

# Birchanger

## *Village Magazine*

November 2004

Issue 23

## BIRCHANGER USE THEIR LOAF

Following their promotion from Division One last year, Birchanger's Sunday football club have teamed up with Dorrington's Bakery in a bid to keep their place in the Premier Division of the Terry Reed North West Essex League. The club have recently signed a shirt sponsorship deal and will be running out each week in the familiar green and white stripes associated with the local firm.

Club Secretary, Ross Leavers, was delighted with the deal, which should see the team competing in the kit for the next three seasons at the very least. He said, "We have been looking for some financial backing to help fund the purchase of a new kit for a couple of seasons now – the wait was certainly worth while as we never expected to reach the kind of deal we have with such a well known local business."

Having finished as runners-up in Division One last season Birchanger will be hoping to establish themselves in the Premier Division this year. Extra fitness regimes have been instigated in view of the fact that the half time oranges are likely to be replaced with cream cakes and doughnuts.

The new league campaign kicked off in Birchanger on Sunday 19 September, against Robin Hood Rangers. The kit seemed to be cursed as they found themselves blowing a two goal lead to trail 3-2 at the break. However, the half time injections of sugar proved decisive and they eventually ran out 6-4 winners, largely down to a hat-trick from Adam Davison. In the second league game, away to Bentfields on Sunday 26 September, goals from Ross Leavers and Mark Thornton gave the visitors another two-goal cushion inside twenty minutes. Unfortunately they couldn't hold onto the lead and found themselves pegged back to 2-2 by half

time. Chances fell to both sides in the second half, but it was Bentfields who cruelly took one with five minutes remaining to claim the two points with a 3-2 win.

On Sunday 10 October SC Birchanger progressed into the second round of the Essex Junior Cup with a comfortable 9-3 victory over Chelmsford side, Boreham. On a windy day Birchanger found themselves 2-0 up in the early stages for the third game in a row – the goals being provided by two neat finishes from Paul Tyler. The lead was again given away and the half time score of 3-3, courtesy of a cracking 25-yard left foot drive from Tommy 'Squeaker' Hutchin, was giving nobody an indication of what was to come. With the wind behind them Birchanger took the game to the visitors in the second half and ran in 6 goals – Lee Dare claiming a hat-trick, Adam Davison collecting a brace, Mark Munton slotting home a penalty and Tom Hutchin grabbing himself a second.

It was back to league action on 17 October as Birchanger were the hosts to The Natural Way (formerly The Wheatsheaf). The match was dominated by the home side but scoring opportunities were few and far between as the visitors defended well. Frustratingly, two well taken goals



Social Club Birchanger in their new kit sponsored by Dorrington's

from The Natural Way's forward line came in spells when Birchanger were in charge of the game. Unfortunately they could only get one goal back through a fantastic 30-yard strike from Tommy 'Squeaker' Hutchin.

Birchanger showed that they have fantastic bouncebackability in their next league fixture against a strong Old Bell side on 24 October. Finding themselves 3-0 down with 15 minutes to go it looked like being a third straight league defeat for 'The Doughnut Men'. However, a powerful header from the skipper, Ian Piggott, and an own goal three minutes later set up a frantic finale. With five minutes remaining a neat passing move dissected The Old Bell's defence and Paul Tyler calmly stroked the ball home from ten yards to the delight of the visiting supporters. Having hit the bar twice and a post once prior to their comeback Birchanger were unlucky not to have won the game in the end.

On 31 October Birchanger were at home to White Roding and, having lost to their reserves twice last season, they were looking to see how far they had progressed. The answer was a fair distance, as they dominated this match in large spells and should really have taken a lead into half time as Mark Munton struck a post with a penalty on the half hour. As the second half progressed it only looked a matter of time before the deadlock was broken as the White Roding goalkeeper made a number of fine saves. It was an accurately placed Paul Tyler free kick from 20 yards that finally beat him after 70 minutes. This seemed to spark some life into the visitors as they pushed hard for an equaliser. Sadly it eventually came with 3 minutes remaining after a fine strike into the top left hand corner from the edge of the area. A second successive league draw.

A quarter of the way through the season and Birchanger find themselves sitting in mid table – a position that they would be more than happy with in May. The next home league fixture is on Sunday 28 November against Archers – entrance to the ground is free!

By Ross Leavers

## WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE

The arranged meeting with representatives of the Diocesan Church Advisory Committee (DAC), the Parochial Church Council, The Parish Council, The Royal British Legion Birchanger and J Day & Son Limited took place on 30 September 2004. The DAC, PCC and PC, were all keen to help the RBL achieve its request to clean, repair and refurbish the sandstone war memorial. Various suggestions from Day's were considered, and it was agreed Day's would submit a new quotation for proposed work that could be done, and this to be put to the PCC, who will consider the issues surrounding the war memorial at an extraordinary meeting. The PCC will then, if applicable, seek faculty permission from the DAC. The PCC then DAC have to approve any work before it can be done. The new quote, which maybe is not complete in the light of the DAC's suggestion, comes to £2,702 plus £473 VAT, if charitable status cannot be used.

The RBL Birchanger Branch wishes to raise money towards the cost of the work before the work can start. It has £750 available, and the club has most generously agreed to donate £500. There is a possibility of a £500 matching grant from a city firm's charity giving. When this happens you will have details. The RBL Birchanger Branch has formally requested donations from the Fete Committee, The Open Gardens, and the Village Magazine who have all previously informally agreed to help. Request for a donation is to be made to Stansted Airport and the Friends of War Memorials. If anyone has others for possible help please let me know as the fund is presently well short of £2,702 or worse £3,175.

The DAC requested that the names to be checked for correct inclusion and spelling before any work is done and attached is a list of the current recorded names. You will note that there are two George Banks included, and some of the spelling is not clear. Please contact me if anyone is missing - they must have been recorded as resident in the village when killed in action. I would also like to know of any relatives living in the village or nearby so they can be invited to attend the re-dedication of the war memorial.

Pim Godwin

# IS THIS JUSTICE?

After a seven month wait, the trial of Lewis Cartwright finally took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Eighteen year old Cartwright pleaded guilty to murdering Ben Hardwidge in Birchanger Lane at Duck End on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He received a ten and a half year sentence. The judge at Chelmsford Crown Court, Christopher Ball QC cited Cartwright's youth and the guilty plea as mitigation for the lenience of the sentence.

But what about the other circumstances in the case?

Both the murderer and his victim were acknowledged as drug dealers who took accomplices to facilitate payment for a drugs deal. Due to the murder there are no charges to answer for this.

Yet, after the attack on Mr Hardwidge, a Mr Terry Mickle drove Mr Cartwright's car to Great Chesterford where Mr Jeff Coward's stolen car was set alight, but not before Mr Cartwright had effected a timely change of clothes before putting the bloodstained ones in the car to burn.

Is Mr Mickle not guilty of aiding and abetting a murder, a car theft, arson and an attempt to pervert the course of justice? Why were no charges laid for this?

After lighting the fire Mr Cartwright then went to a house in Saffron Walden where "He had a wash and cleaned himself up". Someone made this possible, is this not also aiding and abetting?

Mr Cartwright's story beggars belief. First he claims not to have taken the knife into the car with him. Despite being the only occupant of either car to have a convenient change of clothing available. Then he is able to stab someone fifty times "in a frenzy". How long is a frenzy? I doubt anyone could inflict fifty wounds in much less than two minutes and all of this over a debt of £100!

Apart from this he claims that the stab wound inflicted on Jeff Coward was only an accident. So accidental that the aptly named Mr Coward felt compelled to run away and hide in a field until Mr Cartwright had driven away.

Isn't it more likely that Lewis Cartwright simply wanted to avoid paying his debt so badly, that he took a knife to the meeting place, used it and then tried to cover up his crime.


Were it not for the fact that Cartwright left his wallet and a live witness at the scene, I doubt there would have been a guilty plea. Therefore isn't the guilty plea merely a cynical ploy to avoid a harsher sentence?

Apparently Mr Cartwright is now showing "genuine signs of remorse". I bet he is, but he would be showing them for rather longer if he had been given the sentence he deserved.

As for the other crimes committed that night. They are being "kept on file". So that's all right then!

Ed Gilbey

**SOCIAL NIGHT**  
**AT THE CLUB**  
**DECEMBER 4TH 2004**  
**FROM 8.00 PM**  
**WITH PHILL HEMINGWAY**

**GRAND XMAS DRAW**  
**AT THE CLUB**  
**DECEMBER 11TH 2004**  
  
**FROM 8.00 PM**  
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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

## Accident and Emergency diversion schemes.

For some time now it has been realised that not every call to the emergency ambulance service, necessarily required a visit to an Accident and Emergency unit. Patients were transported to hospital, because there was nowhere else for them to go, or no appropriate alternative service. Since April, when GP practices no longer work an out of hours service, attendances at A and E units have soared. There is a maxim used increasingly, that a hospital admission, is a systems failure.

At the beginning of January Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford Primary Care Trusts, the Ambulance Trust, and local hospitals, began a joint venture to provide an alternative diversion scheme, as part of reforming the emergency care agenda. The scheme was finally launched on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The scheme uses current resources in the involvement of the District Nurses, existing intermediate care teams, and local hospitals. In addition there are three new teams with fully equipped cars, each with a highly trained Emergency Care Practitioner, and a Paramedic.

Calls are assessed as category, A, B, or C, when received. The aim is to answer 75% of all Category A calls within 8 minutes, a tough call in a rural district. The new teams will aim to answer mainly Category B and C calls, but will attend a Category A call if it is the nearest vehicle. Like ambulances, the new cars are equipped with GPS navigation, to help them to locate patients in remote rural areas.

In many cases the patient can be treated at home, or taken to Saffron Walden, or Herts and Essex hospitals. Social Workers, District Nurses, the Intermediate Care Team, or the Community Psychiatric Team may be called in. An ambulance will be called to take the patient to hospital if that is necessary. Either way, the treatment will have been started immediately.

The scheme is in its infancy. In Uttlesford it will operate out of John Tasker House in Dunmow. It will develop and expand in response to local needs, and the outcomes will be monitored. Here in

Birchanger we have had our own unofficial scheme for many years, as many people have been helped simply by phoning, or calling into the ambulance station direct. They will still be able to do this, but the new service can be accessed by calling 999 and asking for an ambulance in the usual way. I would be interested in receiving feedback from anyone who uses the service on 812793.

## Misdelivered mail.

We all know our mail goes missing, but we never really know why. Only 10 % of us ever complain about it. The post office can only explain a small part of it, and that it seems, is down to us!

Post Office research has shown that 5% of the population put the mail they receive for another house straight into the bin. It can take a week for some people to put the letter back into the right letter box, or post it back. For everyone it is a real menace, whether you are waiting for that very important letter which never arrives, or finding yourself with someone else's mail, having to make an unnecessary trip to the post box, or to a house some way away. We can only hope that the post office will eventually tighten up its act, In the meantime, have compassion on someone, don't bin the letter, deliver it, or tell the person you have it and invite them to pick it up, or post it.

## Mediation Services.

Are you in dispute with your neighbour? Do you have a problem at work you cannot resolve? It might be that County Mediation Services could help.

The service aims to find ways of getting people to talk to each other, and to find solutions to satisfy all concerned. It is a voluntary, and not legally binding service. Parties do not necessarily need to meet, as trained volunteers can listen to each side separately, and convey messages. Contact is initiated by calling 01621 840344, and callers are visited in their own homes. Further support is offered as required.

The service is free, although voluntary donations are appreciated, as there are overheads to pay.

Parties can withdraw at any time. Mediators do not take sides, and sessions are conducted in private. Confidentiality is assured.

The service works well where people agree to meet. Even when they do not, hostilities are reduced on both sides. Issues most commonly dealt with include, noise, boundaries, harassment, property damage, pets, parties, children, and parking.

### Development control set to change days.

For more years than anyone can remember, the Development Control Committee of Uttlesford District Council has met on a Monday, but that is going to change from January 12<sup>th</sup>, when Development Control will start to meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in the council offices in Saffron Walden.

The change of day is necessary, as work loads soar, and the arrival of e mail has meant that officers have found themselves working over the weekend, just to keep pace with the amount of work, and the e mails for the meeting, which arrive at the last moment.

### Airport is less local these days.

The Civil Aviation Passenger Survey Report For 2003 shows Essex accounted for only 8.1% of Stansted Airport passengers. Hertfordshire accounted for only 3.1%, with a mere 24.3% coming from the Eastern Region as a whole. Five out of every six travellers were leisure travellers, so the airport is not the business hub it was expected to be. It seems that the airport at present serves

mainly the short break travellers from across the UK. The cheap flights are not attracting the less well off, as 83.3% of the travellers were in the higher income groups.

The summer may be past, but there is still airport related car parking around the village. If there is a car near you, please tell the Airport Flyparking Hot Line, on 0800 731 2385. They need to know, so that we can be included in any scheme to stop this happening in villages around the airport.

### Cash machine security.

Users of Barclays cash machines have been hit by a new card cloning device. Criminals have been fitting this device at cash points at railway stations, and the activity is expected to spread. The device fits in the space between the ridges of the card entry point, obliterating the arrows which indicate the direction to place your card. It can take a photo of your card, and record your pin number. Take care, it is very easy to miss if you don't know what you are looking for.

### Crossroads carol service.

The District Council together with the Primary Care Trust are hosting a Carol Service on Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in St Johns Church Stansted. There will be refreshments at the end of the service, and a collection will be made for Crossroads, and Saffron Walden District Hospital. Again, you are all welcome.

#### COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S  
AT MOORSWOOD 330 BIRCHANGER LANE



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15TH

AT 10.30 AM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



#### 20th November 2004. Christmas Prize Bingo

In the Village Hall. Doors open 6.45pm for 7.15pm. Another chance to get your eyes down! Tickets available from Trevor Stone 01279 812994 £6 per adult, £5 over 60's, £3 children. Get them early to avoid disappointment.

# School News

## Birchanger school football team on a winning streak.

The school football team were in winning form last month, with two spectacular victories, much to the delight of their coaches, Heather Culpin and Steve Leak, who used to play for Spurs. They were cheered on by a large crowd of parents and friends.

Steve also referees the games and awards the new Man Of The Match Shield. Winners last month included Jack Culpin and William Sykes.

## Science enrichment day.

Four pupils from years 3, 4, and 5, took part in Science Is Magic Enrichment Day at Elsenham School. This is part of a series of Enrichment Days, which will be held in the School, or in neighbouring Cluster Schools, and will cover a variety of topics, involving different groups of children. It is part of an initiative to show that learning can be fun. As part of the programme at Elsenham, the children were shown tricks and then learned the actual science behind the trick.

## The garden is ready for Winter.

The children have made the garden ready for winter. They learned how to weed, and tidy the garden, and to plant the bulbs and flowers ready for the spring, before the onset of bad weather. It is hoped

that the garden will be part of Open Gardens next year.

## Democracy in action.

The new School Council held the first meeting of the new school year last month. School Council members, from classes 1 to 4 are chosen by their peers, and elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer at their first meeting. They can be identified by the badges they wear. They have raised several issues with staff which have been taken on board since their formation two years ago. In addition there are Class Councils, and various inter- class committees, which create opportunities for everyone to have their say, and to put their ideas forward.

## Fund raising achievement.

Last month everyone in the school participated in a Challenge Day in aid of the National Children's Homes. The children set their own individual challenges, and found sponsors for them. The challenges included some very difficult puzzles, but the one which everyone enjoyed was the challenge to make 89 cakes, one for every pupil at the school. The day was fun, and £341 was raised for the National Children's Home. Congratulations everyone.



## Birchanger Primary School Presents its Annual Christmas Bazaar



**On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm-5pm**

Come along with all the family and enjoy  
all the usual festive fun and games including  
Santa's Grotto, Craft Stall, adult's and children's  
Raffle and, of course, plenty of refreshments.







## **HOMES BLIGHTED BY EXPANSION PROPOSALS: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP...**

The Air Transport White Paper placed a clear obligation upon BAA to bring forward a compensation scheme to address the problem of generalised property blight. BAA's proposed response to this – the so-called Home Owner Support Scheme (HOSS) – is intended to be offered to only about 500 householders despite the fact that Land Registry figures show that property values within local postcode areas containing some 12,000 homes have been adversely affected by generalised blight.

In addition, the terms and conditions attached to the BAA proposals are such that even the 500 householders who would be eligible would have to demonstrate a minimum 15% loss in the value of their homes as well as satisfying other onerous conditions. This is an unacceptable situation and BAA must be challenged to put forward proposals which demonstrate fair-dealing towards the local communities.

**This issue principally affects owner-occupiers and tenants who live in Birchanger, Broxted, Duton Hill, Elsenham, Henham, Great & Little Hallingbury, Great & Little Easton, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Little Canfield, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley, Thaxted and Tilty.**

We have already been in contact with both the Department for Transport and Transport Minister Tony McNulty to establish the redress available to the community and bring pressure to bear on BAA to honour its obligations. We are now gathering information to add to our blight dossier from amongst those who are affected and who have been unable to sell their homes (other than at a heavily discounted price) since this will lend weight to our arguments on the community's behalf. **We would therefore welcome news of how you are being affected *now* and your concerns for the future – especially if you fall outside the 66 decibel contour which has been used to define the HOSS scheme.**

**We are also holding Letter Writing sessions on Saturday 20 November (9.30am - 4pm) to make formal representations to the Government and BAA. Volunteer typists will be available to help with the letter writing so that your views and experiences can be heard within the Government and elsewhere at:**

- ✓ **OSCA (the old school building) – Henham**
- ✓ **Parish Council Offices – Stansted Mountfitchet**
- ✓ **Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley**

**Alternatively, our campaign manager Ian Hobson can help you at our Takeley office if you cannot attend a Letter Writing session. Additional guidance/materials will also appear on our website from mid-November.**

If you require more information about the issues at stake and your potential entitlement to compensation for generalised blight, please visit the information section of Stop Stansted Expansion's website or contact SSE:

01279 870558 · [info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com) · [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)  
PO Box 311, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 6PY

# HOW IS OUR FUTURE LOOKING?

The many studies on the feasibility of huge numbers of housing for our area are starting to come together. If you do not want additional development for the A120 or the M11 Corridor, this is not good news. The studies so far have identified the M11 Corridor, the A120, and Harlow, as the places in the region best suited for the additional new housing.

They have ruled out the idea of a new town, as it would adversely affect existing towns, but they seem to think that a medium sized settlement of 10,000 homes would be all right. Just how well did they really study our area? That is about the size of Dunmow. They also anticipate that although the airport will not in itself generate all the jobs, industrial development will want to move into the area to be close to the airport, and that will create job opportunities off airport in the countryside. Green Belt will not be protected, or replaced in many areas.

There is an opinion that, as there are no plans for an East / West rail link, that the A120 corridor would simply become a commuter lane, and that is not sustainable development. The only bright spark is that Harlow wants to regenerate, and there are those there who welcome this development. It is all about to go out for consultation, so there is room for representation, before any decisions are made.

## BIRCHANGER OVER 60'S CLUB

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY DEC 4TH 2004

2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM

IN THE CHURCH HALL

ENTRANCE FEE 50p  
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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I received this letter on November 5th.. It is not the first occasion that I have heard that Canon Jackson is not "allowed " in Birchanger. It all seems rather bizarre to me, after all he is a private citizen in his own right and can go anywhere he pleases. Perhaps someone from the benefice office could explain please?

*Ed*

4.11. 2004.

Dear Sir.

No doubt some of your readers will by now have heard of the Gestapo type tactics of the Revd Andrew Spurr, as Secretary of the Over 60s club I and my committee invited Canon Jackson and his wife to our Christmas Dinner on the 6<sup>th</sup> December next but he tells us that he cannot come as the Revd Spurr will not allow him into the village.

I have written to the Bishop of Chelmsford asking him to please explain this matter and am awaiting a reply.

Yours faithfully

B J Brown ( secretary)



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

IN THE CHURCH HALL ADMISSION 50 p  
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27TH  
FROM 2.00PM TO 4.00 PM

TRADITIONAL STALLS AND ATTRACTIONS

PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO THE HALL  
AT 10.30 ON THE DAY





# Success for the Bowls Club

The 28<sup>th</sup> November sees the end of a successful season for the Birchanger Bowls Club.

August saw the return of the Peter Saward Memorial Trophy which was won by one of four Birchanger teams that were entered. Last years winners Saffron Walden entered the competition along with eight other teams from across the county.

The season also saw our bowlers battling against the heat when they managed out of 45 teams to qualify and win their way to the final of the Widdups Cup.

The final was played away at Bocking and on the day the stronger and more tactical team won. Our team returned as runners up with a beautiful shield that was last won by Birchanger in 1975.



**Birchanger Bowls Club  
Runners up in the Widdups Cup**

We are always looking for new members to join us. So when the season starts, watch this space. Young or old, everyone can learn. It is a great outdoor game that is enjoyed by all and if you're lucky you can grab a pint at the same time!

Any enquiries please contact Paul Wright on 01279 813474.

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## Peggy Watson

Peggy died peacefully in Premier Court Nursing Home on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the age of 77, after being diagnosed with Leukaemia .

Peggy with her husband Reg moved to Birchanger from Beckenham in 1974 to take up the position of Postmaster and Postmistress in the village shop at the corner of Bradley Common.

Both Reg and Peggy were members of the Bowls club where Reg served as Secretary for a number of years.

Sadly the shop had to close in 1991 due to her failing eyesight and the shop front was converted into a part of their home. Peggy was rarely seen socially in the village again.

A cremation service was held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on 13<sup>th</sup> October and her ashes laid beside those of Reg in the May garden in Harlow.

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## Village Diary November/ December 2004

### November

- 20th 7:15 pm Church Hall  
Prize Bingo  
21st 11:00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion  
28th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Matins

### December

- 4th 8:00 pm Social Club  
Social night with  
Phill Hemingway  
5th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Matins  
11th 8:00 pm Social Club  
Grand Xmas Draw  
12th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Family Service  
17th 7:30 pm St Mary's  
Carol Service  
18th 8:00 pm Social Club  
Mark Jacobs  
19th 11:00 St Mary's  
Matins  
25th 11:00 am St Mary's  
Matins on  
Christmas Day



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Fundraising, Becoming a Carer

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

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

## The Friends of St Mary's

Annual General Meeting

AT THE CLUB

Tues 30th November

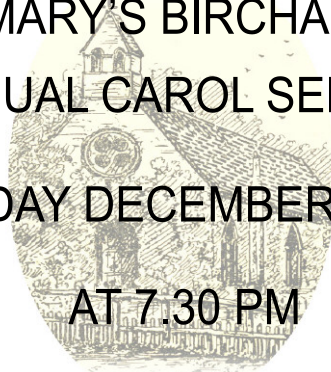
At 8.00 pm

Everyone is welcome

## ST MARY'S BIRCHANGER ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH

AT 7.30 PM



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.