 St Mary's
Family Service

15th Birchanger School
Open evening

17th 2.00 pm Birchanger School
School Fete and Sports day

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

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

25th 12:00 pm The Three Willows
Village Fete

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.freeserve.co.uk Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.