

TO WALK THE GREAT WALL

The Husband and Daughter of Birchanger resident Jacky Stapleton are planning to walk The Great Wall of China as part of Cancer Research UK's "Great Wall Challenge".

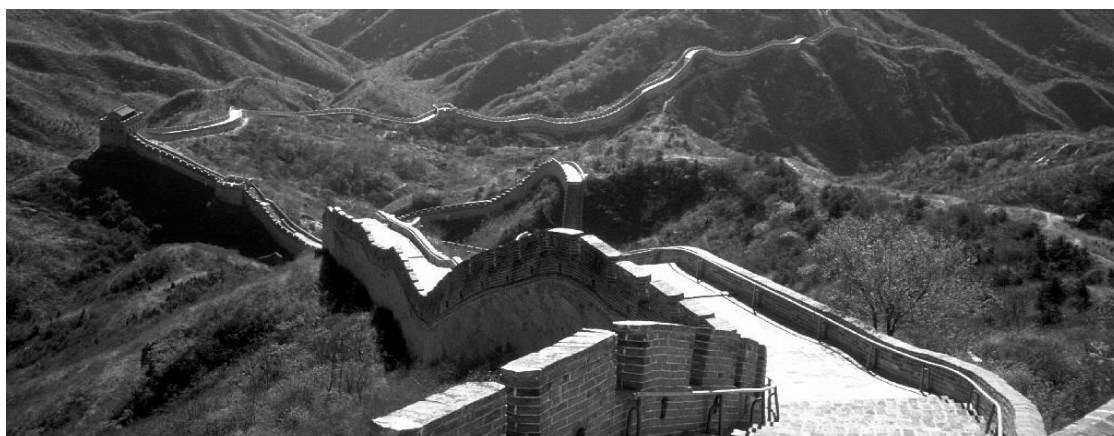
Husband Ken a self employed Builder, and Daughter Terri who works for a local firm of Solicitors have the best possible motivation for this as Jacky is herself a Cancer victim, who is still undergoing chemotherapy.

In order to achieve their aim of taking part in the May 2005 Challenge, Ken and Terri will have to raise £3300 each for the charity. To that end a number of fund raising events are planned. Jacky says *"Our aim is to hold an event each month, these range from car washing, packing shopping, a BBQ, a Quiz Night, to wrapping Christmas presents."* The most imminent event is a Coffee and Fun day to be held at the Church hall on 19th June. Jacky continues *"We want to make this a fun packed day for all ages. We have a number of attractions confirmed, there should be something there for everyone."*



Ken Stapleton and Terri Sorenson
Who hope to be walking on
the Great Wall in 2005

It will take a great deal of hard work for Terri and Ken to reach their target, The family would be very grateful for any help given to achieve it.



Next year they could be here

On Saturday 17th April a young boy on roller blades collided with a car right out side his house in Duck End. Thankfully the driver was only doing about five miles per hour. And it should be stated there was nothing the driver could have done to prevent the accident, because the boy emerged from a blind drive, neither party saw the other coming. This resulted in a serious fright for all concerned and a trip to hospital for a nine year old boy who ignored his Father's warnings. It only takes a second!

I know I am echoing Elizabeth Godwin but it really is time parents in the village started teaching their children some road safety. Since the clocks reverted to Summer time, I have witnessed some frightening behaviour in Birchanger Lane especially on the part of young cyclists who have scant regard for traffic conventions, they employ no hand signals and ride in a completely unpredictable way.

I have seen a group of four do a complete U turn in front of my car with no attempt to signal their intent. The next night a similar group scattered to both sides of the road, and then proceeded to ride on the pavement instead.

There is also a group of children who now congregate in the road at the end of Birchwood. Now I know I used to do the same thing when I was seven but there were only two people with cars in Birchwood then. Today the village is a much more dangerous place as far as traffic is concerned. So parents please heed the warning.

Ed Gilbey

News from the School

With the annual Statutory Tests for seven and eleven year olds about to start, everyone is working very hard at the school this term. The older children are also learning to use the *Powerpoint* computer programme, and plan to make a presentation for their Open Evening, and Leaver's Assembly.

School lunches are now prepared by our own school cook, using fresh vegetables, and healthy natural ingredients. There are also fresh baguettes, and sandwiches for those who prefer lighter lunches.

The emphasis is on healthy eating, and the menus are proving popular with the children, and their parents.

Work on the school garden continues. The pupils held a non uniform day, where instead of making a donation to charity, the children all brought a plant for their new garden.



These enthusiastic gardeners are:- Alex Roke, Tom Baker, Sarah Davey and Analise Martin.

There are reports that a “beat” Policeman has been seen in the village: we assume he was lost.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

Are you entitled to a Concession card to use The Uttlesford Leisure Centres?

There is a concession card for those who are in receipt of Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, or who are Disabled. The card costs £11 per person, or £24 per family for 2004. This card will entitle you to membership of one of the three Uttlesford Leisure Centres.

To apply for membership of one of the centres, you will need a photocopy of documentation confirming your entitlement to benefit, or a disability living allowance letter. This must be current, and include your name and address, and type of benefit. You will need to take them to the centre that you wish to join, between 10 am and 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, and between 4 and 7pm on Sundays.

Telephone Number For The Stansted Mountfitchet Romeera Centre 01279 648580

Are you considering making energy saving installations?

There are many options for making energy savings. Some are easier to install than others. Some may not be appropriate for your home. Perhaps you need some advice, or maybe you know which system you would prefer, but are confused by the different installers, and the wide range of prices and options.

Uttlesford District Council has its own Energy Manager. His name is John Farnell, and he is a senior Building Surveyor. He is able to advise you on all the different systems, and their suitability for your home, along with a list of accredited suppliers, and installers. He can be contacted on 01799 510534.

It would seem that the threat of the loss of power supplies in the future is very real. Wind farms are on the increase, and there are plans for 3 major off shore sites around the coasts of Britain. There are also new fuel crops being grown, which will feed power stations as an alternative to coal and gas, which will both run out in the foreseeable future.

Individual installations, such as small wind blades for outside lighting, underground heat extractor pumps, solar electrical panels and water heating panels will be needed to make national grid savings, as the grid is not expected to be able to meet the demands made upon it, within five years. There are grants available for approved installations, and John Farnell will be able to advise you about these.

On line benefit calculator.

Those who are able to access the internet, will now be able to find out directly whether they qualify for benefits which include, Housing and Council Tax Benefits, and Tax Credits.

All you need to do is to access the Uttlesford Website at <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/>, then select Your Council, then Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits, then the Benefits option. You can then type in some details, to learn whether you qualify for help.

New Council Tax Leaflets are available.

1. Disability Reduction Scheme.
2. Discounts and Exemptions For Sick, Elderly, And Disabled People.
3. Discounts and Exemptions.

If you would like a copies, please contact me on 812793, or Sue Ellis on 01799 510510.

Anti-social behaviour Case officer appointed for Uttlesford.

Fiona Gardiner has just been appointed by Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team as Anti Social Behaviour Case Officer for the District. She will act as first point of contact for the public, internal officers, councillors and other agencies, to try prevent and to tackle ant social behaviour within Uttlesford. She took up her post on May 4th, and can be contacted through the Council switchboard on 01799 510510.

Parish plan.

Work is to start soon on the formation of a Birchanger Parish Plan Steering Committee, and we

do need representatives from every section in the village. Phillip Hoy gave a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting last month, and is leading the initiative on behalf of the Parish Council.

It is vitally important that Birchanger has its own Parish Plan, in which, we the people who live in Birchanger say what it is we want in the future for Birchanger, and it involves everyone, from all over Birchanger.

The Committee we shall form will have up to 12 members, of which, only 2 will be from the Parish Council. This Committee will meet every 2 months as a minimum, and advice and financial assistance for the preparation and distribution of a questionnaire to every household in Birchanger, will be available from the District Council.

It is an opportunity that Birchanger must not miss. Our plan will inform the Local Plan, and our views will have a voice when decisions are taken. If we do not have a plan, our case in the local arena will be considerably weakened. It is your plan, and it cannot be done without your help. If we cannot establish a committee, we cannot have a plan, as legislation is clear that it cannot be done by the Parish Council alone. It is up to you, and I wait to hear from you, on 812793.

Take care, better weather means more children on the Lane.

Most parents do try very hard to instil road sense into their children, but try as they do, there are times when everything they have said is completely forgotten by the child, in the excitement of the moment, and that is when the accident happens.

We are in the season when additional care is needed, and we do need to watch our speed, as it is speed that causes the worst injuries. We have a 30 mph speed limit along most of the lane, but

unfortunately this does not deter some people. The difference in the type and nature of any injury inflicted by a driver going even 5 miles above the speed limit, can be the difference between life and death, as the injuries become much worse as the driver's speed increases. The subject was raised at the Annual Parish Meeting, and the police will at some point bring their radar gun to the lane.

In the meantime, the lighter evenings do not mean that it is safe to ride any uninsurable electric scooter or to use a skateboard, roller blades, or play anywhere on the village roads.

Could you be a first responder?

People who live in the villages around Stansted Airport are to be given the opportunity to join a First Responder Group.

First Responders are volunteers who are trained in basic first aid, are able to administer oxygen, and use a defibrillator in an emergency. If you are interested in joining a First Responder Group, please call the Essex Ambulance Service on 01245 443344. In emergencies prompt action is necessary, and is known to save lives.

New arrival.

Our Parish Clerk, Julia Peachey, has not been seen quite so often in the village in recent weeks. There was an addition to the Peachey household, when April arrived, on time on April 12th. Congratulations Julia, and we look forward to seeing you around Birchanger soon.

Voucher schemes for school equipment

Thank-you to everyone in the village who have helped to support the school by collecting either Tesco Computer Vouchers, Nestle Box Tops or Persil Stars. These schemes really do help the school to acquire extra equipment for the children. Please forward any further vouchers to the school as soon as possible or pass them to a neighbour who has children at the school.

SCOUTS GO GREEN

Birchanger Cub & Scout Group has just joined the Scouts Recycling Appeal, an innovative fundraising programme. All we have to do is collect for recycling used printer / fax cartridges and old mobile phones, things that many workplaces throw in the bin.

Millions of cartridges were thrown away last year alone. Perhaps you discarded some yourself. Our group could benefit enormously if these cartridges and unwanted mobiles phones came our way instead. The environment would benefit too, because dumped materials cause landfill pollution and recycling saves energy and resources.

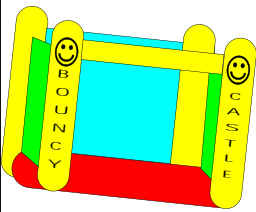
Dave Dartnell is coordinating the collection effort; you can drop off your old cartridges and mobile phones (with chargers if possible) at his home: 244 Birchanger Lane.

Check out your place of work. Do they have a recycling programme for printer cartridges? If not they can be signed up to our programme, contact Dave on 01279 814311 for details. Thank you in advance for your support.

COFFEE & FUN DAY

IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

Birchanger Church Hall Saturday 19th June



12.00 noon - 4.00 pm



Bouncy Castle

Book Stall

Football Fantastic

Manicure & Pedicure

Raffle

Face Painting

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments: Tea, Coffee, Wine, Juice, Squash

Snacks: Sandwiches, Home made cakes, Tarts, Sponges



NO INCREASE IN NIGHT FLIGHTS FROM STANSTED AIRPORT

There is not much good news from the airport as far as the villages which surround the airport are concerned, but the news that Stansted Airport do not want to increase the present number of night flights from Stansted welcome. What would be even better would be the decrease in the thirty or so flights in night time hours which we already have.

The standby runway is on hold at present. Planned for the required resurfacing of the main runway, it is apparently not needed in the light of a second runway. Resurfacing will be done at night, and the low cost airlines will have to find somewhere else to go if they try to land after 11pm at night.

The choice of segregated mode or mixed mode for the second runway will have big implications for Birchanger. If segregated mode is selected, Birchanger will be in for a very noisy time, as all the aircraft will follow each other on take off or landing at roughly 30 second intervals at peak time, with no respite for landings in the opposite direction. You have been warned.

VANISHING VILLAGES

FEATURING BROXTED OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 27th June 2004 12 noon to 6 pm



A great family day in Broxted - a village under threat from proposals for expanding Stansted

Dozens of beautiful open gardens; listed buildings; displays; fete; refreshments including strawberry teas, BBQ, beer tent; country walks; pony rides

Tickets £4 (children free) to include shuttle bus service between gardens Dogs on leads allowed in most gardens. Parking will be signposted

Further information including official opening details, directions, etc:

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

Maggie Sutton 07714 767 921 or 01279 850204



Our Community, Our Responsibility

Churchwarden

Mrs Joy Wright and Mr Peter Odrich have been elected as Churchwardens for 2004/5.

Artificial flowers in Graveyard.

The Diocesan Authorities have reminded the PCC that Artificial flowers are not to be placed in the graveyard.

Betty Ellis

A large congregation attended Church on Sunday May 2nd. When Betty's ashes were buried in the churchyard at the beginning of the morning service.

Whit Sunday May 30th

Whit Sunday is called Pentecost in the new prayers book. Canon Jackson will preach at Matins at 11.00 am.

Open Garden at 88 Stansted road

Canon Derek Jackson will be "At home" For Open garden and a cup of tea on Saturday June 19th 10.00 am until 5.00 pm. Friends from Birchanger will warmly welcomed.

John Tosh

Late of 42 Birchwood.

The wife and family of John Tosh wish to express their sincere thanks to all who gave us comfort at the loss of John.

We wish to particularly thank those who sent flowers, cards and donations, our neighbours and especially all of our friends from The Three Willows and all who attended the funeral.

Thank you everyone.

Margaret Tosh and family.

Friends of Birchanger School Summer Family Barn Dance

**Please support the school and help to raise money by coming to our
4th Family Barn Dance**

On Saturday 12th June 6pm-10pm

This fun event for all the family is held on the school field, dancing to a live band with a caller to help you through the dances.

There will also be a BBQ and licensed bar with free squash for the children

**Tickets priced £15(family) £5(adult) £3(children) are available from the PTA
Family ticket 2 adults + up to 3 children. All children to be accompanied by
an adult.**

Please come and join in this fun family event

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Dementia care and research



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

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

Village Diary

April 2004/ May 2004

May

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

28th 8:00 Social Club
Race Night

30th 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

June

5th 8:00 pm Social Club
5% Volume

6th 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

12th 8:00 pm Birchanger School
Barn dance

13th 11:00 am St Mary's
Family Service

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

4th 12:30pm Moorswood
Garden Party



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