

September 2006

Issue 45

BIRCHANGER'S SEASON ENDS IN STYLE

Sunday 27^{th} August saw Birchanger CC's annual President's day. The day took the format of two Twenty/20 games of the cricket club versus a team selected by the President, John Curtis. For the club the day was a warm up for the annual cricket tour to Bournemouth.

In the first game, the President's 11 batted first and set a total of 102 all out after tight bowling from Alex Griffiths (2-17) and Robin Khatkar (2-27). Jon Hampson and Al White made it difficult for the club with figures of 2-10 and 1-12 respectively before Mark Thornton saw the cricket club home with an unbeaten 35 who was ably supported by Elliott Sellears 19.

In the second game, the club batted first achieving a good total of 156-7. Thornton continued his rich vein of form with 47 and was supported by some big hitting from Steve Bilby (30) and Simon Ager (23). The President's 11 managed a good effort in its reply but unfortunately the club's score was too much. Jim Reed top scored with 35 but cameos from Ross Leavers (24) and captain Mark Curtis (19) were not enough to see them over the line and they finished on 141-9.

After the game, Jay Leavers prepared a superb barbeque, which was suitably demolished in traditional Birchanger style, and John Curtis presented Mark Thornton with the Player Of The Day trophy.

The club continued the winning streak on the tour to Bournemouth, beating both Witchampton and Blandford Nomads. Notable contributions include Rob Tyler and Ross Leavers with 85 and 50 against Blandford and Alex Griffiths' 3-16 against Witchampton.

All in all it was a very good season with much fun and liver damage had by all.

A review of the season can be found on page 6



Mark Thornton receives his trophy from John Curtis

BORED OF THE BINS?

The recycling bin controversy is still raging in the village. Having been made aware of the inclusion of a surveillance device attached to some of our recycling bins. I am including a photo so you know what to look for if you are interested.

The powers that be say that the devices are there to record the weight of recyclable materials collected each time a bin is emptied into the collection vehicle. They say that the devices do not register which property each one relates to. The information that each collection provides will help the council in it's eternal struggle with rubbish.

I've heard that some people are outraged at the inclusion of these "bugs" and are attempting to remove them! It seems the council are aware of the concerns of these rebels and are reminding residents that the bins remain the property of the council and that removal of the devices amounts to vandalism and may result in prosecution!

Is "Big Brother" watching you?

At present the official line is that the "bugs" are not yet activated and that there are no plans to do so "at the moment".

It seems to me that since the council did not own up to including the devices until after the Daily Mail exposed the practice. The likelihood that they will remain switched off is low. The idea that the devices cannot be linked to a property is also false since each one will have an electronic signature and the route taken by the vehicle is a regular event. It would not take the modern day equivalent of Bletchley Park long to deduce who dumps, how much, of what.

There can be no argument that as a society we need to recycle more. There is a financial requirement for the council to achieve this.

But are these bugs, harmless gadgets that will help the district council plan their recycling strategy? Or is it a flagrant intrusion into privacy covertly added to a recycling system that we did not ask for? You decide!

Letter to the Editor

Whether we like the new bins or not, some new problems have come up. St Mary's Church in Birchanger has not got any bins. Instead everyone has to take home all rubbish from looking after a grave. This might work in many cases. However, imagine the poor old lady whose husband has been laid to eternal rest. After a week or two she has to get rid of the by then rotten flowers, wreaths etc. How could she get rid of all the rubbish? Whatever the problem is: we have to have bins for the churchyard.

Peter Odrich Church Warden

UDC WASTE DISPOSAL

Bug a Bin Gmbh

Und zis shows the number of takaways eaten In Birczanger sinze ze bins arrived

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Community Achievement Award nominations please

With the approach of Autumn it is time to sit back and review the events of the past year, and the people who not just this year, but who have for several years now made a valuable contribution to life in Birchanger. For nearly ten years now Birchanger has produced worthy winners, whose hard work has been celebrated at a special evening in February when the Community Achievement Awards are presented, and the efforts of those who help to improve life for their neighbours receive recognition at last. Last year the awards from Birchanger went to Betty Gilbey and Andrew Cameron.

There are four categories for an award and only one category is needed for someone to be a recipient, although many nominees fall into several categories.

A: Service to Children and Young People.

B: Service to the Elderly.

C: Service to People With Disabilities.

D: Service to the Community and the Environment.

There are also awards for Youth Initiatives which are a special nomination for young people between 15 and 18 years of age who have made a significant contribution to their community.

Nominees can be of any age, except for the special youth awards, but they must live and do their community work within the Uttlesford District.

If you would like to nominate someone, please call Elizabeth Godwin on 812793.

Farewell Rosemary and Andrew Cameron

It is with great sadness that Birchanger has learned that Rosemary and Andrew Cameron are about to move to Takeley. They have both given so much to the village over a period of many years. They have always been there when needed and have given unstinting help and support to all those who needed it. Rosemary has helped so many people in the village and supported all the church and other village functions. She has manned stalls, held coffee mornings and has always been a friend when needed. Andy was a recipient of last year's Community Service Award. He is a member of the parish council, with a particular brief for footpaths, health and the recreation ground. Where jobs have needed doing, he has always been there. He has distributed this magazine and other village newsletters, and his friendly presence will be greatly missed.

Thank you both for all you have done for Birchanger, we shall miss you.

Birchanger became a tourist hot spot!

For a few days last month there was a tourist invasion in the village. These were the people from all over the world who found themselves stranded at Stansted Airport during the security alert on August 10th.

The lucky few were able to obtain rooms at the Cottage Guest House or the Stansted Manor Hotel. They wandered throughout the village and sampled the fare at the pub. Most of those stranded seemed to enjoy their enforced stay in the village and the chats with the residents, even if they were relieved to make their eventual departures.

The District Council also looked after several hundred refugees from the Lebanon when they flew in. Most only needed a few hours respite, advice and help with their onward journey. A few needed accommodation and after a few days stay in hotels were finally found further temporary homes in Colchester. Several of those who are now truly destitute have been found accommodation on a longer term but temporary basis throughout Uttlesford, including Stansted.

The District Council will eventually recover the costs of this assistance from the government, but many council officers worked around the clock to make the move back to Britain as easy as possible for the refugees and their many young children.

Airport planning application delayed

Despite the hard work put in by officers and members to ensure that the application to increase the number of passengers and flights from Stansted outside factors and lack of information mean that the decision could be delayed until the New Year. The highways agency has issues it would like to investigate, and key parties to the decision have yet to respond. It is possible that BAA could go to appeal for lack of determination, and it is extremely frustrating for those who have worked so hard to make sure that the application could be processed in time, should be thwarted through no fault of their own. It was hoped that the decision would have been made at the meeting on September 27th, and the council was on target for this.

Recycling has doubled

Birchanger has been getting used to Wheelie Bins for the last few weeks, and the roll out program is not yet fully completed. At the halfway stage recycling figures for the district had already doubled and people were learning to live with the bins. There are those who are still having difficulties and those who need a smaller bin. If this applies to you please call 01799 510510 and ask for the recycling hotline. There is a small microchip in every bin, but this would need to be activated by the district council and there are no plans to do this at present.

New ways to pay for council services

From the start of this month Uttlesford District Council has ceased to handle cash, cheques and postal orders at its council offices at Saffron Walden and Dunmow. You will still be able to use credit and debit cards, and you will be able to pay your council tax or rent at any post office at no additional cost as long as you take your payment details with you to the post office. You will also be able to make automated telephone payments at any time by dialling 01799 510551, or pay on line at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pay+online. For those wishing to pay by Direct Debit the number for Council Tax is 01799 510 335 and for Housing Rent 01799 510 360/361.

Debit and Credit Cards are accepted at council offices between 8.30 am and 4.30pm Mondays to

Thursdays. The office closes at 4pm on Fridays. If you have any queries please call 01799 510424.

Telephone lifeline

Most of us have neighbours and friends who we call on at times of crisis, but sometimes you can have a fall and be unable to reach a telephone. This could mean that you are stranded without help advice or support for hours on end.

For those who are in an isolated situation or who live alone, there is a remarkable little gadget called a Piper Lifeline Unit with its own personal radio alarm. The Lifeline is simply plugged into your telephone and the small radio alarm is kept with the user. Pressing a large red button on the unit or the radio alarm automatically dials the monitoring centre. The sensitive system means that the user can speak to the staff there wherever they are in the house without touching the telephone. The specially trained staff are there to help, whatever the problem.

Pet fostering

Many people have pets and they are a great comfort for those who live alone, but a great problem should the owner find themselves suddenly unable to care for their pet in an unforeseen circumstance.

The Cinnamon Trust is a national network of volunteers who provide day care as well as long term care and fostering for pets at times of need. To find out more contact the trust on 01376 757900.

Uttlesford focus group for older persons

Older people have become the largest social group in most communities as people continue to live longer. The government is at last waking up to this fact, and a recent government white paper has been published which focuses on the Health and Social Care of Older People. Many people simply do not know what is available, what support they are entitled to or how to access the help they may come to need either for themselves, or for someone close to them.

A representative from the Care Services Improvement Partnership with the Department of Health will discuss the White Paper on November 20th at 1pm at the Town Hall Saffron Walden where there will be a buffet lunch followed by a presentation. If you would like to attend either as an individual, or on behalf of a group, please call 01799 540207.

Airport planning application

Despite the hard work which Uttlesford District Council has put in to ensure that the Planning Application to increase the number of passengers to 35 million per annum went to time with full consultation the decision has to be delayed. The lack of a response from the Highways Agency, the lack of a response from the rail networks, together with the lack of response for information from BAA has meant that the council cannot be in a postion to make an informed decision on September 27th. BAA will then be entitled to go to appeal on non-determination of the application. This would mean

an inquiry which would be held in the late Spring of next year.

It is still important to send any late representations to the District Council. Several major representations have yet to arrive, so it is not too late to contribute.

Note on council audit.

This note is to advertise the closure of Birchanger Parish Council's External Audit which was signed off by Lubbock Fine on the 8th August 2006. The internal audit was completed on the 2nd July 2006. There were no matters arising and all figures can be viewed on the Council's website.

Birchanger features in SSE calendar

Birchanger has been chosen to feature in the 2007 Community Calendar which goes on sale on 1 October in aid of Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) The villages which have been selected this year are as follows, with each page (apart from the cover) featuring three lovely photographs:

Cover: Horham Hall, on the border of Thaxted and Broxted.

January: Burton End

February: Matching and Matching Green

March: Horham Hall

April: Ugley and Ugley Green
May: Ashdon and Church End

June: Littlebury
July: Little Dunmow

August: High Roding and Aythorpe Roding

September: Standon
October: Brent Pelham
November: Birchanger
December: Lindsell

January 08: Gestingthorpe (the first month of the New Year is included to help with the transition to the

following year's Community Calendar)

The full colour, A3 calendar provides a powerful daily reminder of the communities, countryside and heritage threatened by expansion plans for the airport.

Now in its fifth year, the Community Calendar has become an established part of life for many people in the parts of Essex and Hertfordshire that surround Stansted Airport. It features photos of this attractive area, selected from work submitted by a growing number of local photographers. There is always keen interest in which towns and villages have been chosen to appear.

The Calendars cost £6 each and will be sold door-to-door during the autumn as well as at selected stores. They can also be ordered by post for UK and overseas mailing at a small extra charge to cover postage and packing. For further information and details of sales points and an online order form visit www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html or call the SSE Campaign Office on 01279 870558.

Birchanger Cricket Club

A review of the season by Ross leavers and Ben White

Birchanger CC's 1st XI cricket team enjoyed an excellent season in Division Two of the Ten-17 Herts & Essex Cricket League. Had the inconsistent 2006 Summer thrown up a couple more dry Saturdays then the team could well have found themselves finishing higher than their eventual fourth place.

The team were represented by a total of 18 players during the 18 games that constituted the 2006 season, four of which were victim of the poor weather. Despite the fact that the club do not have a youth team the average age of all of the 18 players was still only 25. This would seem to suggest that there is a promising future for the club as they look to improve in 2007 and aim for promotion into the top flight.

The season began on 6th May with a tricky looking fixture against Langley, who were relegated from the top division in 2005. A strong batting performance saw Birchanger post 266-5 off their 45 overs, with notable contributions from the Tyler brothers (Rob 62 and Paul 58). However, this game ultimately became one of the four uncompleted matches as the rain intervened half way through the Langley reply. Birchanger were confident of wrapping up the points though as they had the visitors at 98-4 when the heavens opened.

The second match pitted Birchanger away to the other relegated side from the top division - Matching Green. After winning the toss Birchanger's captain, Rob Tyler, decided to bat first – it proved a wise choice. A total of 238-6 was posted with Justin Bass top scoring with 68. An excellent 112 from Simon Hartnell was not enough for the hosts in their reply as they were all out for 183 - handing Birchanger their first win of the season.

Birchanger's third game of the season proved to be their finest result of the campaign. A narrow one wicket home victory over eventual runners-up Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI. The visitors batted first and after some tight bowling by Birchanger (Ahmed 4 for 32 off 9 overs and Rob Tyler 1 for 27 off 10 overs) they posted an obtainable target of 167 to win. Wickets fell at regular intervals in the reply but after a cameo 41 from Pav Bali and a patient 24 from Laurence Ahmed it was left to the final wicket stand to knock off the 22 required for victory. Rob Tyler and number eleven, Alex Griffiths, saw the team home with four overs to spare with some nervy looking strokes and some canny running.

After another victory over a strong High Roding 2nd team Birchanger found themselves top of the table in early June and starting thinking about mounting a promotion challenge. However successive defeats to eventual champions South Loughton and Dunmow 2nd broke their stride and a mid table finish looked more likely. These defeats were followed up by a win at home to promoted High Beach and a cracking game away to Stansted in which over 600 runs were scored in the match. The game will be remembered for a long time by Birchanger's 16 year old Paul Parker who scored his first ever century (114). Laurence Ahmed was also unbeaten on 80 at the end of Birchanger's innings of 315-7. All credit must go to Stansted, who ended up winning only one game all season – as they managed to score 303-5 in response!

A heavy nine-wicket defeat away to Langley dampened the spirits slightly but the team bounced back with a thumping seven-wicket victory over Matching Green after dismissing them for a paltry 121. Bishop's Stortford 3rd s then got their revenge over Birchanger by inflicting a 50 run defeat. The hard work seemed to have been done by restricting a strong Bishop's Stortford side to 213 all out. However some clever bowling and some more shot selections combined to Birchanger being all out for 163.

An interesting game at home to Thorley followed. Birchanger amassed a total of 266-7 with Ross Leavers (65) and Laurence Ahmed (64) the main run providers. But the innings will be talked about more for the sporting nature of Paul Tyler's dismissal. After being rapped on the pads by the Thorley captain, Bob Mills, Paul tucked his bat under his arm and walked off the field, safe in the knowledge that he knew he was out. It was later discovered that the umpire was not going to give him out! This act of sportsmanship has resulted in Birchanger CC and Paul Tyler being nominated for the Nigel Trotter Sportsmanship Award for the 2006 season. The result of this award was not known at the time of this article going to press! Thorley fell 38 runs short as they were all out for 228 in reply. Laurence Ahmed was the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 36 off his 8 overs.

Birchanger racked up their eighth win of the season after a close match against High Roding 2nd on 5 August. They then lost two games in a row to the rain before finishing the season on a high with a comfortable seven-wicket victory over already relegated Stansted, after dismissing them for only 62.

A good season is always going to produce some notable averages. Laurence Ahmed (39.14), Justin Bass (29.50) and Rob Tyler (28.60) were the top three in the batting. Laurence Ahmed (21 wickets at 13.38), Rob Tyler (15 wickets at 23.13) and Alex Griffiths (13 wickets at 23.69) were the pick of the bowlers.

A new distributor for the mag

As you will have read in Elizabeth's piece Andy and Rosemary Cameron are set to leave Birchanger for Takeley. Andy has been our distributor since we began publishing three years ago. Before that he did the same job for the parish magazine. So all at the magazine would like to say thank you Andy for your efforts to bring this publication to the village. We could not have done it without you.

Trevor Stone has volunteered to take over the distribution of the magazine and we also welcome him aboard.

Buy your bags at the Club

If you're having difficulties getting hold of the bio-degradeable wet waste bags for recycling. Birchanger Social Club may have the answer for you as it has purchased supplies of the bags for sale to villagers. They will be retailing for £6.99 for 50 bags. If you are interested please ask at the bar.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CLUB

SAT 30/09/06 Terry Lee Travis

SAT 07/10/06 Mark Jacobs

SAT 21/10/06 Mathew Winchester

Please remember there is a £2 fee for non members on entertainment nights

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

New faces at the school

There is a new smiling face to greet everyone who arrives at the office at Birchanger School. Judith Brand took over the post of school secretary from Joan Chinery at the beginning of the September term. Although fully briefed in the post by Mrs Chinery, it is a different matter when it is all down to you. There is a great deal to remember, but Mrs Brand is taking it all in her stride.

Everyone is new in Class 1 except Mrs Booker who has been at the school longer than nearly everyone else. Mrs Boniface has taken charge of her class of 16 new four year olds and is ready for the challenge. The children seem to be relaxed and happy with the initial trauma of saying goodbye to their parents long forgotten. The children are very tired at the end of their school day, while Mrs Boniface is delighting in the fact that she no longer faces the long journey home on the M11.

Jo Sherriff is the new director of music at Birchanger School. She is both a qualified music and languages teacher. This means that Classes 3 and 4 will be learning French this year, with a language club scheduled to start next term. The choir has started and will be heard at the Harvest Festival later in the term.

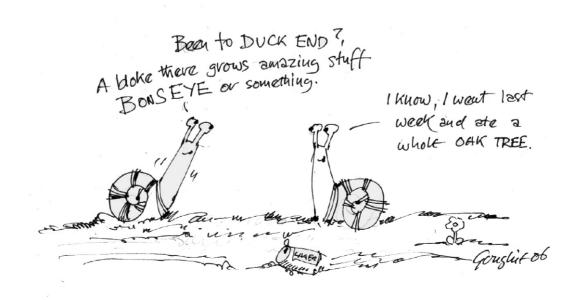
Crucial Crew

Year 6 had just returned to school when it was time to attend the vital "Crucial Crew" event at Thaxted. This event is organised by the District Council, and is offered to all Year 6 pupils through out the Uttlesford District. The day has input from the police and the fire brigade as well, and focuses on issues of Health and Safety, alcohol and drug abuse, road safety and Internet chat room dangers. Sixth Form students from Saffron Walden High School provide the role play

which the Year 6 children will remember, and was a day which attempted to equip



scenarios, and as ever the whole day was one Another Crucial Crew Jude Brand, Ruth Boniface and Joanne Sherriff



Bingo

I am not a bingo enthusiast so when my sister and mum came up with the idea to go as a night out, I was not keen. But as I had famously said "don't knock it until you've tried it", I thought that I had better give it a try.

Firstly came the what to wear scenario, I like to dress up and although my sister said that we would be overdressed I did not care. That is until I saw the other bingo goers in their trainers, jeans and casual attire.

We joined the club and waited in the queue to get the books. It was a Tuesday and there was a special promotion on. We were given a three page early starter book, an eight page book, a dream ticket, a national, a bonus ticket and one other that I cannot remember. I told the lady we were not familiar with what to do and she said that there would be staff walking about to help you. Of course the only bingo I've played was that at the seaside. "Eyes down." "On its own, number one, two fat ladies, eighty eight" etc.

There was a young couple sitting at the table behind us and I asked them to explain the order of books. I was told the order and that the pay out was for a line, two lines and a full house. We bought drinks to keep us refreshed and sat at our table waiting to begin. There were bingo boards placed in a holder and games were electronically programmed. You had to put in a pound coin to take part in the game. These were apparently for the interval, the six pounds initially paid was now escalating.

We began the first game. To my horror it was not like the seaside bingo at all no banter such as "clickety-click sixty six". Oh no that would give you enough time to find the number. No it was a fairly swift call out of numbers, no sooner had you crossed off the number and the next was called. One woman shouted out but as the caller had said the following number her claim was declared a false claim. I thought at this point it would be just my luck to get a full house and not realise it until too late.

I could feel the excitement in the room when the house was called. After one book we were a little exasperated mum and my sister had decided to purchase some coloured marker pens as it would improve their speed and highlight those numbers. Mum's pen however leaked and coloured in the next page too. We began to enjoy it a bit more though none of us had any luck. A couple more drinks and on to the national ticket.

There was a hush all round, there were screens around the hall and the caller sounded like he was compéring "Bullseye"! The young lad behind was eating a packet of crisps and I suspect he was getting the evil eye as he got up and left to go on the fruit machines. I was amused at the hush and the sighs when a person claimed from another bingo hall. The first winner was from Southend, the next from Billericay.

We did have a winner at the hall in Colchester but it did seem odd, I was not sure how it all worked. As I said, in between the books, people played the boards and at a pound a time there was plenty of takings to be had. The hall was packed and there was another session to follow at nine o clock, People were addicted to this game. Finally the books had all been played and people started to exit. We all agreed that it had not been a disaster, it was a night out and if you have a win all the better. However I am not converted just yet, it was a bit of fun and I would probably go again.

Not yet mind you.

Sally Tilstone



Not everyone with connections to Birchanger gets to celebrate an eightieth birthday, but Canon Derek Jackson did on August 26th. To help him celebrate, a luncheon was held in the Church hall on Sunday 27th after the morning service. The event was organised by Joy Wright and a

great deal of work was done by the other leading lights in the Birchanger Church scene. Pam Lee, Cheryl Dare, Janet Gage and Carol Yeoman did sterling work preparing and serving the food. All of the desserts were donated and a special mention should also be made of Katerina and Peter Odrich who supplied all of the drinks served. There were about eighty diners who had been invited from the other churches locally that Canon Jackson has ministered in as well as St Mary's.

Everyone there enjoyed the occasion especially Derek's prepared speech after the meal. There was an album of Photos from his life that revealed just what a varied life he has led.



Derek cuts his cake

Induction of Andrew Spurr at Evesham

About 40 parisioners from Birchanger Farnham and Stansted made their various ways to Evesham for the induction of the Rev Andrew Spurr into the United Benefice of All Saint's Evesham with St Egwin's, Norton and Lenchwick.

The churches are old with strong histories. All Saints Church is situated in the grounds of an old abbey with the abbey church of St Laurence's close by. St Laurence's Church is a redundant church, but is well cared for, and was used for the reception after the service. Only a few ruined walls remain of what was once a thriving ecumenical community.

However the setting of All Saints Church is stunning, situated in large grounds in the centre of Evesham, with a large park and the river Avon close by. The vicarage is situated some 15 minutes walk away.

Andrew received a big welcome from numerous members of the congregations of all the churches who filled the church. The new benefice will bring its own different challenges, along with a new job and a new school for Anna and William. We say farewell and best wishes for the tasks that lie ahead.

The Parochial Church Councils have now embarked on the inevitably long job of finding Andrew's successor. Meanwhile the Rev Caroline Currer and a large team of volunteers are making sure that St Mary's will still have the usual services every Sunday.

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

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Birchanger

St Mary's Harvest Lunch

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Birchanger Church Hall

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In aid of Church funds

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Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



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 readers will also be considered.

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

Birchanger Open Gardens Committee

Miss Sheila Devereux Enquiries to: 813843

Birchanger Brownies 1st Birchanger Brownies

Secretary

Enquiries to Jenny Jameson 815369 **Birchanger Bowls Club** Elaine Wright

813474

Birchanger Cricket Club

Secretary Kevan Reid

Birchanger Social Club 812810 **Secretary Mrs Marilyn Hutchins** 653802

Birchanger Village Magazine

Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey 816171

Church in Birchanger

The Benefice office 815243. Church Wardens Peter Odrich 323927

Church Hall Janet Gage 813057

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

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Mr. A. Lucas 813441

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Mr. Ross leavers 07801 493753



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15th St Mary's 11.00 Matins

21st Church Hall 7.30 Quiz Night

22nd St Mary's 11.00 Holy Communion

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