

Cub and Scout News

We haven't received very much news this month, so we have turned the front page over to perhaps the village's keenest organisations: the Cubs and Scouts. Sally Stone reports.

On Saturday 12th May 2007 the Cubs took part in the annual District 6-a-side football competition. Two teams represented Birchanger. One team got knocked out in the quarterfinals with the other team winning, beating Hatfield Heath 1 – 0 in the final. This is the second year running that Birchanger has brought home the trophy.

Over the Whitsun May Bank Holiday weekend two teams of Scouts braved the very wet and windy conditions and took part in the District Camp, which was held at Hatfield Forest. The weather did not stop most of them enjoying themselves; they took part in a cooking competition and came 4th & 5th and on the Sunday walked around the Forest taking part in various activities including archery, air rifles, pedal racers and air rockets, returning back to base camp for a fish & chip supper. Well done to those that stayed all of the weekend.

glorious Sunday afternoon and there were a few spare places so Trevor (who always says “never ask the Cubs or Scouts to do anything you wouldn't”) and his trusty helper Malcolm joined them on the water. The Scouts had a great time made even better when Trevor & Malcolm's kayaks capsized. The Cubs' Kayaking trip was on a Wednesday evening and unfortunately the weather was overcast. However this did not stop them enjoying themselves, this session was full so they did not get to see Trevor & Malcolm in action (in the water!!). The instructors were very good and encouraged those who were a bit unsure to the extent that all were confident enough to play games in their kayaks. One game was to pull up their kayaks in a line and get out and swap places whilst still in the water. Needless to say there were a few who toppled and got wet.



The Scouts swap over

More recently the Cubs & Scouts had a trip to the Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre to try some Kayaking. Because of the numbers they were split into two groups: the Scouts attended on a



A very relaxed cub, Hayley Gould

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

Crime in Birchanger

It might come as a surprise to many to learn that the hot spot for crime in the village is the Service Station. The police it seems spend considerably more time there than in the village itself. Goods are stolen from the shops, as we know well when Poppy Appeal collecting boxes tend to disappear unless very firmly fastened down and even then they seem to vanish. People steal from cars on a regular basis, and the top favourite is making off without paying for petrol, although an old police car parked on site for a while slowed the thefts down.

We who live in Birchanger know there is crime and vandalism in our village apart from the motorway related crime wave. We report it regularly, sometimes after a very long wait for our calls to be answered. Often we do not achieve police attendance at all. One of the tricks is to ask for a crime number but that does not always materialise either. Perhaps we should log our calls and submit the log to the police and ask for an explanation.

Meanwhile yobs can still endanger motorists' lives by hurling blocks of concrete at them, we have to put up with a horrendous plastic panel instead of a glass one as a replacement in the phone box, and should we actually make contact with the police, nobody seems to know where Birchanger is.

Vandalism seems to be happening throughout the village. Please report it when you see it, otherwise the police will continue to have the false impression that apart from the service station, there is very little crime in Birchanger. Always insist on a crime number when you report any incident, otherwise your complaint may appear to be "lost".

Highway Options For Birchanger

Highway options were proposed for Birchanger and Stansted from the money from the Section 106 agreements for the mitigation of the expected traffic increase from the Rochford Development. The original options were discussed over ten years ago, but a great deal has changed since then. Work on the houses will begin later this year, and Essex County Council Highways would like to know which options Birchanger and Stansted would prefer. This comes with a warning as there is not enough money on the table for everything the parishes would like.

Options now include a traffic study and assessment for traffic calming in Tot Lane to avoid it contributing to the rat run in Birchanger Lane. Possibilities here would be pinch points, speed humps, one way traffic, or designation as a quiet lane. Essex County Council would also be asked to do a survey of the possibilities.

Another option is for traffic calming in Birchanger Lane. This could include pinch points, more warning signs, and gating to the village. There is a further suggestion for a crossing to operate in school times and a 20 mph limit at the crossing point.

There is a request for a 30 mph option in Forest Hall Rd, traffic calming at Forest Hall, and an examination of the camber of the road, which was adverse prior to the road works. Additional traffic calming measures may be needed there.

Representatives of the parish Council will be meeting with Essex County Highways to discuss this. The matter will be brought to the Parish Council on July 3rd and anyone is welcome to contribute their own ideas, or to discuss this with any member of the Parish Council before that date.

Advertising Space Available

You could be advertising your business or service here!

For more information contact

Mark Crossley on 07979 708142

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Election Roundup

Parish and District Council elections put a strain on council resources. Although the count was not held until the following day, it still meant over 24 hours work for some key staff, and a very long day for others.

The turnout was up to 43.9% from 38.5% last time. Preparations for the election had started in December last year and the clear up process is still continuing.

There were 7,300 postal votes sent out, of which 70% were returned. New security checks which incorporate water marks meant a delay in printing which resulted in the late dispatch of postal votes, and the late receipt of ballot papers all contributed to the stress which the staff had to cope with. The process involved the election of 44 District Councillors and 400 Parish Councillors, and involved almost three times as many candidates.

Lessons have been learned again, but whether they will be applicable next time round depends entirely on whether we remain the same, or move into the realms of electronic voting.

The political makeup of the council has changed. The Conservatives now hold 26 seats, the Liberal Democrats 15 and the Independents 3. There are 18 entirely new councillors this time. The new leader of the council is Jim Ketteridge, one of the members for Saffron Walden.

Enforcement Issues

Things went astray last month when certain people not resident in the village decided to do things which were without planning permission in its strictest sense. A storage compound was cited on the B1383 for EDF who are laying a new cable for the airport, but this was done without reference to the District Council, under

so-called Permitted Development Rights. They are supposed to be there for a year, and have purported to have carried out an ecological survey which nobody connected to Birchanger has actually seen. At Duck End a coach company decided to park outside the barns after Parsonage Farm closed, and Airport Related Car Parking returned to the Park and Ride site near the Football Club.

Enforcement Officers are working on these cases, but as always those who do the transgressing work the system so it may be some time before there is any action.

Stansted Airport Community Trust

This is a trust set up following the various airport planning applications, and which provides grants of up to £2000 to Community and Voluntary groups within a ten mile radius of the airport. That certainly includes Birchanger, but the Parish Council is excluded.

It does mean that all village halls, churches, sports clubs, scouts, guides and other voluntary groups can apply for capital expenditure up to the limit, whether it is for a piece of equipment or improvements to the premises. The closing date for the next round of applications is the July 31st, but money will not be granted to projects which have already been completed.

If your organisation is looking for funding for a project, please contact Cllr Susan Flack, who is the Chairman of Stansted Airport Community Trust on 01245 231250, or email at cllr.susan.flack@essexcc.gov.uk. It is a really good opportunity to access much needed funding, and if you do not ask it will certainly be used by someone else.

**Everyone Welcome
to a Lunch at Moorswood
in Aid of
St Mary's Church on
Sunday July 22nd at
12.30 pm.**

**Tickets are available from
Pam Lee or Joy Wright.**

**Fitness Workout
Exercise class suitable for all
levels of fitness**

**Birchanger St. Mary's Hall
Fridays 12.30 - 1.30
£3**

**Further details about this class or the
Uttlesford Healthy Eating and Lifestyle
Programme can be obtained from
01799 581720**

Health Matters

Birchanger Village Magazine gets quite a few health-related stories given to it, but most of them fail to make publication. Space is usually at a premium, and the health stories, though undoubtedly important, are of regional, rather than local, interest.. This month we catch up with a few of the recent items.

Essex Cardiothoracic Centre Nears Completion, but Car Parking Lags Behind

A great many people in Birchanger were less than thrilled to discover that their Cardiothoracic Centre was to be in Basildon. It is difficult to reach by public transport and parking in most hospitals has become a nightmare for everyone. At Basildon this will continue to be the case, as patients will have to contend with a small temporary car park, and both staff and patients are being asked to travel by other means than by car. Beam me up Scotty unfortunately is not available. A new multi-storey car park is being built, but this will not be in operation until next year. The £8 million car park is being paid for by a loan, which will have to be repaid, doubtless from higher car parking charges as the existing ones are to be "reviewed"!

Meanwhile the new cardiothoracic unit will open to patients in July. There will be improved meal time arrangements for inpatients, including the provision of a meal when patients are absent for treatment or tests at mealtimes. Patients will be able to choose from small, medium or large options. There will also be an emphasis on healthy eating and ward activities will be curtailed at meal times so nurses can supervise and ensure that every patient receives food and is helped where necessary.

18 Week Wait For Treatment Pays Off!

The 18 week waiting time for the maximum time patients have to wait before receiving treatment for their conditions

has meant that many diagnostic procedures are completed after an 11 week waiting period. This has meant further benefits for everyone. There are fewer emergency admissions, and patients are spending less time in hospital. Staff are less stressed with fewer acute emergency admissions. Patients undoubtedly benefit from earlier treatment with reduced suffering and fewer outpatient appointments. It is so simple—why did it take so long to happen?

Interested in Health Matters?

Most of us have health concerns at some time or another. Quite often our expectations on health provision have not been met or our health care could have been improved. Maybe you have a very clear idea of how improvements could be made which would improve the healthcare experience for everyone. Volunteers from the community are urgently needed to join the health forums for West Essex primary Care Trust or the Princess Alexandra NHS Trust. The work is interesting and members of these groups are the only patient representatives allowed onto NHS premises to inspect and monitor the services provided.

Experience is not necessary, all that is needed is a willingness to improve local Health Services for the community, and a little time to make visits and to attend monthly meetings.

To find out more, please call 01279 838132 or email forumsupport.inhouse109@cppih.org



*This friendly dragon now greets visitors to Birchanger as it perches on the new roof of a garage that was partially demolished by the recent storms.
We're assured it doesn't bite.*

Birchanger Fete 8th July

Volunteer wanted to man a "White Elephant" stall (In aid of this magazine) at the village fete from 12 until 2.30 when I can take over as I am working until that time.

Also any white elephants donated will be gratefully received

Contact Sue Gilbey on 816171

Birchanger Fete 8th July

Cakes wanted. Please deliver to the Three Willows between 10 and 12 on the day.

SongCycle Pedal By

Following their much-enjoyed visit to Birchanger last December, the 'all singing all cycling male voice quartet' SongCycle returned to the village on Saturday, 9th June with a richly varied programme of a-capella singing.

Word of that previous concert had obviously got around, because there were few spare pews in the church.

The concert was billed as 'from Bach to Beatles' but the songs actually covered an even greater time span than the title would suggest; from Sumer Is Icumen In, possibly dating from the 13th century; to the 1982 Yazoo hit Only You, probably best remembered today from the Flying Pickets cover that reached No. 1 at Christmas 1983.

The opening number, which gave the singers an opportunity to introduce themselves, was Four Little Boys From Choir, their version of Three Little Maids From School from Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado.

This was followed by A Tribute to Anglo Catholics (sung to the tune of the familiar hymn The Church's One Foundation) and How Do We Sing Psalms?

These may sound a bit 'churchy' for some, but that wasn't really the case. Both songs were humorous, and while it's true that someone with no knowledge of the subjects of the songs would not get all of the jokes, most people would recognise enough to find them funny. I particularly enjoyed the second of the two in which the singers demonstrated universal and, seemingly, unquestioned conventions used whenever a choir picks up a Psalter.

Any suspicion of an overly liturgical atmosphere was dispelled when they sang their next song, Eleanor Rigby. This was a clever arrangement of the Beatles classic originally made by Paul Hart for the King's Singers and further adapted for four voices by SongCycle's own Brian Lynn. Brian is credited in Saturday's programme with having arranged 13 of the 18 songs performed - quite a talent.

The rest of the programme was as varied as the opening four numbers. The promised J.S. Bach was represented by Flocks in Pastures Green, better-known as Sheep May Safely Graze. There was more Beatles, when SongCycle added their version to the world's most covered song, Yesterday.

The songs that followed included the sacred and the secular; the ancient and the modern; the serious and the funny.

Our Local Geographical Fugue was in the last of these categories. It was, as it says on the tin, a fugue. The words were all local place names, with a regular, shouted, 'BASILDON' underpinning the arrangement.. A huge number of local towns, villages and other local places were included - even Birchanger got a mention.

The final song on the programme was, appropriately, Good Night It's Time To Go, but SongCycle were not allowed to go until they'd delivered an encore, to enthusiastic applause.

All in all, this was a very enjoyable evening. There was ample wine and tasty snacks during the interval, during which many people stepped outside into the glorious early summer evening to chat to neighbours or just to enjoy the peace of the churchyard.

SongCycle, who were formed from members of the choir at the Parish Church in Brentwood in 1996, have raised over £17,500 for Friends of Essex Churches. St. Mary's Birchanger is now better off by nearly £450 as a result of this evening. Everyone wins.

Here's looking forward to their next trip to Birchanger, for the Harvest Supper in September.

BASILDON!



SongCycle are: *The all singing all cycling male voice quartet*
Brian Lynn Richard Baker Nick Rayner Duncan Kay

Cartoon by Brian Gough

School News

Special Breakfast Club For SATS Week

It is not easy being 11 years old and facing a week of statutory examinations. Every day you go to school, and there is yet another test to contend with. However Birchanger Year 6 children took the week in their stride, and whatever they were actually feeling, they appeared relaxed and able to go through the week with equanimity when they were in school.

The fact that they were also members of a very exclusive Breakfast Club may have helped. They came to school early every morning to join their fellow class members in a breakfast which was laid on just for them. With all the laughing and joking going on, you would never have guessed that they were about to sit a test which they had worked towards all year.

After SATS

The period after the SATS exams is very special. From now until the end of term there is more time to catch up with the subjects in the curriculum which have to be put to one side while the requirements for the tests are met. So after a seriously hard working year so far, for all the children and staff at Birchanger School Class 4 were off for a weekend of challenge at Fulmer Hall in Buckinghamshire. Departure was scheduled for Friday and return for the end of school on Monday, with a full weekend of activities in between. The children had the opportunity to enjoy canoeing, abseiling, zip wiring, canoeing, orienteering, night walks to name a few of the activities on offer. Serious fun was to be enjoyed by all.

The following weekend families at Birchanger School had the opportunity to spend a night under canvas in the school grounds. There will be all the trimmings of a school camp with a barbeque in the evening, and breakfast for everyone in the morning. Those not wanting to have the full camping experience joined their friends for the barbeque instead.

Arts Week

With the tests out of the way, all the children had an opportunity to place more focus on the Arts. One of Birchanger's resident artists Heather Brown visited the school to show everyone how to really paint watercolours, and there was also an opportunity to

study modern and aboriginal art. There was a chance for the children to try their hand at pottery, photography and architecture. The children made a model of their school as it now is and designed the school of the future. Their ideas ranged from a school in a bubble underwater, a school in the trees, to a school whose size would cover Birchanger entirely. The children's work will be exhibited at the Open Evening to which everyone is invited in July.

The theme for the summer term at the school is community and the environment and the children have been studying the Birchanger environment, and this will be highlighted in the exhibition. It was also the week when parents and some governors visited the school, and used their expertise in their own fields to show the children how things were done as well as encouraging the children to have a try themselves.

There was a visit by the always popular Play For a Day Group in which every class had the opportunity to produce, rehearse and then perform their own play to the rest of the school. The play this year was *The Tempest*.

The school is very much part of the Birchanger community, and not just the province of those who work there or attend the school. Education in Birchanger for primary school children is becoming a shared experience. A great many more people have skills and expertise they could share with the school, although they might not realise it. If you think you could have something to offer, or know somebody who does, please call the school on 812362.

Summer Clubs

These are in full swing. These include the ever popular Golf Club, along with Rounders, Art and Needlecraft where Pam Lee and Rene Kadwill are busily showing everyone how to knit.

Everyone is Learning a Stringed Instrument in Class 3

Music plays a large part in life at Birchanger School. The children are always learning new songs and singing them at the regular weekly assemblies. Now Class 3 has taken music a stage further and everyone is learning a string instrument, including Mrs Culpin. Keep practising as we cannot wait for your first performance!

Rene, Chris and the Kadwill
family invite you to a

Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th July

11:00 till 13:00

at HYBANKS, 214

Birchanger Lane.

In aid of Children with
Leukaemia at Great Ormond
Street Hospital

Birchanger Fete 8th July

Wanted! Old china for the Aunt Sally

Spare a plate or two to raise money for the
Birchanger Quadrille Group, who are raising
money to enter a competition in October.

If you've chipped your second-best Minton
dinner set please call Jean Williams on
814473, who will arrange for it be smashed
to smithereens for a good cause.

Birchanger Social Club

Don't Forget!

The Club sells postage stamps and biodegradable
liners for your brown bins.

And while you're on the premises,
why not look at the historic Birchanger
photographs displayed on the Club walls, or
borrow a book from the charity lending library?

Useful Numbers

Additions and alterations should be
sent 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 Gibbey 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

County Councillor
Mr. Ray Gooding 260 Birchanger Lane

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Mrs Ann Kent 813204

Parish Council
Chairman: Mr. Philip Hoy 812703
Clerk to the Council : Mrs. Julia Peachey 503912

Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow 444455

Cubs and Scouts
Trevor Stone 812994

Essex Police (Stansted mobile) 07801 461666
Insp. Tom Boland 730388
PS James Gilchrist 07801 461666

Saturday Football Club
Mr. A. Lucas 813441
Sunday Football Club
Mr. Neil Gibbey 816039



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Village Diary

July

- 1st St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins
- 5th The Three Willows
Standon Morris 9.15 pm
- 8th The Three Willows
Village Fete 1200
- 8th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Family Service with
Baptism
- 15th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins
- 22nd St. Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion
- 29th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

August

- 5th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Family service with baptism
- 12th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins
- 19th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins
- 26th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

Birchanger Village Fete - 8th July

The Three Willows

1200 onwards

Cake stall, Aunt Sally, White Elephant

Barbecue and Pig Roast

Live Music

Raffle

And much, much more!