

## NAME THAT TUNE

A lot of people actually give their time freely to the production of this magazine, but unfortunately paper and printing with all that goes with it have to be paid for. While the magazine team have been very grateful to the groups who have supported them through the years, there does come a time when there is simply not enough in the coffers.

In order to remedy this, the team decided to hold a Music Quiz, easy to say, but not so easy to do. There are hours of music to assess and record, to put into order and to match to the questions. There has to be a rehearsal to try to make sure that everything will run to plan on the night, and there is equipment to resource, to transport and to set up. In all, not an easy task.

In the event, hard work paid off. Over eighty people participated in a thoroughly enjoyable evening, with the quiz being won by a team calling themselves “The Fhat boys” a strange name for a team that had both male and female members. There was a magnificent Ploughman’s supper at half time that was enjoyed by all. As usual we over catered and now Ken and Rosemary Wheatley are overdosing on leftover cheese! The finale was a singalong round which again was enthusiastically supported being fueled by far too much alcohol. The upshot of all this was that the magazine benefited to the tune of £450. Which will keep us going for a bit longer.



Ken Wheatley with winning team captain Debbie Bass

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

## Annual parish meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Church Hall. As usual everyone is welcome. There will be no Parish Newsletter this year, as all the news is published in this magazine. The contact list will also be published in this magazine regularly during the course of the year.

Speakers at this year's meeting will include our own Brian Ross who will talk about the airport and the forthcoming inquiry and it is hoped that there will also be representatives from the police and county highways. See you there!

## A footbridge across the A120?

There are plans for a bridge across the A120 which might achieve cycle or bridleway status. Essex County Council already has a plan for a foot bridge which should have been put in place when the bypass was built, but the route for any new cycleway is not clear at present. A great deal more of the wood would be lost if a cycle path was to be built. There is also the question of the effect which a metalled path would have on the wood, and whether the land owners would agree to a cycleway through the fields in the first place.

The project would certainly open up the link between Birchanger and Bishop's Stortford, but it may not be what the majority of the village would like. The Parish Council would appreciate your views which would be passed on to the Birchanger Wood Management Committee and Essex County Council. There may be an opportunity to discuss this at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## New surface for the recreation ground

For many years now play equipment in the recreation ground has had an under surface of bark. This has not been the best or the safest way of surfacing the area, and for a long time the Parish Council has been saving funds to provide a much safer surface for the children to use.

Anne Kent has spent a great deal of time researching the best affordable safe surface and one has at last been found which will provide a safer landing under the equipment, but this is far from cheap. Nothing is vandal proof, but yet again the hope is that those who do use the recreation ground will have the common decency to accept that their actions selfishly put others, including their own friends, at risk of serious harm.

David Holder regularly checks and repairs the equipment, and the area is subject to ROSPA safety inspections. If people cannot respect what others are trying to do for them, the only course would be to close the whole area down.

It is hoped that the new surface will be installed in May.

## Airport surface access consultation

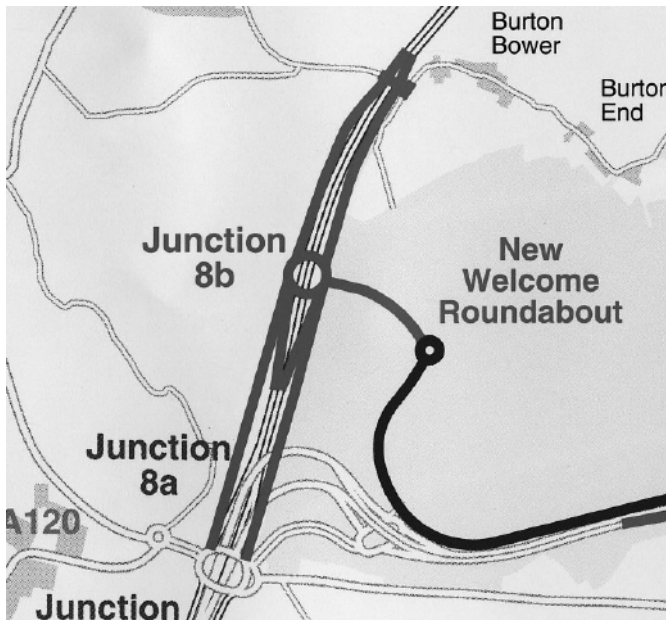
Last month BAA launched a consultation on the access arrangements for the second runway. There are big implications for Birchanger as many of the old familiar links to Broxted and Thaxted will disappear, and a new access road from the M11 to Runway 2 will eat up more countryside.

The biggest bombshell for Birchanger is a proposed new motorway junction 8b which will be sited between the present junction and Burton End, and will give access on to a new road which will link up with the lower end of the new A120. This will have a very major affect on Birchanger, particularly those who live in the lane and parts of Birchwood.

There are a series of exhibitions of the proposed new access arrangements, which surprisingly do not include any in Birchanger Village. Venues near to us include Takeley on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Silver Jubilee Hall and Stansted at the United Free Church on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> both from 11am to 9pm. I have requested an exhibition for the village, but this might not happen.

Whatever your feelings, it is very important that you make your views known. If you have not received the consultation document please ask for a copy from the response address, Freepost CL4055,

Chelmsford, CM1 3BR. I have asked for every household in Birchanger to receive a copy, but I cannot ensure that the request will be granted to everyone, Alternatively copies can be obtained at the exhibitions, or by phoning 0800 783 1764, or on line at [www.stanstedairport.com/future](http://www.stanstedairport.com/future).



## Election Update

It is sometimes very difficult to get to the polling station on the right day, this year May 3rd, and it is possible that many people will be on holiday.

You can apply for a postal vote, and the last date for your application to be in is April 18th. You can obtain the relevant forms by calling Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510510 and a form will be sent to you.

Alternatively you might like to have somebody vote on your behalf. this is called a proxy vote and the closing date for these is April 25th.

Votes are important in our democracy, please use them in whatever manner is easiest for you.

Those wishing to stand for the Parish Council or District must have their nomination papers in by April 4th.

## Fly tipping at the Church hall

For some reason the Church hall car park has been used as a site for dumping rubbish. If anyone witnesses someone fly tipping here or anywhere else in the village please report it to me, on 812793, or our Parish clerk, Julia Peachey on 503912. The

council will prosecute if they are supplied these details.

## Airport inquiry update

The public inquiry on the appeal by Stansted Airport Limited against Uttlesford's refusal to remove or alleviate the planning conditions currently in place limiting the use of the existing runway is set to start at 1000 on 30th May. The inquiry will (probably) be held at BAA's Endeavour House, and the hearing is tentatively expected to last some six weeks or so, with sittings on Tuesdays to Fridays. It is not too late to request to speak at the inquiry, and if you feel strongly about the expansion then you should certainly do so. The SSE website has the following advice (at [http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/1\\_public\\_inquiry\\_2.html](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/1_public_inquiry_2.html))

"Your letter should include the Appeal Reference APP/C1570/A/06/2032278/NWF and should say that you want to speak as an objector. If you are able to indicate the particular areas you wish to cover in summary form this would be helpful. You might also refer to your previous correspondence with the Council and/or Planning Inspectorate. You should send your request to speak to the Planning Inspectorate, Room 4/04 Kite, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Telephone 0117 372 8559. You will be notified if your request to speak has been successful."

The SSE site goes on to explain that it is usually possible to ask to speak by attending in person on the opening day of the inquiry.

The Parish Council are going to speak against the appeal. If you would like them to consider incorporating your views into their response then please send them to Ken Wheatley ([ken.wheatley@birchanger.com](mailto:ken.wheatley@birchanger.com), 814678) as soon as possible.

The inspector intends to hold some evening sessions around the region, and the Parish Council will try to persuade him that he should hold a session in Birchanger. However, with so many communities affected by the airport there will be many more such requests than can be accommodated.

# CONGRATULATIONS

A number of pupils have been successful in their Ballet examinations this year and many are working hard towards their next examinations at the end of this month and May 2007. The children will then be progressing onto new work and after the summer break they will be very excited as they prepare for their Bi annual Dancing Display which will be in October.

Congratulations go to Clare Agnew, a Ballet pupil at the "Wendy Mitchell School of Dance".

Clare has been awarded Runner-Up in the UK Mabel Ryan Vacani Award. This was held in London at the Robin Howard Theatre, The Place, London. These awards take place annually to commemorate Mabel Ryan, a Cecchetti Ballet teacher who was herself a pupil of Maestro Cecchetti. The Vacani award was presented to the Society by Betty Vacani, a notable Cecchetti teacher who also taught children of the Royal family.

Classwork and a solo dance were performed and adjudicated during the competition which meant many hours of extra practise for Clare.

## Successful Examination pupils:

Primary Abigail Earnshaw, Nancy Saunders

Standard Two Chloe Elms, Abigail King, Mia Dutch

Zoey Williams, Mary-Kate Shea

Bronze Performance Award Hannah Coop, Olivia Tait

Georgina Hogg

Grade Five Clare Agnew, Eleanor Treadwell

Grade Six Jessica McDowall, Georgina McDowall,

Kirstie Boyce, Emma Boyce.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO  
Dick Brown  
WHO WAS  
80  
ON MARCH 20th

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH HALL

Mon	Ballroom
Tue	Ballet
Wed	Happy Hands, Ballet, Pilates, Line Dancing
Thurs	Line dancing, Brownies
Fri	Keep Fit

For all enquiries about the above  
Activities or if you wish to hire the hall  
please phone Janet Gage on 813507

## More Information on The Airport Surface accessconsultation

A few lucky residents have recently received a copy of Stansted Airport Limited's surface access consultation, in which they describe changes to local transport infrastructure to support a two-runway airport. The main conclusions reached by the consultation so far as Birchanger is concerned are as follows.

- \* The M11 should be widened to four lanes each way between junction 6 (M25) and Junction 8 (that's us)
- \* A new junction, 8b, should be built north of and as close as possible to the current junction 8a. This will primarily carry traffic to the existing terminal via a new link road mostly on the alignment of the current Long Border Road.
- \* The existing junctions 8 and 8a will mostly serve the new facilities.
- \* Junctions 8, 8a and 8b will be linked to form one large intersection.
- \* Several local roads, footpaths and bridleways will be stopped up or diverted.
- \* The bridleway currently on the far side of the M11 between Duck End bridge and Church Road will be moved to the Birchanger side of the motorway.

\* The railway will be able to support the growth of the airport upto 2020 with the strengthening of trains to 12 carriages. Beyond that date some infrastructure work will be needed.

The Parish Council is trying to obtain more copies of the consultation document. These can be obtained online from [www.stanstedairport.com/future](http://www.stanstedairport.com/future), but if anyone has difficulty obtaining one then they should contact Ken Wheatley (814678).

The motorway plans (minus the revised junction 8/a/b plans) are currently the subject of a Highways Agency consultation and roadshow. Sadly, by the time this magazine is published some of the exhibitions will have already taken place, but the exhibition will visit Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall on Wednesday 11th April and the United Free Church, Chapel Hill, Stansted on Wednesday 9th May. In both cases the opening hours are 1100 - 2100. The plans can also be seen in Bishop's Stortford and Stansted libraries andonline at [www.highways.gov.uk/m11junctions6to8](http://www.highways.gov.uk/m11junctions6to8).

The Parish Council urges residents to read and comment on the proposals. If you would like to provide input to the Parish Council's response then send it to Ken Wheatley ([ken.wheatley@birchanger.com](mailto:ken.wheatley@birchanger.com)).

**Birchanger over 60s**

**Prize Bingo**

**Saturday March 24th  
At 7.30**

**In the Scout Hut**

**Admission £5**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Wednesday April 18th**

**At 8 pm**

**In the church hall**



# School News

## School closed for the snow

The difficulties of bringing both staff and pupils into school on a day when the overnight snowfall closed the airport and made many roads temporarily impassable meant that the school had to close for the day. It became the day when children returned to Birchanger. It was the day when nearly all the children played outside enjoying the fresh snow. Children playing in the village in such numbers had not been seen in the village for a long time. What are we actually doing with our children's childhoods that they have to spend so much of their time indoors?

## Help us again please

The vouchers schemes run by the major supermarkets really do benefit schools, and Birchanger always tries to utilise these schemes to the full. Tesco has a spring promotion for IT equipment which the school is always using and updating. Any vouchers you can save for the school will be very much appreciated.

## New kit in the kitchen

Healthier eating is meaning changes in equipment in the school kitchen. Although the chip fryer is not being thrown out, there will be a new steamer for healthier vegetables and a new salad bar arriving shortly. The menus will also be run on a three week cycle instead of the two week cycle which was in use. The children see the menus so they know which days they would prefer to order a baguette instead of the full lunch. A cluster group adviser helps to procure the best fresh food locally for several small schools and shows how to make the most of the food budget to ensure healthier eating.

To support the healthy menus two new fitness clubs have started. There will be a morning Fitness Club and an after school Gym Club each week for the second half of the term.

# Small Schools Mini League

Birchanger have been playing in the Small Schools Mini-League again this year. Not quite the unbeaten record of last year, but we are improving with every match.

In the Autumn we played Chrishall first, away and the score was 7 – 4 to Chrishall. A hard fought game. Next we played Newport away. This match really could have gone either way with lots of goals scored by unfortunately we were on the losing side again with the final score being 6 – 4. Our last game before Christmas was again away to Manuden and this resulted in a 0 - 0 draw.

This week we finally had a home match against Clavering. The boys really worked hard as a team, always talking and encouraging each other. As a result of this much improved team spirit we won convincingly with a score line of 6 – 1. The first goal was unfortunately an own goal by Clavering, but we followed this up with two quick goals from Tom Culpin, followed by another from Elliot Field and a fifth from Michal Earnshaw, all before half time. Elliot scored another after half time to complete the set. We had to defend more in the second half, but Callum Bates, Alex Roke, Matthew Reed and Jordan St Hilaire were more than up to the job.



# BIRCHANGER VILLAGE FETE

Birchanger Village Fete will once again be held at the Three Willows this year as Paul and Paula host the event for the third straight year on Sunday 8th July.

The fete, which has been a fixture in the village's life for many years, is used to raise money for several causes within the community, has been successfully staged at the pub since the event ran into difficulties in 2005. At that time it seemed we would lose a much loved institution but the Willows' garden came to the rescue, and although a snugger venue than the club field, it has continued to draw the crowds.

In fact it could be argued that the close proximity of the stalls in relation to each other has fostered a great atmosphere and encouraged more people to visit, the number of stall holders has also stayed constant (apart from the fairground rides) and the amount of money raised has actually increased.

I have taken part in several fetes, at the Social Club and at the Willows, and I can honestly say that the event has not suffered in the slightest for the change in venue no matter how temporary or permanent the move proves to be, but what makes a perfectly sane couple as Paul and Paula take on such a daunting task in the first place? "Well it certainly isn't for the money". Says Paul, "I just wanted the village to continue to have a fete because once it does not happen, for whatever reason, it is all too easy for it to never get reinstated."

So the pub is running the fete in a caretakers capacity? "If someone wants to take over running the fete, and if they want to hold it at the Club, then I am happy, but until then I will make sure the tradition of an annual fete in Birchanger is continued. I am a village boy and I will always remember the fetes I attended over the years."

Fine sentiments, but the fete still needs the support of us all, the villagers, to ensure that this celebration of our village, something unique to Birchanger, continues.

Mark Crossley

## Returning sponsors

We are delighted to welcome back Cafe Masala as a sponsor. Readers will be pleased to see they are offering a 10% discount on orders when the advert is presented. We would also like to thank Ian Kennedy for continuing his support. Suds are our longest surviving advertisers having supported us since we first began publishing in 2003.

We would also like to welcome Intercounty as a sponsor. An introductory article to them will be printed in the next issue

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.

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## Village Diary March / April 2007

### March

24th Scout Hut 7.30  
Prize Bingo

25th St Mary's 11.00  
Holy Communion

### April

1st St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins

8th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Easter Sunday  
Holy Communion

15th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Family Service

18th Church Hall 8.00pm  
Annual Parish Meeting

22nd St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

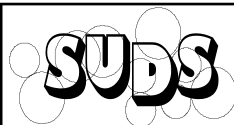
29th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Matins

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## FUN MINI QUIZ AND DISCO

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.