

Birchanger

Village Magazine

August 2005

Issue 32

FRANKIE AND ME WOWS AUDIENCE

One of the highlights of the school year is the end of term play. It has proved so popular that an extra performance was scheduled for this year. Each year you think there can never be one as good as the year before, and each year we are not disappointed. It has mainly been due to the unique ability of Mrs Crane who directs the plays and arranges the music. She is always able to find just the right production which will enhance the talents of the young performers. They excelled themselves, and clearly enjoyed their roles in "Frankie and Me". The play was funny, enjoyable, and clearly sent a message about friendship and the ultimate failure of bullies, while giving the children opportunities to demonstrate their dancing, singing and acting abilities, while dressed up as monsters, ghouls, mad scientists, and a lot more. The lead role was played by Lucy Haggerwood Bullen. It was a demanding role which she clearly enjoyed, and showed that she could add the ability to act and sing to her already proven musical ability. Hannah Roberson and Jack Culpin played the bullies with talent and style. They took the booing which comes the way of all "baddies" in the end in excellent part with a smile. Edward Earnshaw played the absent minded professor convincingly, and Laura Monro-Smith revealed a talent for singing which hopefully will be encouraged in her new school. William Sykes was the very likeable monster Frankie, who arranged a big party for everyone in the end. Memories must include the mad scientists in their wigs, the performers newly found tap dancing skills, and the clear enjoyment by both cast and audience. Can't wait for next year!

A TRULY VILLAGE AFFAIR

Congratulations to Paul, Paula and Dave who headed the team which made the fete at the pub a very enjoyable day for everyone who came. The weather was hot, the ambience relaxed and the fun continued well into the evening with live music and fish and chips to add to the hog roast and burgers. People from all across Birchanger helped and ran their own stalls to raise money for their own particular groups. £1500 in all was raised in addition to this for the youth shelter. It was a memorable village occasion, with all the usual attractions of Aunt Sally, the Coconut shy, competitions for the highest score on a target in Boules, Tombolas, Raffles and much more. Thank you everyone both those who worked so hard for the fete and those who came.

The Village Magazine bottle stall raised £125 for our funds. Thank you to all who came along and participated. Notable winners this year were Jan and Spencer Brazier who with Jack Smith walked off with three prizes between them.



Jan and Spencer Brazier win another prize

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

Open Gardens meeting

The Open Gardeners met last month to decide where the money raised from this year's Open Gardens could be spent, some £620 in all after expenses had been paid. There had only been one request at the time of the meeting, and this had been for gardening tools for the children to use in the new school garden. This was agreed along with a contribution to support this magazine. Some money is to be spent planting bulbs where possible along the verges to brighten the village in Spring, and this will be done in the early Autumn. There are still funds available, and anyone who would like help with a project should call Sheila on 813843, or myself on 812793.

HGVs in Birchanger Lane.

Birchanger Lane is becoming increasingly worn, and there seems to be an everlasting battle just to get basic repairs made to the lane. The large bus sizes do not help, but it is the large articulated vehicles cause untold damage and delay to everyone.

Highways has finally been persuaded to arrange an HGV survey of the lane, and they will try to do it at a time requested by the Parish council. The question is which day and time of the week is likely to yield the best result from Birchanger's point of view. The more lorries which are sighted, and the bigger, the better it will be if we are to get something done about this problem. If you know of a time of day when there are more likely to be heavy goods vehicles in the lane, please let me know on 812793.

Highways have three options. If there is a real difficulty identified, they will introduce an environment weight limit, and a traffic calming scheme, ahead of the Rochford Nursery development. The lesser alternative is to have signs saying the lane is unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles. If highways do not perceive a problem, we shall have nothing. I must admit to saying it is difficult to know which time is the most suitable, but you may know better.

Recycling In Action.

In attempt to see just how recycling works when it leaves the doorstep, a group of councillors visited the glass recycling site at O1, or Universal Glass as it used to be known, in Harlow. Then Aylesford Newsprint in Kent, where all the paper collection is sent, and finally Grosvenor Waste Management, which is the current destination for all plastics and tins.

At O1, a relatively small staff recycle the 1.3 million bottles which are brought in each day from local authorities all over the country, including Guernsey. It is a non stop process, where the massive furnaces never go out during their expected ten year life span. Glass is sorted by colour, and it is a very expensive process if the colours are wrongly mixed at the collection point. Wrong types of glass, china and other extraneous materials are removed on a conveyor belt by hand, then the glass, known as collet at this stage is fed to the giant hopper system, which will ultimately feed it into the furnaces. From the furnaces further machines feed exactly the right amount into moulds, and within seconds the bottles are made, and passed to another oven to harden. They are then packed giant stacks on pallets to await transportation to food and drink processing plants all over Europe.

You can tell if a bottle has been made in Harlow, as it will have the code UO on the base.

Aylesford is a state of the art paper recycling venue it accounts for 15% of the recycled paper in the UK and 1% worldwide. The factory is surrounded by landscaped gardens and the entire operation is run 24/7 by a team of 33 people at any one time. The entire production is computer generated and robot activated. It takes only two hours to process the raw material into the finished product. Distribution happens largely at night and even this is computer controlled, with robot delivery from the warehouse to the lorry. Customers include many of the well known newspapers and magazines, with further sales in Europe and the United States. It is possible that paper collected from a house on a recycling day could find itself back on the news stands four days later. Purity of

the recycled product is important and sub standard batches are returned.

Grosvenor showed us the other side of recycling. Their site deals with everything that it is possible to recycle at the present time. It uses a combination of manual and mechanical sorting. It does not make any finished products but exports sorted and baled recyclables mainly to Germany. It takes the recyclables in one mixed bag and even the orange bags which are the preferred collection sack, are recycled themselves in China. They do not take food or any other products which they cannot recycle, and again stressed the need for the purity and cleanliness of the material to be recycled.

The three very different venues gave a birds eye view of recycling in action. All venues are open to visitors by arrangement.

White van van succeeds in annoying a great many people.

There have been many calls about the selection of old cars, frequently white vans, which appear at the Birchanger roundabout advertising Bed and Breakfast. Various agencies have been involved in attempting to remove these vehicles, but white van man knows the legislation as well as anyone.

The vehicles can be removed if the police perceive a danger or a dangerous defect. They can be removed if they have an out of date tax disc, as they were on one occasion, when the owner faced a fine of £150, or after a period of time, they can be prosecuted for illegal advertising. The question is, would anyone want to sleep in an establishment which advertised itself on these vehicles?

Multi cultural festival in Saffron Walden

The district Council is hosting a Multi Cultural Festival in the grounds of Audley End House on September 18th, between 12.30, and 6pm. The event will combine music, dance, costume and food from all over the world and will feature local talent, as well as professional acts. There will be a variety of locally produced food to buy and the event is intended to be a fun day out for the whole family.

Tea with the Queen goes on despite the bombers.

An invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace comes to thousands of people each year. This year it was particularly important, falling just one week after the London bombings, and on a day when London remembered those who had died in the blasts. The Queen was not going to cancel, and the guests came from all over the country in droves. It was a uniquely British occasion, the garden was immaculate, and the weather produced one of the hottest days this year. At the end of the afternoon, guests who had observed the silence earlier made their way to Trafalgar Square to join in the memorial evening. London was packed throughout the day. The terrorists had reckoned without the spirit of the blitz.

School news

Birchanger boys joint top school in the district sports.

Birchanger boys tied for first place in the winners table at the District Sports. The girl's team were third in their table. The boy's trophy was shared with Manuden School and will spend half of the coming year in the school. Congratulations everyone.

Newport concert.

Despite the unscheduled performance of thunder and lightning before the concert, there was nothing to disrupt a highly enjoyable evening for everyone. The combined primary schools gave the Glyndebourne style audience something to really enjoy, while they partook of their picnics and relaxed. Class 3 participated this year, as class 4 were all recovering from their trip.

Out of Birchanger

This year Sue and I were lucky enough to go to Kenya for our holidays. This meant that Ken Wheatley and Ken Devine produced the July edition. So thanks to them for their excellent effort.

I have written a detailed article about the holiday as it covers a safari as well as some efforts at distributing aid at a primary school. It is really too large an item for the magazine to print except by instalments. So here is a small excerpt.

Going on Safari

I have long had a desire to go on a safari and this holiday was my chance. There were nine of us in our party all of whom booked independently and separately. So each of us booked a different combination of safaris. Sue and I elected to go on a two night trip to Kimana / Kilimanjaro.

The way it worked was simple. We were bussed to Bambini airstrip near Mombasa and boarded a twenty seater Twin Otter aeroplane for a one hour flight into the bush. We arrived there at about four thirty in the afternoon and were embarked into a large lorry with twelve other people. We would be staying with the same lorry and its driver Martin for the duration of our stay. We then started on our first game drive which would last for two hours until the sun went down.

Within ten minutes of landing we were in the midst of a thirty strong herd of elephant! Martin warned us to be quiet as elephants are short sighted but easy to alarm so all you could hear was the clicking of camera shutters, whispered excited comments and the noises made by the elephants themselves! When the elephants had all crossed our path we continued encountering all manner of game zebra, wildebeest, warthogs, antelope, gazelles and giraffes. There were also scatterings of various monkeys and baboons. As the sun went down we were taken to the leopard lodge on the Kimana river where we would be staying.



You don't see many of these in Essex

The accommodation was small chalets, each with twin beds, a toilet and shower. Meals were taken in the main building that housed a bar and restaurant. All the meals were included and comprised five courses and considering where we were they were very good. There was even after dinner entertainment consisting of a visit from local Maasai dancers. They perform a series of similar dances to the one used by the BBC between programmes; mostly these involve jumping up to prodigious heights while making a quite extraordinary vocal sound. It is a strange experience. And so to bed.

The Kimana game park is one of the smaller ones in southern Kenya it is situated between the Amboselli and Tsavo West game parks. It exists because the Kimana river is a fast flowing brook coming directly from Kilimanjaro about forty miles away in Tanzania. The presence of water all year round ensures the presence of the game and where there is game there will also be predators. The landscape varies from

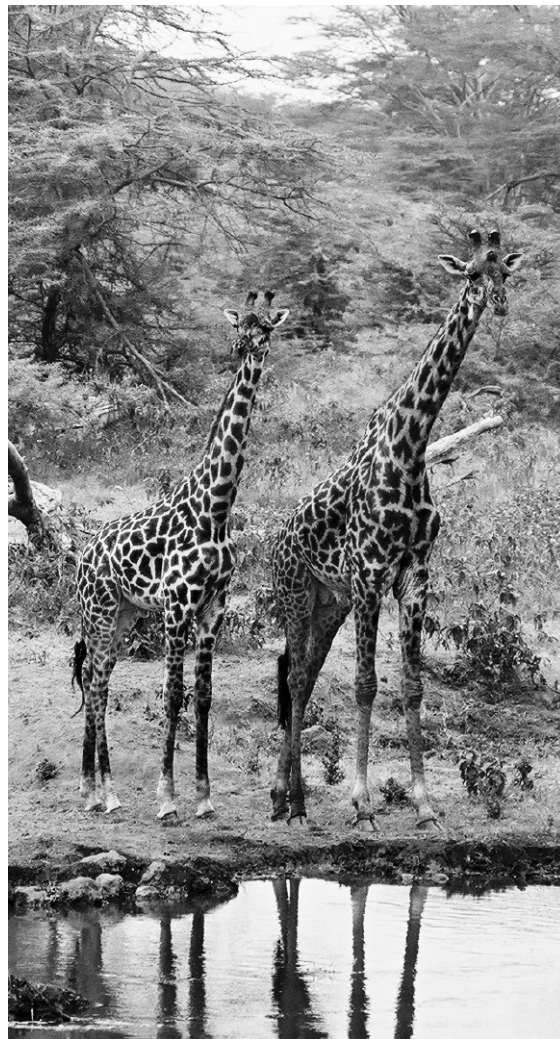
tropical forest near the river to wide open savannah on the plains. The park covers about 100 square miles.

Our next game drive was scheduled for 6.15 the next morning i.e. before dawn. Dawn in the bush is cold, so cold you needed three layers to keep out the chill we huddled together for warmth as we made our way back into the park. The early morning is the time when it is most likely to encounter predators, as they hunt in the dark. Alas we saw none except a solitary hyena about half a mile away. Apparently lions eat once every four days so they had probably had dinner a day or two previously.

Kilimanjaro made a brief appearance before it was lost in the haze. It's amazing how you can hide something that size on a flat plain. After two hours hunting for lions we went back to the lodge for breakfast.

There was another game drive between 10.30 and 12.30 when we returned for lunch. It had warmed up significantly by then. And another that started at 4.30; all revealed the astonishing numbers and variety of game that Kenya is blessed with.

The full article (11 pages of text over 5000 words) is available as a PDF file along with a lot of good quality colour photos. I will supply them on a CD for £1 each. The proceeds from which will be forwarded to the Fumbini primary school Kilifi, Kenya . Please contact the Editor for full details.



At the Kimana river these Giraffes
Wait for a drink

Next month Delivering aid to Fumbini primary school

On the Buses

From the 30th August there will be significant improvements to the bus route through Birchanger. The new timetable for the 301 route has been published by Essex County Council, and it shows an hourly service all day from Mondays to Saturdays.

Buses from the village to Bishop's Stortford leave at 0808, 0940 then hourly until 1940. Buses back to the village leave Bishop's Stortford at 0756, then at 0900 and every hour until 1800. After the 11-minute trip to Birchanger they continue to Stansted Mountfitchet, Quendon, Widdington, Newport, Audley End Station and Saffron Walden.

Temporary Bus Stop

The riverside bus stop in Bishop's Stortford has been closed due to the town centre reconstruction. A temporary stop has been installed further back near the end of a small walkway. A temporary bus shelter will also be installed in due course.

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2005

Having gained a ticket for the final day at the Chelsea flower show, I set off on the train to Liverpool Street.

I had timed my arrival just right as there was no queue and I walked in armed with a plan and suggested route that I had cut out from a national newspaper.

I viewed the first garden, "The Saville Garden" by Claire Agnew, it featured a temple and colonnade in natural stone, there was a shallow water canal and planting. I quite liked it, as it appeared serene and calm to me. "The Float garden" by Australian designer Jack Merlo was next in line and featured water by way of a lap pool with an outdoor lounge feel to it and a large dramatic deck with sun loungers.

I viewed a number of creative arts, garden features, sculptures, metalwork and stonework. There were eco gardens, recycled gardens, philosophical gardens, nostalgic gardens, modern gardens, cottage gardens, rock gardens and so on.

My opinion of the garden designed by Diarmuid Gavin was not particularly good. It reminded me of the children's TV programme "The Teletubbies" and I expected Tinky Winky, Dipsy, La La, and Po to pop their heads out of their domes and say "eh oh"!

My favourites were the Chelsea pensioner's garden called "A soldier's dream of Blighty" as is depicted the dreams of the homecoming of the soldiers in the Second world war. This garden had a traditional thatched pub, a vegetable patch, a pond and a broken fence and a field of poppies. I had photographed the Chelsea pensioners earlier, leaving their Royal Hospital residence and walking to mingle with the crowd. They were enjoying the attention.

Another favourite was a tiny cottage garden by Kim Wilde with a delicate garden gate with willow hearts on it and a willow arbour over a seating area, it was very quaint and peaceful.

I also liked the "Fetzer wine garden" by Kate Frey with its

observation tower, wildflower meadow, wetland area and vegetable plot. As well as the Terence Conran garden that depicted peace and tranquility.

I looked at the flower arrangements in the horticultural tent and took a photo of the one displayed by our neighbours from Thaxted. I spent some time people watching while I ate my lunch and listened to the comments from the other visitors who had come from all over the world.

The main pavilion had the most beautiful displays of cut flowers, unusual flowers, stunning designs in vibrant colours and with a wonderful aroma.

Stalls lined the outer perimeter of the show gardens selling lots of items linked to gardens and gardening.

I walked around taking photographs and storing ideas and tips in my head to transform my garden back home and decided to leave before the exodus became too frantic.

I know that towns can be twinned, but I would need to be twinned with Charlie Dimmock to produce such a garden! Then maybe I could enter it in the Birchanger Open Gardens but of course not straight away.

Sally Tilstone



A letter to the Editor

I would like to say a big thank you to all committee members and members of the Over Sixties Club for all the help and support I received during the last thirty two years as secretary.

I have enjoyed the work and feel now that it is running smoothly and it is now time I stepped down and had a break as I am not now in the best of health.

Please help Mr. Bernie King who is taking over from me and give him the same help that you gave me. Once again many thanks and please accept my best wishes.

June Brown (Retired Secretary)

More vandalism in the lane

I have received another message complaining of vandalism to cars at the lower end of Birchanger Lane near the guesthouse. The lack of off street parking in that part of the village is an on going problem and some of the residents feel they are being victimised because of this. One suggestion to relieve this was to convert part of the grass verge at the mouth of High View to public parking. I have passed on this suggestion to a member of the parish council and await the outcome. The victim asked me to preserve their anonymity.

AND FINALLY

The team at the pub Paul, Paula, Dave and Maureen would like to personally thank everyone who contributed to the day. Paula said. "We all enjoy the fete, hopefully we'll see you all again next year".

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

August

- 21st 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
- 28th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

September

- 4th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
- 11th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service
- 18th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
- 25th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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