

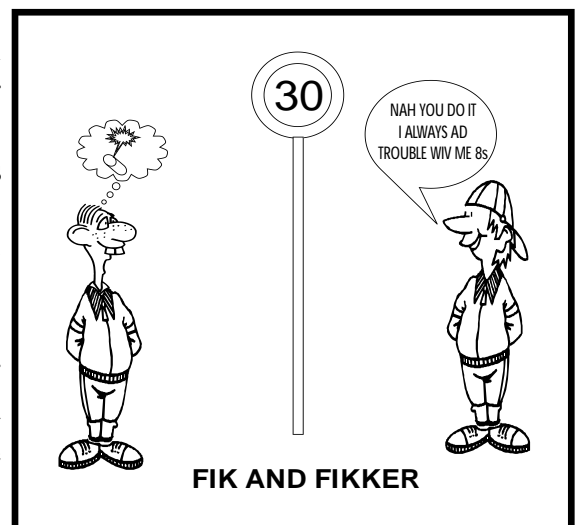
FAREWELL TO THE PARISH ROOM



In late September the small bungalow which sat in Birchanger Lane beside the Village Green was demolished. The demolition marked the end for a building with some historical significance in Birchanger, as prior to its use as a dwelling place it was used as the Parish room.

The Parish room was purpose built using bricks from the village brickyard during the mid nineteenth century and was used for all sorts of meetings. As a venue for educational purposes and even for some Church services. At a meeting during 1880, the Working Men's Club was first conceived there. It is listed in the 1851 Census returns as un-inhabited and remained in use until the Church hall was built in 1935.

As important as local history is, the building was never intended as a dwelling place and was too small to be a comfortable home in the 21st century. A new home more suited to modern life is being built on the site.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

More to come from the Fete.

The fete at the Three Willows proved to be a huge success, and in addition to the money raised directly by the groups in the village who ran their own stalls, there was also a substantial sum of money raised from all the other stalls.

In consultation with the Parish Council, and the organisers of the fete, it has been agreed to save this money towards a new fund raising project for an open shelter for children and young people in the recreation ground.

The Parish Council had discussed the matter at their meeting at the beginning of July, when concerns had been expressed about the damage being done to the Church Lych-gate, and the rubbish which accrued daily, after youths had been seen congregating there. The young people themselves claimed that there was nowhere for them to “hang out” in Birchanger. They are keen to join in the project.

Safe shelters are not cheap, and the money raised at the fete, over £2000, is not enough. It is hoped to save for the project over the next two years, and the process will move much faster, if, as anticipated, the young people help with the cause.

It is proposed to create a small sub committee under the Parish Council to move the project forward.

Anti-social behaviour officer visits Birchanger.

Fiona Gardiner, who is Uttlesford District Council’s Anti-social Behaviour Officer, visited Birchanger Parish Council, to explain how the new Anti-social Behaviour Contracts (ABC) can work with existing Anti-social Behaviour Orders, (ASBOs).

ABCs can be used to address arrange of anti-social behaviour, which includes, harassment,

Verbal abuse, criminal damage, vandalism, intimidating gatherings of young people in public areas, and offensive drunkenness. They are a voluntary contract, entered into by the perpetrator, and one or more local agencies, such as the police, the council, and social services. There are conditions to the contract, and if these are not adhered to, the failure to do so can be produced as evidence in court, when ASBO, fine or prison sentence may be imposed.

They can be used in tenancy agreements, or secured against a family who have persistently made life difficult for their neighbours. They are not for minor irritations, but for the genuine distress which disrupts people’s lives, family, and breaks up a community.

Fiona Gardiner can be contacted on 01799 510510, for anyone who feels they may have a problem.

Something we must not do.

The Archdeacon of Colchester visited our churchyard on two occasions last month. Mostly she liked what she saw, but apparently we are contravening Diocese Regulations, by placing artificial adornments on the graves. She has requested that all such adornments be removed.

This may cause distress to several people, and this is easily understood. Nobody in our parish had anything to do with these regulations, but we do still have to comply. If anyone would like to see a copy of the regulations they can be obtained from the Benefice Office, telephone 815243.

There was also a meeting with the Archdeacon to discuss the War Memorial. There was a very fruitful discussion and several options were considered. It is too early to say which option will finally be chosen, but watch this space.

Proposed new Neo-natal unit at Broomfield Hospital.

Essex Strategic Health Authority has begun a series of consultations across the county over its plans to build a new level 3, the highest level, Intensive Care Neo Natal Unit at Broomfield Hospital. However, will not be super level 3, which caters for babies needing complicated surgery. These babies will still have to travel to Addenbrookes, or to a London hospital.

Broomfield has been chosen, as it has good links across the county. It is proposed to offer very high standards of care, with good facilities for parents, which will include innovative support for parents, single rooms for mothers, and facilities for families. There will be strong leadership, and good communication with parents. It will be part of the redevelopment which is already taking place at Broomfield. The unit is not expected to be operational until 2009.

2004 Poppy appeal

At the end of this month, Poppy Collections begin, but there is a problem. There may be no collections in Birchanger this year, unless we find some more Poppy Collectors.

Collections in the past have been made by a dwindling band of collectors. Last year it was very difficult to cover the village. This year it may well be impossible.

All that is asked is an hour or so of your time. Soldiers continue to die or suffer horrendous injuries. There are families to support, and the soldiers from two world wars need increasing help. Think about it. Someone somewhere will be very glad that you did.

Motorwise '04.

One in three young male drivers between the ages of 17 and 20 will have an accident in the first two years after passing the test. Last month over 400 16-17 year olds from schools in Uttlesford attended the Motorwise event at Carver Barracks.

Pupils joined in a range of activities, designed to show them some of the necessary driving skills, before they venture on to the roads. This included seven workshops on a variety of subjects, which included alcohol, drugs, and the law, car maintenance, and second hand car buying. They also had an opportunity to test their brake reaction times.

Be safe and warm this Winter.

As the evenings draw in, and the first frosts appear, many people reach for their electric blanket, but are you sure it is safe? Electric blankets are responsible for many house fires, and injuries.

The District Council is running an electric blanket check again this year. It is free, and is available at the The Quaker Meeting House on October 25th, between 10 am and noon. Alternatively there is a drop off service on Saturday October 23rd at The Fire Stations in Stansted and Dunmow. Blankets can be left, and collected a week later on the 30th between 10 am and noon.

A new way to calculate speed limits.

Essex County Council are developing a new way of calculating what the speed limit should be in a built up area, by way of a point scoring system which will determine whether the limit should be 30 or 40 mph, on local roads.

The scoring system will be used first as an interim measure, and the Cabinet Minister for Highways, in consultation Highways and Transportation Services, will be able to make changes as necessary. Local councils will be able to make representations as to the speed limit in their areas.

School News

The Autumn Term always has a different feel to it. It is the time when having said farewell to the last year 6, we welcomed a new class of rising five year olds into the school. There are sixteen this year, and they have settled in well. There are now 89 pupils in the school.

All the parents have had an opportunity to attend their child's school year information briefing, where the curriculum for the year is set out and explained. The parents have a chance to ask questions, and obtain further information about the school, and the opportunities available, by way of after school clubs and extra curricular activities.

One of the new innovations is Funky Fridays. Friday afternoon is now the time when the children take a new off beat look at the curriculum, and discover how learning can be fun. The activities all relate to the curriculum, and include Science, Art, Music, and Dance, among other things, but they are presented in a new and different way. Coming at the end of the week, when the children are often tired, they are already proving entertaining, and very popular.

The school is to participate in the Healthy Schools Partnership. They are to work on ways in which grandchildren can improve the safety of their grandparents and older people, by helping them to make their homes safer for their mobility needs,

among other things. It seems the elderly take advice more readily from the young, and the youngest children can play a part as well. School lunches are now cooked with fresh ingredients, and remain very popular with children and their parents.

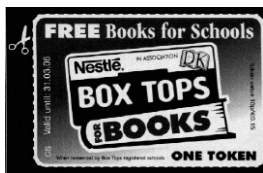
Jeans for Genes.

School Fund raising started this year with a "Denimstrate Day." The children paid 50p, and came to school in their jeans. The money raised is to go to support families with a child suffering from a genetic disorder. The cause also promotes genetic research, and so far £18 million has been raised since the charity started in 1996.

Harvest Festival.

The first highlight of the year is a traditional Harvest Festival Service, to which senior Birchanger residents are invited. The children put together harvest gifts, which made a lovely display, and were later given to the guests, or distributed to those who had been unable to come. Even the youngest children made their first contribution to the occasion, with a specially prepared poem about the harvest.

BOX TOPS FOR BOOKS



Birchanger Primary School are again participating in a Box Tops for books scheme using vouchers from Nestlé cereal packets in order to redeem them for books printed by Dorling Kindersley. The cereal brands involved include Shredded wheat, Shreddies, Cheerios and Golden Grahams.

The Box Tops for books scheme is a really simple way to collect Books for the school. The tokens which look like the one pictured just need to be collected and sent to the school or given to one of the members of the PTA. The advertisers claim it only takes ten tokens to get one book, so the more tokens collected the more books the school can get. The scheme closes on 31st March 2005.

ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER 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

News from 1st Birchanger Cubs and Scouts

We had quite a busy lead up to the summer break, firstly on Friday 18th June 2004 the Cubs and Scouts went to Tolmers Camp in Cuffley for the weekend. The weather was not too bad, just the occasional shower of rain. We were lucky enough to try out our new 10 person tents and our recently purchased marquee, which was very handy to keep everyone out of the rain. We went in the splash pool, which was freezing cold. We also climbed a rolling wall, which was quite difficult; we had a go at rifle shooting and raft building too. The leaders joined us in a water pistol fight, which was great fun. It was a very nice camp and everyone had a good time.



The following weekend on Sunday 27th June we held our first Fun Day. Approx. 25 Cubs & Scouts came to the fun afternoon held in the Birchanger School Field starting at 2pm. This was featured in a previous issue of the magazine.

In August the Cubs & Scouts had the chance to try out canoeing at the Harlow Adult Youth Centre. Two separate days were organised so the Cubs went on a different day to the Scouts so all could take part in the activity. They all had a great time.

On the weekend of 10th, 11th, 12th September 2004, Elaine Howley Assistant Cub Scout Leader, took 12 Cubs to the district annual Super six sports Competition that is held at Mersea Island Youth Camp. They were Callum Sims, William Sykes, Matthew Crossley, Tom Bass, Guy Robins, Nicholas Davies, Alfie Wells, Joseph Groom, Matthew Carter, Chris Gould, George Fisher and Nick Mason. The activities that the Cubs took part in included: Football, Hockey, Shootball, Skit-

les, Lawn darts, Javelin, Sprinting, throwing the cricket ball, Skipping, Long jump and Cross country.

Elaine writes " I would like to thank the two parent helpers Keith Robins and Russell Sykes for their help and support that weekend. We did extremely well winning the Javelin event and the overall competition. Well done also to Nick Mason who won the overall sportsman of the weekend. This is the second year running that Birchanger Cubs have won the overall competition, so well done. I was very proud to take the 12 Cubs away, they were all polite and very well behaved." Elaine Howley ACSL.

On Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September 2004, The Scouts pictured below took part in their district annual Super Troop Sports Competition which was held at Skreens Park Campsite in Roxwell near Chelmsford.



Harry Fisher, Matthew Bedding, Jay Cox, Nathan Basford, Kenny Gould and Sam Hutchin, with the only female of the team Tanya Johnson in front.

They came 4th in the overall competition and won 1st Place in the Skittles and joint 1st with Hallingbury Scouts in the Archery.

We would like also to include that the new Explorer Scout Unit West for 14 and half to 18 years are meeting in the Birchanger Hut on Tuesday evenings. This is only the 2nd Explorer group in the district and will accommodate young people from Birchanger, Takeley, Stansted and surrounding areas. Please phone Neil Henderson 01371 879679 for further information.



CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS
SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2004
6 PM TO 8 PM IN THE SCOUT HUT
AGES 5 TO 11 YEARS
CONTACT TREVOR STONE
FOR TICKETS



Kid's Corner

Here are the answers to last months Quiz

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1. "C" | Feet. | 10. "A" | Edelweiss. |
| 2. "D" | Put them in the fridge. | 11. "D" | The Tiger. |
| 3. "C" | The Turkey | 12. "C" | Nine. |
| 4. "D" | E | 13. "C" | 230 million years. |
| 5. "A" | Hummingbird | 14. "D" | Both ways |
| 6. "C" | Four | 15. "B" | Shrove Tuesday. |
| 7. "A" | Feathers | | |
| 8. "B" | 100 fleas | | |
| 9. "D" | To tell other Wolves where they are. | | |

CUBS AND SCOUTS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13th November 2004.

Christmas Bazaar.

In the Scout hut from
2.00pm to 4.00pm. Raffle.
Refreshments available

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 disap-
pointment.

NEWS SHORTS

The Aerosoles are back in the Village

Judging by the road signs at the end of the village the Aerosoles truly are back. It is one thing to deface public property with a spray can but they couldn't even match the colour properly!

The Village Mag is now On-line

Birchanger now has its own website, it can be found at <http://www.birchanger.com/> The site is sponsored by the Parish Council and contains all the usual information about the village. This includes all the 2003 issues of our publication (as if you didn't see enough of them) 2004 issues will be added after Christmas. The Village Archive including the 1851 and 1881 Census returns and a look at The Parish magazine from the year 1894. So get clicking and give it a look.

Vandalism to Cars

We have received a letter from a villager at the lower end of the village again reporting vandalism to cars parked innocently in the Lane. We would like to remind the morons who do this to other people's property that there is no where else to park in that part of Birchanger and that the owners of the vehicles would prefer to park elsewhere if they could.

SO PLEASE STOP VANDALISING CARS IN THE LANE

Alec Page

After several weeks in hospital Alec Page sadly died in Harlow Hospital on 20th September 2004 at the age of 80 years.

Alec was brought up in Finsbury Park so it is no surprise that he was a life long Arsenal supporter.

In World War II Alec served in the Royal Navy as a submariner on HMS Vivid, based at Valetta in Malta. Later he served in Sri Lanka.

After his demobilisation he worked for Fitch Lovell and was involved in ship's stores.

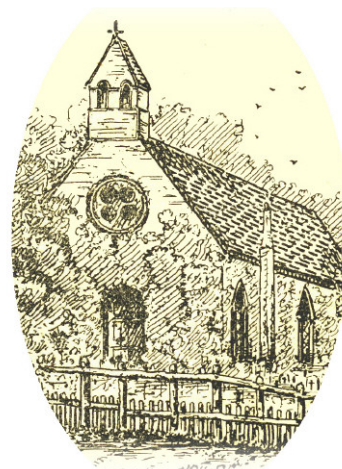
Alec met Dorothy his wife in 1964 and they married a year later. Alec & Dorothy moved to Birchanger some twenty five years ago and Alec quickly joined the Birchanger Cricket Club to take up his love of the game. He played for the club until he was 69 years old and then continued his association by turning out to umpire nearly every week.

He still could not give up his much valued contribution to the club as he was an ardent fan and turned up frequently to watch an afternoon's cricket.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and particularly by the members of the cricket club.

Our sincere condolences to Dorothy and the other family members.

Editor's note " Two years ago I persuaded Alec to write out his memories of his time in the Navy he document is a bit too large to go into the magazine properly. So if anyone would like a copy I will be happy to print it out for them.



Harvest Supper

The annual St Mary's Church Harvest supper was held on Saturday Sept 25th at the Church hall where about 60 people dined on a mixed ploughman's style buffet followed by apple pie with cream. Afterwards they were entertained by the Water Lane Dramatic group, who recited poetry and gave some seasonal readings.

The organisers would like to thank all those who attended and especially those who donated a lot of excellent Raffle prizes, flowers and the delicious apple pies!

The event raised proceeds of £390 which is being donated to Michael and Jonathan Cooke who are cycling from Land's end to John O'Groats in support of Cancer Research UK and the Breast Care Clinic at Epping Hospital. Jonathan and Michael are the sons of Doreen Cooke who died during 2003 she will be remembered as the leading solo vocalist in the "Singing in the Reign" revue during May last year Their target is £20,000, we wish them every success in achieving it.

Birchanger Social Club

Annual Firework Display

Sunday November 7th

At 7.00 pm

The Friends of St Mary's

Annual General Meeting

In The Church Hall

Tues 26th November

At 8.15 pm

Everyone is welcome

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or phone us on (01371)872519

Village Diary September/October 2004

October

20th 10:30 273A Birchanger Lane
Coffee Morning

23rd 8:00 pm Scout Hut
Entertainment Quiz

24th 11:00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

27th 8:00 pm At the Club
Club AGM

30th 6:00 pm Scout Hut
Halloween Fancy Dress

31st 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

November

7th 11:00 am St Mary's
Family Service

7th 7:00 pm Club Field
Firework Display

13th 2:00 pm Scout Hut
Christmas Bazaar

14th 11:00 am St Mary's
Remembrance

20th 7:15 pm Church Hall
Prize Bingo

Birchanger Social Club Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 27th

At 8.00 pm

Poppy Appeal 2004

Geoff Driscoll is looking
for willing volunteers to
help with this year's appeal.
If you can help. He can
be contacted at 281
Birchanger Lane.

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.