

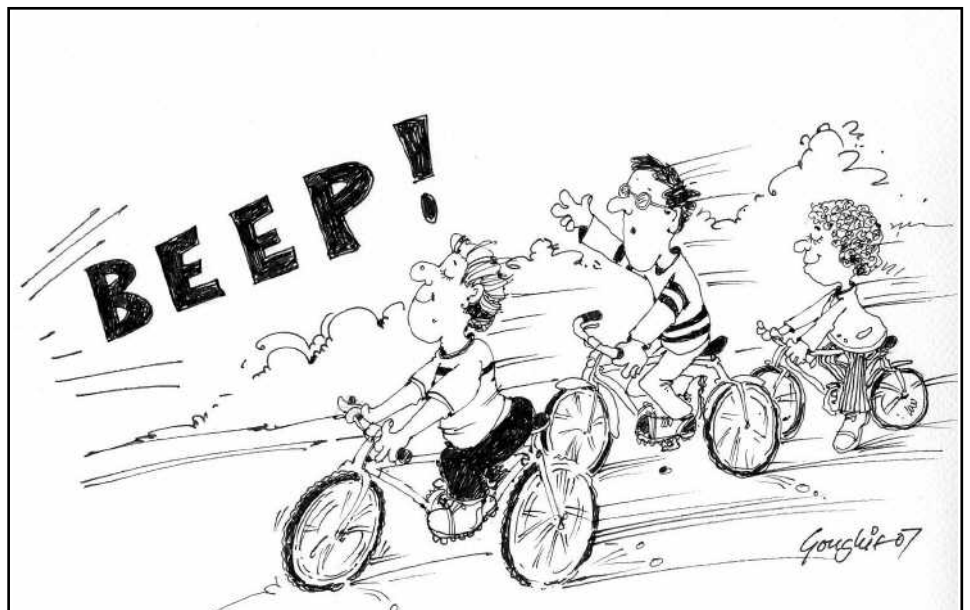
KAMIKAZE KIDS DICING WITH DEATH

I have received some very disturbing reports about young cyclists using Birchanger hill as a race track. It seems the three children involved (there are two boys and one girl) all of primary school age, are racing down the hill by the church **ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD!** This has happened on at least three occasions and drivers ascending the hill have been forced to stop to avoid colliding with them. What is worse is that the suicidal cyclists have been abusing and making rude gestures to adults that have tried to remonstrate with them.

This is quite unacceptable behaviour and I assume that the parents or parent of these three are either blissfully unaware or recklessly ignorant of their offspring's antics.

It is now essential for the parents to take responsibility and ensure some level of road safety is instilled into these children before a tragedy takes place. The lack of manners demonstrated is now an unpleasant fact of modern life. It does the children, their parents and school no credit. I would be rightly ashamed if any child of mine behaved in that way.

In my younger days there were cycling proficiency certificates that children could earn and perhaps this is an issue the school could address. But unless something is done soon our new rector may well find himself conducting a triple funeral. The next vehicle coming the other way might well be a bus and we all know how safely they are driven through Birchanger.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

New bus shelter is on the way

The days of waiting for a bus exposed to all weathers will soon be over for those using the bus services in Birchanger. Parish Council Chairman Philip Hoy placed the order for the bus shelter at the end of last month, having obtained funding from Essex County Council. It is hoped that the shelter will be in place near the village sign by the end of the month, the location having been selected by the County Council for highway reasons.

The bus shelter is modern with seats and lighting so that everyone waiting for the bus will be better protected from the worst of the weather.

New Youth Council for Birchanger?

Following representations from a large number of young people in the village through the Parish Plan, new Parish Council Chairman Philip Hoy is investigating the possibility of forming a Youth Council for Birchanger.

During the survey process the younger residents put forward some very clear and good ideas about the facilities in Birchanger, the problems faced by the village, as well as their own needs. Some small towns and villages already have these and there is a Youth parliament for the County, but this initiative would be looking at Birchanger and what is needed here.

The idea would be that the Youth Council would shadow the Parish Council, and send a representative to Parish Council meetings. The Youth Council would be open to young people resident in the village who are aged between 13 and 19 years. They would be a properly constituted body with their own chairman and secretary and would meet four or more times a year. They would discuss issues in the village which directly relate to them and their representative would take these back to the Parish Council. Their representative would also take Parish Council issues back to them.

It is hoped that this would give younger Birchanger people a better insight into the issues and projects which occur in the village, as well as a greater say

in their management and a chance to make their own ideas work. To find out more call Philip Hoy on 812703

Dog Order consultation

The District Council is consulting all the Parish Councils in respect of proposed new Dog orders. Two types are suggested, one which will prohibit dogs from children's play areas, and will ensure that all dogs are kept on a lead in some other areas. The second order would make it compulsory for everyone to pick up their dog's faeces in all other areas. Comments anyone?

It's time to nominate someone in Birchanger for a Community Achievement Award!

Every year at this time the community is invited to nominate someone for a Community Achievement Award. The scheme has been running since 1996, and Birchanger has been very well represented in the past few years. It is time to think about who we would like to nominate for the next award ceremony in February 2008. All nominees must be volunteers whose work and time is given freely.

Many people will testify that the award ceremony is the highlight of the civic year. It is amazing just how much good is being done throughout our district by a large band of unsung and unpaid heroes, who are never looking for any reward. There are a great many in Birchanger who deserve nomination.

The awards fall into five categories, and the nomination must be made under one of the following.

- A. Services to children and young people.
- B. Services to the elderly.
- C. Services to people with disabilities.
- D. Services to the local community and the environment.
- E. Youth initiatives – nominations for young people aged 15 – 18 years who have

contributed significantly to their local community.

The award must be made through the Parish Council, and all nominations must be received by the Parish Council before September 30th. Nomination papers are available from the Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 503912, Philip Hoy on 812703, or myself on 812793.

Nobody told us the Job centre at Stansted Airport was closing!

Without a word to anyone, BAA bosses decided that the job centre at Stansted Airport was redundant. They did inform the minister who presumably was not particularly bothered one way or another. Birchanger residents now have to face the trek to Braintree to use the job centre there, not easy if you are unemployed, resident in Birchanger and without transport.

Stansted now begins at Pesteford Bridge

I do not know whose idea this was, but there seems to be a sign saying Stansted just in front of Pesteford Bridge. If the boundary has been moved, should we not have been the first to know? There may be boundary changes as the Rochfords Nursery Site develops but we will be consulted about this when some of the houses have been occupied.

UDC Guide to Council Services

I know only too well that the job I do can sometimes make me difficult to reach, and you may have an urgent need to access information.

There is now a new pocket size A – Z Guide to Council Services, so that if you need to contact the council about anything you can find the numbers in the guide. The guide also tells you who does what on the council committees, should you need to contact somebody on a particular committee. You can obtain your copy of the guide by calling 01799 510619.

New travel concessions From April 1st 2008

New travel concessions for anyone over 60 or disabled will be eligible for at least free off peak

travel on any off peak local bus service in England. This may not mean tour buses or coaches, but the local element would be free. It is unclear also whether this service will cross county or district boundaries, as this service will be concessionary to each individual issuing authority. Uttlesford will remain our issuing authority.

The cards will be plastic, and will be issued well before April 1st. There will be further details as to how these cards will be issued published when they are known later in this magazine, but the uptake of these new cards is expected to be much wider than at present. Get one if you can, it could save you a lot of money.

Harry Hornbeam

The Item on the next page was used as a submission to the G1 enquiry last month we thought we would like to share it with you.

Hall reopens after repairs

The management of the hall is happy to announce that they have now reopened after being closed for a week due to essential floor repairs, these were made possible due to a generous grant from the Stansted Airport Community Trust.

The following activities still take place each week in the hall:-

Mondays	Ballroom dancing
Tuesdays	Ballet
Wednesdays	Ballet, Pilates and Line dancing.
Thursdays	Line dancing
Fridays	Keep fit.

Due to Kate Henderson moving to Devon Happy hands will no longer take place on Wednesdays If you are interested in taking over the slot or taking part in any of these activities or wish to book the hall please ring 0179 813507 for more information.

The life and times of Harry Hornbeam

My name is Harold Hornbeam – call me Harry. I am a tree and I live in Hatfield Forest with thousands of other trees, plants, birds, animals, insects, fish etc. (Flora and Fauna). I am a few hundred years old. All my relatives have lived here as well and my ancestors go back thousands of years. The Flora were here before the Fauna, and without us trees and plants, you humans would not be here. We converted carbon dioxide gas into oxygen and produced food for you and other animals to live on. As a tree I rely on extracting from the surrounding atmosphere gases and from the soil water and minerals which I use in a process called Photosynthesis with the aid of sunlight. This is like your eating food and drinking water. The object for both of us is to live and grow and reproduce. Apart from the differences in our way of life, the major other difference is you can move about we cannot. If you do not like your environment because, say, it has become hostile through pollution of the atmosphere, excessive various vibrations, ruined soil etc, you can move away; we have to try and overcome the adversities thrown by you at us. If we fail to adapt we die, slowly. And if us trees and plants die in an area, so do the animals, birds, insects if they do not move on. But most can move on. But most can move on like you humans, but us trees and plants we are doomed.

In 1942 you humans built a runway for aeroplanes nearby. This was not good for us trees and frankly nor was it good news for you humans. The aircraft in taking off and landing messed about with the atmosphere, they affected the water supply, they created unfriendly vibrations. You have ears and convert those vibrations into sound. For us trees the vibrations shake us and we have to absorb them into our trunks and they then disturb our ability to grow and thrive naturally. Where do you think the vibrations created by aircraft and their engines go? The same applies to vibrations created by cars, lorries, buses, people, mobile phones, radio and television etc. etc. – They all get absorbed by the Flora and Fauna (including your humans) in the vicinity. We trees etc can cope with a certain amount of pollution, vibrations etc. but with too much, we will suffer and with excess we will die.

Since 1993 the growth of airport has been phenomenal. You have all those details. All I want to say is. Do you realise the impact on me every time an aircraft takes off? In order for it to do so it uses maximum power, so maximum burning of fuel oil occurs which results in carbon dioxide being expelled, plus particulates, fumes, waste products, vibrations etc. etc. And where do these go with a prevailing westerly wind? Right over Hatfield Forest where us trees with our branches capture all these nasties. On top of that all the passengers and airport staff generate nasties by not only their presence at the airport but in getting there with cars, buses, trains, lorries. To us trees you humans have some very unpleasant, unfriendly habits, and are very careless about my environment. Landings and braking thereon can create problems as well. Noisy helicopters fly over us. You have night flights so we cannot even sleep to recover the daily onslaught. Airport lights do not help us either, apart from interfering with our sleep they generate heat we could do without. Radar of the airport and planes affect us, the vibrations used ends up either going through us or are wholly or partly absorbed by us. New plane engines may be quieter to your ears, but the vibrations cause even greater harm because the frequency thereof still has to go somewhere until totally absorbed some distance from the generating source.

Too much carbon dioxide and particulates in the atmosphere is as serious to us trees as too much oxygen is for you humans. More planes, more passengers, more cars, lorries, buses, helicopters, trains means more misery for us trees. We would like you to go away and leave us alone, but that is not going to happen until the oil runs out and that will be sooner than you think the way you humans waste it. I therefore plead that you help us and do not allow unlimited especially or even increased activity until we trees have had a chance to balance what has and is being done to us. Life is a delicate balance and disturb it too much and you humans will suffer the consequences along with ourselves. Excess carbon dioxide is an irritant to us and an asphyxiant to you – remember that and protect us all please. Thank you for listening.

Harry Hornbeam

A trip to Tuscany

Sally Tilstone has joined an organisation called VIP which provides escorts for Visually Impaired Persons. Here she relates the events during a recent trip to Italy.

Another V I P trip beckoned me to the beautiful Tuscan spa town of Montecatini Terme, which is at the foot of the ancient Montecatini alto.

In the 18th to 19th centuries the catholic church thought it a sin for people to bathe together or be naked together and all the spa baths were turned into churches. Which explains the amount of churches throughout the area. I was once again guiding blind or partially sighted people and the first day I had the pleasure to guide, David in Florence. We took the train to Florence as a group but separated to do our own thing when we got there.

David became blind after an accident falling from scaffolding. He is also partially deaf and walks quite slowly. We began our day by going into the Battistero. I described the beautiful workmanship on the doors. For example the south doors depict scenes from the life of St John the Baptist, who is the patron saint of Florence. David was able to feel the carvings. The east doors are so exquisite they are known as the gates of paradise

We then obtained an audio player for David to listen to the story of the Battistero, of the mosaic ceiling, and frieze etc. Once all Florentine children were baptized here. We left to have lunch and a small bottle of chianti. Then we purchased a new pair of leather sandals for David. He was delighted with these sandals and they never left his feet the rest of the holiday except for when he showered or slept.

We also visited the Duomo Florence's magnificent cathedral before walking back to the station to freshen up before our evening meal.

Day two was my day with Brett, we decided to go on the funicular railway up to Montecatini alto. It has been operating for over a century and is kept in pristine condition. We walked looking at the medieval gateways, the fortress tower, the piazzas, the churches etc. And I learned a few new words.

The next day everyone went to a vineyard but I stayed at the hotel to relax by the pool. The nice thing about the holiday is that you are given the opportunity to have some me time and I had visited vineyards before.

Day 5 was a visit to Siena and San Gimignano. Siena is famous for the "Polio", a horse race held twice annually on the 2nd July and August 16th it is dedicated to the holy Mary. The town is divided into sectors. eg Goose, Snail, or Giraffe ten of the sixteen sectors enter the race. The horses and their riders go three times round the square The first home with or without a rider wins. Banners strew the streets and the square was being power washed to clear away the sand as it was shortly after a race. Brett and I decided to climb the big tower to view the square, from above. San Gimignano is a medieval walled city and has a lot to offer and I found myself with Brett in the museum of Leonardo da Vinci. Where he could touch small scale models of inventions by the famous Leonardo.

Day 6 was a free day and today I was guiding Geraldine who wanted to shop. We decided to return to Florence. We shopped and lunched walking as far as the ponte vecchio, a bridge of jewellery shops spanning the river arno.

Day 7 was a trip to Pisa for the most famous tourist spot of course the leaning tower.

My V I P s that day were Tanya and Anna. I spent some time with Anna in the museum and did some last minute shopping with Tanya.

I did manage to have an evening at a theatre in Montecatini Terme to see the tango. It was very beautiful, the dancers and the music captured the audience.

Overall I managed to see quite a bit of Tuscany. The drawbacks if any are that it can be tiring and a little stressful for some but the benefits are that it is rewarding, you do not need to queue and can probably see more by guiding a V I P. I am always amazed at the way people cope with difficulties and I am a firm believer in everyone having equal opportunities.



The Duomo in Pisa with the famous tower in the distance
Birchanger Village Magazine 5

School News

Birchanger teaching staff remains unchanged

The line up for the teaching staff at Birchanger School remains unchanged, but there is a new name to get used to this term. A very popular teacher, Miss Werkman, who hails from Canada was married last month in a ceremony in her home town. After being seen off in some style by all her colleagues she travelled to Canada to be married to Lindsey Augustine at a ceremony attended by Head Teacher Mrs Howell and a previous Class 1 teacher Mrs Ridgewell. It will take a little time for everyone to get used to her new name, but we all wish Mr and Mrs Augustine all the very best for their futures, and welcome Mrs Augustine back to Birchanger School.

There is also a new face and a new look to the front office and reception area in the school. Mrs Field, who will be very familiar to everyone from her work with the PTA, will not be saying farewell to the school after her children left in July. Instead she will be working part time to assist Mrs Brand in the office, and this enhanced the need for a new layout. So there is another special welcome back for a very familiar face.

Going to school Brazilian style

Nobody in Birchanger was going to school in the usual way in August, but in Brazil which was in the middle of winter it was business as usual for the children and their teachers. We believe that Birchanger is a country school but it is very different from its counterpart in a rural area of Brazil.

The school I visited was at the edge of the rain forest. Everyone came to school by bus. In Brazil education is compulsory until the age of 16, that is, if there is a school which will take the children until then. In Brazil most classes in country areas take children

from five to twelve years only. Then it is up to the children to find a job where they can. Another factor is that the children do go to school in uniform at a cost equivalent to £40. In rural areas most parents struggle to find this money, so the children have to stay home.

Despite this, the school I went to was very busy, with two classrooms taking 30-40 children in the mornings each, a further 20 or so in the afternoons, while in the evenings, the adults returned to try to plug the gaps in their education. All with the same teachers! There are no desks or tables. The children used chairs with a desk attachment and there were not enough of these for everyone. The other resources were very meagre indeed. Paper, pens and other materials were in very short supply, and the small shelving unit was mainly bare. Work was hung by a paper clip on a string line.

Despite this nobody seemed unhappy. We had an enthusiastic welcome from the teachers and children. We participated in an English language lesson where we wrote a word for a fruit or vegetable on the small blackboard and the children wrote their equivalent in Portuguese and drew a picture of the item. There was much laughter and full participation by everyone. Nobody wanted to leave and it was the visitors who had learnt the most.

It was sobering to learn that sometimes the teacher's salary cheques took two or three months to arrive. Enough to induce panic to most people, but there is such a community life style in rural Brazil that everyone supports their teachers until the money arrives. It is the same for every member of the community who is in need. Somehow nobody anywhere in the village is allowed to go without.

CLUB AGM

Birchanger Social Club's AGM will take place on October 17th at 8.00 pm

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



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HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE
THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

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Tina Crossley
01279 814037

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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

Birchanger Bowls Club
Secretary Elaine Wright **813473**

Birchanger Brownies
Jenny Jameson **815396**

Birchanger Cricket Club
Secretary Kevan Reid

Birchanger Nursery Unit
Enquiries to Tina Crossley **814037**

Birchanger Over Sixties
Secretary Bernie King **655479**

Birchanger Social Club **812810**

Birchanger Village Magazine
Editor Mr. Eddie Gilbey **816171**

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

Church Hall Janet Gage **813507**

District Councillor
Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin **812793**

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Mrs Ann Kent **813204**

Parish Council
Chairman Mr Phillip Hoy **812703**

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Julia Peachey **503912**

Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow **444455**

Cubs and Scouts
Trevor Stone **812994**
Essex Police **07801 461666**

Saturday Football Club
Ben White **02074536468**

Sunday Football Club
Mr. Neil Gilbey **816039**



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Village Diary September/ October 2007

September

23rd

30th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

October

7th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

14th St Mary's 11.00 am
Family Service

17th At the Club 8.00 pm
Club AGM

21st St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

28th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

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... making moves

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

Birchanger Cub and Scout troop

PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Sunday 2nd December 2007

Doors open 3.00 eyes down at 3.30

In the church Hall

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

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

Includes afternoon tea Bring your own drink