

COFFEE AT HYBANKS

A lovely morning with good weather helped to make the coffee morning held at Hybanks by Rene Kadwill on Saturday 28th July a great success £160 was raised in support of the Children with Leukaemia charity. As can be seen in the adjacent photo . So thank you to everyone who came along and took part.



The highlight of the day was the raffle which had twelve prizes, some of which remain unclaimed they are

PINK 29, PINK 110, WHITE 25, WHITE 17,

If you have any of these tickets pop along to Hybanks and collect your prize.

Building works are started at Rochford's

The first houses to be built on the Rochfords Nursery site were scheduled to be started at the end of last month as the road works on Pesterford Bridge nears completion. Taylor Woodrow are developing to the east of the site while Croudace are starting towards the north. The first occupancies are expected in the New Year.



The site at work on August 12th with the Stansted windmill in the background
Birchanger Village Magazine 1

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

Does your particular community group need funds?

Most of us are volunteers in some way, and one of the common problems is that our own particular causes are usually desperately short of cash. Sourcing grants is a degree science in its own right, but in Uttlesford there is a group, the Council For Voluntary Services, where the Funding and Development Officer may be able to point you in the right direction of a much needed grant. They will be able to work with you through the funding process. In 2006 the local groups who sought assistance benefited by £200,000 new income. To find out more call the CVS on 01371 878400, or visit their website infocvs@btconnect.com or they can come to see you if you would prefer.

The CVS are also very good at matching volunteers to suitable voluntary work, so if you do find that you have time on your hands they will be able to help.

Emma wins Hanningfield award

Emma Lucas is the first person in Birchanger to achieve a Hanningfield Award. This will enable her to work until December at an underprivileged South African school in a township in Port Elizabeth.

Emma who has just successfully completed her Degree Course at Cambridge, collected her award in the form of a cheque for £1050 from Lord Hanningfield at a special awards ceremony in July. She has managed to raise the balance of the total £3000 required through her own fundraising efforts.

Congratulations Emma, enjoy the next 3 months, and we shall look forward to hearing all about it when you come home.

Is there a little piece of Birchanger you would like to conserve?

Following on the heels of the Parish Plan the Parish Council is considering the creation of possible Conservation Areas in the village. This would include areas with special character and older properties which residents might like to see preserved, and not encroached upon by inappropriate development.

Development is almost inevitable in the village in the next few years. There have already been permissions which some have regarded as inappropriate to their locations. The developments might have been more appropriate if the areas had been subject to a Conservation Order. Development proposals in Conservation Areas have to reflect the existing buildings around them in character and density. The Parish Council can access a range of photographs of possible locations for conservation following the Parish Plan. They would like a steer from the community as to where these possible areas might be. It is a village project, and to work it needs your help.

If you would like to see conservation areas in the village and have your own ideas on where these should or should not be, please contact me on 812793.

Another Summer moan

Somehow it always seems that when the weather is warm, and the inevitable dog excrement incredibly smelly, someone in the household will manage to put their foot in it, and bring the unwelcome present home. There is really no need whatsoever for the unwelcome gift, if people actually do what they are legally supposed to do, which is to bring the offending item back with them for disposal.

There are a variety of small bags such as nappy sacks available for the offending item, and there are some poop a scoop bags available from the council offices. Most supermarkets sell the actual poop a scoop as well. In the absence of poop a

scoop bins, the bag can be disposed of in a normal litter bin provided the bag is sealed properly. The Animal Warden Kate Knight is trying to eliminate the dog fouling menace from Uttlesford, and she intends to be out and about as much as possible to discuss their responsibilities with the less considerate dog owners. If you do know of a problem, Kate can be contacted at the Council Offices on 01799 510594.

Recycling update

One year on from the start of recycling in Birchanger there is still confusion about what can and cannot go into the recycling bins, particularly as additional items have been added to the green bin in the course of the year.

You can put the following into your green bin. Margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, ice cream containers, ready meal and food trays, fruit and vegetable punnets, plastic tubs, bottle top lids, plastic cups and bottles, CD/video cases, sandwich packs and plastic carriers, all clean foil containers and kitchen foil.

The collection will not accept cling film, bubble wrap or shrink rap, cellophane, crisp packets, chocolate wrappers, black sacks, expanded polystyrene, video or cassette tapes, or hard plastic items such as toys.

If you take your old electrical goods to an Essex County Council tip look out for the bright pink sign to show you where to leave them. This includes everything from washing machines to watches, and as much as possible is recycled in some way. Uttlesford also has a collection service for larger items on 01799 510510. If you cannot get to the tip, place your smaller electrical items in the black bin.

There is still time for you to get fit

There are various programs now run by the council to promote fitness. One of the most successful has been MEND, a program which is designed to promote fitness in youngsters aged 8-13. It is expected that the next programs will start in both Stansted and Dunmow as well as Saffron Walden next month, following the successful inaugural program at Saffron Walden earlier this year.

In the program children are taught the value of fitness and introduced into the various ways of keeping fit and enjoying it. They learn about foods, fast and slow release sugars, and there is a trip to a

supermarket to see what really is on the back of the packets, and to learn to choose wisely.

If you are interested and would like your child to participate, please call 01799 581720 to book a place.

Don't forget that grown ups have their very own fitness trainer who is in the Church Hall every Friday at 12.30pm, ready to put you through your paces.

Airport inquiry update

It seems that the government is placing a great deal of credence on consultation and community responses. If this really is the case, community response has been conspicuous by its absence at the Inquiry into the maximum use of the first runway at Stansted airport, although there is still time to remedy this.

Last month saw the opportunity for Stop Stansted Expansion to put its case, which it did with considerable detail and expertise. Apart from our own Brian Ross who has done his utmost to fight our corner, and achieved this remarkably well, the star of the week was undoubtedly Aqqaluk Lynge who spent some time in Birchanger while awaiting his opportunity to present his evidence at the inquiry.

He spoke about his feelings about the affects climate change was having on the life of his people, and how the Inuit people were being overlooked at the peril of the rest of the world. What is happening there will be felt here soon was his warning to us all. We should be listening.

Meanwhile the inquiry is in recess until September when it reconvenes for a day in Sudbury. For the next two weeks representations from local people will be heard, Tuesday to Friday, 10 am until 5pm until there is a further one week recess. It is your chance to support them so please drop in when you can. It would be appreciated. Head up towards the airport on the A 120 and follow the signs.

Fete update

Cathy Gooding raised £60 in aid of the Essex Air Ambulance at last month's fete. She would like to thank everyone who contributed.

Pantomime pandemonium at the Church hall

A pantomime in July is hardly what anyone expects, and this should have given the audiences a clue about what to expect at the Birchanger School Annual Summer Production as from the brilliant introduction nothing was to be expected.

We were “hearing it for the baddies”, and cheering the wicked witch who was very convincingly portrayed by Elspeth Monro-Smith, despite the efforts of the two clowns who brought the whole pantomime together known as Boo and Hiss, to show us our own wicked ways. Phoebe Glasscock and Matthew Reed tried to keep their audience on the straight and narrow throughout. Their colourful costumes and masterly handling of their happy but unruly audience will be remembered for a long time.

The clowns guided the audience through the several pantomime stories whose plots had been effectively muddled by the Wicked Witch. This ensured that the two Ugly Sisters known, as Magnolia and Apple White because they were the daughters of a painter and decorator not a baron, were also very attractive platinum blondes. They fought convincingly, and the slipper did not fit Cinderella. The pantomime cow spent the entire play looking for his tail, and the giant played by Eve Bottalico, would spend the next 1000 years trying to grow into his, or rather her, role in Jack and the Beanstalk. Everything returned to normal when the four children who had wandered into this pandemonium found three missing items in the form of Cinderella’s Slipper, Aladdin’s Lamp, and the Goose which laid the Golden Eggs. The Good Fairy made her own special magic and even the Wicked Witch changed her evil ways.



Ashleigh Chaplin and Anna Field as Apple white and Magnolia

All the cast appeared to be confident and enjoying their roles. The Musical Directors Mrs Sherriff and Miss Williams had ensured that the children gave a lively and focussed performance. The bright and imaginative costumes were designed and made mainly once again by Mrs Crossley, while moving the production to the Church Hall meant that Mrs Manning and Mrs Culpin had a better opportunity to exhibit their considerable artistic skills.



From l to r Callum Bates, Annalise Martin, Connor Holland, Jordan St Hillaire, Charlie Saunders, Sky Fairlie-Voght and Hayley Gould.

afternoon, while the hall was packed for the evening performance. Congratulations everyone! The audience loved every minute, and cannot wait for the next summer pantomime!



BIRCHANGER SOCIAL CLUB OPEN DAY

To all Existing and potential members

Sunday 26th August 2007 12.00 pm onwards

For further details call 01279 813441 or 01279 812810

BOUNCY
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& TOMBOLA

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ALL DAY

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& PIMMS
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OUTDOOR
BOWLS

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&
7.30-10.30 pm
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

NEW DECKED
BEER GARDEN

PRESIDENT'S
DAY
CRICKET

BARBEQUE
12.30-5PM

MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CLUB
TO DISCUSS AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

School News

A criticism frequently made about small schools is that they cannot provide the resources for a wider education for their children. Birchanger School started to find a way around this with other small schools by creating a small school network which includes the neighbouring schools of Farnham, Rickling, Little Hallingbury, and Hatfield Broad Oak.

These schools have worked together to ensure that every child in their care receives a rich and balanced skills based curriculum. They all believe in inclusion, and allowing every child to take a full part in school life. Their aim is to ensure that all the children thrive, make good progress and leave equipped for a fast changing world. They believe that every child is an individual, and needs to learn at their own pace. The challenge for their teachers is to know all the children's needs and to respond and adjust the curriculum accordingly.

The children visit each other's schools on a regular basis for special shared curriculum days, when teachers and those with special expertise visit the school to extend the children's knowledge further in their own specialist subjects and resources are pooled. The visits have included a wide range of subjects and have been very successful. The products of their work this last school year and demonstrations of some of the activities which had taken place were displayed at the first open two days last month at Farnham. The schools took part in presentations and there were exhibitions of the work done throughout the year. Parents were invited to watch the displays and view their children's work in the past year throughout the two day open period and there were staff and pupils on hand to guide them through.

It was a very good example of what can be achieved on a very limited budget in what is already proving to be a very successful partnership.

Hail and farewell

The first day of school is a major event in every child's life and these days children as young as newly four start their first day in school in September. It is always an anxious time for the parents and signifies the end of their child's baby and toddler days.

Nearly every parent managed to get to the special information evening for new parents. It gave them the opportunity to see round the school to meet other parents and the staff, and to ask questions.

For the first few days the parents will accompany their children into the classroom every day. The head teacher explained the "open door" policy which the school operates whereby every parent can come and see a class teacher or the head teacher at the end of the school day without an appointment. Mrs Boniface explained the reading schemes and the little books which are the link between home and school on reading progress and where the parents are able to enter their own comments. The parents were given a brief picture of what to expect in their child's first year.

Along with all this, July is the time when farewells are said to all the year six children who will be starting secondary school in September. They leave well prepared for the challenges they will face in their new schools. Everyone has made at least one visit to their new school, and been visited at Birchanger by members of staff from the schools. Each one has been allocated their preferred school.

At the leaver's Assembly Year 6 children told the packed audience of their memories of Birchanger School. They described, through power point presentations the activities of both staff and children on the trip to Fulmer Grange. We learned first hand of the sporting successes throughout the year, including the recent ones at the swimming gala where they won the Free Style Relay, and the District Sports where the boys won the shield again for overall achievement. Alex Roke was awarded the Governor's Prize, and he was also awarded a prize as the one child in the school who had never once been absent or late.

There were flowers everywhere, as the children presented all the staff with a bouquet and read a poem which they had written as to why each one was special. They presented the school with a now much needed trophy cabinet and two bird boxes with cameras for the school garden. The following day they all departed, not by the now traditional limousine, as there were too many this year to fit in, but still in inimitable style, for an afternoon special gymkhana, quite an experience, as only one was a regular horse rider. There were tears galore, not only from the children, but we look forward to welcoming them all back throughout the coming years.

Away day to France

Year 5 and 6 children have all been learning French this year and at the end of last term were given a day out to practise their new skills.

They left school at 6.30 am for a day in Bouloigne along with Hatfield Broad Oak School. After lunch in Bologne they spent some time learning the intricacies of making crepes, not many of which survived to come home. They then spent some time exploring the old town and managed to fit in a visit to the hypermarket at Auchan. It was a very tired but happy coach load of children who returned to the village that night.

Class 2 has a chance to shine

Assembly went on as usual despite the fact that the oldest children were elsewhere. Following on a very successful Open Evening when just about every parent came to see the work which their child had done throughout the year, Class 2 showed the Friday assembly just what had been their particular favourite items that year, and told everyone about it. There were many different themes, from Friendship Flowers, Self Portraits and Profiles, to Shadow Puppets and the Chinese New Year.

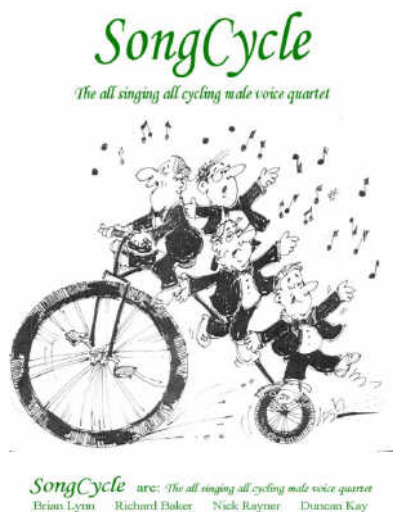
There was a good audience and the children were confident in their presentations and clearly enjoyed their opportunity to show and to be proud of what they had achieved.

Victorian sports day

The schools sports coach Steve, has really studied his subject, even down to what sports day was like in school in Victorian times. It was his idea to replicate what might have happened at sports day over 100 years ago.

The children were divided into teams with a mixture of children from every class. They worked as a team throughout the afternoon, enjoying sack races, skipping races, an egg and spoon race as well as the usual team relay races. The high spot of the afternoon was the Tug of War which was finally won by the red team with everyone else cheering the teams on. The overall winning team was the yellow team by a very narrow margin.

After the races there was the fete to enjoy, with plenty of sausages and burgers on the barbeque for a late lunch. Even the weather was kind. The PTA worked very hard to make the day an outstanding success. Everyone a winner!



St Mary the Virgin

presents

Gala Harvest Evening

In the Church hall

Saturday 15th September

Doors open at 6.30

Tickets £15 includes
meal and welcome drink

From Joy Wright and Pam Lee 07702171744

Smart evening dress please

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), eddie.gilbey54@virgin.net Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley, Michael Daw Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.



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Village Diary July/August 2007

August

19th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

26th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

26th At the Club
Open day
Summer BBQ

September

2nd St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

9th St Mary's 11.00 am
Family service

16th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

27th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

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Birchanger Social Club

Tuesday Evening Waitress
And

Alternate Saturday
Evening Washer up
To start mid September

Must be 16 or over

Contact Julie at the club
or call 813441

Birchanger Cub and Scout troop

PRESENTS A

QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 13th October 2007

7.30 pm start

The Scout hut Wood Lane

Tickets available from Trevor (812994) and Elaine (815887)

Under 14s £3.00, OAPs £5.00, Adults £6.00

Includes a Ploughman's supper Bring your own drink