

Birchanger

Village Magazine

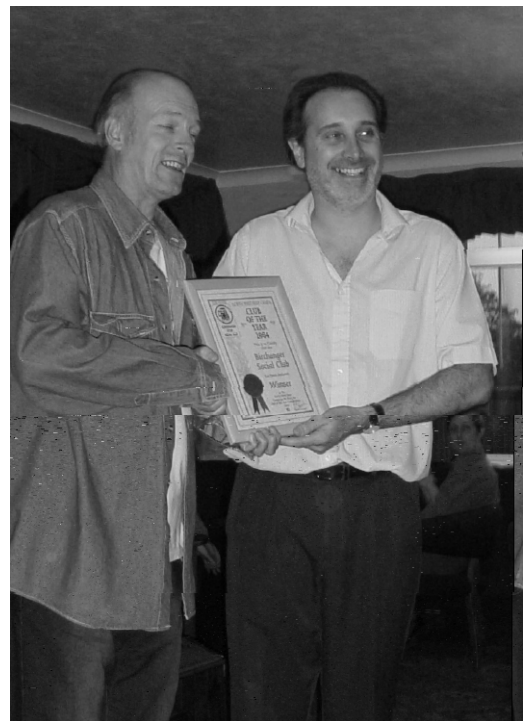
June 2005

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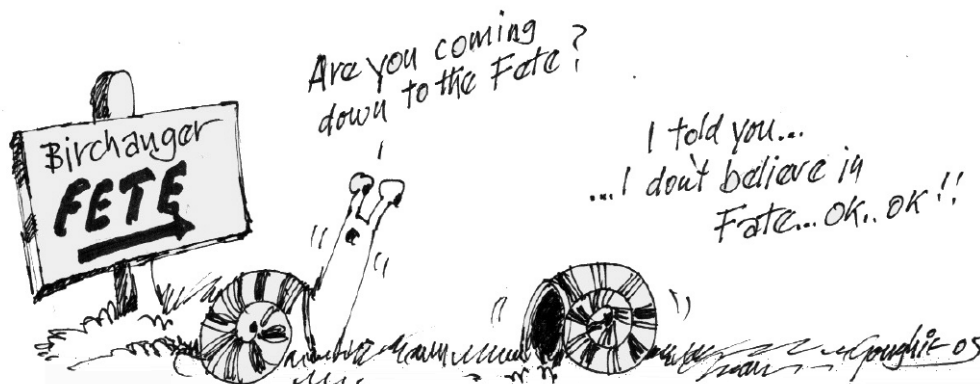
TONY PULLS A PERFECT PINT

Congratulations to Birchanger Social Club who have won The CAMRA Club of the year award for 2004 in North West Essex.

The award was presented to an astonished Club Steward Tony Lucas and came as a complete surprise to him. Tony who has been the Club's Steward since 1997 received the award from Malcome Knikle prior to the Monday night quiz on June 6th. Club Chairman Ken Wheatley said that "The quality of the beer in our club is a major concern of our members it is only fair that the award should go to Tony as he is the person responsible for keeping it. This is a major honour for the club and comes as a reward for Tony's brilliant ability in keeping and serving a pint."



Brian's World



Where Were You Birchanger?

Last month's magazine contained an invitation to those interested in reviving Neighbourhood Watch, to come to a meeting in the Church Hall. Sadly only our two Community Policemen, the Community Safety Officer, Ann Kent (our organiser), two Birchanger co-ordinators and myself managed to make it. We enjoyed the refreshments Anne had provided for us, and discussed issues appertaining to Birchanger, which are common to us all.

Maybe people thought they would be in for actually doing something for the village for a change, if they attended, but if there are enough people to support it, Neighbourhood Watch is not onerous. It is about vigilance, which is something we should all do, communication, which many people do not do often enough, and delivering a newsletter to some houses in the village every three months. It is a chance to help others, and anyone who has ever come home to a ransacked home would appreciate neighbourly watchfulness.

The police have come in for a great deal of criticism over many things in the last few months, including response times. There is a new community team who has taken all this on board, and is trying to forge better links with the community. They cannot do it all on their own. We have to take some responsibility in a common sense way about our own security. If we do not show our willingness to discourage crime in Birchanger, we are likely to get the treatment from the police which we do not want, but are starting to deserve.

If you did not see last month's magazine, and would like to be more involved, even if it is by taking a bit of healthy exercise and delivering a few newsletters, which do warn householders of criminal activities locally, Ann would like to hear from you on 813204.

Elizabeth Godwin

Well Summer seems to be with us again after a long Winter. So here is an update on what is happening at the magazine. This month we have a bumper 12 page issue not least because we have found a new contributor in Sally Tilstone more about her later. We have also acquired a staff cartoonist in Brian Gough so we can look forward to seeing both their offerings in the future.

Looking to the future we have plans to include a regular sports page which will be maintained by Mark Crossley. We also intend to add a useful numbers column, small ads and some other features to make the magazine more interesting.

Last month I received a complaint about the late delivery of the issue. To answer it I would remind readers that everyone who contributes their time to write, layout, edit, print, distribute and deliver the magazine does it for free on their own time and we all have lives of our own to live. For my part I would like to thank everyone who plays a part in producing this publication but especially the deliverers without whom no one would get their copy. Have a good Summer.

Ed Gilbey

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

What does the Church mean to Birchanger?

Our village society is changing and the Church of England is changing too. Without the active involvement of the parishioners in Church affairs there is a real danger that the two could drift apart. So how could the church fit into our village life now, and in the future?

The Friends of St Mary's are leading an initiative to define what the Mission of the Church in Birchanger should be, that is to say to draft a general statement of the Mission, supported by details of the way it is to be put into effect.

The Church is an essential feature of our life in Birchanger. A Mission Statement and its supporting details must, therefore, reflect the concerns and opinions of the Parish as a whole. The Friends, therefore are seeking your help in a questionnaire, which appears later in this magazine, in order to prepare a draft of a Mission Statement which will be considered at a public meeting at a later stage.

Sponsored shelter team cleans up the lane.

Thirteen sacks of rubbish were collected from Birchanger Lane by a small group of volunteers and youngsters from the village who wanted to do something for Birchanger, and to increase the funds raised for the youth shelter. The team spent two and a half hours cleaning up the lane on a Sunday afternoon last month. Some of the items were large, heavy and bulky. The team was joined by the new Chairman of the District Council, Peter Wilcock, and the project was supported by the youth team, and the Parish Council. A total of over £200 is expected to have been raised. It is a great pity that many of those who will benefit from the shelter failed to get out of bed for the occasion, but big congratulations to Rudi Roberts and Jessica Wright who did, and whose efforts more than made up for their absent colleagues. Both Rudi and Jess were presented with their mobile phone vouchers earlier in the month.

A new Police team for Birchanger.

Tom Munro and Neil Russell are the two police officers who are expecting to spend more time in the village in the next five years. We hope it will last that long, as the cynics among us can remember many past promises which have crumbled in the last few years.

The officers intend to maintain a regular beat in Birchanger at varying times of the week. They are also working with youngsters, and have for the time being stopped cars parking in the lych gate, while keeping good relations going with the young people. Contact numbers remain the same, either 812211, or 647680. It seems they can do nothing about the answer phone system, or the fact that when the call is answered, it could be taken at Chelmsford, Braintree or Dunmow. The Parish Council were very explicit about their feelings on this one at the Parish Council Meeting last month, but this is a matter out of the control of the community police team, although our representations will be made known to their superiors.

The Parish Council outlined all their concerns to the police. They have been taken on board, but as always the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it.

This is the last straw.

The Parish Council has come under fire in recent months for the lighting in Birchanger. The Parish Council only maintains the lights in Birchanger Lane, and a spate of vandalism and escalating costs of call out, contract and repair, had meant that call outs had to be limited. Then our contractor began to let us down. We changed contractors to someone who responded quickly, and for a few days all the lights worked well.

Unfortunately, the same crew who wrecked the telephone box took an air rifle to a selection of lights in the lane. Four were wrecked, the evidence in the form of air pellets left for the repair crew to retrieve.

The damage done is considerable, as the electrical systems have been damaged, and these

will be hard to access and repair, when the parts eventually arrive. The lights may be on at the airport, but it could be a long time before they function here. Is it really worth repairing them, when they might not last the night and the cost will eventually mean a rise in the precept if this continues?

Highway issues.

The Parish Council has been very concerned about the state of Birchanger Lane, and other highway matters for some time. It did not appear that Highways were listening to us at all, or dealing with our complaints. The last straw came in March when there were proposals to resurface the only part of the lane which did not appear to need it. Since then, we have managed to see some action, but it is clear that this is only palliative. There is a schedule of further work, but it is clear that it will not be effective for long.

The damage is caused mainly by the extra large buses, always under occupied which go through the village, and the increasing number of Heavy Goods Vehicles which use the village in either mistakenly taking Birchanger Lane as a slip road for the M11, wrecking the Duck End island when they realise their mistake, and attempt to turn, or by lorries looking for the Parsonage Farm Trading Estate. Despite the concerns of the Parish Council and myself regarding highway and access issues, the permission has been granted for the new trading estate on the footprint of the old, but effectively much larger.

While this will tidy up an existing eyesore, there will be both a visual, and a traffic impact on Birchanger. The only palliative solution to the problem in the lane would be to restrict HGV's to Birchanger village access only. The Parish Council, and myself will continually request this, until something happens. Let's hope that highways see it our way quickly, it could save them some money in the end.

Over but not out.

My year as Chairman of the District Council came to an end last month. It was a land mark year, when I managed to meet many interesting people who I might never have met, and to visit place I had not even dreamt about. It was a year when I discovered how much good and hard work is being done in our district, quietly and efficiently so that other people can benefit, by people of all ages. I also had the opportunity to travel outside the district and county, and to forge friendships which will last.

I was backed by a cross party fundraising team. Who helped put on some seven differing functions throughout the year, and it will be a long time before the chilli quiz evening is forgotten. Birchanger residents supported me by coming to the functions, sponsoring my abseil, and making donations to Crossroads, the charity which provides respite time to those who care for a friend or relative for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Crossroads was facing a crisis, following the withdrawal of some of its funding. We raised over £10,000 for Crossroads, which will ensure the organisation's immediate future. Thank you all for your support. I shall continue to work for Crossroads as a member of the management committee.

My year did end badly, when the perceived chairman was not elected after the main political party changed its mind following the results of the County Council election. In the aftermath many people were hurt. This should never have happened, and new procedures must be put into place to ensure it never happens again. Nothing I said made any difference. The position of chairman is not supposed to be political. There is a case that there should be no politics in local government at all. It would be great if everyone really could work together for the good of the district, as most Parish Councils do.

SUMMER ARRIVES FOR OPEN GARDENS

Brilliant summer sunshine greeted the 2005 Open Gardens event. With nine gardens open as well as the Church and the School gardens along with the art studios of Heather Brown and Brian Gough.

The gardens reported around 30 to 50 visitors on the Saturday with that number set to be beaten easily on the Sunday. The sunshine brought high temperatures with 35C (90 F) indicated in the shade at Moorswood this may have deterred some visitors others waited until the Club and Pub closed before venturing forth. Next month we hope to report the result of the takings.



After the hard work is done
This is what Open Gardens is really about

School News

Stepping out after SATS

Now that the annual SATS tests are over, Class 4 are out and about. They visited Uttlesford District Council Offices, and made a tour of the building. They watched part of the Development control meeting from the gallery. This was particularly interesting, as a Birchanger related matter, the Parsonage Farm Industrial Estate was under discussion. They were reluctant to continue the tour, until they had seen the matter resolved, but sadly, in the manner of councillors, the debate went on too long.

The next stop in the tour took them to the Emergency Room, where they could see all the strategic maps, the special emergency telephones, and the rest of the equipment which would be needed to direct an emergency in the district in the underground stronghold. They then watched a recycling demonstration, and the afternoon ended with orange juice and biscuits.

Later in the month the children went to Stansted School for a computer learning day. They learned new techniques, and made links with their own year 7 partner.

To celebrate the hard work done in the first half of the term, the PTA arranged a disco for everyone to relax before the half term break.

Cyclists are not welcome after hours at the school

There are a group of boys on bicycles who have started to make a habit of riding through the school grounds on the bikes, when the school is closed. The group have been asked to stop, but in their own particular brand of wisdom, have decided to ignore the request.

Put bluntly, this is trespass, and any individual using the grounds is liable for prosecution, is uninsured, and liable for any damage incurred. The school has an idea who they are, and the next warning will not be a friendly one.

Stansted sports centre adopts Birchanger school

Stansted sports centre has adopted Birchanger school, and will be teaching our children about healthy lifestyles and fitness. Class 4 will spend a day at the centre at the end of June, when the children will learn about healthy eating, and will be shown how to use appropriate fitness equipment, and generally have a fun day at the sports centre.

Monsters everywhere

TRAVELLER'S TALES

It gives me great pleasure to introduce a new contributor to our readers. Sally Tilstone married Nick a village lad in Birchanger Church in 1974. They have always lived in the village and have two children Sarah and Neil who have now grown up and live nearby. Sadly Nick died in 2001.

Since then Sally has begun to explore both the world and her own potential discovering that she likes to write about her experiences, venturing first to China and more recently to Peru. She says that she "Has made a new circle of friends" as a result and is making plans for more forays in the future. So here is the first part of Sally's account of her trip to Peru.

Following a very sociable evening with my friends Andy and Rosemary Cameron I have been persuaded to write an article on my recent travels to Peru.

Peru was supposed to be the birthplace of Paddington bear, but the courier told us right at the start of the holiday that Paddington was in fact a product of someone's imagination and the Peruvians have never heard of him, besides they do not have any bears in Peru.

I began my journey by meeting up with a group of single travellers at Heathrow airport. We chatted and boarded our plane to Miami. The flight was going to take ten and a half hours and I was seated between Steven who was in my party and a Jamaican gentleman who was a retired police officer. Steven was a young man aged around thirty and had a similar sense of humour to my own. The Jamaican gentleman had been staying in London for his niece's wedding and took great pleasure in showing me his souvenir programme of Charles' and Camilla's wedding which had also been on the same day. Steven was a well travelled young man and while we chatted, there was a point when the whole aircraft seemed very quiet and I suspect they were all tucked up trying to sleep.

Everyone had their red issue blanket draped around them and I remarked that it reminded me of the London homeless wrapped in their blankets waiting for the handouts of soup. We laughed, the aircraft was packed and Steven and I joked of how the airline could fit more people in if they really tried.

We arrived at Miami and went through to connecting flights lounge, but not before we filled in forms, were finger-printed, photographed and removed shoes, bells, jewellery etc all bar removal of false teeth! It was in my opinion, way over the top. We then flew on to Lima the capital City of Peru and arrived after a very tiring twenty six hours.

On this flight I found myself sandwiched between Steven and a gentleman from Haiti. Steven was probably thinking. "Oh no not that woman again?" I felt really claustrophobic and noticed a spare aisle seat, so I moved, apologising to Steven that it was not anything he said or had done.



Sitting in front of the "Lost City" Machu Picchu

We landed in Lima and I was pulled to one side for a baggage check! Unlucky or what? The hotel was basic, hot and the air conditioning was noisy, so you either had to sweat or put up with the noise.

The next morning we had a morning tour of the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and the Presidential Palace. There was a demonstration going on in the square and a line of police with riot shields stood ready at the roadside waiting to go in if there was any trouble.

The following morning we were up early to take another flight to Cuzco the former Inca capital. We visited the ruined village of Ollantaytambo with steps and niches carved right out of the cliff face as well as the lively Pisac market, but the highlight was Machu Picchu the ruined city perched precariously above a steep valley surrounded by jungle.

Machu Picchu was discovered by H. Bingham in 1911 and is referred to as the Lost City. We travelled most of the way to it on a narrow gauge railway which took us through some breathtaking scenery, then on by bus.

Machu Picchu was worth the journey as it was so peaceful, so spiritual. Llamas and alpaca wandered around the site and the tourists were well organised. We had some free time to wander and take in the beauty of it all. The railway track and trains were just a pin dot below us and the mountain scenery was so captivating.

We had a guide who gave us running commentaries on the history of Peru, the Inca's and their culture. It was a wonderful experience.

See part two in next month's issue

By Sally Tilstone

Malcolm Glazer to buy Cubs team shock rumour

Mark Crossley reveals his football fantasy

The threat of Malcolm Glazer the reclusive American sports tycoon tightening his grip on English soccer faded last night with the news that he probably was not going to buy 1st Birchanger cubs' soccer team as well as Manchester United after all.

Mr Glazer seems to have taken his decision despite the boys reaching the final of the District 6-a-side competition on 7th May, where they were narrowly beaten 2-1 by a Hatfield Heath side brimming with non-international players.

What makes the decision even harder to fathom was the way the side had beaten Dunmow Panthers, Dunmow Tigers, Takeley and Birchanger B in the pool stages of a fiercely competitive competition. Trevor Stone, present owner, manager, coach, physio and boot polisher for the Birchanger squad said last night "The lads are gutted, but it is a game of two halves and when all is said and done the beautiful game is no worse off. Personally I'm as sick as a parrot, I could have done with the dosh".

Claims that Malcolm Glazer had been seen having talks with Mr Stone at the Birchanger Social Club were dispelled when it was revealed that Malc had bought a round wearing a baseball cap and a big coat.

Any ideas that this story was drummed up the village magazine to fill column inches and give away extra copies will be vigorously denied. In the interests of journalism I must protect my sources from the gaze of publicity, it is the founding principle of the profession that sources are the lifeblood of news and therefore I will not reveal their names.

Unless someone will pay me for them.

Well done the boys – Win the next competition and maybe I can get my mate Roman interested!

FETE RETURNS TO THE THREE WILLOWS

JULY 10th 2005 13:00 Onwards

Following last year's outstanding success the village Fete will be held in the grounds (well, the garden and car park) of the Three Willows public house in Birchanger Lane.

This year, building on experience gained from the last event, there will be a slightly different layout to cater for between 15 and 20 stalls and attractions, and almost all will be raising money for village institutions including the school, the nursery, the youth shelter and the good old village magazine (all contributions gratefully accepted!)

The stalls themselves will be varied and there will be something for the whole family and, although there will be no food served by the Willows kitchen during the day, Jay Leavers will be cooking up one of his ever popular hog roasts, so that takes care of me then! I don't know what the rest of you will be having!

The logistics of the event are huge and have been organised by Paula at the Willows, she told me that "We have been promised help and contributions by so many people, and it would have been hard to put this event on without them. Companies like Stortford Builders have volunteered to help and the District Youth Bus has promised to make an appearance, as have local artists and even a bee keeper!" Paula also promised something for the whole family with plenty of prizes and activities for young and old, so come along!

But the Fete does need your help and support for it to be a success, those of you who attended last year will vouch for the fact that it was a great afternoon, and hopefully we can replicate the atmosphere on the 10th. The Fete also needs help in another way. Anyone who can donate cakes for the cake stall (funny that), wine for the Win a Bottle stall and prizes for the raffle should contact Paula at the Three Willows (or anyone there if she is not available). All donations will be very appreciated.

Paula also mentioned that the extremely popular gunge tank will not be returning but Cassie and Holly have promised a similar surprise for the day, that at the time of going to press was still a closely guarded secret

And when the day's event winds down the Three Willows will be providing musical entertainment and the kitchen will be cooking fish and chip suppers for the die-hards.

Oh and Dave Tucker has been told by the highest authority (Maureen of course), that he will NOT be getting into such a state that he has to be carried home (good news to me and Ed after last year), and he will be keeping ALL items of clothing on all day, including his strides.

By Mark Crossley

BIRCHANGER VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY JULY 10TH

AT THE THREE WILLOWS

ALL DONATIONS AND STALL ENQUIRIES TO THE THREE WILLOWS 815 913

County Council News

From Kew to King

I would like to thank everyone for their support and congratulation at my winning, albeit by a narrow margin, at the recent Local Council election. I trust that I will be able to repay this and in the process to represent the interests of Birkenhead and the Stansted area in the best way possible.

So far, everything is going very well. I am enjoying the responsibilities but already the challenges we face are becoming clear. I have now published their proposed time table of consultation for the second round of consultation. This is as follows:

12th November

Public Consultation on Airport Draft Interim Master Plan & Planning Application.

19th November

Public Consultation on BAA's preferred runway extension.

19th November

Public Consultation on Road & Rail

19th November

Publication of Airport Interim Master Plan & Planning Application

19th November

Environmental Public Consultation

19th November

Public Consultation

20th November

Early

As all look to be in good health, it is a relief to hear that the programme and they do not appear to have identified the fact that the new Master Plan and will open the Chair.

As all look to be in good health, it is a relief to hear that the programme and they do not appear to have identified the fact that the new Master Plan and will open the Chair.

I find my self in the embarrassing position of having to apologise to one of our contributors. Last month Jean Williams sent me a small item for publication asking about the availability of summer grazing in the village. Although I had typed the item up, I completely forgot to include it. So I hope she will accept my apology for this lapse.

Ed

Wanted Summer grazing

We are looking for some additional grazing in Birchanger for two horses.

Do you have a paddock or small field which is currently unused and could accommodate two four legged mowers?

Our horses would be pleased with a change of scenery while their usual grazing is rested. If by any chance you do own such a piece of land and would like it grazed please phone Jean Williams on 814473.

Items for Sale

M+S Oval shaped solid Pine dining table
With central pedestal and fold down ends
Plus six Pine Farmhouse style chairs £50

Pine Dresser £20

Pine Glass fronted Hifi Cabinet
with storage for approx 100cds £50

6 ft Pine Bookcase 5 shelves £20

21" Sanyo Colour TV with remote £20

Tel 816171 or email the Editor.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Here are some useful telephone numbers. If there are any organisations who would like to be included in this list please forward them to the editor. Suggestions from readers for other entries will also be considered.

Birchanger Church of England Primary School
Head Teacher Mrs. Denise Howell 812362

Birchanger Open Gardens Committee
Enquiries to: Miss Sheila Devereux 813843

Birchanger Social Club 812810

Birchanger Village Magazine
Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey 816171

Church in Birchanger
The Benefice office 815243.
Rector Rev'd. Andrew Spurr 812203
Church Warden Mrs. Joy Wright 813893

Church Hall Mrs. Ann Smith 813457

District Councillor
Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin 812793

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Mrs Ann Kent 813204

Parish Council
Chairman Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin 812793

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Julia Peachey 503912

Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow 444455

Cubs and Scouts
Trevor Stone 812994

P.T. A. Mrs. Maria Davey 816490

Saturday Football Club
Mr. A. Lucas 813441

Sunday Football Club
Mr. Neil Gilbey 816039

What does the Church mean to Birchanger ????

Below are three general mission statements adopted by other churches to serve as examples to assist the Friends in their drafting. Would you please say in the space provided which you prefer and why, tearing out this page of the magazine, and sending it or delivering it to John Gibb at Churton, 300 Birchanger Lane.

Your general comments on this subject would be much appreciated; and if you would like to talk about it before writing, any member of the task group listed below would be pleased to discuss your thoughts with you.

Task Group Members John Gibb 812383, Liz Godwin 812793, Tim Bishop 814986, Elaine Wright 813474, Brenda Holdgate 813551

a) Our Mission is to:

Love God & Lead God-like lives; Love the world & Lead it back to God's ways;
Love others & Lead them to God through Jesus

b) We exist to glorify God and establish a loving community of people who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Through worship, prayer, bible study and friendship we seek to grow in understanding of God's ways; to experience his love and to respond by serving the community in which we live.

c) Our Mission is: Worshipping God, supporting the faithful and serving the community

My reasons / comments are:

June

18th Open Gardens 2005

19th Open Gardens 2005

19th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

July

3rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

10th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

10th 13.00 pm at The Three
Willows
Birchanger village Fete

17th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

24th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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