

MORE FETE SUCCESS

SUNSHINE BRINGS OUT THE CROWDS

Attendance at the summer fete this year has surpassed the three previous years. Blessed as we were by some proper summer sunshine at last the crowds flocked to the fete which was again hosted by Paul and Paula at the Willows.



Linda the first winner on our bottle store

After a slow 12 noon start several of the stalls sold out. First to exhaust their stock was the plant stall run by the Birchanger PTA. Next the magazine bottle stall sold out raising £222 for our funds. (This was due in no small part to the generous donation of the bottles by Intercounty) Intercounty had also provided large signs at either end of the village to advertise the event. As usual the cake stall also ran out of stock. Scott Taylor had a very busy afternoon involved in the chocolate fountain, the bouncy castle as well as selling his bonsai trees.

There was constant business at the Aunt Sally and the Coconut shy and of course the ever popular hog roast and barbeque.

There was an eclectic collection of exotic vehicles on display for those interested in boys toys including a 1903 Renault and Gary Saunder's race winning "lawn mower".

Had there been a silly hat competition Bob Jennings would have won easily with his leprechaun's topper which he wore while running the "rolling for a pig" stall.

The afternoon culminated with the raffle draw which was very successful selling out twice over.

Paul and Paula would like to thank everyone who gave their time and efforts to help organise the fete. They said. "All the help we received was greatly appreciated. We would especially like to mention Jay Leavers who put in about six days work behind the scenes."



Gary with trophy and "mower"

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

No place to go

Small businesses on Parsonage Farm Industrial Estate have provided a service to the people around the area and to Birchanger for many years. The businesses were largely light industrial, and included camping suppliers, motor mechanics, kitchen manufacture as well as a forge. Many people in Birchanger have benefited from their services.

For nearly twenty years there has been a planning application for the site to provide new units. To many it was a welcome proposal, as the view of the existing units from the motorway was very ugly and considered to be an eyesore by many. Updating and modernising the units would have been welcome to everyone. Unfortunately the new proposals have ultimately resulted in a change of ownership at Parsonage Farm and the rent for the new units when they are completed will be beyond the budgets of the small firms who have worked there for so long.

There is a need for small affordable business units. The proposed units will not be affordable for those who run a small business. Those who have worked at Parsonage Farm for many years now find themselves quite literally chucked out with nowhere in the area to go to. It is our loss as well as theirs.

All over the south east there are glossy new light industrial developments and a new live/work unit concept. The plain truth is that for most of us these units are unaffordable, and as in Saffron Walden will probably either remain empty for years, be taken over by large chain stores or there will be an application to turn them into ordinary flats.

Poor response to consultations

Sometimes I wonder if anybody out there actually reads this magazine. Some of the issues discussed here do invite a response, yet these responses are relatively rare. There was a very poor response in Birchanger to the Generation 2 Surface Access Proposals, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by BAA, and only a handful of replies with regard to the wish list for traffic calming measures in Birchanger Lane.

The Parish Council tries to do what it can to get the necessary protection for Birchanger, and as has been said repeatedly your own individual views do count. Parish Council letters, although they represent Birchanger village as a whole are only counted as a single response, and in matters which will affect the future of everyone in the village, we need a great deal more than that.

There is still time to write to the Inspector with regard to the Generation 1 Inquiry. Although you may not be able to speak at the Inquiry, your views will be read, considered, and they are important. Remember if this permission is

granted it will be too late to turn back the clock. If you have any views on these proposals at all, please write to Simon Osborn, PO Services, 1 Lower Farm Cottages, Puttock End, Belchamp Walter, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7BA or send an email to poservices@fsmail.net

Please let me know on 812793 as a matter of urgency if you have any views on traffic calming measures for Birchanger Lane on the back of the Rochfords Development. Possible proposals could include speed humps, further signing on the lane, making Tot Lane one way, a quiet lane, a bridleway or a one way street, a ban on lorries through the village except for access, or any further ideas.

Are you a carer?

You might be, but you do not recognise yourself as one because you are doing it as part and parcel of your family life.

When a family member becomes ill it is hard to recognise that they might actually be long term sick, and perhaps even harder to recognise that they may never recover from their condition. People simply drift into the caring role, and never get to appreciate what the role really means, or be able to access what benefits to carers exist.

Because you do not recognise your new role you fail to pick up the leaflets at the surgery giving advice to carers and informing them of possible allowances and other benefits which are available both to the carer and the person they are looking after. If you think this might apply to you, or you know you are a carer but would like more advice on what is actually out there, call Uttlesford Carers on 01371 875810. It may help just to know that there are many others in Uttlesford doing a similar thing and shared experiences often benefit everyone.

New allotment holders welcome

For many years Pat Eldred and Dick Brown have been the only remaining allotment holders in Birchanger. Their allotments have always looked good and they have both spent many hours there. Now after years of scant interest in the allotments in Birchanger, two more people are going to take an allotment. There is still room for many more as the boundaries of the allotments can be extended when new allotment holders come forward, and everyone who would like to make the commitment would be very welcome. If you are interested please call me on 812793, or our Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 512903.

Library stays for now

The Mobile Library Service will continue to visit the village until the end of the year. The visits will be fortnightly from Friday July 13th stopping at the Birchanger

Sports and Social Club from 16.00 to 16.25 and at High View from 16.30 to 16.45.

The service will remain under review, and we have already had to fight to keep it. Essex County Council wanted to stop all visits to Birchanger. It really is a case of "use it or lose it". Once again it is up to you. We may not be so lucky next time!

Warning all motorists

Parking on the pavement has reached epidemic proportions again in Birchanger. Some motorists have been issued with fixed penalty notices, and others certainly deserve them. Some truly inconsiderate motorists are also blocking people's driveways. Imagine how you would feel if you could not access your own house with loads of shopping and tired toddlers in tow, or need to leave for an urgent meeting in a hurry.

As well as the only too well known trouble spots in Birchanger Lane, the problem has been particularly bad in Harrisons, where it has been compounded by children's bikes left all over the pavements. It won't be long before an irate homeowner runs one over. The message is clear, clean up your act before the police do it for you which is guaranteed to make holes in your pockets. You have been warned, there won't be another warning.

Recycle that bra

Who would want a second hand bra? It's not the sort of thing you would offer your friends, but believe it or not there is a bra appeal. BreastTalk.co.uk is a charity that will actually collect bras in any condition. Old ones are recycled and made into quilts, while bras in better condition are distributed to charities at home and overseas. To find out more, log onto their website at BreastTalk.co.uk

Raise money when you shop on line

Many people regularly shop on line, but there is a website which will allow you to make a donation to a charity of your choice every time you shop on line. Just log on to easyfundraising.org.uk, select the charity of your choice then shop as usual. The charity you select will receive a donation at absolutely no cost to yourself. Tina Crossley has been doing this on behalf of the village nursery for some time. The website has links to over 300 high street suppliers including Tesco, Amazon, W H Smith and Next.

New look to the Derwent centre

There are a few people who may not know what the Derwent Centre at Princess Alexandra Hospital actually is, but for the many who have used it over the years and their

families they will know that while it provides a lifeline for those facing mental problems, it has not always provided the right kind of atmosphere for patients and their families who are experiencing acute traumas.

£700,000 has been invested in improving reception areas, occupational areas and wards. All the staff have a real sense of pride in their work and are very responsive to the needs of their patients and their families. This is reflected in the recent questionnaire which showed that patients generally were very happy with the care and treatment they received.

Fete has funds for the village

Birchanger Fete has always raised money for village projects, wherever it has been located. The money raised from this years fete will be given to the parish council for distribution. If your organisation would like to benefit from the fete, please write to our Parish Clerk Julia Peachey at 11 Ascot Close Bishops Stortford, or alternatively you can drop the letter in to me at 330 Birchanger Lane. The Parish Council will need to know what the money is for and how much you require for the project. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The total raised by the non-group events, was £1898.50. Comprised as follows:-
Get me out of here, I'm a villager £26, Splat the rat £54.30
,Duck Shoot £95, Bowl for the pig £55
Bouncy castle and chocolate fountain £137.50,
Coconut shy £105.20, Cake stall £170 Raffle £544
Pig roast & BBQ £711.50



Silliest hat of the day by far

Hospice benefits from Scout Group fundraiser

Way back in April the Birchanger cubs and scouts had a very busy time over the Easter weekend, indeed if any of you had ventured out to Homebase on the Good Friday you would have seen our gallant boys and girls raising money for good causes.

Homebase had again kindly allowed the scout group to raise funds by selling quiz sheets to their customers and by offering to help them to their cars with their purchases for a discretionary donation. These activities again met with a resounding success by raising a tremendous £359.

The group have this year nominated the Little Havens Children's Hospice in Thundersley as the charity they are supporting as beneficiaries of their fundraising.

The hospice, now in its 9th year, provides palliative care for sick and dying children in the Essex and London area while supporting their families. They do a fantastic job offering a range of medical support, respite care, bereavement counseling and a lot more besides. A cheque for £150 has been sent to the hospice with the remainder of the funds going towards the scout groups' own funds Well done the boys and girls of the 1st Birchanger cubs and scouts!

The following letter has been received by Lesley Robbins.

Dear Mrs Robbins

Thank you for kindly supporting Little Havens Children's Hospice by making a donation of £150.00 which was raised by selling quiz sheets at your local Homebase store. Since opening in 1998 Little Havens has received more than 900 referrals, and currently cares for 120 children who stay regularly throughout the year. Another 130 families are being supported by our bereavement and family support services.

Little Havens cares for children with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses from all over Essex and Outer London. Children are given one-to-one specialist care, surrounded by their families, in a home-from-home environment.

It costs £2.1 million this year to support the families that use the hospice as well as provide new services such as EPIC to reach more families in the community. Government funding is limited and we rely heavily on community donations to keep Little Havens open. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely Louise Gloyne MICFM On behalf of Little Havens.

Scout group appeal

Recycling is very much in the news and Birchanger is doing it's bit. We already have the bottle bins in Birchwood and we announced two issues ago that a garment bin will be soon in situ at the school, but now to take things further the scout group is making an appeal for any old or unwanted mobile phones and computer ink cartridges.

I am sure that many houses in the village has an old phone lying about, and what a waste that is when it could be given to the scout group along with old ink refills who can put them in for recycling.

The recycling process for phones is extremely important as it means that UK charity groups and remote communities overseas can be given the means to communicate with the outside world in emergencies, and even if the phones are write offs, the components can be salvaged to go into other devices, the ink refills are equally useful in reducing the need to manufacture from new. Plus the monies raised will go towards supporting our local cub and scout troop This is an on-going project so even if you have nothing now keep it in mind to contact either:

Trevor Stone 812 994 or Dave Dartnell 814 311

Alternatively you can drop off your used devices to the scout hut in the Social Club's rear car park between 6:30pm

SongCycle

The all singing all cycling male voice quartet



SongCycle are: *The all singing all cycling male voice quartet*
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presents

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BIRCHANGER SOCIAL CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 28th July
Elvis Impersonator

Saturday 18th August
Disco and Karaoke

Thank you

Jean Williams has reported takings of £102 for the Birchanger Quadrille group on the Aunt Sally stall at the fete she wishes to thank Paul, Paula, Dave and Maureen at the pub and every one who donated crocks to break and those who had a go on the stall!

Sue Gilbey would like to report takings of £63 at the fete and would like to thank all those who donated goods and Lesley Hayward who manned the stall until Sue arrived after work. The takings will be added to the magazine funds.

School News

Everyone needed their energy last month

June has been a very busy month for Birchanger School. Class 4 returned from their away weekend and plunged straight into preparations for a Sports Day, and rehearsals for the school play.

The children were again complimented on their behaviour in Buckinghamshire. They had a huge array of unusual activities to choose from, which included abseiling, a zip wire, archery, fencing and swimming. It was all about team building too, and the staff joined with the children in all the activities. The experience highlighted team building and the weather was stunning throughout. Next year it will be a different experience in Norfolk.

This year's pantomime gives the opportunity for a wider range of children to take part. The Church Hall was the preferred venue as there was a great deal more space available for this ambitious project. The Victorian Sports Day was the idea of one of our Sports Coaches. He had run an event similar to this one before, and knew exactly how to prepare the children for a slightly different event.

Meanwhile the staff had reports to write, and the open evening to prepare for, with additional shared open days at Farnham School. Everyone is always very conscious that for year 6 it is their last few weeks at Birchanger School, and on the last day of term it is time to say farewell.

New parent governor wanted

The governing body at Birchanger School is made up of a mixture of Parents, Staff and representatives from the LEA, the Church and the Community. Being a governor is an interesting job, and one which carries its fair share of responsibilities. There is also a need to undertake some initial training, and there are always changes to the way the education system is organised, so training is always ongoing, but not over onerous. Last month saw the procedure started to elect a new parent governor, who hopefully will be in place before the end of term. Normally an election is held, but if there are no available candidates, then the governing body may co-opt somebody, or, as has been the case in previous years, simply leave the position vacant and try again.

It is important that the governing body has a full compliment of governors, particularly Parent Governors, so it is very much hoped that there will be a new elected member in place this term.



The school's plant stall first to sell out on fete day

Where are they now?

In the past year or so, 17 copies of the Book of Common Prayer and a similar number of Hymns Ancient and Modern have been taken from of St. Mary's. Whilst it is encouraging to think that there are some parishioners who wish to read through these books at their leisure, we really do need them to be returned as, for some services, there are not enough copies left in church. If you do have any of these books, please return them soon as possible.



Action Aid

Action Aid Sunday 12th August 2007 at 2 pm

Nadia and Kevin Walters invite you to a Cream tea afternoon in their garden at 8 Harrisons to raise funds for Action Aid, which is a charity that is working for a world without poverty.

In October we will be trekking across the Great Rift valley in Tanzania to raise much needed funds Please helps us by coming along on the 12th August and feel free to bring your friend We look forward to seeing you. Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Scones, Cream, Jam, Strawberries, Crafts, stalls, raffle.

If anyone is interested in assisting us raise monies, please call on 810933.

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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

Birchanger Bowls Club
Secretary Elaine Wright 813473
Birchanger Brownies
Jenny Jameson 815396

Birchanger Cricket Club
Secretary Kevan Reid

Birchanger Nursery Unit
Enquiries to Tina Crossley 814037
Birchanger Over Sixties
Secretary Bernie King 655479

Birchanger Social Club 812810

Birchanger Village Magazine
Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey 816171

Church in Birchanger
The Benefice office 815243
Church Wardens
Peter Odrich 323927
Pam Lee 07702 171744

Church Hall Janet Gage 813507

District Councillor
Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin 812793

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Mrs Ann Kent 813204

Parish Council
Chairman Mr Phillip Hoy 812703

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Julia Peachey 503912

Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow 444455

Cubs and Scouts
Trevor Stone 812994
Essex Police 07801 461666

Saturday Football Club
Mr. A. Lucas 813441

Sunday Football Club
Mr. Neil Gilbey 816039



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Village Diary July/August 2007

July

22nd St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

28th At the Club 8.00pm
Elvis Impersonator

29th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

August

5th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

12th St Mary's 11.00 am
Family service

18th At the Club 8.00pm
Disco and Karaoke

19th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

26th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

26th At the Club
Summer BBQ

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