

# Birchanger

## *Village Magazine*

July 2006

Issue 43

## SUMMER FUN AT THE WILLOWS

The village fete returned to the Three Willows garden on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> with an early threat of inclement weather. Happily the clouds parted and by 12 o'clock we were able to open with no problem threats from the elements.



There were the usual attractions all raising funds for village organisations. Jay Leavers with his ever popular pig roast did a roaring trade as did the accompanying barbeque. A welcome feature was the bucking bull which proved an irresistible challenge once the beer started to take a hold. There was the usual Cake stall run by Carol Yeoman, a Coconut shy by Pim and Elizabeth Godwin, a plant stall and tombola run by Pam Lee and Cheryl Dare. The Scouts ran an Air rifle range and Ken Sturgeon was there playing his cards right.

### The Egyptian dancers

re means we can stay in print for another issue. There were two bric a brac stalls, a book stall, Bonsai trees, a chocolate fountain and a huge raffle.

Tim Bishop took the mantle of Master of Ceremonies while music was provided from The Uttlesford Youth Bus. Another welcome distraction was a troop of Egyptian dancers who entertained the ample crowd.

At the time of writing it is thought that some £1600 have been raised for village organisations which is quite an achievement.

Once again we have to thank Paul, Paula and Dave at the Three Willows for providing the venue and we all look forward to next year's event.



### Alicia takes the bull by the horns

# CHURTON DEVELOPMENT TO GO AHEAD

But not without controversy

Despite significant opposition the two applications regarding the development of Churton were given approval at a meeting of the Development Control Committee of Uttlesford District Council.

What this means is that the applicant has permission to demolish Churton and build a replacement property of similar proportions but not on the same footprint as the existing house.

The second application to build six other properties within the plot was given outline permission. In essence exactly what the applicant wanted!

Our Parish councillors were initially barred from the meeting due to an allegation of bias being made. Our district councillor was also barred from speaking due to being a “near neighbour” to the development. These conditions were successfully challenged and one of our Parish councillors was given three minutes at the end of the meeting to voice the objections of the villagers.

Fifty two letters of objection were sent for consideration but for some reason only nine were initially considered. The other forty three were “in a file elsewhere in the building” and retrieved after the decision had been made.

The vote on the issue was 7 in favour 2 against and 1 abstention. There was no scope for amendments. So the proposal is an all or nothing development!

Correspondence received since the meeting states that the case officer had taken into account “everything he was required to consider” and therefore recommended in favour of the proposals. He also continued to say that “there was no requirement for the committee to be impartial or to refuse the application”.

So there we have it. Forty three letters “misplaced”. The entire Parish council and our only district councillor disenfranchised and a decision that bears all the hall marks of a “fait accompli”. It did not matter what objections were raised, whether pertinent or otherwise, as the case officer had already made up his mind. (Of course he could not be considered biased.)

The views of the residents of Birchanger and our elected representatives fell on deaf ears and the success of this application will simply lead to more of the same type of development in the near future because now there’s a precedent.

Democracy in action 2006.

Ed Gilbey

With thanks to Peter Emery and Philip Hoy

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## The Churton Development

The planning application to demolish Churton and to build a replacement dwelling received full planning approval while outline approval was given to build a further six houses on the site was also obtained. This was despite 52 letters of objection from households throughout the village who objected on highway grounds and the loss of amenity and overbearing on neighbouring houses. This was a far greater number than those who objected to the airport expansion. While there was reluctance to see a landmark dwelling demolished, there was a view from many that the site could possibly accommodate a much lesser number of houses, but certainly not the number proposed. There were also concerns about the width of the estate road, and the parking shown being inadequate for the particular site.

A highway report apparently recommended approval, but this was submitted too late for any resident to see. Most of the objections came from those who had many personal experiences of incidents on the bend. The proposal does not take away the bend, it simply makes it easier to see around, which tends to make drivers drive even faster. Most drivers already approach the bend at inappropriately fast speeds.

The parish council were originally not allowed to comment after an allegation of bias had been made. This was changed at the 11th hour after representations from the District Councillor, who was also barred from speaking as a near neighbour to the site.

Letters of objection on the way the matter has been handled have been sent to the District Council. There is no appeal against the decision, only the possibility of a costly judicial review, unless common sense ultimately prevails.

## Wheelie bins too big?

Many people may find that their wheelie bins are too large for them or their homes in the next few weeks. If this applies to you, you can ask for smaller bins through calling the number in your information pack. Replacement is free.

There are different collecting vehicles for the two bins left out. They may come at different times. Please make sure that both bins have been emptied before you bring them in.

In your recycling pack you will find some sample starch based biodegradable refuse sacks. These are to be used for the food recycling. Any alternatives used must be biodegradable, not just degradable as the new Tesco carriers claim to be. It is hoped to find an outlet in the village to sell these bags and the new biodegradable green waste sacks which have just become available. Free bags of compost are available at UDC main recycling sites for people to help themselves.

## The roundabout returns to the Rec

After extensive refurbishment the roundabout was reinstated last month with a new safety surface. It has been a very costly operation, aided in part by a grant from Essex County Council. It is probably a forlorn hope to expect that it will be left alone by vandals, but if it is seriously damaged again, it will not be replaced. Please respect those who enjoy using it for the purpose for which it was made. The see saw has also been vandalised, and those who use it must do so with extreme care. Repairs for the seesaw have been authorised as a matter of urgency.

## Parish plan takes shape

The long work of collating all the responses to the Parish Plan consultation documents is now completed and the work of actually writing the plan has begun. Each section of the plan has been taken on by individual team members and this part of the document will be put together later this month. The next step will be to agree an action plan which will

go to the Parish Council for approval. There is no date for publication yet but it will be soon.

There were many interesting ideas put forward by all those who completed the questionnaires. Some will be too costly to implement or are beyond our control. However there is a great deal which we can do to improve Birchanger and we can start to lobby for the rest. There is a very clear mandate where this is what the majority believe is necessary for the village.

### **Is common sense about to prevail?**

A recent inquiry into the building of new homes in the Eastern Region has urged that consideration of natural resources, water and the affects of climate change should be taken into account before building new homes. Although the original focus for growth has shifted away from Uttlesford and there is recognition of the many listed buildings and historic sites in the district, we shall still have to accommodate 8000 additional houses. Over 5000 of these houses already have planning permission. Stansted airport is no longer to be regarded as the economic driver for the area. All regional airport plans should go through the statutory development process.

The focus for growth will lie in Norwich, Luton and Peterborough. There will be development at Hemel Hempstead and Hatfield. Chelmsford will have an additional 2000 houses, as will Cambridge City and there will be some Fenland growth. At Harlow there will be some development to the M11 on the west, but the growth to the north has been largely dropped, as has the development at North Weald airfield.

All this has to go to the secretary of state for approval, but at least it is a start.

### **Want to find out more about the airport application**

Last month saw the launch of a new interactive website on Stansted Airport and the progress of the planning application for the full use of the existing runway. There will be newsletter summarising the latest developments, a live chat room, a viewpoint base for you to express your views, an opportunity to watch meetings as they happen, podcasts and regular question and answer sessions with councillors. There will be hyperlinks to information about the airport and you can sign up for text alerts for

more up to date information. You can log on to [www.uttlesford.gov.uk](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk) and link to [stanstedexplained.info](http://stanstedexplained.info).

### **Thinking about next Winter's fuel bills?**

We are still in midsummer, but the memory of last year's steep hike in energy prices is not far away and it is a good time to plan for insulation measures and alternative heating options. Solar power can save you a great deal of money and windmills to boost electricity supply will soon be common place. You do not need to install new systems, as correct insulation can save you a great deal of money.

There are a variety of grants available from a variety of sources. The District Council has information on many of these. Call 01799 510510 to find out more.

### **Want to get fit and raise money for the Church?**

There are nearly 618 Churches in the Diocese of Chelmsford, many of them in need of repair as is St Mary's, and like St Mary's, lacking the funds to do the work.

The idea is that people ride a bike or walk between churches and chapels, choosing their own route and raising money through sponsorship. It is the annual Ride and Stride event, and it is two years since Birchanger has been able to participate in this.

Half of the money raised goes to the riders chosen church, and the other half into the diocesan Grants Committee for further church repairs. It can cross county boundaries too. It can be a great family and group day out, as there are plenty of village pubs to be found as well. The chosen day is Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested, please contact John Hoskins on 01376 552350 or email

[johnhoskins85@msn.com](mailto:johnhoskins85@msn.com)

## Neighbourhood Policing Teams

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the new Neighbourhood Policing was officially launched in our part of Braintree Police Division.

There is a new mobile phone number for us to make a note of -: **07801 461666** This number can be used to make direct contact with the Neighbourhood Police Officer on duty. When shifts change, the mobile phone should be passed to the next Officer on duty.

The designated Police Officer for Birchanger is PC Martin Pawley, who should make himself known in the near future. The new N.P.T.s have been instructed to have regular contact with local bodies such as Parish Councils, and to attend the PC meetings several times over the year, so that we can build up a stable partnership and discuss any problems that have arisen in or around the village. I will do my best to ensure that this happens for Birchanger.

### IMPORTANT

The mobile phone number is for contacting our local officer about local problems.

**999** is still the number to use for Emergencies or life threatening situations. Also, continue to phone Stansted Police Station on 812211 for routine calls and advice. Chances are that you will still find calls are routed to Dunmow, in which event, make it clear that your call relates to Stansted area.

If anyone would like any further information, please do not hesitate to give me call on 813204 and I will try to be of help.

Ann Kent - Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.

## More views from the fete



The barbeque team Roy,  
Marion, Bob and Joy



A display of kit cars

Published on behalf of the people of Birchanger, and distributed free to each household in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not automatically reflect those of the Editor or any of the organisations or institutions represented. Editorial team: Eddie Gilbey (816171), eddieb.gilbey54@virgin.net Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.



# Lucy's on the fiddle

Lucy Haggerwood-Bullen has been offered a place at The Guildhall School of Music to study the violin.

Lucy has been on the string training programme there for the past three and a half years and now, following a successful audition at the end of March she has been offered a place on the junior Guildhall music course starting in September.

Lucy who is now 10, first started playing the violin when she was 6 at Birchanger primary school, being taught by Patricia Burchill, who suggested that she join the training programme. Lucy plays a half size violin which she has on loan from Benslow music trust. One of their consultants has a link with Birchanger, he is Nicholas Evans-Pugh son of our former Rector!



## A Parisian break

By Sally Tilstone

I was in great need of a break and had recently read a book called “Unforgettable places to see before you die” by Steve Davey.

I could not go very far away and I could only go for a short time. As a lover of art and and artistes I was particularly interested in Claude Monet’s garden and one of his greatest paintings was the tranquil pond of water lilies with the Japanese bridge.

The first day found me on a tour of Paris with a guide on the coach giving a commentary, we drove past the Stade de France well known for its rugby, and in the distance we could see the Sacre Coeur basilique. We then came to the famous Eiffel tower built by Gustave Eiffel, and were told that we would be returning later to the tower to spend time there, we journeyed on to the Avenue D’iena one of 12 streets radiating from the Arc de Triomphe. The buildings looked grand and most were built in limestone quarried near the latin quarter.

The Arc de Triomphe symbolically guards the western approach to the city and was commissioned by Napoleon, beyond was the obelisk at the Place de la Concorde. We turned down the Champs Elysees lined with elegant restaurants, cinemas and theatres. It’s also the venue for events such as the Paris Marathon and the arrival of the Tour de France We then came to the opera house which is very grand. It stands in the only street not lined with trees as the emperor wanted the people to see the beauty of the opera house.

We turned down into the Rue de la Paix where all the famous jewellers such as Cartier and Boucheron, were I took note of that



M Eiffel's famous tower

particular street (you never know, I may win the lottery). Next stop Le Louvre housing famous works of art by people such as Leonardo de Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt and Rubens. Sadly we had no time to visit.

The most impressive square La place de la Concorde and the famous Notre dame cathedral were truly beautiful and we ventured on to the Pantheon temple where the tombs of famous people are kept. Such as Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Alexander Dumas and Marie Curie, it is said that Napoleon was buried within seven coffins.

It was time for a break and to stretch our legs so we walked around the Palace de Luxembourg park. We completed our tour with a view of Les Invalides and a trip on the Seine to see the many beautiful bridges such as the Pont neuf the oldest bridge in Paris and one of 37. All of the bridges were originally built of wood until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when they were built of stone.

I now had some free time to explore the Eiffel tower further but decided not to join the queues to go to the three levels, instead I practised my basic French at the sandwich kiosk and sat in the park area. Then it was back on the coach to the hotel to freshen up and with my glad rags on we ventured into the latin quarter a very lively place full of young Parisians eating, drinking and watching the World Cup .

The next morning we were off to the grand palace of Versailles, it was so spectacular and I ventured down through the beautiful French style gardens and fountains adorned with marble bronze and gold to the grand canal. The fountains came on and soared high in the air to some classical music and everyone was in awe of it all. Now it was time to get back on the coach to head for Giverny the highlight of my trip!

I was not disappointed. Monet's house is large and rustic and I walked through it and looked out of the windows to see the views that inspired him. The gardens were so neat and colourful. I followed the path down to the famous lily pond. The path followed small streams decked with flowers but mostly tall lines swaying gently in the breeze. The pond was covered in water lilies , fish were abundant and a variety of water insects hovered over the water. Two wooden boats were moored at the edge and the boughs of wisteria were a beautiful shade of lime green, the small green wooden bridge all just as it was in the painting. There was a small gift shop and the village of Giverny had a few art exhibitions displaying a variety of paintings. It was a lovely day and it deserved to be in the book of must sees It truly is a painters paradise.

The last tourist site to visit was the Montparnasse tower. Where on the 56<sup>th</sup> floor you could view a 360 degree panoramic view of Paris. It was quite something to see

The evening drive through Paris coincided with France winning the quarter final and the Parisians were out in force. The horns were going people were singing and waving the French flag, roads were closed to traffic through the sheer volume of people heading for the Champs Elysees. Most people were just out to celebrate. We moved at a snail's pace through the crowds and made it back to our hotel after midnight. Thank God it wasn't the final!

I have made the decision to return to Paris, to spend more time at certain places. It is without doubt a beautiful city. And it was the tonic I needed.



Monet's garden with waterlilies

# School News

## New appointments

This term two key members of staff are leaving Birchanger School, Mrs Ridgewell who teaches Class 1 for maternity leave, and Mrs Chinnery the school secretary as she has moved out of the area. Concern at the loss of two important post holders had to be tempered by the need to take immediate steps to find their successors.

There are always concerns where people have been as outstanding in their roles as both Mrs Ridgewell and Mrs Chinnery have been, but the standard of applicants in each case was very high and the choice was difficult for the different teams involved in the interview process. As a result we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Boniface in Class 1 and Mrs Brand as the new school secretary in September.

Mrs Boniface is a very experienced teacher, who now lives in Bishops Stortford. The journey down the M11 in the last few years has at times been incredibly difficult, so Mrs Boniface wanted to work at a school nearer to home, despite the entreaties of her previous school in Redbridge that she stay on.

Mrs Brand has a wealth of secretarial experience and is currently working as a Teaching Assistant at Rickling School. As everyone knows the role of school secretary is a very varied one and Mrs Brand is noted for her ability to turn her hand to whatever is needed at the time.

We wish them both well in their new posts.

## Birchanger school stands out

As reported elsewhere in the magazine, Class 4 enjoyed a great day away exploring the Maritime Museum at Greenwich and following the Tudor Trail down the Thames to Westminster. What the reporter was too modest to say was the number of compliments the children received from members of the public throughout the day. They were complimented on their manners and their consideration of others as well as their behaviour. We are proud of them.

## Living the tudor life

Most people know that life in Tudor times was hard and most of us are probably glad that we did not have to experience it for ourselves. Class 3 did have the experience for a day, when, wearing full Tudor clothes, they visited Kentwell for a day.

They were all assigned various tasks, which ranged from working in the kitchens and the house, to working outside in the gardens or the farm. They prepared and ate the food their counterparts would have eaten in Tudor times, as well as partaking in Tudor pleasures. It was a day full of interest as they used the tools the people in Tudor times used, brought water from the well and learned through living it just what life was like then. Definitely a day they will not forget.

## Challenge day

A great deal is said about ensuring that in mainstream education, the needs for all pupils are catered for, especially those with special educational needs of whatever kind. It is a challenge which schools must try to meet. Birchwood school held a Challenge Day for children around the district who have special talents in a variety of areas, and Birchanger School was included. Six children were invited from Year 5 and spent the day working on special projects of their own choice. The day was designed to be challenging and of special interest to the children. It was also a chance to see what Birchwood could offer them in the future.

## Return of the tuck shop with a healthy difference

For some time now Birchanger has participated in the Key Stage 1 fruit distribution scheme at morning break. Key Stage 2 children, while fully understanding that this government scheme did not extend to them, asked if they might have some kind of a healthy substitute, such as a tuck shop.

As a result the tuck shop, operating in morning break came into being. It sells the healthier cereal



bars, all manner of dried fruits, sesame snacks, grizzly bars and other items all at cost price. It is run by the pupils and well patronised by everyone.

travel at first hand. The school would like to thank all the visitors for their participation and for helping to make a very memorable week.

## The day Birchanger school became the World

It all happened at the beginning of July when the school became the world in microcosm for one week. Class 1 was Africa, Class 2 Europe, Class 3 South America, and Class 4 The Middle East. During that week the school received many visitors from all over the world as visitors from all nationalities visited the school. They talked to each "class country", and the children learned about the history and custom of that country. They learned to cook the national dishes, wore the national costumes and experienced the culture and music of their adopted country. They worked hard all week, holding an exhibition of their work at the end of the week.

As each class was a country in its own right, passwords were issued to everyone. There were check points where passports had to be shown. The children learned the complexities of international

## Garden produce galore

The children are eating their own produce at lunch time and there is still plenty to spare. The lettuces, radishes and rocket salads are all home grown in the school garden. The garden itself looks a treat and is a welcome quiet area well patronised by wild life, away from the frantic activity in the playground

## More sporting success

The children took part in the Millennium Gala at Hertford last month. They finished second overall, being beaten into second place by a matter of seconds. They did collect a prestigious trophy as winners of the small schools medley relay and have another trophy to add to their collection. Congratulations everyone.

# Barn dance a success

With the weather on our side, the 2006 Birchanger School Barn Dance went off to a great start. Over 80 parents, villagers and children enjoyed an excellent summers evening of music, dancing, eating and drinking with friends and it was lovely to welcome back past pupils to the school. Parents and children alike took part in the dances, despite the fact that many of the dances were new to them. The band saw a great response to their playing, with most attendees joining in the barn dances, helped along by a



clear and enthusiastic caller. With a barbeque, raffle and the ever popular bar, this year's event raised over £400. Our sincere thanks go to the school PTA, who as always, did a fantastic job to ensure that the event was a success and to all who came along to help raise funds for the school.



# All change at the church hall

After many years as caretaker of the Church Hall, Anne Smith stepped down at the end of April and relinquished her keys to Janet Gage.

Anne Smith has looked after the village hall since the Revd Tom Evans-Pugh left the parish some twelve years ago. She says. "The hall has had a lot of improvements over the past few years but the most important thing was to make it self sufficient from an income point of view".

Janet who has lived in Birchanger for many years is keen to promote the regular activities that go on there. It is probable that most people have no idea of the variety of activities carried out weekly in the hall. In any typical week

Monday	7.30 till 10.30	Ballroom dancing
Tuesday	3.15 till 7.73	Ballet
Wednesday	4.00 till 6.00	Ballet
Wednesday	6.00 till 7.00	Pilates
Wednesday	7.00 till 10.30	Line dancing
Thursday	2.00 till 4.00	Line dancing

## BAR STAFF REQUIRED AT THE CLUB

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EVENINGS

1 IN 3 SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES

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## Fete takings

Cathie Gooding reports raising £122 for the Essex Air Ambulance at the fete.

Sue Gilbey reported takings of £41.40 at her Bric a brac stall.

This might not seem like much but when most punters paid 20p per item quite a lot of items were sold!

# THANK YOU

A big thank you to the committee and members of Birchanger Social Club and any non-members who purchased tickets for the Easter Egg raffle. The proceeds of that raffle (£150) has been donated to St. Mary's Church. Also, you may have noticed the floral baskets that have appeared outside the Club. These were purchased from me and all of the monies raised has been passed on to the Church. Such support is very welcome as it makes all of the effort behind the scenes worthwhile.

The tombola stall at the village fete raised £160 and the plant stall an additional £47 once again thank you!

Pam Lee

## Fundraising dates for 2006 in aid of St. Mary's Church

15 <sup>th</sup> August	Cream teas in Joy's garden (weather permitting)
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Joy's Coffee Morning
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Quiz Night in the Church Hall
November/December	Choral Concert in St. Mary's Fundraising dates for 2006 in aid of St. Mary's Church(date to be confirmed)
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle & Carol service in St. Mary's
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening Carol concert in St. Mary's
27 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Singing around the Village

## 302 BUS SERVICE

If anyone from the village walks down to the B1383 to use this service, which only runs on schooldays, it is being withdrawn from Wednesday 27th August 2006.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Here are some useful telephone numbers. If there are any organisations who would like to be included in this list please forward then to the editor. Other suggestions from

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

**Birchanger Open Gardens Committee**  
Enquiries to: Miss Sheila Devereux 813843

**Birchanger Bowls Club**  
Secretary John Law 813176

**Birchanger Cricket Club**  
Secretary Kevan Reid

**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 Wardens Peter Odrich 323927  
Mike Howe 653285

**Church Hall Janet Gage**

**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

**Saturday Football Club**  
Mr. A. Lucas 813441

**Sunday Football Club**  
Mr. Neil Gilbey 816039



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## Village Diary July/August 2006

July

23rd St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

30th St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

August

6th St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

13th St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

15th Birchanger Lane  
Cream teas in Joy Wright's  
garden

20th St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

27th St Mary's 11.00  
Matins

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