

SUCCESS FOR YOUNG DANCERS

There were celebrations for pupils at the “Wendy Mitchell School of Dancing” in Birchanger and Stansted this term after they received excellent Ballet examination results. Several of the children received certificates for their original entries in the National “Cecchetti Choreographic Competition”. Clare Agnew, Laura Warbrick, Beth Bashford-Chuchla and Lauren Wesley all won awards for their choreography and dancing.

Clare Agnew, Nikki Cooper and Lauren Wesley have been attending the London Arts Educational School, on Saturdays after Wendy Mitchell saw they had the potential to audition for places. At this professional School, pupils learn a wide range of dance styles including Modern , Jazz, Character and Tap dancing while developing their Ballet skills. Visits to the Theatre and the opportunity to watch Ballet company classes and rehearsals are also on the agenda.

Wendy Mitchell began her dancing at a local dancing school at the age of 3 years. She later attended the professional Arts Educational School where she learned the professional dance skills that helped her in the Theatre world which included a season with the Stuttgart Ballet Company before beginning her career as a Dance Teacher. While teaching at a private school, Wendy taught ballet and tap dancing to Lady Diana Spencer, an association that continued for a number of years. Wendy has been teaching dance in the Stansted and Bishops Stortford area for the past 27 years.

Future examinations for those at the “Wendy Mitchell School of Dance” are booked at St Mary’s Church Hall Birchanger and St John’s Church Hall Stansted and the pupils are looking forward to more successes. All the children will be working towards a Dance production to be performed later in 2005.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

The Church Hall is taking a bashing

Here is yet another complaint about the behaviour of our youngsters. It now seems some of them have taken to playing football on the flat piece of ground next to the Church Hall. Apparently the Recreation ground is just not good enough for them as the grass is too long and the end wall of the hall is a perfect place to kick a ball at.

While this sounds harmless enough it does not take into account the damage to the hall that is being caused. So far repairs to the guttering have cost over £70 and if the play there continues this will only rise.

While we appreciate that the Rec is not the Millennium Stadium you can kick a ball about there quite happily and no one will complain.

We are told that the players names are known and that means their parents are known as well. So parents please direct your footballing sons to the recreation ground. **The Church hall is not the place for ball games.**

Concession cards for the Leisure centres

A new concession card can save some people up to £37 for regular use of the three local Leisure Centres. The nearest centre to us is at Stansted Mountfitchet High School, although the concession is equally valid in Helena Romanes and the Lord Butler Centre as well.

Those who are entitled to the concessionary rates include those on Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, and those who are registered disabled. If you would like to find out more about the Concession Cards, visit your nearest centre, with the relevant documentation, showing your entitlement to benefit, and ID or call 01279 648580 for further information.

Wake up call for Birchanger

The Judgement in the High Court Challenge left all options open regarding the site of the second runway. While it is quite likely that BAA may well return to the original option, it is also possible that they will consider a closer coupled runway, which could be less costly overall. This could have implications for Birchanger.

Takeley Parish Council is hoping for a hearing on their High Court Challenge on the unfairness of the HOSS scheme. This unfairness also affects Birchanger. It is possible that Birchanger might need to mount a challenge, or to join with other villages in a challenge in the foreseeable future. It may well be that we shall have to start to precept for this.

Should the new runway affect Birchanger in a larger way than we already experience, the Parish Council will want to know what you think. Going to court is not always the best way, but the recent challenge to the Government's White Paper, and the unprecedented outcome, has shown that local people can be heard, and that not even governments are above the law.

Nobody anywhere has the right to dump!

Unfortunately there seem to be some incredibly lazy people who believe that the fields which surround Birchanger are just the place to dump their rubbish. They do not care that it makes it extremely unpleasant for those who walk the footpaths. They do not care about those whose land is crossed by the parade of wheelbarrows which are used to dump the hardcore, gardening and household rubbish which they are too indolent to take to the tip. They do not care that it costs the farmers who farm the land hard cash to have the rubbish removed.

It is an offence to dump anything anywhere except in the proper place. Unauthorised filling of ditches with hard core, as has happened, can result in flooding, and compounds the offence. The penalties are not light.

Over 1000 people in Birchanger respect the countryside, and do not wish to cause problems for their neighbours, or the environment. It is only the incredibly selfish and lazy few. It is hoped that an addition to the Anti Social Behaviour laws planned for later this year, will give Parish Councils the power to issue Anti Social Behaviour Orders to these people. Please contact me on 812793, if you have anything you would like to say about this matter.

Footpaths being misused

There are months when it seems that there is nothing but complaints about the way in which a tiny minority make life difficult for everyone in the village. It is something of an annual one this time, as just at the time when people are looking forward to using the footpaths again, they find they are unusable. If it is not the bike riders, it is some members of the horse riding community, who have made the footpaths impossible. There are three bridleways through the village for horses, one from Birchanger Wood, the other going towards Digby Wood, and the third passing Spider Cottage towards the motorway. These are clearly signed. Everything else is strictly off limits, and riders are facing a fine if they use the footpaths.

Do you want to stop smoking?

Many people try at least once a year to stop smoking, only to relapse when the pressure is on. Some have tried numerous expensive remedies, all are aware that they are damaging their health.

There is free help available now through Uttlesford Primary Care Trust. There are various means of support available, which include Free Stop Smoking Counselling Sessions. Maybe now is the time to give it another try. The number to call is 01371 767010.

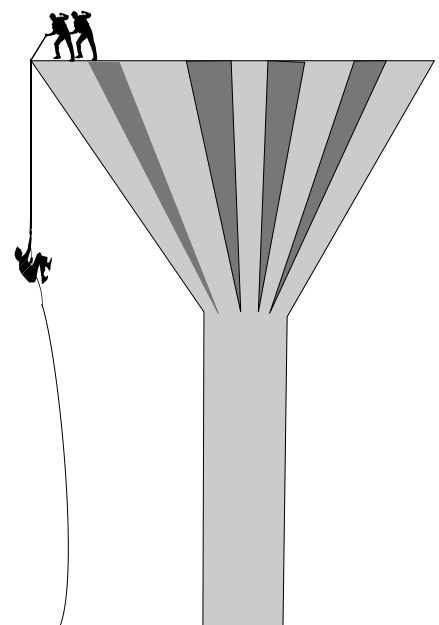
Concessionary bus fares scheme 2005/2006

If you are registered blind, or disabled, or over 60 years old, you are eligible to apply for a half fare bus pass, or £30 worth of National Tokens for £15. Application Forms and bus passes will be available from Post Offices throughout the district, except in Dunmow, or Saffron Walden, where they will be available from the Council Offices. If you are applying for a bus pass for the first time, a photograph is also required. The new bus pass scheme will not operate until 2006, and then will have severe limitations.

SPONSORS NEEDED PLEASE

Councillor Elizabeth Godwin will be stepping into space for charity on April 30th by abseiling down the Water tower at Church Langley by the M11.

This event is being organised by the Harlow Tye Rotary Club and is another effort at fundraising for Elizabeth's chosen charity Crossroads. As a result she is looking for sponsors from the village. She says "I must be mad but the alternative was a parachute jump and I've had enough heavy landings for one year so this time I'm doing it on a rope!" There is also scope for others to take part if they can get sponsorship so please contact her for details on 812793.



ARTISTS IMPRESSION

KID'S CORNER EASTER COMPETITION RESULTS

"Thank you to all those who entered our Easter competitions last month it was great to have participation from our younger readers.

The answer to the Chocoholics wordsearch was Creme Egg. The first correct entry received was from Simon Baker, aged 11, who received a bumper prize of creme eggs and the runner up was Rebecca Davy also aged 11 who received a creme egg easter egg.

We received some beautifully coloured entries to our Easter colouring competition and the winners were Charlie Craig aged 6 and Lauren Brannon aged 5. They too, both received easter egg prizes.

Very well done to the four of you."

Pamela Patricia Reid

On the morning of March 31st Pam Reid died at home after a brave fight against Cancer. Pam who was only diagnosed with the condition in the late summer last year underwent a gruelling course of Chemotherapy during the Autumn and winter months. Tragically it was not enough to help her.

Pam was devoted to her two cats Bill and Ben and was happiest working in her garden or preparing a family meal in her kitchen. She will be remembered as the lady who provided the buffets for the regular invitation quizzes at the club and her long association with the cricket club. As a mark of respect for her, a minutes silence was observed before the Monday night Quiz at the club on April 4th. A well attended funeral service was held at the Parndon Wood crematorium on April 14th

She leaves her husband Peter, their two sons Kevan and Neal and his partner Nina. We offer them our deepest sympathy.



Taken during the eighties
Pam with one of her beloved cats

Where did you get that hat?

The recent Easter Prize Bingo which was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th March on behalf of the Cub and Scout group, There was an enthusiastic turn out and a lot of fun was had by all. All age groups attended and there were special games for the children and the older players. The photos we took are mostly of a special game we played with the OAP's who had a lot of fun wearing these strange conical hats.



We would like to thank everyone for coming and to those who donated prizes. Their support is greatly appreciated. This event helped raised £592.50 towards Cub and Scout funds.

RAY GOODING STANDS FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Birchanger villager Ray Gooding, who has lived in the Village since 1999, is standing in the elections on May 5th and is hoping to become the County Councillor for the Stansted Division, which includes Birchanger.

Ray believes that the local area has a unique geographic and economic diversity and that the threat of extensive building, the airport and the attendant growth in traffic will, unless properly managed, become a blight on the lives of the residents. The area deserves the strongest representation at County level.

Ray is representing the Conservative Party at the election and is seeking to continue the success they have enjoyed in Essex since they took control in 2001 and on the specific issues affecting Birchanger he has said the following: -

Housing. The extent of housing development proposed for the M11 Corridor is unnecessary, unsustainable and a potential environmental disaster. Ray will fight to restrict unwarranted urbanisation.

Stansted Airport. Ray strongly supports the campaign to restrict airport expansion whilst understanding the need to provide sources of employment within the area.

Transport. The last budget prepared by the Conservatives at Essex County Council has pledged to develop Rail, Bus and road links and has increased the funding for repairs to both major and secondary roads. Ray supports this policy in full.

If elected, he is looking forward to the chance to represent the requirements of the area at the County Council.

Editor's Note

Our editorial policy is politically neutral. However as Mr Gooding is a resident in the village it is only fair that we should make our readers aware that he is standing. His opponent in the election is Mr Peter Wilcock who comes from Quendon.

School News

Red nose fun

Birchanger School was a riot of red for Red Nose Day on March 11th. Everyone entered into the spirit of the day, including the staff. A special red lunch was served, and the children learnt at first hand that fund raising for other people could be a great deal of fun. Altogether £ was raised for Comic Relief, and everyone went home feeling that they had really been a significant part of the day.

Clubs gear up for Summer

When the children return to school, despite the usual SATS tests in May, there is a whole term ahead of new challenges and new excitements. A cricket coach has been booked to run a course through the summer term, and there will be Rounders and Gardening clubs as well. It is also planned to introduce an Art Club, with input from a local artist. Class 4 can look forward to a long weekend away in a purpose built outdoor centre, at the end of June. Watch this space for details of the school play in July.

Science week is entertaining

Crag Rats from Setpoint Essex entertained the children with a drama production on Structures as part of Science Week. The children found learning about structures, was not only fun, but very entertaining. The company then went on to run workshops for Years 5 and 6.

White boards are go

More investment in IT now means that in addition to a state of the art computer suite, the children now have interactive whiteboards in their classrooms. They also have a new large screen in the hall, which simply drops down from the ceiling for use. It is hoped to be able to show videos and films to extended audiences later in the year.

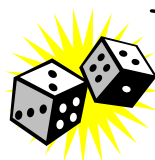
Book week earns books for the School.

The annual Book Week produced one of the best selections of books for sale after school, and children and parents made the most of the good quality books on sale. Sufficient commission from the sale was raised to allow each class in the school to choose £46 worth of books for the children to use. At the end of the week, the children were entertained to a production of Joseph by the Alligator Theatre Company.

The Friends of Birchanger C of E Primary School

Present

A Millionaires Night



To be held on Saturday 21st May

In the school hall

At 7:30pm- late

Tickets price £8.50 each

Includes Candlelit Supper + £500 "play money"

Licensed bar (over 18s only)

Smart Dress / Black Tie

Tickets available from school or
PTA members



Easter bonnets on parade

There was an excellent display of Easter Bonnets on parade at the school on Maundy Thursday. In some cases you could truly eat your hat. Prize winners were announced at a special Easter Assembly, and were, Sam Irish, Victoria House, Alex Roke, Rachel Gunn, Skye Fairlie Vogt, Charlie Saunders, and Alexander Devereux Hayes. There were also competitions for the best decorated egg and book mark; the winners here were Nicholas Mason, Rebecca Thurley, Sarah Davy, Phoebe Glasscock, Abigail King, Michael Brett, and Charlie Truscott. It might not have been the end of term, but it certainly felt like it, as everyone was in holiday mood.

It was Essex County Council's decision to go it alone on the new school holiday arrangements. This has caused inconvenience for a great many parents. The school did ask that consideration should be given to the arrangements our neighbours were making, but this did not happen. We are assured it will be better next year.

Farewell to Mrs Hinton

The school said a sad, but understanding farewell to Mrs Hinton, who had been a special needs teaching assistant at the school for many years. Mrs Hinton has made a career move to the Dyslexic Unit at Stansted Mountfitchet High School. We wish her well in her new post.

Diary dates.

The Millionaire's Evening at the School is back by popular request. The date is May 21st, and tickets are available at the school. The school Sports Day and Fete, will take place on July 16th.

BIRCHANGER C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Birchwood ,Birchanger Nr Bishops Stortford Herts CM 23 5QF

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We are looking for two caring, enthusiastic people to Supervise the children during the lunch break.

Details from Mrs Denise Howell (Headteacher)
Telephone 01279 812362

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Choreography National Competitions*

Classes at:

St. John's Church Hall, Stansted
Birchanger Church Hall, Birchanger

Tel 01992 812781



Coffee Morning In aid of

The Friends of St Mary's

Wednesday 11th May 10.30 am to 12.00 noon

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Village Diary
April/May 2005

April

24th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

30th 8.00 pm At the Club
Phill Hemingway

May

1st 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

8th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

11th 10.30 am Moorswood
Coffee Morning

14th 8.00 pm at the Club
Cover Up

15th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

21st 7.30 pm at the School
Millionaires night

22nd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

28th 7.30 pm Church Hall
Sounds of the 60's
Family Disco

29th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins