

NEW CLUB COUPLE SETTLE IN

Graham and Kim Griffiths, Birchanger Sports and Social Club's new steward and stewardess, are no strangers to the Club business. For the last five years they have been in charge at the Exning Road Working Mens' Club, just outside Newmarket. Kim was not only the stewardess but also Club treasurer, so is clearly very well-informed about all aspects of running clubs.

For three years before they moved to Exning Road they ran two pubs, one in Peterborough and one in Lincoln, working in one themselves and placing a manager in the other.

Kim's family are no strangers to the licensed trade as she discovered recently whilst researching her family tree. It turned out that her grandmother's sister was landlady at the Three Feathers in Wymondham many years ago.



Graham and Kim welcoming Club customers

When asked what impressions they had formed of their first month at Birchanger, Kim replied that so far they felt it was going well. The Sports and Social Club is a very nice place to be in, and everyone has been friendly. The Club is certainly busier than their last one, but they had come here looking for new challenges and they would soon get bored if they weren't busy. And they were enjoying the food side of the business, which wasn't as well developed at Exning Road as it is here.

Birchanger Village Magazine (and, we're sure, the village as a whole) welcomes Graham and Kim to the village. Previous holders of the post have become long-lasting, well-known, respected members of the community. With their background we're sure they'll make a positive and lasting contribution to the Club and to Birchanger.

STOP PRESS - STN G2 Inquiry delayed yet again. See page 7



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

What Improvements Would You Like to See in Birchanger Lane?

At the end of next month Essex County Highways is sending an inspection team down to look at Birchanger Lane and other roads under their control in Birchanger. They have a limited amount of money available to spend on improvements, on top of the resurfacing which is promised for "sometime this year". We keep requesting repair of the ever increasing potholes, but these are emergency repairs and should not be classified as highway improvements, no matter how urgent.

If you have any ideas for improvements which would cost under £20,000 please let me know on 812793.

No Forest Space For Us This Time.

It was a very big disappointment to all involved that it was not possible to buy some open space which would have benefited everyone in Birchanger and Stansted when the land near Forest Hall Rd was offered for sale in April.

Our inability to act quickly and to gather the right amount of resources is what went against us in the end. When you are up against slick developer acts, or even determined individuals it is very hard for a group of ordinary people, no matter how committed they are, to get themselves organised in time.

What the whole exercise has demonstrated is the general wish of a large slice of the community to preserve the open spaces and enhance the area around Birchanger and Stansted for everyone to enjoy. The desire to prevent coalition between towns and counties has always been recognised, but other development must be of the type which is needed by the community at large and to have its links firmly established there. Many of the new developments do not have proper close links to the communities where people actually want to be, and the offers of new

housing there are being refused in a surprising number of cases.

There is a case for small numbers of affordable homes to be built in almost every community in Uttlesford. Young families in most cases prefer to be closer to their family ties and the support of the community they know rather to start again in a raw new development without facilities miles from where they really need to be.

So if anyone does have an open space they no longer have a use for, which is unlikely to ever gain planning permission why not approach the community first? You could save estate agents fees and you would be assured that the land would be committed to the community in for their enjoyment in perpetuity. The disappointed residents are willing to try again. They also hold the green belt which surrounds them as sacred and would fight any proposal for future development on it.

Use it or Lose it? Well We Lost It!

A well known saying and in Birchanger's case a very true one when it comes to the provision of the Youth Bus in the village. It could be understood that bad weather might keep potential users indoors, but when the better weather came and the numbers remained unacceptably low it was time to pull the plug on the enterprise as far as Birchanger was concerned. The bus will now move to other villages who have been asking for the service for some time.

Essex County Council did point out that many Birchanger youngsters using the bus were also using the Stansted Youth Centre so there was some duplication.

It is a great pity, as it is yet another service removed from the village, but if the bus is not used enough and needed elsewhere, there is very little that anyone can do to make it stay.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Library Visits

The good news is that the library will continue to visit Birchanger for the next 6 months. The service while vital for some, is still underused and its future in these tough economic times cannot be guaranteed unless it is used by more people. It is a good service and must be supported or it will sadly cease.

Times and dates

Birchanger Club 15.50-16.15

High View 16.20-16.35

Fridays: **July** 10th, 24th; **August** 7th, 21st; **September** 4th, 18th; **October** 2nd, 16th, 30th; **November** 13th, 27th, **December** 11th.

Last Chance to Book for the Birchanger Big BBQ.

Stop Stansted Expansion are running a barbeque with a difference at Moorswood from 1pm on Sunday July 5th. You can expect steaks as well as succulent summer barbeque favourites, all accompanied by salads, desserts with coffee, a band and of course a bar.

You will be able to sit in the shelter of a marquee or on the grass as you please. It all promises to be a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon and if you have someone in your party who is under 12, they will be able to come for free.

Don't miss it. Tickets are limited and going fast.

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 c/o Club

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 **020 74536468**

Sunday Football Club
Neil Gilbey **816039**

Election News

Birchanger man Ray Gooding re-elected to Essex County Council

Birchanger Lane resident Ray Gooding was re-elected as our County Councillor on June 4th, after a hard-fought and, in the end, very close contest. Ray, a Conservative, received 2748 votes. His nearest rival, the Liberal Democrats' Alan Dean, scored 97 fewer. This was even closer than the last County election in 2005 when Ray beat the Liberal Democrat's Peter Willcock by 153 votes.



Candidates for the Green Party and the BNP were stuck slightly above and below the 5% mark. The final candidate, standing for an organization called the Labour Party, succeeded in gaining the votes of just 3.14% of the voters, making any hopes that their candidate would gain a seat at County Hall so much pi in the sky.

Fears that the expenses scandal would deter people from voting seemed to be justified as the turnout was 46.79% compared with almost 70% four years ago.

Cllr. Ray Gooding

Full Results: Essex County Council Stansted Seat

Candidate	Party	Votes	Candidate
GOODING, Ray	Conservative	2748	43.58
DEAN, Alan	Liberal Democrat	2651	42.04
STANNARD, Karmel	Green Party	421	6.68
MARTIN, George Anthony	British National Party	288	4.57
LIGHT, Barbara Ann	Labour	198	3.14

The Conservatives now occupy 60 of the 75 seats on Essex County Council, with the Lib Dems holding 12. There are two Independents and the final seat, at Wivenhoe, belongs to Labour.

No Change in Euro Elections

Elections for the European Parliament were also held on 4th June. There was no change in the make-up of the representatives returned by the East of England constituency, of which Birchanger forms a small part, so three Conservative, two UK Independence Party, one Liberal Democrat and one Labour representative will take their places along with 778 others to represent us in Strasbourg and Brussels.

The European election was made more interesting by the huge array of fringe candidates, with voters having 15 boxes to choose from. Sadly (or, perhaps, luckily) even the PR system did not enable the election of representatives from Jury Team, Animals Count or Christian Party "Proclaiming Christ's Lordship", although nearly 25,000 people voted for the last of these.

News from St. Mary's

Well now, where do I start - there has been so much going on. Some good and some not so good.

Although attending numbers were down, the Coffee Morning which took place at Moorswood on the 12th May raised an amazing £176, the best result in memory. Thanks to all who contributed.

Sadly, Caroline Curren officiated at her last service here on the 31st May. From the moment she joined the benefice as curate, Caroline became a firm favourite of St Mary's. She was always supportive of PCC efforts, giving advice and encouragement whenever and wherever it was needed. We shall miss her and we told her so at that service. We are sure that her new parishioners down on the south coast will appreciate having Caroline in their midst.

On a happier note, we have a new curate, Giles Tulk, who joins the benefice on the 5th July. There will be a welcoming service at St Mary's, Farnham on Sunday the 5th July at 6pm. This service is for all three churches and everyone is welcome.

The Summer lunch at Moorswood will take place on Sunday the 28th June following the morning service in church. The dinner costs £10 for adults and £5 for children. Call Pam Lee on 07702 171744 if you want to join us.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting which took place on the 9th March 2009 will know of the efforts that the PCC has made to increase income by way of donations, monthly direct debits and the collection plate. To a degree this has been successful and many people are making regular contributions (regardless of whether or not they attend church) under the gift aid scheme thereby allowing the PCC to recover tax which at the present rate is worth 28p for every pound of taxable income. In real terms, the amount recovered exceeds £2,000 and forms a large part of St Mary's income.

However, despite all of our efforts we still need to increase income to cover regular outgoings. Between January and March this year we had a total income of just over £5,600 but this included £1404 received from the Friends who kindly covered the cost of new lighting and other items. Our outgoings over the same period totalled £5,200 and without the help from the Friends there would have been shortfall for the quarter of almost £1,000. We really do need to find an additional £350 each month and if urge all of you to think of how you may be able to help either now, or by leaving a legacy in your will in favour of St Mary's. No matter what the amount, any assistance that you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, a big thank you this month to Peter Odrich, church warden. For his 70th birthday, he and Katharina hosted a dinner for close family and friends and then a lunch for church members and friends. Peter told everyone that he did not want any presents but he invited people to make donations to our church. In this way, he raised around £1,000. Thanks go to Peter and Katharina for their generosity.

Pam Lee

School News

Birchanger Tops at Golf

Diversity in education is very important to every learner, but it might come as a surprise to some to learn that a day sampling the delights of golf was on the curriculum last month.

Ten local primary schools gathered at Stansted Mountfitchet School last month where the children were able to try their skills at driving, putting and ball control with the chance to pit their skills against the other schools. Everyone was surprised and delighted when the results in reverse order placed one of the Year Three Birchanger Teams under Mrs Culpin in third place, but this turned to amazement when the team under Miss Williams was declared the overall winner.

Those watching saw that this was because the Birchanger children were focused in their teams, they did not argue as to who should go next, they did it well and they thoroughly deserved their win. Further golf days are planned.

Tiger Woods - watch out!

The Hunt For The New Headteacher Gets Underway

The advertisement has appeared in the Times Education Supplement and application forms are eagerly awaited by the panel of governors, who will be finally responsible for making the appointment. It is a time consuming process for everyone but by the end of it all it is hoped that the right person will be found. Should the applications received not be of the required standard there is still time to re-advertise and hope to have someone in place for January 2010.

Although the panel will be small, all staff, pupils and governors will have an opportunity to meet the candidates and to ask them questions.

It will be very sad to bid Mrs Howell farewell at the end of the year, but it is very understandable as her daughter, Mrs Ridgewell, herself a past teacher at the school gave birth to her second daughter, Millie last month. This means that there are now four little granddaughters who are growing up only too quickly and Mrs Howell would like to be able to spend more time with her expanding family after the very rigorous and demanding life of a head teacher.

Happy Puzzle Day

After a hard week for pupils taking the SATS tests came a day of novel and intriguing relaxation. The Happy Puzzle Company visited the school and proved to everyone that puzzles could be a great many unexpected things. Nothing was as it seemed and the children were, amongst other things, challenged to turn a shape into another shape, to work with interacting tubes and to explore tricks of light. It was another example of how learning can be made into a great deal of fun as there were many elements of both the Arts and Sciences incorporated into the puzzles.

Training Day With a Purpose

The school invited all staff, parents and governors to join together for a training day last month to focus on improving the school. The group were faced with a challenging meeting where they looked at different aspects of the school and came away with firm ideas of what was to be done and when. Some improvements began immediately after half term with others expected to be put into place later in the term. The remainder were scheduled for longer term work, but had target dates attached to them.

This was the first of a planned series of meetings with ongoing review and follow up. The best part of it is was that it involved all the adult groups in the school and gave them the opportunity to work together and to get to know each other better.

School News

And For the Rest of the Term?

This is always a fun time of year for the school. SATS are over and there is more time for personal development. The Cycling Proficiency Scheme is to start after half term, work has begun on the school play, there will be a day trip to France for the Juniors, the Annual Sports Day and Fete, a Leaver's Ball in a marquee and hopefully the conclusion of the building works to name a few.

Dates to Remember

July 4th	Sports Day and Summer Fete.
July 13th (2pm)	Joseph and the Amazing Coloured Dreamcoat.
July 14th & 15th (7pm)	Joseph and the Amazing Coloured Dreamcoat

All these performances will be at the school. Admission by ticket only available from the school telephone 812362

Stop Press

Airport Second Runway Enquiry Delayed for Months

An open letter was published today, Wednesday 17th June, by the Rt Hon John Denham, MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The text is as follows.

"I refer to my predecessor's letters of 2 March and 15 April regarding the G2 public inquiry timetable. Copies of these letters are attached.

As you will no doubt be aware, on 18 May the airport operator BAA announced its intention to appeal to the Competition Appeals Tribunal (CAT) against the Competition Commission's (CC) findings – as set out in their final report on BAA airports (A report on the supply of airport services by BAA in the UK).

Given the airport operator's decision, and taking into account the views put forward from a range of stakeholders, it is clear to me that it is neither feasible nor realistic to announce the start date for the Stansted G2 public inquiry until such time as the outcome of the appeal is known. Whilst there is no set timetable for the appeal process, I understand that it might take around 9 months to complete.

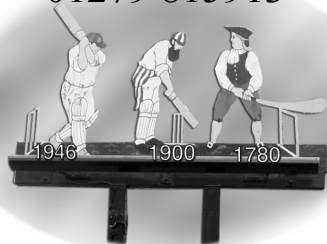
I remain committed to ensuring that there will be a minimum of 8 weeks notice between my formal announcement and the start date of the inquiry. A copy of this letter will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate website and can be viewed at <http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stanstedg2inquiry/index.htm>."

So, it looks like the inquiry will not start until at least May 2010, although the Government may put pressure on the appeal to hurry things up. But as the General Election must be held on or before 3rd June 2010, and as the Conservatives have said they will scrap the second runway plans, we can breathe a cautious sigh of relief - but we need to keep our powder dry.

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.gilbey@btinternet.com (Please note the change of address) Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley, Michael Daw. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.

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Village Diary

June / July
2009

June

28th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

July

5th St. Mary's 11.00 am
Matins
St. Mary's Farnham
6.00 pm
Ordination service for new
curate Giles Turk

12th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

19th St Mary's 11.00 am
Family service

26th St Mary's 11.00 am
Holy Communion

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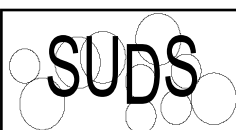


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Skip Visits for 2009.

The skip will visit Birchanger on Sat
20th June all day. It will be situated
in the Wood Lane car park as usual

15th August 8 am to 11.30 am.

29th November all day.

What's Going On at the Hall?

There's plenty going on in the Church Hall in Birchanger Lane... Whether you want to keep yourself active and fit, or just want to make new friends, why not check out some of the things on offer in our village?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Evening Ballroom	Afternoon Ballet	Morning Tap Classes Afternoon Ballet, Tap & Modern Evening Line Dancing	Afternoon Line Dancing Evening Brownies	Morning Pilates Evening Karate

The Hall is also available for private hire at weekends for Parties, Christenings, Quizzes, Bazaars, etc.
If you would like to find out more, please contact Janet Gage on 01279 813507.