

TOP OF THE SCHOOL

EMMA SETS A GREAT EXAM-PL

This year's crop of exam results have been dominated in Birchanger by eighteen year old Emma Lucas who has achieved outstanding A level grades. Emma, the daughter of Club Stewards Tony and Julie Lucas has lived in the village since 1997.



With four straight A grades in Classical civilisation, Latin, History and Geography she became the top scoring student at the Herts and Essex high school, by doing so she has achieved her dream of going on to University and has set a standard many will find hard to follow.

Emma says. *“Going into Halls and having to fend for myself is a bit scary, but I am looking forward to the challenge. It will be a little different for me as all of the other students will have the same grades as or better than mine but I am sure I will cope.”* When asked about her future she continued. *“I’m not sure what I will be doing when I leave University but at some time I’d love to go to Greece and do some serious Archaeology.”*

By the time you read this, Emma will have begun to read the Classics at King’s College in Cambridge. We congratulate her and wish her well in her future studies.

We would also like to congratulate all of the other students from Birchanger who have had exam results this year whether GCSE or A level. We hope they all have sparkling

Off to Cambridge, Emma Lucas strikes a Classical pose

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

District Council set to take on the responsibility for licensed premises.

The District Council will soon have a unique opportunity to help shape the future of licensed premises through Uttlesford, when a new system of personal and premise licenses, to be managed by local authorities, is to be introduced. All existing licence holders will have six months from February 2005 to apply to the council for a new licence, which will be determined by the unique licensing policy which will be adopted by the council.

The policy is at present in draught form, and the council would like to hear the views of as many interested parties as possible. The draught policy can be viewed on the council's website, and there is to be a public meeting in the Council Chamber on October 13th at 7.30pm. The views of this meeting will then be taken to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee for consideration, before the policy is confirmed at the full Council Meeting in December.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the draught Licensing Policy, or to attend the meeting, please contact Carole Stanton on 01799 510501.

Time to nominate someone in Birchanger for a community achievement or sports award.

It is the time of year to look around the Birchanger Community to see if there is someone who has contributed to the well being of the village to the extent that it is felt that the person's work deserves to be acknowledged by a Community Award. There have been eight previous recipients in the village so far.

There is in an additional award for clubs and individuals where contributions towards the development of sport and training can be demonstrated. There are two categories, a Club Award of £250, and an Individual Award of £100. The nominations for these awards will be assessed on the contribution to the club, or the sport, achievement on a personal and competitive level, commitment to the club at senior or junior level, appropriate qualifications, and evidence of continuous performance development.

If you would like to nominate anyone for any of these awards, please contact me on 812793.

A new bench for the recreation ground?

The Parish Council are very reluctant to place any more equipment of any kind in the recreation ground, as whatever has been put in has been vandalised by young people, almost as soon as it is on site. It is a situation which everybody on the Parish Council truly deprecates, but they are very reluctant to waste money on the provision of fresh vandal fodder. There are no winners in this situation.

The Princess Diana Memorial Benches which were provided by the Open Gardens some years ago were completely destroyed. This meant that those supervising their children on the apparatus had nowhere to sit. It is also very difficult to access the area with a wheelchair or buggy. Thanks to a grant from the District Council for a very strong seat, the Parish Council has had a final change of mind. By the time you read this the bench will be about to be installed, and will hopefully be still standing by the end of the month. The access to the ground is to be cemented, which should make entrance for the disabled a little bit easier.

So kids, if you want the ground to be improved further, you know how to go about it. If this bench is damaged, it will not be replaced, and there will be no further additions to the recreation ground. Equipment which is wilfully damaged will not be replaced, and will eventually be removed. We simply cannot afford it. The choice is yours.

Rochfords update.

The Ecological Issues and Mitigation Proposals on the Rochford Nursery Site went before the Development Control Committee at the end of last month. In addition to finding six Great Crested Newts, there are also a large number of lizards, slowworms, and some grass snakes resident on the site.

Most of the Great Crested Newts have been found in the area bordering Forest Hall Road. These are to be fenced in while the strip of land bordering Forest Hall Road is prepared, following the granting of a Licence from DEFRA in November. When the development in the vicinity is completed, and

the newts are established, the fencing will be removed. Any additional Great Crested Newts found during the development, will be added to the compound.

The lizards and slowworms are too numerous to be accommodated in the site reserved for the Great Crested Newts, so they are to be removed to a field adjacent to Photosound. The grass snakes are to be retained within the site.

Effects on breeding birds will be mitigated by clearing potential nesting habitats outside the breeding season, where possible, or by undertaking surveys to ensure that no nests and young were present prior to clearance.

All the measure have been discussed and agreed in principle with English Nature, and the Essex Wildlife Trust. It remains to be seen what the newts and reptiles make of it, and how much they are going to appreciate their new abodes. Perhaps the escape committee is already being formed.

At the time of writing, the Ecological and Landscaping issues has been approved. The height of the flats and houses is felt to be too high for the site, and the layout could be improved. The developers have been asked to think again.

More damage to public property.

Our lamp posts seem to be having a hard time of it these days. Following the incident near Bradley Common in June, the lamp post and curb stones at the entrance to Duck End were damaged by a large articulated lorry attempting to turn round, having missed the slip roads for the M11. Yet again the driver drove off, having done some damage to his vehicle, and leaving residents to clear up the mess.

If you see any incident of this nature, please tell the police immediately, and if I am unavailable on 812793, please contact our Parish clerk, Julia Peachey on 503912.

Essex Helping Hands.

Essex Helping Hands is a small agency in the Uttlesford area, which provides help with everyday things. These include getting the weekly shopping, bill paying service, help with cleaning, and many other household tasks. It targets those who have recently been hospitalised, had to give up driving, or simply do not want to continue to ask for help from friends or neighbours.

Charges are affordable, and payable at the time of service delivery. If neighbours club together, charges can be reduced further. It is a regular quality service, aimed to make it easier for those who want to live a full independent life.

The service is reached on 07930607158/9 between 9am and 7pm Monday to Friday, for anyone who would like to discuss their requirements.

Are you sitting comfortably?

Many of us spend long hours on our computers, sitting in a position which is actually damaging our backs. Here are a few tips, aimed to minimise back strain.

Sit with your back flush against the back of the chair. Feet flat on the ground, legs uncrossed.

Knees must be lower than hips, and the back should be slightly arched.

Look straight at the screen, or slightly downwards. Hands should be at right angles to upper arms to reach the keyboard. A wrist rest can help.

Feet should touch the ground, or use a footrest.

Position the keyboard and monitor directly in front of you.

Most of us do not do much of this!

Vandalism in the Lane

On the night of August 6th two cars were deliberately damaged while parked in Birchanger Lane near Hill-side Cottages. While this is not unusual for cars that have been left for weeks to escape Airport car park charges. These two cars were only visiting for the evening and there is no excuse for wanton criminal damage.

Coffee Morning

In aid of St Mary's Church

Wednesday October 20th

10.30 am till 12 noon

273A Birchanger Lane

ALL ARE WELCOME

RESTORATION REQUIRED

War Memorial in St Mary's, Churchyard, Birchanger

At the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 9 November 2003, it was observed that the war memorial had suffered some stone work damage and further deterioration of the names thereon. Bert Kadwill, President and Chairman of the Birchanger branch of the Royal British Legion and myself as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary discussed what could and should be done to preserve this most important memorial to those villagers who gave their lives in first and second world wars.

Contact was made with Michael Pegrum of J Day & Son Ltd, and he advised that the names on the memorial could not be saved for the future as the stone was now 'too soft' through weathering. However he could clean and repair the memorial and bring it back to almost new colour. He then suggested 4 new rough hewn granite war grave shaped memorials to be stood upright at each corner of the memorial set back some 10ft away.



The War Memorial which has been standing in the Churchyard since 1919

One surface would be smooth and incised thereon all the names of the fallen in the First World War these names would be on three of the stones, with the names of the fallen in the Second World War on the fourth stone. He was of the opinion the names would last, at least for fifty years, without needing attention.

The costings he has given come to, before VAT are, £2890, with VAT £3396. It may be possible legally to avoid paying the VAT by using a registered charity to pay for the work. Further discussions raised the query - could we have only two standing stones and get all the names on? This appears to be possible, as it is thought the site would look better with two standing stones behind the memorial facing the church, apart from the cost, the practicability and availability of space for only two standing stones. The cost saving could be £680 plus VAT.

The Parish Council is legally responsible for the memorial, but the church has to approve any changes first, and it is that has taken the time to date. The Parish Council do not have any funds for this available and The Royal British Legion has only £750 available. I have approached the club, the open gardens, the Fete Committee,



Friends of War Memorials and if the church approve I propose formally requesting donations from the above and Stansted Airport as well. Unfortunately the Friends of St Mary's Church cannot contribute for constitutional reasons. The Friends of War Memorials do not appear to be able to help financially either.

The £750 held by the RBL Birchanger Branch was donated in memory of my late brother John. His widow, Jen, and family have agreed that this is a fitting way to use the money.

I must say I have been overwhelmed by the response I have had from those in the village I have approached to date, about help in raising the money to clean and repair the memorial and preserve the names of our very brave villagers who gave their lives for those who are left.

A meeting of Church Officials, Council, RBL and Day's had been provisionally arranged for 30 September 2004.

Hopefully this can be done in time to remember either the 90th Anniversary of the start of World War One in 1914 or the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War Two in 1945.

Lest we forget - we will remember them.

Pim Godwin

There are forty four names on our war memorial. Thirty two from the first great war and twelve from the second. All casualties who served their country and all with connections in Birchanger and maybe some with relatives who still live here.

At least three of the names and the first part of the original inscription are now difficult if not impossible to read. Sixty years ago this month British airborne troops landed in Holland at Arnhem. To my shame I do not know whether any of the twelve names on the memorial were lost there, in fact I do not know where any of Birchanger's War dead were lost. So I feel it would be even more shameful if the identities of these forty four men were lost to us. Too much has already been forgotten about them.

The magazine will be making a contribution to the restoration fund. I hope as many villagers as possible will also do their bit ensure this little bit of history is not lost forever.

Ed Gilbey

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

It is nice when one is appreciated, we all know that, and all of us like to feel that our efforts are not in vain, that we are not knocking our heads against brick walls for nothing, and that people do realise that you are there!

That being the case, the one event that has meant more to the assorted reprobates that run this magazine on your behalf, has been this year's Village Fete. True, it was not held at the usual venue, but it was an unqualified success. Moreover, what was a genuine surprise to all of us at the Magazine was the amount of stalls that donated their proceeds to the upkeep of your publication.

We mentioned last month some of the contributors, but in the excitement of it all some names were missed out, so humble apologies all round and huge thanks to the Aunt Sally Stall who donated a magnificent £80, and the lads and lasses of the Petanque competition who gave a superb £72. We have also been sent another £200 by the Open Gardens committee.

It is important to recognise these contributions as they really do help keep the magazine going. The present editorial, advertising and printing volunteers inherited the services of Andy Cameron's dedicated band of deliverers over a year ago now, and that was a tremendous boost, but at the start it was a daunting prospect. No one knew if we would sink or swim, so we decided to increase the number of advertisers to help fill the coffers and take our destiny into our own hands. This process has been an unqualified success,

with people who want your custom (or who just want to support the publication) willing to shell out in an attempt to attract you! Seriously, we would struggle without our advertisers, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them again.

We had a stall ourselves and, going in to the event, we were aiming at raising enough to cover the expense of one issue (which we achieved), but the additional donations allow us a security blanket that we were not banking on, so again, thanks.

It is also worth reminding you all that, as this is your magazine, we would also welcome any contributions to the pages of the magazine. Letters, stories, quizzes, articles – All will be gratefully accepted (not withstanding that the editor has final say over content!), so if you have news of forthcoming events, marriages births or deaths, please let us know and we will do our best to cover them. You can write an article yourself or just give us the bare bones of the story and we will do our best to include it. Remember, the Birchanger Village Magazine is run by villagers for villagers, so why not lend a hand?

Please send any articles to – Ed Gilbey at 3 Duck End (or see us up the Social Club on the first Monday of the month from 20:00)

If anyone would like to help sponsor the magazine, please call Mark Crossley on 07979 708142. Who will be more than happy to talk you through your options.

Jackie Stapleton

As reported last month we were saddened to hear that Jackie had passed away on August 8th at St Clare's Hospice. She had been ill for some time and was very brave right up until the end.

The funeral was held on August 16th at the East London Cemetery after a memorial service at Canning Town it was attended by over 200 family and friends.

Her Husband Ken would like to thank all those who sent their good wishes and he reports that the appeal for Cancer UK now stands at over £4000. Largely due to the policy of "A lily and an envelope" instead of grander floral tributes, it raised a substantial sum helping Ken and Terri towards their target.

Kid's Corner

Would you like to win a £10 gift voucher for W H Smith. If you are aged between 7 & 12 we would love you to enter our competition quiz below. How many answers can you get right, you can use encyclopaedias, the internet and even Mum & Dad to help you. The first correct entry pulled out of the bag at our October meeting will win our £10 gift voucher. Either send your entries to the Editor or hand in to any of our magazine personnel by 1st October. The winner will be announced in next month's magazine along with the answers to the quiz."

1. Where on a fly would you find its taste buds?
A} Tongue B} feet C} wings D} eyes.
2. How can you make rubber bands last longer?
A} Soak them B} dry them C} store them in a container D} put them in the fridge
3. Which bird was called 'the peacock of the Indies' when it was first discovered?
A} An eagle B} a chicken C} a turkey D} a dodo.
4. In Morse code which letter is shown by a single dot or dash?
A} Z B} s C} a D} e
5. What is the only bird that can hover in the air and fly backwards?
A} A hummingbird B} an eagle C} a sparrow D} a chicken.
6. How many stomachs does a cow have?
A} 2 B} 9 C} 4 D} 1
7. What are penguins covered in?
A} Feathers B} fur C} scales D} rubber.
8. What is the average amount of fleas found on a hedgehog?
A} 500 B} 100 C} 50 D} 20
9. Why do wolves howl?
A} To scare other animals B} to start a fight C} to announce the full moon D} to tell other wolves were they are
10. What is the national flower of Austria?
A} Edelweiss B} daisy C} rose D} tulip
11. Which is the largest of the cat family?
A} A puma B} a panther C} a leopard D} a tiger
12. How many planets travel round the sun?
A} 5 B} 7 C} 9 D} 11
13. How many years ago did the first dinosaurs appear on the earth?
A} 30 million B} 130 million C} 230 million D} 330 million
14. How do you read hieroglyphics?
A} left B} right to left C} left to right D} both ways
15. What is another name for pancake day?
A} Ash Wednesday B} shrove Tuesday c} lent D} pancake Tuesday

From Laura Devine

1ST BIRCHANGER BROWNIES

We have a few spare places at Brownies.

If your daughter is between 7 and 10 years old and would like to come and join in the fun, please contact

Brown Owl, Jenny Jameson on 815396 for more information.

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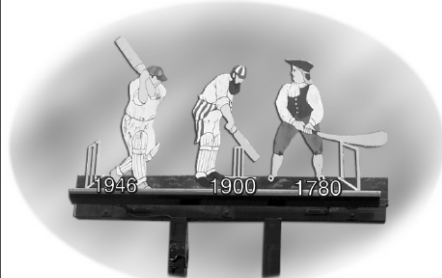
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Village Diary September/October 2004

September

26th 11:00 am St Mary's
Harvest Festival

October

3rd 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

10th 11:00 am St Mary's
Family Service

17th 11:00 St Mary's
Matins

20th 10:30 273A Birchanger Lane
Coffee Morning

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

31st 11:00 am St Mary's
Matins

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.

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