



THE DAY THE SUN CAME OUT

For the second year running Birchanger Sports and Social Club's Open Day proved a big success for both young and old alike. The sun shone (for the first time in days) throughout the afternoon as fun and games were had by many. There was so much to keep everyone entertained including tombola, a bottle draw, bouncy castle, children's entertainer and much more. Among the activities for children was a 'Name the shark' competition which was won by Sam Da Costa.

There were stalls for the Over 60's, Brownies, the church ran stalls and the Scout group provided a barbeque.

The bowls club gave demonstrations and helped with advice for those that wished to try their luck at the target bowls competition and maybe discover that they have a hidden talent for the game.

Non members were welcomed with the committee taking time to show them the numerous facilities now available at the club.

It was a very successful day thanks to the members and their families who joined in, the effort put in by the organisers and the lovely weather.



The Open Day Barbeque

After fifty, five years, down but not out



The day I met a Combine Harvester

The famous old sign outside The Three Willows met with an accident on August 24th when a Combine Harvester operated by Streeter's Farm stuck it after a showdown with a fast moving bus in Birchanger lane. Witness Scott Taylor said "It was like scene from a film with neither the bus nor the Farm vehicle giving way". Repairs are in hand and the old sign should soon look how it has for the past fifty five years.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Our new neighbours

Despite the slowdown in the building trade people are actually moving into the Rochford Nursery Estate, and some of them will be living in Birchanger.

Many of these new residents, like us are confused as to whether they are living in Stansted or Birchanger. The review of the electoral boundaries is not likely to start until 2009 at the earliest, and will try to establish which community the new residents actually think they belong to. As there may not be very many of them by then, this could be a problem.

The roads have been named by Stansted Parish Council without any reference to Birchanger Parish Council, much to the concern of the Birchanger Parish Council. The lack of consultation came about because all the new houses have a Stansted post code. As the Building Surveying Department at Uttlesford District Council now knows, this in no way means that the properties are in Stansted because post codes do not pay any attention to actual parish boundaries.

For the time being the picture is confused. Some roads are split between parishes as they have been before in Stoney Common and this simply exacerbates the confusion. Of the numbered properties so far 180 are in Birchanger and 64 are in Stansted.

Birchanger :- Bayford Way, Bentley Drive, Blake Mews, Felsted Crescent, Livings Way, Newell Rd, Reeve Rd, and Snow Lane.

Stansted :- Jordon Close, Palmer Close.

Partially in Birchanger :-Walson Way nos 1-27 and even numbers 2-56, nos 58 – 98 are in Stansted. Peachey Walk 1 -15 odd numbers only are in Birchanger.

Some people may recognise the names of the roads. They have been named by Stansted Parish Council after some of those who lived or worked on the original nursery site. The proposed location of the school and the medical centre are both in Birchanger. Other houses will be named and allocated as they are built. Is it too much to expect that we might then be consulted about the names?

Lighting for the new Bus shelter and New timetable

Don't forget that there has been a change to the bus timetable for Birchanger. The new timetable is on display in the newly lit bus shelter. The lights come on when someone enters the shelter. This time it was speedily connected, but not by EDF!

Inquiry start date moved!

Following a request from Uttlesford District Council the date for the start of the inquiry into the Planning Application for Runway 2 has been moved back to Monday April 15th. It is still scheduled to last a year or more and some of the issues will be heard in tandem. The Pre Inquiry Meeting is still scheduled for Monday November 10th at 10.30am at the Hilton Hotel.

How is your sun tan?

With most people who have been on holiday in the sun back home and looking fit and tanned, now is the time to examine your skin for any new or changed moles, as these can indicate the onset of skin cancer which is encouraged by over exposure to the sun. Sunshine makes us all feel good, but too much of it is very hard on the skin. Skin cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in the UK and it kills around 2300 people every year.

It is also one of the more easily detected cancers. You should check your skin regularly for any unusual moles or spots. You should also report any changes in your moles, particularly if they start to itch, bleed, or change shape and colour. If detected early the chances of a full recovery are a great deal higher.

Gypsy invasion a false alarm

Memories of the last gypsy invasion and the havoc they caused throughout the area are still only too clear. It took some time and considerable expense with damage and theft to property before they were finally removed. Nobody wants to have to go through that again.

So it was no surprise that the arrival of a caravan, white van and two cars in a newly harvested field earlier this month put the police, the landowners and a great number of local residents in a spin over the possibility of the onslaught of another gypsy invasion. After a good deal anxiety on the part of the farmer and the police it was established that this was simply a neighbour's overflow car park. Next time anyone wants to try this, it might be a good idea to let the farmer or the police know first?

School News

A big welcome to Birchanger

Birchanger School welcomed 15 new pupils into Class 1 at the beginning of term. Everyone has settled in very well and they are all adjusting happily to their new school life. For 10 of them, starting at Birchanger was not a very strange experience, as they had brothers and sisters already at the school and had been looking forward to the day they could actually go to school themselves.

The school also welcomed Miss Chinnock to teach Class 4. She has a very small Year 6 with a full complement of Year 5 pupils in her charge. She also is not an unfamiliar face for the children, as she spent sometime at the school at the end of last term.

Meet the Teacher

A great many children will be changing classes at the beginning of the school year. The new teacher although very familiar will have a different way of doing things, and there will be a new curriculum to understand. To help the parents understand the curriculum and expectations for the year ahead, as well as a chance to talk informally with the teacher and the other parents, the parents in every class were all invited to class "Meet the Teacher" sessions while the children joined Mrs Howell in the hall.

This has proved to be very popular and it does give parents an insight into what their child will be doing in that term. Learning is a partnership between the child, the parents and the school. The partnership works best when all the parties clearly understand the way ahead, the needs of the individual and what is expected of them.

New School Menus

The children can expect new school menus to be on offer very shortly. As before, there will be an element of choice, and the children will see the menus in the week beforehand so they can make their choices before they come to school. If nothing appeals there is always the baguette option, but as well as being nutritional the menus are also child friendly.

Breakfast Club is back for Friday mornings with a healthy breakfast for only 50p, which gives many Mum's a chance for an early morning run to Tesco's!

SATS results are finally in

Long after last year's Year 6 pupils were safely in their new schools their SATS Results finally arrived. They were mainly the results which the staff and children had expected and everyone had done well except for the written work, where along with the rest of the country's Year 6 children, the results were widely off beam. The school will be requesting a re-mark, but when this will happen is anybody's guess.

Meanwhile first reports indicate that the leavers are all well settled in their new schools. They are all experiencing a major change from the small school atmosphere of Birchanger School, but they are all coping well. The children are well distributed across all the local schools as far as Helena Romanes as well as Hockerill, Bishops Stortford High School, Stansted Mountfitchet, and Birchwood. Birchanger School hopes to have regular contact with them all.

Birchanger residents are invited to submit entries for

THE TURNIP PRIZE

An alternative art competition to be held in conjunction with Birchanger Arts & Flower Festival),

To enter, simply produce an original work of art and bring it along to the Village Hall at 10 a.m. On Saturday 20th September

There will be two categories

CHILDREN aged 16 and under Where the prize will be a gift voucher ADULTS aged 17 and over Where the prize will be a Fortnum & Mason's Hamper

The winner will be announced at 4:30 on Sunday 21st September

The works will be judged by Heather Brown and Brian Gough whose decision will be final

BE AS ORIGINAL AS YOU LIKE, AS ALTERNATIVE AS YOU LIKE, PAINT, SCULPT, DRAW OR
CONSTRUCT - ALMOST ANYTHING GOES!

For more information, contact Alex on 01279 812303

Around the mountain and out into the bay

Or Sally goes to Sorrento part two

On day 4 we had a trip around the Amalfi coast. The first stop was a village called Positano a popular seaside resort that has picturesque pink and white villas perched on the hillside. With breathtaking panoramic views.

We passed through many beautiful villages and along the way nativity scenes were placed inside the base of the cliffs. Apparently at Christmas they do not have Christmas trees but competitions for the best nativity scene. There were steps going up and over the mountains and it would take one and a half hours to reach the next village.

Amalfi is a classic southern Italian town. It has a main square, a cathedral, shops, cafes and a small fishing harbour. Carlo Ponti and Sophia Loren once had a villa here. After we left Amalfi we next stopped at Ravello which is another beautiful town perched on a mountainside. It has a square, Cathedral and beautiful views.

The next day was a free day and I led a small group of eleven to visit Herculaneum, a smaller version of Pompeii. We travelled on the train towards Naples. It was noticeably very dirty with litter everywhere, and graffiti too. But in Herculaneum we had a wonderful day, it was quieter and more relaxing for our blind and visually impaired people. We joined up with six American lads and their guide and had a guided tour for a fee.



Typical Amalfi houses with nativity scene

In the evenings we would eat at our hotel and then sometimes have drinks and a singalong. One evening we booked to see a musical at the Tasso theatre. The show told a story about the daily life of the southern people. It was a display of Neapolitan dances, customs and music.

We were given drinks at the start of the show and front row seats. It made us laugh when they sang a song about a pizza. We sang along with "O Sole mio", "Santa Lucia" and "Funiculari funiculari". At the end of the show the cast stepped off of the stage and danced with us and gave their instruments to the VIPs to touch and play. It was a fun evening!

To end our holiday we had a trip to Capri. We caught the ferry across the bay of Naples. It was so beautiful! It was my pleasure to be guiding Barry that day and after our of the mid level we took the chairlifts to the top! Where we saw the famous view of the Arch of Bethlehem.

Descending to the lower level we looked around some of the designer shops, it was a good job I'd left my credit card back at the hotel. We had a lovely Italian lunch and sat on the beach.

We wished we had more time on Capri but it was time to depart. Back in the hotel I crammed my purchases into my luggage but after dinner I dashed back into Sorrento for a few last minute things.



Capri seen from the ferry

Once again I had thoroughly enjoyed it, I had made more friends and my email list keeps growing. I'm hoping to see my fellow guides and companions in future and will stay in touch.

Sally Tilstone

News from Birchanger Cubs & Scouts

Unfortunately due to the lack of overall District response this year's annual Hatfield Forest District 6 a side football competition had to be cancelled. This meant that Birchanger could not defend their last 2 years at winning the tournament. However, they will be competing in the District annual super six Sports Competition at Mersea Island Youth Camp in September.

On Saturday June 14th 2008 the Scouts went fishing at Clavering Lakes at the kind invitation of the owner Peter Greenall. Some of the Scouts had never fished before but everyone caught something and all seemed to enjoy the day, with first time angler Callum Bates winning a trophy for the highest total weight of fish caught.



Calum Bates with his trophy

On the weekend of 4th, 5th & 6th July 2008, both the Cubs & Scouts and 9 adult helpers went to Eaton Vale Activity Centre in Norwich for this year's summer camp. We stayed in the Icen House accommodation and were really impressed with the facilities, friendliness and helpfulness of the staff. The activities included a climbing wall which revolved and tilted, pedal carts, grass sledges and kayaking along the river Yare.

Cub & Scout numbers in Birchanger have been lower this year than they have been for a few years. This does seem to be a trend across the whole of the District. If you have any Boys or Girls between the ages of 8 to 10½ for Cubs or 10½ to 14 for Scouts please contact Elaine 01279 815887 for Cubs or Trevor 01279 812994 for Scouts.

Last year Trevor made the decision due to work commitments that he would have to give up running the Scout Troop. No one came forward to assist, but this was turned around and he



Cubs and Scouts Kayaking on the river Yare

was able to continue because Elaine Howley who was then the assistant Cub Leader agreed to take on the Cub group as Cub Leader with the help of Malcolm Bonney, leaving Trevor free to concentrate on just the Scouts so that it did not have to close down.

Birchanger is looking for and would benefit from younger adults and anyone that is interested in helping or running the Cubs and or Scouts. Please contact Trevor on the above number.

President's Day

Report on Birchanger Cricket Club Presidents Game on Sunday 3rd August 2008

A wet start to the day did not dampen a competitive and thrilling game between a strong Birchanger Presidents XI side and the regular Birchanger Sunday cricket team. The fixture has been held now for approximately 5 years and this was one of the most competitive to date, thanks in part to the participation, for the Presidents XI, of two good cricketers from other clubs as well as a couple of older hands and some of the regular Saturday league players.

As is traditional, the Presidents XI batted first in a 40 over rain reduced match and made a bright start reaching 100 for 1 at the mid point of the innings. The side then, however, lost wickets steadily before finally reaching a challenging target of 220 from their allotted 40 overs. The main stay of the Presidents XI innings being Eddie Ballard, Bishops Stortford 1st XI player and son of Saturday regular player Nigel Ballard, who contributed a fluent 89 before being bowled by Alex Griffiths. Alex was the chief wicket taker for the Sunday club side with 3 for 41 from his 8 overs.

A hearty tea was taken in between innings with one eye inevitably also on the post match barbecue!

In reply the Sunday club side made a measured and controlled chase of their challenging target and had it not been for some accurate and tight bowling from Farnham league player Mark Sellars, 1 for 24 in 8 overs, would have hauled it in with a number of overs to spare. As it stood, the Sunday club side reached their target with 2 overs and 1 ball remaining with Jason Gladwin, outgoing Saturday league captain, the main contributor with the bat scoring 74.

As is customary, President John Curtis presented his player of the match trophy following the post match barbecue and whilst indicating that Jason Gladwin's performance for the Sunday club side was worthy of mention indicated that Eddie Ballard's 88 was his performance of the day.

The formalities aside all that was left to do was to enjoy a bevy or two in the main club bar and for the Presidents XI to rue the elusive victory that slipped through their fingers.

Birchanger Cricket Club are looking for players of all abilities for the 2009 season to play in the Lords International Herts and Essex Saturday Cricket League and in their friendly fixtures on a Sunday. Any interested parties should contact the cricket club secretary Justin Bass (07843 274863) in the first instance.

Youth Bus

A reminder that the youth bus continues to visit the Church Hall car park on alternate Thursdays between 7.30 and 9.30 pm for everyone between the ages of 13 and 19. The next visit is on Sept 25th.

Recipe of the Month ,Lesley's Roasted vegetables

Roasted vegetables with garlic and herb sauce (a good low fat recipe)

Ingredients

1 garlic bulb,
1 onion,
4 carrots,
4 parsnips,
6 small potatoes,
1 fennel bulb sliced thickly,
4 sprigs of rosemary,
4 sprigs of thyme,
2 tbsp olive oil salt and pepper
200g low fat soft cheese with herbs and garlic,
4 tbsp milk half a lemon zest.

Method

Peel all the vegetables and cut in to quarters
Preheat your oven to 220c. Cut the garlic in half put in baking tray with vegetables and herbs. Add oil, salt and pepper. Toss to coat the vegetables, then cover and roast for 50 minutes. Remove the cover and cook for another 30 minutes until the vegetables are tender and slightly charred, remove from the oven.

In a small saucepan melt low fat cheese with milk and lemon zest. Remove the garlic from the roasting tray and squeeze the flesh into a bowl. Mash the garlic and then add it to the sauce heat through gently.
Serve immediately with the vegetables as a dip.

News from St Mary's

The Church stall at the Club Open Day brought a total of £132.10 for the Church. That is far more than we had hoped for.

The broken small panes in the Church windows have been replaced.

It used to be that there were a few months each year when we all seemed to be busy preparing for special events but nowadays, things are happening all the time! Also, writing this note each month, really helps to concentrate the mind on what the aim of our church in Birchanger should be and how successful (or otherwise) it is.

I know that most of my time is taken up in organising fund raising events and to keep our church in good order money is an important factor but, that is not the main point of the exercise. It is all about community, getting together to support and help each other where ever we may be.

Our social events also give Revd Paul the opportunity to meet and speak with parishioners that he might otherwise never see. Details of forthcoming events are set out below - we hope that you will be able to join us on at least one of them.

11th October Harvest Gala Evening

14th October Joy's Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Pam Lee and Peter Odrich

The Friends of St Mary's

The Eighth Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 October at Birchanger Sports & Social Club at 8pm. Members and non members are urged to come to the meeting and support the village Church. Tea and coffee will be available after the meeting. If there is anyone wishing to know more about The Friends, what the charity's objects are but cannot attend the meeting, please call the Secretary, Susan McGarrigan on tel. 815446.

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BOOKINGS TAKEN

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Village Diary August September 2008

August

23rd At the Club
Open day

24th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

31st St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

September

7th St Mary's 11.00 am
Matins

12th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

20th Church Hall
Art Exhibition

21st Church hall
Art Exhibition

21st St Mary's 11.00 am
Family service

28th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

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Local Police contact numbers

Birchanger comes under Essex Police and is
Beat code C325E
Stansted Village Police Station 01279 812211
ext 484850
Stansted Community Mobile 07801 461666
Dunmow Police Station (our area main station)
01371871100
Braintree Police Station Service Desk (our
area HQ) 01376551312
Essex Police Non Emergency /Help desk
03003334444
In the case of an Emergency or to report a
crime in progress always call 999



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Harvest Gala evening

Saturday 11th October at 7pm
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For tickets call Pam lee on 07702171744

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