

BIRCHANGER BOYS IN TWICKENHAM FINALS

Two of Birchanger's finest represented the village last month when they were in the Bishop's Stortford U11s squad that played in the Gulliver's National Finals at Twickenham, world home of Rugby Union.

Matthew Crossley and Lewis Edgeworth were both part of a side that have become recognised as one of the very best in the country at this age group. Both selected for their hard tackling and no-nonsense approach to the game the pair, who both play in the backs (although this is Matthew's first season after 2 in the forwards), have both enjoyed being part of a team that has not been beaten in 2 years.

The finals, held on Sunday 28th May, were played as curtain raisers to the England Barbarians match played that afternoon and were the culmination of a tournament started in Nottingham over the Easter weekend.

In this tournament the Stortford boys played sides from all over the country (and Hertford) to win their group and then the quarter finals which qualified them to play Worcester in the semis at Twickenham. It was to be an early kick-off (09:30 to be precise) so the squad was taken up by coach the evening before and billeted in a nearby hotel where they were fed, watered and sent to bed early to be fresh for the big day.

The Sunday dawned and the boys transferred to Twickenham by team coach to be greeted by friends and family as they paraded into the ground ready to play.

The semi final was a disappointment insofar as Bishop's Stortford had 90% possession but were unable to score. Worcester knew that all they had to do was draw to qualify for the final (due to a try scored countback from the qualifying tournament), they tackled very well, and when the game finished 0-0 they knew they had gone through.

That having been said, the real achievement was to reach Twickenham, the home of rugby, where most rugby union players would give their eye teeth to play. These boys have done it at age 11 – What a fantastic effort!!

The day was rounded off by an award presentation by Garth Chilcott (ex England prop forward), and then watching England beat the Bar-Bars convincingly from grand-stand seats – A magic day out!

On the back of their success this season the U11s were named as the BSRFC Mini's Team of the Year at a presentation at the rugby club on Friday 9th June.

Well done all the boys, especially the Birchanger duo – Watch out for them in future years wearing the red rose!!



Birchanger's Lewis Edgeworth warming up

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FROM

Elizabeth Godwin

Dick Brown Joins the Uttlesford Tenants' Forum

Congratulations to Dick Brown who has become a member of the District Council's Tenants forum. This is an important appointment as Dick will not be representing just Birchanger, but will put forward the views of all the District Council's tenants. He will have an overview of all the council housing stock and learn the special features of them all. The views and representations of the forum are important considerations for the housing department and the council as a whole. He is the man to contact to help to make your voice heard and your views count.

If you are interested in the work of the tenant forum, there are still a limited number of vacancies. To obtain further information telephone 01799 510571.

Animal Warden Wants to Clean Up.

Sue Knight is a fairly recent addition to Uttlesford District Council's Staff. She has many and varied duties which do include the usual ones of securing stray dogs, investigating complaints about barking dogs, licensing kennels and catteries, and generally promoting animal welfare.

She is particularly keen to promote responsible dog ownership throughout the district, and that includes the prevention of dog fouling on communal areas. There are still a few irresponsible dog owners who seem to think that it is ok to let their dog foul playgrounds, school fields, public footpaths and pavements. It is most definitely not right to let your dog do this as it poses health risks to the community at large, particularly to children. If you do know of a persistent offender please call Sue Knight on 01799 510564.

Micro chipping is increasingly used by dog owners these days, but the costs can be prohibitive for many. The council offers a micro chipping service for £20 per chip. If you are interested, please call Sue on the above number.

An Alternative Cinema

Back to school to go to the cinema! This is the option for those looking for an alternative location for a night out. Saffron Walden's new cinema opened last month at Saffron Walden High School. There is a new 200 seat auditorium at the High School complete with free parking, full size screen, Dolby Digital Sound and refreshments. Films on offer will include the latest commercial movies, family films and art house flicks. Find out more by visiting www.saffronscreen.com or by telephoning 07786 463861. Tickets are £5, concessions £3.50.

The Worst Area for CO₂ Emissions?

A national report has slammed Uttlesford for having the highest carbon dioxide emissions in the country. It is nothing to do with the airport, which is said to produce a relatively low amount of CO₂. Press reports claim that this is because we are an area full of yuppies who lead affluent lifestyles and leave our lights, computers, heating, and televisions on all night. Apparently we all have woodburners which we run all the time and drive gas-guzzling cars. We have a lot of new nine bedroom houses and each home produces as much CO₂ as a flight from London to Sydney.

We may do some of those things, but we also live in an area which has a very low proportion of mains gas in comparison to the rest of the country. We are highly reliant on oil and electricity which all produce high levels of CO₂ as well as our wood burning fires. There have been three large new modern houses built in the past few years, all with high insulation standards. What we do have are large numbers of listed buildings, much higher than the rest of the country with large open fire places. There are major restrictions on these, such as no double glazing which do make these houses very difficult to insulate.

There is little we can do under the present system to change anything, and it would be better if the reports show the reasons for the rating.

Is this what the Retired Members of the Community get up to?

Retired people are often asked what they do all day to make their days interesting. The question itself is a strange one as most retired people are even busier after they retire it seems. This reply from one member of the retired fraternity gave the questioner more than they bargained for. When asked the question, he replied as follows.

"I went into town the other day and went into a shop. I was only in there for about five minutes, but when I came out there was police officer writing out a ticket.

I approached him and asked him to give a senior citizen a break, but he ignored me and continued to write out the ticket. I called him a twit, but he just glared at me and wrote out a second ticket for having worn tyres, so I called him a rather worse name. His response was to start writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20mins, and the more I abused him the more tickets he wrote.

I am really not bothered. I came into town on the bus".

Now that I am retired, one of the many things I try to do is to have some fun everyday.

Hopefully not with my car!



Could this be you, or Someone you Know?

One in eight of us is providing care to a family member or neighbour, but may never have thought that the name "Carer" actually applies to them. They just get on with the unpaid task of giving care where it is needed on a regular basis.

People who find themselves in this position can apply to Essex County Council for a Carers Assessment, which can open up a great many benefits for the carer, including any available allowances, advice, information about support services, respite breaks, and opportunities for employment, training and leisure activities.

If this is you, please call "Contact Essex" on 0845 603 7630.

Summer Lunch in Aid of St Mary's Church On July 2nd

You are invited to a Summer Lunch at Moorswood, 330 Birchanger Lane on Sunday July 2nd from 12.15, after Church. Everyone is welcome and tickets are available from Joy Wright or Elizabeth Godwin on 812793.

Crossroads Garden Party

Crossroads is holding a Garden Party at Moorswood on Saturday July 15th from 2pm to 5.30 pm. Tickets to include a tea with strawberries and cream price £5 each either from Elizabeth on 812793, or from Uttlesford Crossroads on 012799 513496.

Dental Services In Uttlesford

The Parish Plan Demographic Survey has shown that a very large portion of Birchanger residents obtain their dental treatment outside the district. It is perhaps not at all surprising when Uttlesford has only 7 NHS practices, of which 5 treat children only. Currently only one practice in Dunmow is accepting NHS patients. NHS emergency treatment is also only available for Dunmow, and the responsibility for providing this lies with the Primary Care Trust, not with the individual dentists.

The Primary Care Trust is well aware of the shortage of proper NHS dental care in Uttlesford, and despite a successful bid for funds to enlarge dental services, progress is very slow. Resources have been devolved to the NHS practices, but recruitment of dentists to the NHS nationwide is slow. Suitable treatment locations in Uttlesford are also hard to find. There are dental facilities with time available in the Community Hospital in Saffron Walden and at the Community Centre in Dunmow, but at the moment there is no available dentist.

The Primary Care Trust is holding talks with all the dental practices in the district, and trying to recruit new dentists. There is the real possibility of a new dental practice in Saffron Walden, and there will be a new Dental Suite in the new Stansted Medical Centre, but all that is some way off. New dental charges which are based on a three band payment system are supposed to make understanding NHS charges a great deal simpler. That is, of course if you can find a NHS dentist in the first place. I don't think that getting toothache is a very good idea at present.

Kingfishers visit Birchanger

Walkers along Britain's rivers are, if they are lucky, rewarded by a bright flash like a turquoise lightning bolt before their eyes. One book puts it as 'a swift arrow of colour speeding along the river bank'. This spectacular bird, scientific name *Alcedo Atthis*, is as famous for its shyness as for its vivid and unmistakable plumage.

Normally a bird of clear running waters, this bird has recently been seen several times in Birchanger. Lucky householders in Birchanger Lane and in Duck End have spotted them visiting their garden ponds and birdbaths, as well as local ditches.

Kingfishers are resident in Britain all year round and, as their name suggests, have a partiality for fish. They're quite small - only about 16cm (6½in.) long - so owners of expensive koi carp need not be unduly worried. Birchanger residents with small goldfish do have their fish at risk, but many would think a glimpse of this spectacular creature was worth the occasional loss.

Kingfishers nest in burrows in banks, which are built by both parents. The eggs hatch after about three weeks, and the young emerge after another another four weeks.

Apparently the flesh of kingfishers tastes unpleasant. That's good news for the kingfisher but bad news for the other spectacular recent Birchanger avian arrival - the Sparrowhawk. Let's hope they're both here to stay.



A Kingfisher visits a bird table in Birchanger Lane

Birchanger Fete

The Three Willows
Sunday, 9th July

Pig roast; barbecue; raffle; coconut shy
& many other stalls

Entertainment

From 12 noon onwards





Birchanger's Matthew Crossley (front row, fourth from right) and Lewis Edgeworth (front row, second from left) at Twickenham, with coach Mark Crossley second from right in the middle. Story on front page.

Recycling Confusion

The village was littered with green bins, black bins, newspapers, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and all manner of other household rubbish last week after Uttlesford District Council made a mistake in a publication containing recycling collection dates.

The confusion arose because the leaflet from the Council made no mention of a recycling collection during bank holiday week of 29th May. In fact, green bins were collected on Friday 31st and dustbins the day after. The following week **should** have been a black bin day - but most residents put out the green ones. So, from now on the

leaflet is, quite simply, wrong. Do the opposite of what it says.

More confusion seems likely next month when the 'three bin' system is introduced. Some parts of the village may have collections on a different day from the rest of the village. Watch this space.

Charity Bottle Tombola

There will be a bottle tombola at the Birchanger Fete in aid of Macmillan Nurses. If you could spare any sort of bottle - from ketchup to bubbly - then please contact Carol or Venessa Yeoman at 55 Birchwood.

Birchanger Primary School

Annual Summer Fair
On Saturday 15th July
From 2.00pm
Everyone Welcome!

School News

Ambitious School Play.

In the summer term it is the turn of the Juniors to stage their play, and this year's promises to be the most ambitious production yet. The play Sheherazade will give an opportunity for everyone to take part, as in addition to the drama there will be music and dancing. Rehearsals and the making of costumes are well advanced. In the past the performances have been sell outs, and three performances are planned. The dates are Thursday July 20th at 2pm and 7pm, and Friday July 21st at 7pm. Tickets are available from the school and the performances are open to everyone.

Open Evening For You All.

The school will be having an open evening for everyone whether you have a child at the school or not on Friday July 7th between 6 and 8pm. It is your chance to look around the school and see the children's work. You will be able to chat informally with teachers and parents, and see the new Key Stage 1 Outdoor Play Area. You will also be able to visit the Nursery Unit, and enjoy refreshments there.

You live in the village, you are aware that there is a school, and now is the time for those who would never normally drop in, and who do not have children at the school, to visit and see just what goes on there. Hopefully past pupils will come back and perhaps catch up with some old friends. You are all welcome.

Golf Course In Birchanger?

Well not exactly, but those of you who have seen the children arriving at school on a Thursday complete with sets of junior size golf clubs, might be forgiven for thinking that they were missing out on something. The new summer Golf Club is proving to be a winner with the children, and those who do not have their own set of clubs are able to borrow them. While not exactly having a golf course to play on, the children are practising on the school field and enjoying every minute.

Watch out, Tiger Woods, here comes Birchanger!

Walk To School Week.

Walk to school week was in true British fashion, mainly wet and windy, and congratulations to those intrepid enough to dump the car in favour of what might be termed a bracing walk. The walking week was reinforced by strong messages from the Tree Council who promote the idea that a walk in the woods promotes both mental and physical health. Each class had an opportunity to test the idea for themselves as they all visited Digby Wood in the course of the week.

Were You Caught Last Month?

Promoting walking to school is perhaps not a very good idea if the rules of the road and safety are not clearly given, so the week was reinforced by a week of road safety issues for each class. Road Safety officers visited to tell the messages of road safety to every class, with full pupil participation. Classes 1 and 2 worked on Road Safety Issues, Class 3 tested speed and reaction times, but if you had been speeding down Birchanger Lane Class 4 have got your number. They were out testing a radar gun and discovered for themselves just how fast motorists go in Birchanger Lane. They know your number!

Letters to Birchanger Village Magazine

Clean, Tidy Work

Dear Ed.

Mark Crossley wrote an article in the April issue of this magazine about a new advertiser for a business in the village.

We had just discovered Lee Clark ourselves, and arranged for him to supply and install a new oil boiler for us. The job has now been completed - 2 days of clean, tidy work done by a polite and cheerful Lee (and Dad).

Can I take this opportunity to endorse Mark's comments and say that we thoroughly recommend Clark's Oil Heating Engineers and will not hesitate to give a reference to anyone looking for an oil heating specialist.

Ann & David Kent
Birchanger Lane

(Advertising in Birchanger Village Magazine works! For contact details see back page).

Fireworks at the Stansted Manor Hotel

Birchanger Village Magazine has received a letter from Julian Tee, Chief Executive of the Stansted Manor Hotel, informing us that there will be fireworks on Saturdays 24th June and 26th September. Animal owners should take note. The fireworks will end by 2230.

(We apologize for not printing this information last month. However we did take steps to inform horse owners)

St. Mary's Church Fundraising

A big thank you to all those people who helped on the day and those who came to the sale, purchased plants, raffle tickets and various other items. I hope that you all enjoyed the morning as much as I did. Together we raised (once all monies are in) over £200.

Also, I have already been knocking on doors asking people to make a regular contribution towards the upkeep of St. Mary's. Most people have taken a direct debit form but many of these forms have not yet been returned. If you do have a form and do wish to help the church, please complete it and return the form to Tim Bishop or myself. Alternatively, if you call me on 07702 171744 I will collect the form from you.

Pam Lee

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Village Diary May/June 2006

June

25th St Mary's 11.00
Holy Communion

July

1st-2nd Open Art Studio
6 Wood Lane

2nd St Mary's 11.00
Family Service

9th St Mary's
Morning Prayer

9th Village Fete
Three Willows

14th Summer Fair
Birchanger School

16th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

23rd St Mary's 11.00
Matins

30th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

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