

BIRCHANGER'S PARISH PLAN IS COMING

What is the Parish Plan, why is it important to the village and how will it affect us? Please turn to page 5 for full story.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT SO HAVE YOUR SAY

LOCAL MP VISITS BIRCHANGER SCHOOL

Sir Alan Haselhurst spent a morning at Birchanger school. During the visit, which was relaxed and informal, Sir Alan met head teacher, Mrs Howell, who along with Liz Godwin, Chair of Governors, showed him round the school while the children were in class. He had the opportunity to see the computer suite, complete with new computers, in use by Class 1, to meet the newest pupils and to see the children at work.

School assembly followed and it was the chance of the School Council to ask questions. Each member had their turn and carefully noted the answers. The School council face reelection shortly and one member wanted to know how Sir Alan felt when the result of the election was about to be announced. They could identify with his pleasure at winning, particularly as many of the school councillors enjoy their role and wish to stand for reelection. They discovered how it felt to be an MP, what Sir Alan did in his spare time, what it was like to talk to the Prime Minister and the Queen and the difficulties attached to the role of Deputy Speaker. They learnt that it is a job where every day is different and that he never knew what surprises the post might bring each morning. Those who did not understand the role of a Member of Parliament learnt a lot and it seems that more than one child was inspired to follow in his footsteps.

Sir Alan then had time to meet some of the staff, to discover the benefits of being in, and the difficulties of running a small school. He was able to see all the improvements that the school had made since it was built in 1982, the special provision for the disabled and the plans for the future.

Everyone learnt from the visit and Sir Alan knows he would be most welcome back at the school any time his busy schedule allows.



Pictured with our MP are Mrs Howell, Lucy Haggerwood-Bullen, Guy Robins, Anna and Elliot Field and Elizabeth Godwin

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM *Elizabeth Godwin*

Additional affordable homes for Birchwood?

There are many families in the village desperately seeking houses in Birchanger but finding they are priced out of the market. The school is seeing numbers fall as young families have to move away to find affordable larger homes elsewhere. The village needs a school but it will face financial constraints as numbers drop. This is somewhat ironic as Birchanger is a good school, with smaller than average classes even when full and has undergone a period of development and improvements which has meant it is a stable school, where every child is valued.

Parking is also an issue, especially in the evenings and weekends in many areas in Birchanger. Any development site must take into account parking issues, and the fact that there is an inadequate bus service.

The District Council has identified three sites in Birchwood which might be used by a registered social landlord for affordable housing, and one which is very small but which might be of interest to a developer for a single house. These are all in areas where there are garages or parking places. All of the sites are used for parking at some time of the day.

The council is proposing to introduce a rolling program to redevelop these sites for housing. No further leases would be offered, and tenants will be notified if this scheme was to ever go ahead. Officers will investigate the possibility of offering and creating alternative parking arrangements for tenants affected, but the owners of houses now in private ownership would have to make their own parking arrangements.

The Parish Council will be attempting to negotiate proper parking for everyone, and it would certainly be impracticable to develop any more than two of these sites at the most. Public transport is such that it is very difficult to live in Birchanger without a car. We do need affordable homes, but we are not

in a big city, and Mr Prescott's guidelines are very difficult to apply here.

Honours Lists

Twice a year the District Council is asked to nominate someone for an individual honour in the New Year, or the Queen's Birthday List Honours. The honours can apply just as well to someone in the middle of their working life, as well as at the end of it for services which are outstanding in any different field.

If you know anyone whom you consider deserves an honour, please tell me on 812793, or Alastair Bouvaird, the chief executive of the Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510510. There have been very few community honours for this district lately, perhaps because of our own individual community awards.

Shelter Update

Many of you will have been aware of the upheaval in the recreation ground and allotments over the past two weeks. The youth shelter arrived at last, and spent most of the last month in the pub garden waiting for installation. A large saving in the price of the youth shelter has meant that there was enough money to install low level lighting on a time switch, and the connection that this would require, has been the cause of the chaos in the allotments.

By the time you read this, it is hoped that the installation will be complete. Rain has not made the muddy situation in the recreation ground any easier, and highways will eventually repair the access to the area. It is hoped to arrange a grand opening, once the work has been completed, and the lighting connected. More next month.

Children in danger

It can only be a matter of time before a child is seriously hurt in Birchanger. Concerned residents have approached the police, school and council regarding the children who dice with death on the roads in Birchanger. They run out in front of cars, ride bikes or skateboards in the middle of the road, and sit on kerbs with their skateboards projecting into the middle of the road, causing motorists to swerve around them. Parents who have been approached, have in the main denied that their children are involved, and ignore appeals to monitor their children's behaviour.

The local schools are trying to address this, but at the end of the day, the children are their parent's responsibility, something which it seems a minority of parents would prefer to forget.

BIRCHANGER OVER 60'S CLUB

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY NOV 19TH 2005

2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM

IN THE CHURCH HALL

ENTRANCE FEE 50p
INCLUDES TEA & BISCUITS

STALLS :- GOOD AS NEW, XMAS GIFTS,
CAKES, TOMBOLA AND A BIG RAFFLE

EVERYONE WELCOME

Birchanger War memorial

Update on progress to clean and re point the plinth and fit eight Nabresina panels over existing stone faces with lettering thereon.

I have at last received a certificate from the diocesan advisory committee for permission to petition for a faculty. ie. Permission to do the proposed works above. This will take more time but I hope that by spring next year the work will commence and be finished by Easter or Whitsun at the latest.

I have not got all of the money required for this yet. I am hopeful to have raised it all by the time work commences. If I am short before then I propose to host a function at Moorswood to raise the balance. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this and especially to those that have made donations to date:- The Club, Alan Ross via his employer's charity fund, The PCC, The Open Gardens, The Kents and of course the Birchanger Branch of the Royal British Legion (the late John Godwin memorial fund). Any further donations would be most welcome and appreciated.

Pim Godwin

Birchanger Social Club

Annual Firework Display

Sunday November 6th

At 7.00 pm

Brian's World



School News

Harvest time at Birchanger School.

The school celebrated Harvest in style earlier this month. The children invited their parents and some of Birchanger's Senior Citizens to join them in their harvest celebration. All the children entertained the assembled guests with poems, readings, songs and instrumental recitals, while Rev Andrew Spurr conducted the Harvest Celebration. Afterwards the children invited the senior members of the audience for tea and cakes. the children were able to relax and talk to their guests, and a good time was had by everyone.



At the School's harvest festival were Analise Martin, Ellie Rayner, Anna Field and Ashleigh Chaplin

Invitation to lunch

The children are very proud of their healthy school lunches. At times they have been involved in selecting the menu, and even preparing the food. Their latest idea is to invite the same senior citizens to sample school dinners again after many long years. If the idea is a success, it is hoped to repeat the experience later in the school year.

Nits Naturally

There are very few families in this country who can honestly say they have not been affected by the problem of nits at some time or other in their lives. Presently there is a near epidemic of nits everywhere. At Birchanger parents and children are squaring up to the problem, and are determined to declare the school a total nit free zone.

The parents attended a meeting with the school nurse, who explained the latest eradication techniques. Then the children learned all about the minute menace, and what they could do for themselves to make sure their hair remained nit free.

Watch out nits, here comes Birchanger.

Parent information mornings

Every parent had the opportunity to attend an information morning to find out what their child could expect to be taught this term, and to ask questions. Several parents took this opportunity this term, and it is part of the on going dialogue between parents and the school. The educational psychologist has returned from maternity leave, and will be able to assist the school where necessary this term. Links with the community continue with the invitation to the Harvest Festival, and there will be a Key Stage 1 Nativity Play to look forward to in December.

School clubs are go.

School clubs rotate according to the season, and this term's clubs are up and running. For Classes 3 and 4 this means Football and Gym Clubs with professional coaches, as well as the Reporters Club for the school newspaper, and the Gardening Club which is busily preparing the garden for the winter ahead. There is also the school choir, and the opportunity to learn Spanish with a teacher especially seconded from Birchwood School.



THE BIRCHANGER PARISH PLAN IS ON ITS WAY

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU



As you may be aware from previous issues of this magazine, a Parish Plan for Birchanger is to be produced. The Parish Plan is a document that is being compiled by volunteers in the Village from information collected from all the residents of Birchanger.

“What is a Parish Plan?” we hear you say, “why should it affect me and why should I spend time completing these questionnaires?”

Due to changes in Local Government planning and the regionalisation of decision making a Parish must now set out its own strategic framework defining the needs and wants of their community.

The Parish Plan is a comprehensive document that has two fundamental parts. Firstly, it will define a vision of what the community would like the Parish to be. It will allow the residents to identify and define planning rules for what needs to be done now and what is important in the view of the parish members for the future development of Birchanger. Social, environmental, economic issues, employment, playgrounds, design and location of new buildings, protection of hedges and ponds, in fact, anything that the community values. In effect, it is our “Wish List”.

Secondly, it will contain an Action Plan to address the needs for change and improvement, defining those things that should be done and who should be doing them to achieve the vision over 5 to 10 years. It will address actions which the Parish itself - Council, individuals, Organisations – will undertake and actions that will affect the policies, decisions and actions of bodies outside the Parish.

A Steering Committee of ten was formed from those who had attended an initial meeting in June and who had voiced an interest in the project. Work began in earnest to produce the first two consultation documents, along with a third questionnaire for young residents. The first of these documents the “Parish Survey” has been finalised and awaits printing, with a view to delivering this questionnaire sometime in November.

The second document, the “Issues Questionnaire” along with the young residents questionnaire will follow, hopefully, after Christmas.

All the questionnaires are confidential to the Parish Plan Steering Committee only and are completed anonymously. A member of the Parish Plan team will deliver each questionnaire personally, introducing themselves to you and explaining the document if required. You will have up to 2 weeks to fill in each questionnaire and an envelope will be supplied in which to put your completed questionnaire for collection by your team member or for you to return to the team member’s home if preferred.

The sealed envelopes will be opened at random, ensuring none of the team has any idea from where each envelope originated. The responses will be collated and it is from your replies that the plan will be formed.

Nobody need feel that they are under any obligation to complete these forms, but they are extremely important documents for Birchanger, as they will form the basis of planning for residents needs in the future. All views are vital if there is to be a proper portrayal of the life, needs and aspirations of Birchanger.

There is a lot of hard work still to come, but once completed the Parish Plan will be a printed booklet, delivered to every household. It will then pass from the Parish Plan Committee to the Parish Council who will maintain and review it every three years. The final Parish Plan will be lodged with both the District Council and the Regional Assembly and will have the status of providing a set of additional planning guidelines for Birchanger that will be applied to any development proposals that they have to consider.

So, when the Parish Survey is handed to you by your team member, or when it drops on your doormat, please take a little of your time to fill it in and return it.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT! SO HAVE YOUR SAY

Stained glass, it's a pane!

In my quest to try new things, I booked a two day course on making a stained glass panel. The tutor was local and I arrived complete with old clothing, good footwear, rubber gloves and plenty of enthusiasm. We began by going into the studio. Carol the tutor gave my colleague and I a brief rundown on what we would be doing, the tools required and also made us aware of the health and safety issues.

We began by taking a plain sheet of glass and an oil glass cutter, scoring the glass and breaking it into lots of pieces. There was a knack to this as the glass would sheer off at an angle if the cutter was not held at the correct angle or the glass was scored unevenly. We followed this process by drawing lines using a cutting square and felt pen on a new sheet of glass and cutting to the lines.

We also used grozing pliers to chip off small pieces. It was not easy and I managed to obtain a "Snow White" Disney plaster on my finger. We stopped for coffee and then resumed by designing our pane.

This involved drawing a 30 x 30 cm square and dividing it up into ten to fifteen panels, oblong, square, triangular, all varied in size. We then chose our preferred layout, then we had a salad lunch.

After lunch we spent time choosing various cuts of coloured glass from a cabinet and trays and put them as an overlay on our panel design that we had drawn to scale. This was where our expertise in cutting glass was to come in. We then had to painstakingly cut each piece of glass to size using a grinder to smooth out any rough edges.

My colleague had chosen blues, pinks and lilacs, whereas I chose red, yellow, orange and green, so there was no fighting. Both of us were very pleased at the way our panels were taking shape. We ended our day and looked forward to the next.

We arrived the next morning eagerly anticipating the day's events. We were told to choose three to four pieces of glass to sandblast a pattern on and after masking we took those pieces to the sandblasting machine and made decorative lines, squares, oblongs or triangles on our chosen pieces.

Back to our studio and now it was time to tackle the lead. The outer lead was of course thicker than the inner and each pliable strip was put into a lead vice and stretched taught ready to cut to length. My colleague obviously didn't know her own strength and pulled so hard she and the lead went flying backwards where she had not secured the lead tightly into the vice.

We repeated this with the inner leads and cut all to sizes required to make our panel. Working on a board we pegged out the glass using horseshoe nails to hold the glass in position, whilst leading up our panel.

It was now time for a much needed break and a chance to view some of Carol's work. Carol showed us some mirrors that she had made, which were so beautiful and her folder of commissions, which apart from the leaded windows included screens, door panels, mobiles, etc.

It was only now that I was having a go at making a panel that I appreciated the amount of work that went into making these items and I think that the cost is justified. Besides you gain a satisfaction knowing that this item is unique to you and personal. It provoked many ideas and we chatted about the endless possibilities for Christmas decorations, Wedding or Christening memorabilia and Valentine gifts.

Enough chat, we needed to get on, so we then proceeded to wire brush our lead and solder the joints on both sides of our panel. We had lunch and then puttied up between the lead and glass. Next came the

cementing, blackening our lead, cleaning up our glass and polishing. Carol attached two hanging hoops at the top and lo and behold, we had a very presentable glass decor panel.

It was half past five and we had been so preoccupied that the time just flew by. Carol took a photo of us both holding our panels for her folder and she joked that one of her students had remarked that she intended to make all her friends a Christmas present.

It is not impossible as you can buy a starter kit, but as they say “you cannot run before you can walk”. It would need a lot more than a two day course. However there are night classes and day courses and I would thoroughly recommend it, even if it is only to say “been there, done that”. It is all about trying new things.

I have a little card I carry with me which says “God gave me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or grow in its light and be of service to others, but what I do with this day is important because I have exchanged a day of my life for it”. So every day must count.

Sally Tilstone

Festive writing Competition

Once again we are running a writing competition for our younger readers for printing in the December issue. This year we are looking for Stories, Poems or Limericks constructed from one of the following first lines.

- 1 A long long time ago in far off galaxy named Birchanger.
- 2 The candles in the church burned brightly.
- 3 As the clock struck midnight the snow began to fall.

And for the limericks something along the lines of

- 1 There was a young man from Duck End.
- 2 (and for balance) There was a young lady from Birchwood.

As usual there will be prizes for the best entries and consolation prizes for the runners up we will accept entries from 4 to 7 year olds, 8 to 11 and 12 and over.

We will also accept entries from adults in the limerick section assuming they are fit to print but we will not be awarding prizes for these entries if we get any!

The closing date for entries is Sunday December 4th.

From the Archive

Further to The Archive item from last month. The game of “Hot Rice” is a variant of Hopscotch that Rene Kadwill remembers playing. She also recalls that Ruth’s pet name was “Lally” and that she was known to refer to herself by it.



*Homestyle Indian &
Bangladeshi Restaurant*

10 London Road, Bishops Stortford
01279 505665 01279 505885



D Bonney & Sons

Motor Engineers

MOT TESTING, SERVICING
DIAGNOSTIC, MECHANICAL REPAIRS

SELECTION OF NEW AND USED CARS
Yew tree corner Manuden
Ring Malc or Neil on
01279 813315 or 815946

THE THREE WILLOWS
01279 815913



More than just
your village Pub!

Perfect PC's
BUILT ON RECOMMENDATION

Computer Sales and Repairs
Security Specialists
Alarms CCTV Access Control
Audio Visual
Home Cinema-Distributed Audio/Video
Office and Home Networking
Wired/Wireless & Phone Systems
Websites EPOS

01992 - 613382
92 The Plain, Epping, Essex, CM16 6TW



LAUNDERETTE
DO
DO
DUVETS
DIVINELY
AND CLOTHES TOO!

- * Open 7 days a week
- * By Hockerill lights, Bishop's Stortford
- * large car park Tel 866183



david lee

estates

360 Virtual Tours, Floor Plans,
Full Colour Brochure,
Very Competitive Fees

Properties in Birchanger required!!

33 Cambridge Road
Stansted
CM24 8BX

01279815511
www.davidleeestates.co.uk

**STORTFORD
PERFORMANCE
TYRES**



*High Performance
Tyre Suppliers*

UNIT 7 & 8 RAYNHAM CLOSE
BISHOPS STORTFORD HERTS CM23 5PB
01279 466466

Stansted Manor Hotel

Wyndhams Restaurant

OFFERS EVERYTHING
FROM COFFEE AND CAKE
TO FULL A LA CARTE DINING
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL

01279 859800
15% DISCOUNT ON PRESENTATION OF THIS ADVERT

October

- 23rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
29th 8.00 pm At the Club
Mark Jacobs
30th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

November

- 6th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
6th 7.00 pm Club field
Fireworks display
13th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service
20th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
27th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

Advertising space available

You could be advertising
your business or service here

For more information Contact
Mark Crossley on 07979 708142