

Birchanger

November 2009



Magazine

Issue 83

REMEMBRANCE DAY PRIDE

And also the shame

The remembrance day service was again well attended on November 8th. Our Scout and Cub group were particularly praiseworthy attending with their standards and laying the British legion wreath.

The Poppy Collection in the village was again well supported, the exact totals will not be known until next month.

The only sadness is that yet again some mean minded individual stole one of the collection boxes from the Service Station. The boxes are changed frequently so hopefully the loss would not have been too great, but it is left to question the mindset of the people who do this, sadly most years it seems.



Birchanger is the First to Renew its Quality Parish Council Status

Birchanger was one of the first small Parish councils in the county to become a Quality Parish Council. The status lasts four years, and councils have again to prove their worth in many areas to merit their honour. It means a great deal of work for the clerk, who has to prove to the judges that the Parish Council is a cut above the rest.

The status expired this year, and our clerk Julia Peachey worked very hard to ensure that our status was maintained. She was rewarded for her efforts when she was presented along with Parish Council Chairman Philip Hoy, with a renewed certificate at a meeting of Uttlesford District Council last month.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

More Improvements For Birchanger Lane!

Amazingly another long awaited improvement has happened for Birchanger Lane. The improvement of the bend at Churton has been requested more than annually ever since I have been a member of Birchanger Parish Council and long before.

It means that we can at last walk safely at this dangerous bend, with less chance that we will be hit, as I have many times, or having to leap up a bank to avoid the traffic. It is a pity it does not extend further, but maybe that will be another twenty year job!

This was not the only area to receive attention. The gullies at the top end of the lane have been dug out, it remains to be seen what will happen when the first heavy rain falls.

What we really need now is a roundabout or some kind of system which will make the junction at the B1383 easier to use. There was another serious accident there again last month. Improvements there are certainly needed and we are working on it. Hopefully this will not take another 14 years.

A Potentially Disastrous New East of England Plan.

The East of England Regional Assembly is consulting on its regional development plan to run until 2031. It makes horrific reading for all those who feel that there is more than enough development going on in Uttlesford as it is, and residents see a rural way of life disappearing forever.

The plan does not seem to take into account the nature of any area it covers. It simply seems to see space and the totally unproven need for vast

numbers of housing. There is no acknowledgement of the needs of existing residents, or for infrastructure and water supply.

For Uttlesford the plan looks at four different scenarios. Scenario 1 assumes growth at the present rate. For those living in the shadow of enormous developments the prospect cannot be attractive. The second assumes that the airport will continue to develop at the rate seen until last year. It proposes a new town of 21,000 residents in Uttlesford or possibly in Braintree. Scenario 3 envisages economic development which has taken place in the last few years will continue to increase, while scenario 4 shows the number of dwellings which would be required if past trends of migration and population rise in the district continue.

Scenarios 1 and 3 will need an additional 430 houses a year, scenario 4 350, while scenario 2 demands an additional 1080 new homes each year. The region purports to oppose the second runway, so if that permission ever did happen the total of housing said to be required, will be staggering.

It is well known that many people have to leave the area to find affordable homes, and there is a shortage of these, but not to these amounts. New homes are needed, older homes need to be modernised, empty homes must be used, then think about what else is needed, and consideration of the environment should be the starting point, not piecemeal expansion.

The consultation which has received little publicity will only run until November 24th. Please send your views to East of England Regional Assembly, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6EG or email your response to www.eera.gov.uk

Allotment Expansion Nears Completion.

So many people took up an allotment this year, that the Parish council has arranged for the area to be expanded again to accommodate new allotment holders. Sadly some had to be turned away until work could begin.

If you were one of those people, or you would like to have allotment, David Holder is now ready to allocate allotments again. He can be contacted on 813393.

Runway 2 Decision Expected

The Competition Commission Appeal Tribunal has been hearing the Appeal by BAA against the decision made earlier this year to make BAA sell off Stansted Airport. It is for this reason that the Inquiry into the Runway 2 planning application was postponed indefinitely.

Should BAA be successful in the appeal, it is almost certain, despite falling numbers at Stansted, (down 11% in September) that BAA will press for the Inquiry to be resumed regardless of the Election and the uncertainty as to who is likely to be in power come next May. It is high time that the shadow hanging over our entire area is lifted, but there is no light on that particular horizon just yet.

Nats Postpone Flight Path Changes Yet Again!

It seems that it will be at least another year before anything is done about the 17 flight paths which currently overfly Birchanger. We may only notice the trails from these routes on a clear day, but the fact that this area is so over flown cannot possibly be right.

Flight paths which bring the planes far closer to the south western end of the village either seem set to remain, as it is claimed that these fall just within the swathe of the departure routes and aircraft are turning earlier. There is a better prospect for the residents of Saffron Walden as it seems that the proposed new stacking area between Saffron Walden and Newmarket is off the agenda for the time being.

The appeal against the competition commission's decision that BAA must sell

Stansted Airport as well as Gatwick could just succeed if BAA argue with sufficient conviction that it is unfair to make them sell both airports. The uncertainty for our area continues. That is unfair on all who live here, but quangos in Whitehall give the likes of us scant concern.

Job Centre Plus Moves Closer to Home

Many people have been very irritated when they are seeking for a new employment by having to travel long distances, in some cases to Braintree to access the services of Job Centre Plus. Trained advisors will now be available in Saffron Walden council offices on Tuesdays between 10am and 4pm. They will also be available in Thaxted CIC on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 9.30 and 12.30. They may even make it to Stansted given time.

Free Insulation for over 70's and Those on Benefit

Interested? The number to call is 0800 980 6026. There are no snags as this offer is made by a partnership of Herts and Essex councils. For those who are under 70 and not in receipt of benefit, loft or cavity wall insulation will cost only £99, and as I understand it, someone else does the work for you.

There is a website which will give full details of the scheme at www.heepgrant.org.

Christmas Coffee Fun

The next coffee morning which will feature Mince Pies and Christmas Goodies will be at Moorswood on Tuesday December 8th, and everyone is very welcome.

Although all the proceeds go to the Church, it is basically a good time for people to meet and to relax over a cup of tea or coffee. Newcomers to the village are particularly welcome, and it is somewhere to make new friends. Under fives are also welcome, there are toys as well as space available for them.

Homemade cakes and other items are on sale, and there will also be the opportunity to pick up the odd Christmas gift. A morning not to be missed, if you are free.

A Scouting Award For Trevor

There are always some stories that somehow slip through our net and this one is well overdue.

Trevor Stone received a Medal Of Merit Award for his scouting activities way back in June, unfortunately we waited for a photo and when it came the item got lost among the other jobs we do. So belatedly with apologies to the Scout Group

As promised I have managed to get a picture from the District of Trevor when he received The Medal of Merit, This is an award which would normally be awarded after a period of not less than 12 years, it is for recognition of outstanding service to the Scouting movement whilst holding an adult appointment.

This award was presented to Trevor by the District Chairman Sandra Arnold at Birchanger's AGM held in June this year. He also received a 15 year service award although he has now actually completed over seventeen years.

Scout Numbers are falling drastically in the village and if the trend continues we will lose the Scout Troop in Birchanger because of insufficient numbers.

So if there is anyone (Male or Female) interested in joining Cubs or Scouts in Birchanger, please contact for Cubs aged between 8 and 10 and a half Elaine Howley 01279 815887 or for Scouts aged between 10 and a half to 14 Trevor Stone 01279 812994.

Thanks Sally Stone



Friends Re-united

A strong friendship starts up between two young girls one Dutch working as a nanny in a small village, the other English, working at the local post office.

In 1959 the Dutch girl goes home to her boyfriend. The two girls carry on writing to each other and in 1964 the Dutch girl comes back to England for the wedding of her friend.

In 1977 the English girl with husband goes to Rotterdam for another wedding. The two people carry on writing telling of the births of their children. The Dutch family move house and the council renumber the whole of the village here in Birchanger. We also have our telephone numbers changed. The result is they lose touch with each other.

Fast forward to 2009. The Dutch woman is looking at old photos and finds one from her friend on the back it says "please send back, it is the only one I have." She mentions this to her son and wonders what her friend is doing now in today's world.

Her son asks her friend's name and of the village. Ten minutes later he shouts out that he has found her, thanks to the village magazine on line.

February 2003 I received the Community Award followed by events in bowling. There I was large as life on the front page! A few more keys pressed and my full address and telephone number were found.

One Friday lunchtime the telephone rang and a voice on the other end said is that Rosemary? I said yes. She said. "This is Truus from Holland here". On Wednesday October 1st Truus flew into Stansted. I knew her immediately. The clock flew back over the years to 1959 when she went back home, this time I was saying hello not goodbye -.

This has come about thanks to the village magazine!
From Rosemary Saward



Rosemary Saward and Truus

School News

Space Station Birchanger School

Imagine coming to school and finding that the whole school had been transformed into a Space Ship for the week. Certainly unthinkable in my school days but Project Nerva did exactly that for Birchanger School early last month, led by Captain Nerva.

This was part of a project to raise children's awareness of the importance of IT the home school E folio and the benefits it would bring to their lives both at home and at school. Under his direction astronaut mouse visited every class room to meet and to talk to the children about the project before he was "launched" into space. He then spent the week sending computer messages back for each class as he progressed on his journey through space.

The project caught the imagination of everyone. They all entered into the spirit of the project dressing up as astronauts with the entire front lobby becoming a space capsule, and the hall an astronauts only zone. Each class worked on the project following the mouse and produced an amazing display for their parents to see at the end of the week.

It all started on the day of the interviews for the position of head teacher, with the now newly appointed head helping to create the cabin of the space capsule.

Football season off to a promising start

One of the problems with football at the start of the Autumn term is that many of the football stars left in the summer and a certain amount of team building was required under the watchful eye of Coach Culpin.

Early results are very promising, as the team were honing their goal scoring skills and learning to work with each other. At the time of writing they had yet to lose a match.

Birchanger school children delight other teachers

A recent Teacher's Conference asked to "borrow" Class 4 children for a training day at the Hilton Hotel. It provided a day with a difference for the children and they excelled at all they were asked to do, and particularly at "circle time". Their manners were superb and at meetings later in the week these teachers were still talking about the excellent behaviour of our children. Children throughout the school have been visiting Stansted Mountfitchet School for multi skill days. There again their behaviour has continued to impress.

Half term change around

Birchanger children came back from their half term break to find that their classrooms had been changed. The staff had been very busy during half term and Class 2 had moved into Class 3, Class 3 into the relocatable classroom, while Class 4 found themselves back in the old Class 2 again. Only Class 1 children remained where they were.

Needless to say, not everyone welcomed the change and there was a certain amount of disapproval in some areas, but Class 4 is a large class and the relocatable classroom was simply not big enough.

Infant's Nativity Play

There will be an infants Nativity Play on Monday Dec 14th at 2pm, to which visitors are welcome and to which the under 5's are allowed to come. To ensure a place, please call the school in 812362.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday November 28th
At 2.00 pm

Birchanger Primary School

Father Christmas will be attending

Christmas Gifts and Refreshments Galore



Christmas at the Club

Here are some details of the entertainment scheduled for this Christmas at the Club along with the Christmas menu

Saturday 28th November
At 8.00pm
Club Social Night

Saturday 5th December
Christmas Panto Trip

Saturday 12th December
At 8.00 pm
Grand Christmas Draw

Saturday 19th December
At xxx
Children's Christmas Party

Christmas Eve
At 8.00 pm
Julie Nevada

Boxing Day
At 12.30 pm
Whisky Draw

New Year's Eve
At 8.00 pm
Stonecold

CHRISTMAS MENU

STARTERS

HOMEMADE CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP
Served with a crusty roll and butter

HOMEMADE PATE
Served with a seasonal salad and French toast

HOMEMADE APPLE, PRAWN AND CELERY SALAD
Served with a seasonal salad

MAIN COURSE

TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY
Served with roast potatoes, peas, carrots, Brussels sprouts, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing and gravy

TRADITIONAL ROAST BEEF
Served with roast potatoes, peas, carrots, Brussels sprouts, Yorkshire pudding and gravy

DESSERTS

HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

HOMEMADE CARROT CAKE

CHRISTMAS PUDDING
Served with cream

CHEESE AND BISCUITS
Cheddar & Stilton

£14.95 per head.

Please ask for a menu at the bar.
Bookings and pre order only
Please return menu with your name, date of dinner and choice of meal
From THE 25th November till 23rd December, Wed, Thurs & Friday lunchtimes only. Other times by arrangement.

News from St Mary's

Help

Mr Martin is about to retire from playing the church organ nearly every Sunday and we need someone to step forward to help out.

Jo Sherriff (music teacher at the village school) already plays for us on one Sunday each month and we are hoping that someone from the village (or someone that you know) will offer to play the organ on other weekend dates. Even help on one Sunday each month will be much appreciated so if you are interested, please contact either Pam Lee (07702171744) or Peter Odrich (01279 323927).

We would also like to hear from other musicians who may like to play (e.g. guitar/trumpet/keyboard/violin) at a church service either as a one off or having a regular spot.

Joy's Coffee Morning at Moorswood

This was very well attended and it was especially pleasing to see more gentlemen joining in. You all helped to raise £145 for church funds. Thank you.

SPRING MUSIC QUIZ

ON BEHALF OF BIRCHANGER VILLAGE MAGAZINE

BIRCHANGER CHURCH HALL

Saturday March 20th at 7.15

Teams of 8

Tickets £10 per head

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.

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Village Diary November/December 2009

November

- 28th 2.00 pm At the School
Christmas Bazaar
28th 8.00 pm At the Club
Social Night
29th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

December

- 6th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
8th 10.30 am Moorswood
Christmas Coffee Morning
12th 8.00 pm At the Club
Christmas draw
13th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
14th 2.00 pm At the School
Infant's Nativity play
17th 9.30 am St Mary's
Christingle Service
18th 7.00 pm St Mary's
Evening Carol Service
20th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Christingle Service
24th 8.00 pm At the Club
Julie Nevada
25th Christmas day 11.00 am
St Mary's
Holy Communion
26th 12.30 pm At the Club
Whisky Draw
27th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
31st 8.00 pm At the Club
Stonecold

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Birchanger Social Club

Requires a Cleaner

For details contact
The Steward

01279 812810

Christmas Refuse Collection Arrangements.

Wednesday December 23rd. Black Bin Only.
Wednesday Dec 30th Green and Brown Bins.
Normal collections will be resumed on January 4th

An apology

I owe an apology to the Over sixties club for the advert in last month's issue for the Xmas bazaar having last year's date on it. This was my mistake and apologise unreservedly to the members of the over sixties club and all those who turned up on the wrong day.