

BOWLED OVER

Elaine Wright gives us an overview of the Bowls club season

September 3rd saw the end of the outdoor friendly and inter-club season for bowlers at the club this year, with an overall good result. The green was as always in excellent condition this year due to the expert care and attention given by John Law and his helpers. Without their support we would not be able to play in the league, so a big thank you to them all.

The open pair's competition which was held on the 2nd July this year was once again sponsored by Mr Colin Ferbrache and was won by our John Law & Mr. K Hayden from Thaxted.

The Gold cup day was splendid with good weather, entertainment and food. The competition was won by Radwinter who received their prizes from Mr. F Wadhams who once again sponsored the day and Mr. P Dawson our president.

Peter Saward's Memorial bowl was won by our very own "A team" on a bright and sunny day. It was attended by the usual local teams and we thank them for their support.

This year also brings sadness, due to the loss of one of our respected bowlers Mr. Bert Kadwill who passed away after an acute illness. He will be greatly missed by all, and our thoughts are with Rene, Christopher and Family.

We would like to thank the club and staff for staying open on our gala dates, keeping the bowlers hydrated during those hot days in July. Many thanks to our caterer Ann Boulwood who caters for all the bowlers during the league nights and also Sharon and her helpers on the Gold cup and Peter Saward day.

A big thank you to our sponsors, for their support and love for the game.

The AGM and trophy evening will be held in the pavilion at Birchanger Social Club on the 22nd November at 7:30pm prompt start. Nominations for officers will be posted on the sports notice board in the social club. Please all try to attend.

We still have two indoor fixtures to play one on Sunday November 27th at Tye Green and one on Saturday 25th February at Turpins, The captain will be in contact with you all soon.



Anyone wishing to join the bowls club please contact the Captain or Secretary on 01279 813474

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Farewell to Bert Kadwill

Bert Kadwill died last month after a long illness which he had managed to make light of for years. Most people did not know that he made regular trips to Princess Alexandra Hospital for the vital blood transfusions which had held leukaemia at bay for years. Bert was always calm, with a wicked sense of humour and a true gentleman. He was a Standard Bearer for the British Legion at Inter County level, and worked hard for the legion for over 50 years including the very successful annual Poppy Appeals in Birchanger. He was a popular member of the bowls team and a very good friend to Birchanger. He and Irene were married in Birchanger over 60 years ago.

His funeral took place with a guard of honour from the Bowls Club, and four British Legion Standards from Essex and Herts counties, and Clavering and Stansted. The Birchanger standard was draped on the altar. The Rev Brian Birchmore who is taking many services in Birchanger during the inter-regnum officiated in a simple service which Bert would have appreciated. All our thoughts are with



Bert and Irene watching the bowls this summer

Irene and their son Christopher at this time. Bert will be very much missed.

It's official Birchanger's a low crime area

You might not believe it, but according to the police Birchanger is a low crime area. With the telephone kiosk vandalised yet again, the mess in the recreation ground and the generally anti-social behaviour we have all witnessed, it is hard to believe. Most crime occurs at the service station, where a large proportion of motorists drive off having "forgotten" to pay. The positioning of an ancient police vehicle has reduced this. The vehicle is left empty but moved regularly. It works!

A bus shelter for the centre of Birchanger

A new Bus Shelter scheme by Essex County Council has opened up the possibility of an additional bus shelter for the centre of Birchanger. The Parish council is to try to take advantage of the scheme and has put in a bid, subject to approval for a shelter in the centre of the village on a site to be agreed with Essex County Highways and repairs to the shelter on the B1383.

Recycling Bags Now Available At The Club!

The club is now selling recycling food bags. This is very welcome, as previously the nearest purchasing point had been at Stansted Parish Council offices. The bags will be available in club hours on a trial basis initially. It could be a case of use it or lose it!

A very successful harvest lunch!

Over 30 people gathered in the Church Hall for a delicious Harvest Lunch after the Harvest

Festival in the Church. The hall was decked in flowers which people from all over Birchanger had contributed, there were many different flower arrangements which became some of the raffle prizes at the end of the afternoon. There was a delicious harvest lunch, arranged by Pam Lee and her group of helpers.

It was an afternoon which everyone enjoyed, and a very big "thank you" to the many people who contributed to it in their own special way.

Parish Plan launch party.

The Parish Plan is at the printers, and will be ready for distribution next month. In order to celebrate the hard work that has gone into this project for the past eighteen months and to give everyone a chance to meet the team, the Parish Council would like to invite everyone who is interested to come to the Launch Party at 8.00 pm on Friday November 17th in the Church Hall.

You will be able to pick up your copy at the party, to see how your comments have contributed to the overall picture of Birchanger and to enjoy the fact that this is the first Parish Plan to be completed in Uttlesford.

Another telephone scam

You have been out all day, and arrive home to find a little card tucked through the door saying that a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) had tried to deliver a parcel. You are asked to contact them on 0906 6611911. All very normal, and something which happens to everyone. Perhaps you have a surprise present.

Wrong! If you call that number you will be feeding a lucrative little scam which originates from Belize. The moment you hear the recorded answer you will have been billed fifteen pounds. The only number you should be calling is the Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239 6655, who with the premium rate service regulator is investigating the so called Parcel Delivery Service. **As for that parcel, it is guaranteed never to turn up.**

Safer young drivers

Most youngsters celebrate their seventeenth birthday with the prospect of driving lessons and eventually owning their own car. They don't want to listen to their parents when they point out the dangers, liabilities and crippling costs of motoring for the under 25's. It works better if someone else does this, particularly if that someone else can give hands on experience in the relative safety of Carver Barracks.

Sixth form students at Stansted Mountfitchet School were able to have just that experience last month. They spent a day at Carver Barracks which involved a series of workshops which included driving a car, crash scene management, brake reaction testing, a safety belt sledge, buying a second hand car, the cost of motoring, car maintenance, drugs and alcohol and driving law.

Too many young people suffer harm on our roads and if this can go some way to bring more understanding of what driving a car really means, it will have been a day well spent. It is a great pity that one or two of Birchanger's newest drivers are showing themselves to be some of the worst the village has ever seen.

1st Birchanger Cubs & Scouts Christmas prize Bingo

Saturday 11th November

Birchanger Church Hall

Doors open 6.45 for eyes down at 7.15pm

Tickets £6, Children £3, OAPs £5

Includes Ploughman's supper
(bring you own drinks)

Tickets available in advance only from Sally 812994,
Linda 814938, Elaine 815887 or Pauline 831811.

A WEDDING IN GIBRALTAR

Sally Tilstone

I had the pleasure of being invited to the marriage of Gavin Bass and Nicola Jones in Gibraltar. Nicola's parents had married in the Sacred Heart church in Gibraltar and Nicola wanted to take her vows in the same church. We stayed at the Rock Hotel where the reception was to be held. The hotel was built in 1932 by the Marquis of Bute and overlooked the Alameda gardens, there was a spectacular view of the bay of Gibraltar, the straits and Africa. This hotel was well known for its afternoon teas. I could not stay on the island without going on a rock tour. This tour went to St Michael's caves, the ape's den and the great siege tunnels.

St Michael's caves are one of the most dramatic natural grottos, with stalactites and stalagmites and is a perfect venue for concerts. The great siege tunnels were excavated by artificers of the British army during the great siege of 1779-83. The rock apes known as Barbary macaques or tail-less monkeys roam around the island freely. The evening before the wedding the women went for a meal in a restaurant at the marina but the men went to the casino. Friday September 1st had begun as a bright sunny day and everyone was busy with the days preparations for the wedding. I spent the morning at Marina bay watching the boats and the goings on in the harbour. Gavin's grandfather had accompanied me and we sat having a drink watching the goings on. We then returned to the hotel to get our wedding attire on.

The church was beautiful and everyone waited patiently for the bride to appear. Nicola walked proudly down the aisle with her father Dr Jones. Her bridesmaids were dressed in pale blue dresses and they threw flower petals down the aisle as they walked in. Gavin turned to look Nicola and was grinning from ear to ear. He was so nervous but he had looked forward to this day and now it was finally here and Nicola was going to become Mrs Bass.

The order of service included hymns, readings, prayers and a blessing. We were ferried back to the rock hotel for photographs in the alameda gardens and then a wonderful wedding buffet. The wedding speeches were well rehearsed and it all went well. The wedding cake had been made by Gavin's aunt and uncle and had travelled from Birchanger to Gibraltar. The cake had slight damage so Cherry (the groom's Mother) had to repair it. Cherry told me that the hotel had said that they would make the cake but when she had said that they wanted a fruit cake the hotel had asked which fruit. She could not be a

hundred percent sure what we would have got.

A jazz band accompanied the meal and then there was a disco until the early hours of the morning. Everyone was enjoying it. The following day I ventured up in a cable car to see the breathtaking views of the surrounding area. The monkeys were out in force. There was a heavy mist on one side of the island and you could just about see the tip of Africa.

A cruise liner had docked in the bay. In the afternoon I walked down to the shopping area. Stan and I had remarked at the prices of the alcohol and cigarettes. A bottle of whisky could be bought for £1.99 and 200 cigarettes for £8. Sunday morning and most of the wedding party were going home now. Gavin and Nicola were off on their honeymoon in Morocco.

I went down to the convent square where there was a changing of the guard in the presence of the governor and officials. Then I hurried back to pack and head for the airport. There was a heavy mist over the rock and we were told that there would be delays and that some people might be coached to Malaga. The taxi driver asked me who I was flying with and when I told him he replied that I would be okay as that particular airline's pilots were braver than the others. If you have never flown to Gibraltar then I will tell you that the air strip goes into the sea both sides.

These days people choose all different venues to hold their weddings at, all I can say is that the Bass family have so far had two very different countries, Wayne's in Malta and Gavin's in Gibraltar. I wait with bated breath to see where Lee the youngest son will choose!



Gavin and Nicola
Walk down the aisle

Second eleven have a good year too

Ross Leavers
and Ben White

Birchanger's second Saturday team had a good year, achieving a mid table finish after a poor start, winning only 1 of the first 7 fixtures. However the team's persistence was rewarded against Westmill in late June where Paul Boggas' inspired 58 not out (his first fifty) in a last wicket stand of over 50 with Alan White (3 not out) propelled the team to it's second league win of the season.

Over the last 10 games, the seconds lost only 3 games, all to teams who were promoted and won 6 games with one cancellation. Notable victories include beating bogey side Roding Valley comfortably at home and a superb victory over the subsequently crowned league champions, Nazeing Common, away.

A settled seam bowling attack consisting of a combination of Paul Boggas, Steve Bilby, Robin Khatkar, John Sullivan, Alan White and later on in the season Jon Hampson with Ro Smith providing the spin, consistently bowled out sides for below par scores. The fielding across the team this year has also been excellent backing up the bowlers superbly, but there were only 33 catches taken this year, the vast majority of wickets being bowled or LBW, a testament to the bowlers' length and line over the season.

Seven players scored fifty at least once over the season (Ben White, Paul Harris, Neil Gilbey, Steve Bilby, Jim Reed, Will Crouch and Paul Boggas) and a high scoring rate meant that below par scores were chased down quickly and that there was depth to the batting order. Mention should go to Steve Bilby's 96 at Hockerill and Will Crouch's 44 at Nazeing Common which would prove to be match winning knocks, together with Geoff Shaw's consistent scoring.

All in all it was a very enjoyable season and the second team will look to build on the strong second half of the year and push for a top half finish and possibly promotion.

A letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I read with interest your full page article on page 9 of the September issue concerning Bingo. May I suggest that if the writer wants to learn how to play Bingo, there are regular games played at the Club every Thursday evening at 8.30 pm. Something which is never mentioned in your magazine.

I would also respectfully point out that the Birchanger over sixties club is still going strong despite rumours to the contrary. And we have a Bazaar taking place taking place in the scout hut on November 4th 14.00 until 16.00 hrs.

As the over sixties club is never mentioned in your magazine PERHAPS I could make so bold as to inform you of the current secretary's name address and telephone number.

Mr Bernie King
85 Northolt Avenue
Bishops Stortford
Herts CM23 5PS
Tel 01279 655479

Yours sincerely.

R.S.W. Brown.
54 Birchwood.

Editor's reply

I would like to thank Mr Brown for his letter and as Editor I should point out that Mrs Tilstone is a freelance writer for our publication, she writes about what interests her and I publish her material if I think our readers will appreciate it. I am sure she knows full well how to play Bingo and was simply reporting on an activity she enjoyed outside the village.

The Thursday night Bingo sessions in the club remain well attended but are open to club members only and I am certain that any member who wishes to participate knows when they are held. I would be happy to print a report on a session if anyone were willing to write it.

I am pleased to hear the Over Sixties' club are doing well and I wonder where Mr Brown heard his rumours to the contrary as it was certainly not in this publication!

I have also received a letter from Mr King informing me of his election as Secretary and his contact details. I have not printed it as it contains no extra information but I thank him for his letter too!

For the sake of accuracy the Over Sixties club has featured 13 times (not counting Mr Brown's mischievous letter) since we began publishing in 2003, three times on the front page.

The magazine exists for all of the people in Birchanger no matter how old or young. If anyone feels under represented all they have to do is submit something for publication!

Ed

A presentation to Andy and Rosemary Cameron

There was a special presentation to Andrew and Rosemary Cameron at the Three Willows on September 28th to mark their departure from Birchanger. The staff of the village magazine organised a farewell dinner and presented Andy and Rosemary with a Birchanger landscape by resident artist Heather Brown. The evening was spent reminiscing and discussing the changes that Birchanger has seen since Their arrival during the 1960's

I (Ed) subsequently received a card thanking the magazine and staff from the couple. Everyone present enjoyed the occasion



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non members on entertainment nights

A new Churchwarden

We are pleased to report that Pam Lee has been elected to join Peter Odrich as Churchwarden at St Mary's, We wish her well in her new role

BOOKING THE CHURCH HALL?

It has been pointed out that the telephone number for Janet Gage in the last issue was incorrect. The correct number for booking the church hall is **813507**

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.

School News

Birchanger School has always enjoyed a special relationship with the church, and incumbents have always been part of school life. They have taken school assemblies and services for the children on a regular basis, have served as school governors and have always been looked on as a friend by staff and pupils alike.

Andrew Spurr's regular visits were always welcomed and his departure could have left a gap which would be difficult to fill. In Birchanger we are very lucky to have Pam Lee whose family services are looked forward to by the Church congregation, and who is now taking regular assemblies and services at the school. Pam Lee is also a governor and a familiar face to everyone in the school.

School notice board

The school has put in a bid for funding for a new notice board to be erected outside the school. It is anticipated that the board will be able to display both school and village events. The need for more clear information points was identified in the issues relating to the Parish Plan.

An invitation to Friday assemblies at the school

Every Friday at 2.45 pm the school holds an assembly. In addition to the usual songs and weekly messages, the children also receive awards for outstanding achievements during the week. The awards are hard earned, and well deserved. The school would like to invite anyone who is interested in the school and what is happening there to come to these assemblies and to see what happens and what the children achieve. Everyone is welcome.

A full diary

School Visits are eagerly anticipated and are welcome additions to the school curriculum. The Autumn Term has a varied program of visits for children from six years old upwards. Class 2 are to visit Lynton Zoo, and work around this visit has already started. Class 3 are to visit the Verulanium

at St Albans, where they will spend the morning handling and getting to know Roman artefacts, followed by a picnic in the park. Classes 3 and 4 are to visit the previous Head Teacher's school in Newham, which is a truly multicultural school for Diwali, and there will also be visits to Temples, Synagogues and Mosques. School clubs have started again after school, with the very popular addition of the Belly Dancing Club.

The school has a big reputation for working for charity. The next event will be "Pink Day" for breast cancer. Everyone will come to school wearing pink, and there will be a full program throughout the day which will focus on the work which is being done on breast cancer prevention, its cure and fund raising.

On November 5th the children will again be participating in a concert in the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Dr Barnardos. Rehearsals are already under way, and there will be a fireworks theme to the evening. If you would like to attend please contact the school on 812362.

Do you want to be pampered?

I think all of us fancy the odd bit of pampering from time to time. Better still if it is on our own doorsteps. The PTA would like to invite you to an evening of aromatherapy and other spa treatments at Birchanger School on October 16th. Please contact the school for further details.

Quiz Evening

Birchanger Church Hall

Saturday 21st October
7.30 start

£5 per person includes Ploughman's Supper

Bring your own Booze

For tickets call:- Cheryl 07703115079,
Pam 07702171744 or speak to Joy Wright

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Village Diary

October/November 2006

October

29th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

November

4th Church Hall 2pm till 4pm
Christmas fair

5th St Mary's 11.00
Family Service

12th St Mary's 11.00
Remembrance Sunday

19th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

26th St Mary's 11.00
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