

# Bus Services update

Many people responded to the January consultation on the change to the bus service through Birchanger. Although no decision has been made at the time of writing, representatives met with officers from Essex County council, and the concerns which had emerged from the village were put across.

Some of these concerns were answered. All the buses will have wheelchair and buggy access. It is also expected that the bus will continue to stop behind Sainsbury's unless as scheduled, the bus passes through the town.

Trying to change the timetable is proving to be more problematic. An earlier start to encourage more London Commuter use has been requested, as have alterations to the timetable at school pick up and collection times as those shown will not meet their needs. It may be necessary to route the 301 through the village on the odd occasion, as there were grave concerns about the safety of children crossing the B1383 at any time.

The proposals are not expected to be put into place until August onwards. You will be informed.



Use it or lose it. A 301 enters the village

## Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. It is expected that Brian Ross from SSE will address the meeting. Please come and find out what is going on in Birchanger and meet the members of the Parish Council. It is your opportunity to ask questions and to talk about your concerns about life in the village.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## State of the District Update

There are now 72,500 people living in Uttlesford, up 2,500 from the last census.

Household size remains the same.

The average house price in Uttlesford last year was £302,750.90% of residents live within easy reaching distance of local amenities.

538 New Homes were completed last year of which 56 were in the "affordable" category.

No large shops were completed last year, although 12,578 square metres of office space was created all from brownfield land.

The district has sufficient housing land to meet the scheduled demand until 2016, but there are plans to try to make us take a great many more houses in the next 30 years, even if the recession does affect the housing figures again next year.

## Do You Know of a Child Who Was Born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004?

If you do, they have until April 1<sup>st</sup> to register to take part in the events and ceremonies surrounding the Olympic Games.

The bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games was launched on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2004. To commemorate the successful bid, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is calling on all children who were born on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2004 to register for the London 2012 Children's Promise Scheme which will invite all the registered children to take part in one of the events such as the Opening or Closing Ceremonies, Team Welcoming Ceremonies and the many other events which are part of the Olympic scene. It will certainly be an experience they will always remember and they will only be 7 years old. So far 700 children only have registered with just 93 from the south east. To register a child please go to

[www.london2012.com/childrenspromise](http://www.london2012.com/childrenspromise) before April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is just time!

## Do we want construction traffic back in the lane?

The date of the start of the Inquiry may well have been put back for three months but the danger to Birchanger's way of life is by no means over.

Those of you who were living in Birchanger when the M11 was being constructed will have vivid memories of "Shack City" on the field by the Stansted Manor Hotel and opposite where horses now graze. Nobody wants to return to that.

Yet we may find ourselves right back there again in a few years if Runway 2 with its satellite Junction 8b ever gets constructed, because they are planning to use the field by Duck End for the construction of the monstrosity to be known as Junction 8b for the same shacks and equipment storage which became all too familiar all those years ago.

When this is done we will then have to live with the effects of the said monstrosity which in addition to the extra mud, noise and pollution already endured, will mean the destruction of existing landscaping.

There will be no compensatory tree replacements, no protective bund, just another nice dollop of more noise, more visual intrusion more pollution bringing more particulates and endangering further the health of people living in Birchanger.

This is on top of the sky scraper line where the car parks were, which will be home to a range of hotels, airport related buildings and car parks bringing more light pollution and urbanisation.

There have been many complaints about the sheer size of the land take for Runway 2. What may not be realised is that the whole concept is planned around the new 800 seater aircraft which are unlikely to be used en masse at Stansted. As it is the present runway could cope with aircraft of this type, should they ever be used here. Whether the terminal could is another matter.

We can still tell the Inquiry that we do not want any of it, if that is what we think, if we care enough, but we cannot leave it all to the Parish Council and SSE who are both battling away but who do need support from those out there. Individual voices do matter, and there is an opportunity to take part by written or emailed representations. There is still time to respond to issues including surface access issues, highway modifications and environmental matters as the Inspector has accepted that they can be submitted later. You have plenty of time. The inquiry may not start until after the summer holidays.

It has been finally decided that the inquiry will be at Endeavour House, the same site as the Runway 1 inquiry and it could last up to 18 months. It will sit in topic blocks, four days a week with gaps between the blocks, and a break for the summer holidays. It will start at 10 am and the public are free to visit at any time.

The Address to write to is Programme manager, Stansted G2 Inquiry, Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol B1 6PN.

You can also email your submission to [www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stansted2inquiry](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stansted2inquiry)

## A novel way to educate youngsters about life's tougher lessons

In this computer age most children by the time they are 13 or 14 have been there and done it all, or so they believe. It is increasingly hard to get life's lessons across by conventional means.

In an effort to address this, a local theatre company known as Hyper Fusion, has been touring all the secondary schools in Uttlesford in a new initiative which has been promoted by the Community Safety Action Team. This includes Stansted Mountfitchet and the target is youngsters aged 13 to 14.

The drama is hard hitting and realistic, and following the presentation there are discussions during which the pupils have the opportunity to discuss what they have seen with Community Police Officers, as well as youth workers, the fire service and local health services. The issues are tough, and sadly they are based on events which have happened.

It is hoped by careful preparation, thought and discussion the pupils will be safer in future years.

## Could you help in a major crisis?

Essex has set up a Crisis Support Team for Essex, which aims to supply volunteers to help those who suddenly find themselves caught up in a disaster whether it is on a large scale such as a major rail incident, or an accident which has given rise to fatalities or major trauma. It is also there to cope with the incidents incurred by a major airport, whether it is from an accident, people suddenly finding themselves stranded in this country for whatever reason, as the Russian School children were or in a refugee crisis similar to the Lebanese Refugee Crisis of a few years ago.

Volunteers can be a great support to relatives when dealing with police officers and coroners, who do have other things to do and who are not able to give the support or sometimes the information required. They can also support relatives in the period after the incident by attending to matters such as arrangements for pets, other people in the family, press inquiries as well as providing a friendly supportive presence while required.

Volunteers are part of a team and training is given. The work a volunteer does is matched to the volunteer's particular skills. Information is provided so the volunteer will be able to contact other agencies for specialist support. Volunteers will also be active on help lines which are provided for major emergencies and in rest centres.

For further information contact the Crisis Support Team on 01245 430762, or visit the website

[www.crisissupportessex.org](http://www.crisissupportessex.org)

## Parachute Jump

I am hoping to do a parachute jump in aid of St Clare's Hospice on March 29th and would be grateful for any sponsorship I can gather. You can forward it to Moorswood 330 Birchanger lane and contact me on 01279 812793

## British Summer Time

Please remember to adjust your clocks 1 hour forward on Sunday 29th March.

# Charles Morton Humphries

One of the interesting things about looking after the village archive is the occasional enquiry generated by the magazine being published on the Internet.

Over the Winter I had an exchange of emails with a gentleman named Charles Humphries. He was enquiring after his grand father Charles Morton Humphries.

I checked the Census Information available and drew a blank but I knew the 1911 census would be released in early 2009.

When it was released Mr Humphries traced his forbear and established that he was a 42 year old Stock Jobber at the London Stock Exchange and lived at a house called "The Gables" (it's now called Churton) he lived there with his wife Gertrude, a son Charles Wilfred aged 7 (the current Mr Humphries' Father) and a servant, Kate Alice Brett.

Mr Humphries then sent me a set of photos dated 1906 including two of the house. Externally it has changed little since then.

Armed with this, I had a trawl through The "Birchanger Parish Magazines" from 1908 to 1912. And found that Mr Humphries had been a secretary



**"The Gables" in 1906**



**Mr CM Humphries and son**

of the Working Men's Club and had associations with Birchanger Cricket Club. Sadly Mrs Humphries had died during 1911 and this presaged the departure of the family to Kenya. Before they left, the grateful members of the Club presented him with a silver cigarette box in recognition to his services to the Club.

So the current Mr Humphries now has some additional information about his Grand Father and the village archive now has a photo of Birchanger club's secretary from 1906 to 1912. I wonder what other secrets the village has to reveal!

## MOVING THE GOALPOSTS

Could the young footballers who use the recreation ground to play football in please use the goal posts provided rather than the swings as the ground is being churned up and rendering the swings unuseable for those who wish to swing on them

# School News

## The little red hens come to school

Class 1 always love stories and there are plenty of them to listen to and to read for themselves in the wealth of books in the library at the school. It is unlikely that they will forget the story of the Little Red Hen in a hurry, as Mr Tilley, who is a parent with children at the school, very kindly brought two of his own chickens into the school to show the children.

He set up a temporary run in the school courtyard then he invited the children to meet the chickens. He told them about the food they ate and most importantly how to catch them. The children were allowed to stroke them and to feel at firsthand how birds feathers felt and just how soft they were.

Easter is on the horizon and so are the expected chicks and goslings which are due to hatch shortly. One of the first dates in their diaries will be a visit to the school where once again the children will be able to get to know them and how they need to be looked after.

Stories do come to life sometimes.

## St George's Day Party.

Come and Celebrate St George's Day at Birchanger School on Thursday April 23rd from 6pm. Typically English Food will be Served. The children will entertain you with Songs, Poetry and English Music. definitely not to be missed.

# A new feature

One of my team has had the bright idea of introducing a recycling/ small ads feature where readers may advertise their unwanted goods. We are going to call it "RE-USE NEWS". So if you have a an unwanted item that you are prepared to give away or sell for a nominal sum you will be able to advertise it for free in the magazine.

You will need to provide

- 1 A brief description of the goods (no photos will be accepted it is a text only service)
- 2 Your price (if any)
- 3 Your contact details, (Name, Telephone, mobile numbers or email address.)

However we will have to have some rules of usage. As people are likely to abuse a "Free" service.

- 1 Any transactions will be between the vendor and the recipient. The magazine will not broker or facilitate any deals on behalf of sellers or buyers beyond publishing the advert.
- 2 The accuracy of any advert is the responsibility of the vendor.
- 3 We will not accept adverts for pets or livestock.
- 4 The adverts will only be published in one issue each.
- 5 We will not accept anonymous adverts. Full contact details must be included.
- 6 Publication of the feature will be dependant on available space.
- 7 The editor reserves the right to refuse publication of any advert for any reason.
- 8 The editor's decision will be final.

If you can satisfy these simple conditions you can advertise your goods by contacting the editor

## This Month's Recipe

### Duck breast with cassis sauce.

#### Ingredients

Serves four persons

800gr Duck breast  
½ bottle red wine  
10cl Crème de Cassis.  
4 shallots  
1 dessert spoon corn flour.  
Pepper and salt to taste.

1. Cut the shallots finely and place them in a saucepan with the red wine & seasoning. Reduce it by half and add the crème de cassis
2. Cut cross forms in the skin of the duck breast and fry it skin side down first. Turn the duck several times during cooking for about 15 mins depending on how rare you like it. Keep the duck warm by wrapping it in tin foil.
3. Put a little sauce in the pan to loosen all the baked bits & then add the rest of the sauce, including the meat juices from the Duck.
4. Thicken the sauce with the corn flour. Serve the duck in slices with the sauce on top.

## 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

## News from St Mary's

Valentine's Day fell right in the middle of the month and the Rector celebrated this with a special afternoon service on the 15th. Over 50 people turned up to the Celebration of Marriage service and many of them took the opportunity to join in a short renewal of vows. This included the Rector and his wife, Janet. It was a lovely service which was appropriately finished off when Mr Martin played the Wedding March. The service was followed by tea and cake in the Church Hall.

For all those who made cakes for the event and helped out on the day, my grateful thanks. to those who came along, I hope that you enjoyed the event and that we will see you in church over the coming months.

There was a coffee morning at Moorswood on the 3rd March. This was extremely well attended and raised as much needed £150 for church funds. Thank you all very much.

Pam Lee

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## Try your hand at painting and drawing

Have you ever wanted to have a go at drawing or painting? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE

Heather Brown is running 2 morning classes in her studio in Wood lane on Tuesday April 21st & Wednesday April 22nd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are both ideal for beginners and those with some experience.

The first on April 21st will deal with basic drawing and you will learn how to get more accurate results.

The class on the 22nd April is for painting in watercolours when you will be taken step by step through various painting techniques.

All materials will be provided, also tea or coffee, which are all included in the cost. £18 per session or £35 for both.

Please book early as places are limited. Ring Heather Brown on 01279 815453 for further information and to book or to find out about other available art classes.

Skip Visits for 2009.

The skip will visit Birchanger on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June all day.

!5<sup>th</sup> August 8am to 11.30am.

29<sup>th</sup> November all day.

Deliverer Required

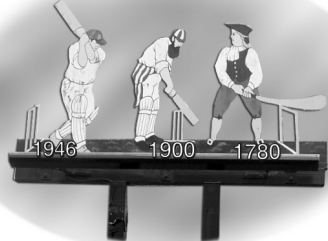
We are now delivering to around 50 new houses on the Rochford's estate. Continued delivery to the estate is dependant on a reliable deliverer being found

So we are looking for someone willing to give up about half an hour per month to deliver to the new houses. If that person is you? Please contact the Editor with your contact details.

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

February/March  
2009

March

22nd St Mary's 11.00 am  
Mothering Sunday  
Holy Communion

22nd Church Hall 4.15  
Spring Bingo

29th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Baptism

April

5th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Palm Sunday Matins

12th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Easter Sunday  
Holy Communion

19th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Family Service

26th St Mary's 11.00 am  
Holy Communion

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BIRCHANGER CUB AND SCOUT TROUP PRESENTS

## SPRING BINGO

IN

BIRCHANGER CHURCH HALL

ON

SUNDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2009

Doors open 4.15 p.m. eyes down at 4.45p.m.

Tickets available from Sally (812994) or Elaine (815887)

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

Includes Ploughmans supper, Bring your own drink

## 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
		Morning Tap Classes		Morning Pilates
	Afternoon Ballet	Afternoon Ballet, Tap & Modern	Afternoon Line Dancing	
Evening Ballroom		Evening Line Dancing	Evening Brownies	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.*