

April 2007

Issue 52

### THE BRIDGE THAT TIME FORGOT

The London and North Eastern railway reached Bishop's Stortford from Stratford in 1842 taking just three years to build the section from Broxbourne. The link from Stortford to Cambridge took another three years. It was perhaps fortunate that the engineering for that project was not run by the same people who are now rebuilding Pesteford bridge as it's likely that Bishop's Stortford would have taken rather longer to

become the commuter town it now is or Cambridge the tourist attraction it now is.

Sitting in a queue the other day, I wondered why a temporary road link had not been built from the B1384 (A11) to Forest hall road between Hides and Deecs and Sion house? With appropriate diversion signage into the south of Stansted and a set of three way traffic lights at The Red White and Blue. The bridge could then have been closed to road traffic giving our modern day Brunels a freer hand at their task. But I understand some land ownership considerations prevented this.

It has often been said that Rome was not built in a day and I do appreciate that current regulations do not allow slave labour to be used on transport projects however the application of an overseer's whip might motivate the current crop of orange jacketed chain smokers to take their hands out of their pockets and finish the job they started so long ago.



The work force on the bridge have a remarkable ability to stare longingly into a hole, scratch themselves contentedly and ask. "Czy ktos ma ogien?" Which means. Has anybody got a light?

In Polish!

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS Elizabeth Godwin

## Birchanger Wood rejects current cycleway option

Birchanger Wood Management Committee has rejected the current proposal for a cycleway through the wood. Although the Birchanger Wood Management Trust was not opposed in principle to a bridge across the A120, the option favoured by Hertfordshire County Council meant that around 130 trees would be lost, some of them substantial. On the Birchanger side this would have made a very large inroad into a very small part of the wood to the point where it could hardly be called a wood at all. The proposed new bridge has to be a very different type of bridge from the wooden footbridge with steps which was included in the plans when the new A120 was first built, but not constructed due to lack of resources. This new scheme would mean ramps that would be safe for the disabled as well as cyclists and horse riders.

Any scheme has to take into account the possible future creation of a dual carriageway along the A120. This means that the ramps for access to the bridge would be set back, leading to further tree loss. There is also the very real concern that without fencing, the wood would be opened up to mountain bikes and off road vehicles. This does not sit well with the purpose of the wood which was to provide a green lung of natural ancient woodland for residents on both sides of the A120. Residents of Birchanger spent a considerable amount of their precept on the purchase of the various portions of the wood, which dates back to Saxon times, some years ago.

The current grant for the scheme means that the project must be completed by March 2008. The time is therefore very short in any event, as routes would have to be agreed with other landowners, planning permission would have to be obtained and the proposals approved by Highways Departments of both Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils.

There are three other options for the route of the cycleway and bridge that could be considered without any major tree loss. These would be more expensive, but they would be worth it to preserve the wood. The other considerations were that permission for a bridge over the railway at Bishops

Stortford was refused by Railtrack, and that part of the route of the cycleway which is supposed to run from Harlow to Stansted Mountfitchet and Stansted Airport, has not yet been agreed, although work has started between Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook. No route has yet been agreed through Bishops Stortford. Alternative options might mean that access via Beldams Lane or via Grange Paddocks might prove to be the better way, and the woodland would have been lost unnecessarily. Something which is as unique as Birchanger Wood must be worth fighting for.

## Do you want to have your say at the airport inquiry?

The Inquiry into the maximum use of the first runway at Stansted will start on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Like it or not the venue is set to be at Endeavour House, Stansted Airport, with visits to outside venues in the locality. These will include a visit to Stansted, and the Parish Council have invited the Inspector to hold a session at Birchanger Church Hall.

Residents who wish to speak are being discouraged as apparently the Inspector does not want to hear repetitious arguments. How can he judge the strength of feeling in the area without hearing similar arguments all the time, but coming from different angles, different perspectives and different locations? People need to have their say, whatever they feel about the airport: we are supposed to be living in a democratic country after all. Restricting the inquiry in any way, restricts the human rights of all who are affected, so if you would like to speak, please write to Simon Osbourne as below stating your case.

Simon Osborn has been appointed Program Officer for the Inquiry. He can be contacted at 1 Lower Cottages, Yeldham Rd, Belchamp Walter, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7BA. Please write to him if you would like to speak, or require further information on the inquiry. His role is to work independently between all participants, he is responsible for keeping all parties informed, working on the program for the inquiry and ensuring that it runs smoothly. Whatever happens, don't be afraid to have your say!

#### Farewell to Tim and Molly Bishop

Sadly, every so often we have to say goodbye to people who have been true friends to Birchanger for a very long time. Tim and Molly have played an active part in Birchanger life for more years than they care to remember. Their children attended Thorn Grove School, and Molly worked at the Nursery for many years and latterly as a school governor.

Both Tim and Molly were part of the committee who revived the fete in the nineties. They were also part of the team for the village reviews, Tim was treasurer to the PCC, and a member of the Parish Council. He was also the driving force behind the team who produced the Parish Plan. There are many other areas which have benefited by the Bishop's very hard work over the past thirty years. They will be very much missed.

It seems that the lure of Padstow and life in Cornwall is stronger than Birchanger now. Over the past few years Tim and Molly have acquired a home, friends, and a different aspect to life in Cornwall. In fact our loss is very much Padstow's gain, as it cannot be long before Padstow is getting the benefits Birchanger enjoyed for so long.

Everyone's good wishes go with them, along with our thanks for all they have done for Birchanger for so very long. It might not have seemed like it, but it was appreciated, and hopefully they will be back to visit, often.

#### Additional items for your recycling bins

Thanks to a new contract for the disposal of plastics, you can now put more items into your green recycling bin. You can now put all margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, ice cream containers, food trays, fruit and vegetable punnets, plastic tubs, plastic bottle lids, plastic cups, plastic bottles, CD/Video cases, sandwich packs, and plastic carrier bags. You may also put foil ready meal containers, takeaway food containers, party platters, and kitchen foil.

Please do not put cling film, bubble wrap, shrink wrap, cellophane, crisp or sweet wrappers, black bin liners, expanded polystyrene, video and cassette tapes, or hard plastic items such as toys into the green or brown bins. At present all these items must still go into your black bin.

If you have not already received one, a new tag will be placed on your bin indicating which new materials would be appropriate in the next few weeks. Some houses will also be asked to complete a survey on the new recycling regime.

The scheme, although still not popular in many areas, is attracting national attention. A team from East Lothian in Scotland visited the project last month. The fast disappearing landfill opportunities combined with the huge rise in costs for using landfill sites have meant that this sort of recycling is compulsory for everyone, whether they like it or not.

#### Asbestos in Tot Lane

Someone somewhere seems to have got it into their head that Tot lane is a good refuse site, especially for asbestos. Asbestos is a very dangerous material and needs specialist disposal. If you do come across any material which you suspect might be asbestos, please telephone Will Cockerell on 01799 510581, or ring me on 01279 812793. For general fly tipping anywhere, call 01799 510510.

### New Play surface for the recreation ground

After a great deal of hard work by members of the parish Council, a new safety surface has been installed in the recreation ground. This surface is much safer and more durable than the bark that was used previously.

To keep costs down, the Parish Council agreed to remove the old surface and wooden edging prior to the contractors moving in, so on a sunny Sunday a small but hard-working team moved in. Led by Parish Council members Ann Kent and David Holder, the team was completed by David Kent and by Dan Muscutt, who won particular praise for his hard work. Although the work could have been completed more quickly with a greater number of volunteers, the four got stuck in and moved a large volume of old bark chippings and timber.

The new surface is also very expensive, and will last, as long as it is not vandalised. Please look after it, as there is no money to replace it.

### Memories of a childhood in the 1950's - Footy was still King!

I have just finished reading "Nobbut a Lad" a reflection on his childhood, by Alan Titchmarsh the BBC Garden presenter, who I have had the pleasure of meeting several times. It got me reminiscing about my own childhood in Birchanger at around the same time.

The mid 1950's in Birchanger centred on the Three Willows and Forebury Way at one end. Bradley Common and the Post Office at the other, Birchwood and the club in the middle. There was no High View and no Harrisons. I lived in Birchwood with the Bank's, Gilbey's, Brighten's, Higgs's et al. Most families were Banks, Reed or Gilbey related in some way. The permanent road in Birchwood stopped around No.12 (I lived with Mum and Dad in No.8) and my Nan & Granddad next door in No.10, the rest of the road was a cobbled effect and just past the Gilbey residence was where the big bonfire was set up by 5<sup>th</sup> November every year. Potatoes and sausages were in the bottom cooking, there were jumping jacks, catherine wheels, roman candles, and rockets that rarely took off!

School was a walk down the lane past the Village Hall, a cut across the Rec to where the brick field lay derelict opposite the school where my Nan and Mum went before me.

Ah, the Rec! The hub of after school and summer evening life! One goal post, two old wooden swings and a really bumpy see-saw! Coats down the other end for the second goal. Messer's Dennison, Stock and Tilstone joined us from the "ends" of the village and Peter (Wright) Stephen (Padbury), John (Banks), Ed (Gilbey) Frankie (Pritchard) and I with a real leather ball - or was it a cannon ball? I was never sure until I headed it! Definately a Cannon Ball! We would play past dusk most evening's, no problems, no fears and our parents always sure of where we were.

On a cool evening during those long holidays we would sometimes pass by number 1 Digby View (home of the Cox's) young Carol and Graham lived there. To go towards the woods, stopping on the footpath to throw a few rocks into the "stink pond" which is now a garden in Harrison's, and on to the wood and sometimes through to Parsonage Lane (there was no A120 bypass then of course). It was quiet and full of blue bells in the spring.

Mum & Dad? Well in the late 1950's they were both Branch secretary's for the newly formed Birchanger British Legion (no "Royal" that came later). Dad was also the standard bearer, for the Branch, the Group, the County of Essex and on two occasions the Eastern Area. Weekends were spent all over the region at various rally's and church services, and as County Standard Bearer we were often with the Lord Lieutenant Sir John Ruggles Brise and met him at his home in Finchingfield and then off to Ely, Cambridge, Clacton or some other part of the region.

Dad worked for Aubrey Levey in Stansted pedalling his bike to and fro each day. Mum was a "home help" Care Assistant in today's terms I suppose. Then in 1959 Nan & Granddad moved to Hybanks (I named the house when I was 5 and, as now, couldn't spell!) Life changed, but the Rec was still a second home - football was still king!

Chris Kadwill

#### **OVER SIXTIES ARE ALL WIGHT**

At 9.15 on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> twenty one members of the over 60s club were met by coach driver Brian who loaded our luggage. We then set off to Sydenham Social club to pick up 31 of their members.

That done we headed off to Southampton to board the 13.25 ferry for the Isle of Wight.

After we had settled in at the Marina Bay Hotel we had dinner and then enjoyed an evenings entertainment. The hotel is owned and run by Mr Patel and his son Nashim. They and all their staff were superb we could not have been looked after any better. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we were taken all over the island watching pottery and glassblowing demonstrations at Arreton Barns Crafts. Culminating with a visit to "Waltzing Waters" which was absolutely fantastic.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> after breakfast we left to catch the ferry to come home. The weather was beautiful and a really good time was had by all.

Bernie King (Secretary Birchanger over sixties club)

### JOIN THE BROWNIES

Birchanger Brownies are a thriving unit, and currently we have 26 girls between the ages of 7 and 10+. We have an extremely varied programme, for example we recently completed our Science Investigator badge, we had a lady who visited us to tell us all about her work rescuing hedgehogs and we are soon to visit Bishops Stortford Library as part of the Book Lover Badge. This year we are again going away on pack holiday to Roxwell, Chelmsford for a weekend in June when the girls will be doing crafts, nature trails, treasure hunts and archery, all with a theme of Alice in Wonderland

We fund our group solely through subscriptions (about £1 per week per girl), plus the Gift Aid cheque we get back from Inland Revenue each year which is very useful.

Should any Birchanger girls want to join us, please get them (or parents) to contact me. Jenny Jameson 01279 815396 Although we are quite full at the moment, we have quite a few girls who are 10+ who will be leaving some time this year.



Birchanger Village Magazine



### New Rector appointed

We are delighted to report that we have a new rector for the combined parishes of Stansted, Farnham and Birchanger.

He is the Revd Paul Wilkins who is fifty one years old and has been an ordained priest since 1990. He did his training at Lincoln Theological College

Mr Wilkins was one of four applicants, one of whom was a lady. He is currently rector at Squirrels Heath near Hornchurch and was previously a curate at Watford and on Jersey.

On the 12th March the parish representatives took part in the interview process of the new incumbent and we are happy to say that has been successful and the process is now being followed.

Revd Wilkins will be joining us hopefully at the end of July, he has accepted the post as rector subject to the necessary employment checks etc.

The Arts & Craft fair was a bit slow to start with but numbers picked up on Sunday with money being raised for church funds around £100.

Joy Wright had a coffee morning and has also raised about £100.

The mothering Sunday service was a wonderful day. Children were in the church accompanied by the head Mrs Denise Howell and music accompanied by Jo Shariff Music & language teacher on our very own organ and has agreed to come to most family services to accompany the children and congregation on a regular basis. everyone complemented how they enjoyed the service.

Up and coming events, look out for posters

8th May coffee morning at Moorswood 9th June Songcycle back by popular demand

As we did not receive any comments about the mission statement in the December issue of the Birchanger village magazine, the church council at the AGM has agreed that we own it and use of the statement in our worship.

#### **COFFEE MORNING**



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday 8th May 10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



### Birchanger Bowls Club

If there are any bowlers or anyone wishing to join the Birchanger Bowls Club then please contact the secretary Elaine Wright on 01279 813474 for a membership form.

The season will probably start at the end of April, and runs until November. Each year we take part in a local league as well as competition between ourselves. There is the annual Gold cup day and the Peter Sayward memorial trophy to play for watch out for the posters in the Social club. We look forward to seeing you on the green!

### **District Council Elections**

Do not forget there are District council elections this year on May 10th. The candiddates are Peter Deeks of Stansted who is standing as a Liberal Democrat and Elizabeth Godwin who stands as an Independent candidate.

### Birchanger Village Fete 2007

Sunday 8th July

At the Three Willows

All enquiries to Paul and Paula 815913

#### FUN MINI QUIZ AND DISCO

8

On behalf of the Sunday Football Club

In the Church Hall



Saturday 19th May 7.30pm for an 8pm start

Tickets are £5 and include a ploughman's supper.

Bring your own drink.

Tickets can be obtained from Cheryl on 07703115079.

### FROM THE ARCHIVE

Here we have once again a contribution from the exercise books of Ruth Clewer in the village archive. This month she relates a lesson in laundry all done by hand as was the practice in 1935. \*Stansted Central hall is the building on the right as you go down Chapel hill just past the old post office. It is now used as private flats.

**Domestic Science** 

17 September 1935.

Domestic Science is held in the Stansted Central hall\*. There are seven girls from Birchanger, six from the Stansted Convent School and seven from the Stansted Church of England school.

This term we are doing laundry work. This week we took a towel a tea cloth and a duster. First of all we washed them, then wrung them so as to get out all the water and then they were boiled in the copper together with ¼ lb of soap and a handful of soda there they were left to boil for 15 minutes. During that time we emptied our soapy water and got some fresh for rinsing. Then Mrs Robinson got our things out of the copper and four of the girls wrung them. Then we rinsed them and hung them on the line outside.

Then we went inside and wrote about what we had been doing during the morning. After this we had our play.

After play we brought our washing in, damped them and then folded them. When this was done we all went round Mrs Robinson's desk, she told us about the particulars of the mangle. Then we mangled all our own things, ironed them and hung them out to air.

I like Domestic Science very much. Next week we are going to take a pillow slip, three handkerchiefs and a towel or tea cloth.



Heres a view of the younger pupils at Birchanger school from 1932 any help in identifying them would be appreciated

## Are you elligible for an Essex travel pass?

You are if you are over 60 or registered disabled, you can apply for your new Essex Travel Pass from this month. The Essex Travel Pass gives free travel on all local bus services within Essex. You can travel further provided that your bus journey begins or ends in Essex. Your journey must start after 9am on weekdays, but can start at any time at weekends or bank holidays.

Alternatively you might prefer to use travel tokens, which are eligible for use on local bus, rail and some taxi services (check first). You have to pay for these, but £15 buys £30 worth of tokens. Both tokens and Essex Travel Passes expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> each year, and can be renewed from April 1<sup>st</sup>. Next April a new government led scheme will operate offering a wider range of travel options nationwide. There are no details about this scheme at present.

Both the Essex Travel Pass and the tokens can be obtained from Uttlesford District Council. You must chose which system best meets your needs as you cannot use both at present. You will need to provide two documents, to prove that you live in Uttlesford. These can be utility bills or official letters showing your name and address. You will also need to provide evidence of your date of birth which can be obtained from photocopies of you birth certificate, passport, or medical card. Finally you will also need two recent passport size photographs. If you would like to find out more please call 01799 510608. Forms can also be downloaded from the District Council website.

#### **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 Head Teacher Mrs. Denise Howell	School 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 Birchanger Over Sixties	814037
Secretary Bernie King	655479
Birchanger Social Club	812810
<b>Birchanger Village Magazine</b> Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey	816171
Church in Birchanger The Benefice office Church Wardens	815243
Peter Odrich Pam Lee 171744	323927 07702
Church Hall Janet Gage	813507
<b>District Councillor</b> 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 Essex Police 0780	812994 1 461666
Saturday Football Club Mr. A. Lucas	813441
Sunday Football Club Mr. Neil Gilbey	816039

### **School News**

#### Everyone gets the right school!

The first week in March is always a worrying time while children and their parents wait to find out if they have been allocated a place in their chosen secondary school. This time every year 6 pupil was lucky, as they all were given a place in their chosen school. It means that the group will be split across the district with children going to Newport as well as Hertfordshire schools, but at least they are all going where they wanted to be.

#### Red nose day fun

Nothing was going to spoil Red Nose Day for comic relief. Even the problems with lighting which had prevented the children using the hall that week did not spoil the fun. They all came to school dressed in red with plenty of "bling", bringing their own Pudsey Bears with them also dressed for the occasion.

Lunch was served outside, which added to the fun. Comic relief benefited and everyone had an enjoyable day. Sadly the assembly could not take place that day due to work in the hall, but all is now back to normal, and the school hopes you will be able to pop in on Friday at 2.45pm to watch the children celebrate the end of the week and to see what they have been doing.

#### End of another term

Easter falling in the early part of April meant that the children could incorporate the Easter holidays into their school holidays. Something which will not always be possible for the future when Easter falls early, under the new school holidays regime. After the final assembly, the children enjoyed a half day, then it was off for Easter Eggs and a two week holiday. Next term SATS loom, but after that the part of education which the SATS system chooses to ignore, which will include more History and Geography can begin, along with all the Summer

Fun which includes Sports Day and the Annual Play. Details later.

#### A Concert to start the Easter Holiday

Everybody in Bircahanger School contributed to the Musical Morning and End of Term Assembly. The event was well attended by Parents and Friends who had very good reason to be proud of their children's achievements.

Class 1 invited everyone to their Pet Shop where every child dressed up as a pet shop pet, Class 2 entertained with their own Fancy Dress parade, while Classes 3 and 4 had their own take on songs, with Class 4 concentrating on Aftrican harmonies. The Singing Club, in full costume, entertained with songs from Grease, and there were many memorable instrumental solos.

Awards for achievement were handed out to the very worthy recipients, and Rachel Gunn was congratulated as her swimming prowess now means that she is to receive County training.

Class 4 children continued with their fund raising activities, with bunches of flowers for sale, and there was a special Easter Raffle. Pictures the children had made of Easter Eggs were on display, and Mrs Lee, who takes a fortnightly assembly in the school, had a very difficult task picking the winners.

#### Wool Wanted

Children in year 5 have been learning how to knit. If you have any spare knitting needles or wool, please send them to the school asap.

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, Michael Daw Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.

### Intercounty make a move to recognise youth

They say that buying or selling a house is one of the most traumatic things you will ever do, so it is good to see that our new advertisers, Intercounty Estate Agents, are doing all they can to alleviate the stress and, with that in mind, I would like to welcome them to the fold. Most will know the name Intercounty and, the fact that they are a successful chain of local agencies will come as no surprise, but what many will not know is the involvement the company has in good causes our region, and their real sense of community

As estate agents Intercounty have 6 offices in: Stortford, Stansted, Saffron Walden, Braintree, Dunmow and Park Lane in London and, to help purchasers looking further afield, they are a member of the **Guild of Professional Estate Agents**, an association of over 600 independent agencies who are committed to offering a complete nationwide package to customers. They also have an independent mortgage company that offers products from over 2500 lenders and a separate **conveyancing company** that offer a no sale no fee service dedicated to the sale of your property

This is all well and good and you would expect most agencies to offer similar services (although the conveyancing service does strike me as rather novel), but it is some of the extras that Intercounty offer that singles them out from the ordinary. For example they have a **Customer Care Number** (see bottom of article) for new buyers (if a boiler breaks in your new house purchased via Intercounty they will send someone to fix it), sellers (they will assist throughout the sales cycle) and general enquires so that you need never feel intimidated by the process ever again

Another little know fact is that Intercounty are **giving away a car** in a competition? Its true! If you book a free market appraisal with Intercounty via their Customer Care Number you will be entered in to a draw, to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> April 200,7 for a brand spanking new red VW polo - can't be bad

Also, were you aware that those jolly decent eggs at Intercounty are sponsoring the **Essex Young People of the Year Awards**? No? Well this is a truly inspiring event that looks at the good things young people are doing in the area, rather than focussing on the negatives. It is aimed at finding worthy citizens from the ages of 10 to 25 who give to others, this could be raising money for charity, acting as carers, giving to the community at large or a myriad of other ways and is a fantastic scheme. If you wish to find out more about the awards or wish to nominate someone deserving visit <a href="www.yopey.org">www.yopey.org</a>, the winner in the senior category will receive £1000 (£500 of which will go to their favourite charity) and the junior winner will receive £500 (£250 going to charity), and they will be presented with their prizes in an award ceremony in the Autumn of 2007

Intercounty also have lots of good ideas that we can use locally. Look out for their fantastic stand at the village fete in July, called Through the Keyhole it will be a test of your real estate skills where the winner will successfully match houses with grounds, sounds good to me

Intercounty Customer Care Number: 0845 450 5234

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### Village Diary April / May 2007

**April** 

22nd St Mary's 11.00 am Holy Communion

29th St Mary's 11.00 am

Matins

May

St Mary's 11.00 am 6th

**Matins** 

13th St Mary's 11.00 am

Family service

20th St Mary's 11.00 am

**Matins** 

27th St Mary's 11.00 am **Holy Communion** 

### THE THREE WILLOWS



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### LOST CAT

(since 29th March)

Black with white socks

Wearing a yellow collar With name tag "Noodle"

Ring Scott on 813025

#### Items for Hire

If anyone is interested in hiring some display boards or a vibraphone (marimba with electric treadle), please contact Pam Lee on 07702171744.

### Advertising space available

You could be advertising your business or service here

For more information Contact Mark Crossley on 07979 708142