

# Birchanger

August 2010



# Magazine

Issue 92

## A VILLAGE WEDDING



It is a rare occasion when two well known Birchanger residents tie the knot in Birchanger Church and celebrate in style at the Church Hall. Elaine Howley who is well known to many generations in Birchanger for her work with Birchanger Scouts married Roy Brown on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Roy's family has to be one of the oldest in the village. They put their own very special stamp on their wedding to make it a truly special occasion not just for themselves but for all their guests as well.

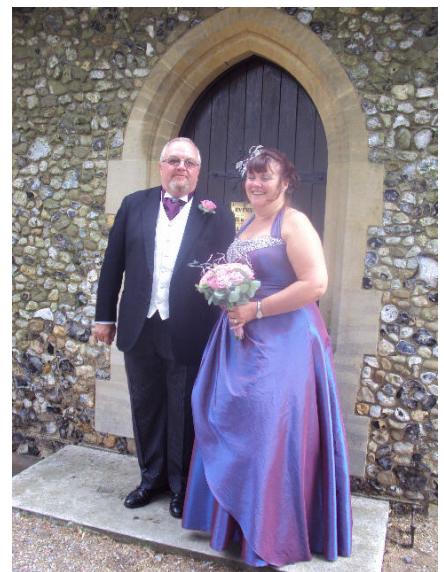
A very unusual means of transport

The bridal carriage was unique, certainly one never before seen in Birchanger and the likes of which will probably never be seen again either. If you did not see it,

you probably heard it. The occupants were well advised not to lean too far back!

After the wedding the bride and groom laid flowers at the grave of June Brown, Roy's mother who sadly did not live to see her son married, but who is remembered with great affection by not just her family but a very large part of Birchanger as well.

The guests adjourned to the Church Hall for a reception and a Hog Roast later in the evening. Jay Leavers, a veteran of some 600 odd hog roasts now managed to cook the hog to his usual perfection despite his duties as an usher and the fact he was wearing morning dress. There was both a disco and a band, the scouts had erected two small marquees, the beer and champagne flowed, and even the morning rain disappeared. It was an occasion when old friends who in some cases had not seen each other for many years met and celebrated this very happy occasion. Very best wishes Roy and Elaine from us all.



The happy couple



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Would you like a baby and toddler group in Birchanger?

Stansted has an excellent Children's Centre with Spangles Children's Centre, but although we are fortunate in Birchanger to have the best nursery unit for miles around, there is nothing for the smallest Birchanger residents in the village.

If you are a mother with babies and children under two and a half years old, I would like to know if you would find a baby and toddler group useful. The Buffy Bus no longer visits the village as it was not sufficiently well supported, but with more really young children in the village now, it might be the right time to look at some provision for this age group again.

What do you think? Would you support the service or is it something which you do not feel is necessary for you. Please let me know on 812793.

## Time to decide

The District Council is about to begin a consultation on the Parish Boundary between Stansted and Birchanger. Most of Forest Park is linked more closely to Stansted than to Birchanger, although the bulk of the development is actually in Birchanger.

Residents of both parishes will be consulted. This will give our new neighbours the opportunity to say which Parish they would prefer to be in as well as the option to create a Parish of their own as has happened elsewhere in Uttlesford.

Stansted Parish Council has formally requested that the boundary be reviewed but that was always going to happen when the numbers moving to Forest Hall Park had reached the halfway mark.

At the same time the number of Parish Councillors on all the Parish Councils in the District will also be reviewed.

## Birchanger is still healthy officially

We continue to live in one of the healthiest spots in England despite the planes, motorways and rising pollution. Uttlesford rated above average in nearly all areas, despite the carbon emissions, the continuing practise of mothers smoking in pregnancy, and the larger amounts of hip fractures found in the over 65's. The real black spot is that road deaths in Uttlesford are high. We do have a motorway which contributes, but you only have to see the behaviour of a few inconsiderate drivers in Birchanger to believe that sadly it is all true.

Our children are less obese, we generally live longer, have better teeth and are more physically active. Cancers are not as low as the rate of heart disease and excess winter deaths and infant mortality rank only as average.

Birchanger is in an area which is mid range on the level of deprivation. This is because transport links are poor and emissions are higher. It is not impossible to remedy both of these factors.

## Do you or your family have housing difficulties?

I would like to find out more about housing need in Birchanger. Under the new government it seems that all the old allocations for housing and numbers are to be thrown out of the window, and Local Authorities will be able to gauge the need and the housing supply for themselves.

It will ultimately come down to Parishes and district councils to establish what is needed in their particular patches. If you do have a real housing need I would like to hear from you as to what the need is, whether it is for rental or purchase of a property, how big the property should be along with your preferred location.

I can be reached on 812793, and everything you say as an individual will be treated in confidence, only the general figures and needs are required at this stage so that we can properly plan for the homes of the future.

## Decision time for the site of the new surgery

Negotiations with many possible sites for the new and urgently required surgery in the centre of Stansted have been exhaustive but it seems 99% certain that they will have proved to have been both abortive and a waste of a whole year. We could have been halfway to a new surgery by now. Unless a new site in Stansted can be secured by September 1st, work will begin on plans for a new surgery at the original Forest Hall site.

If work does not begin immediately we are likely to lose the opportunity for the facility altogether, if the delay has not already cost us this. Funding can only be relatively certain under the present PCT arrangements, as the organisation which will inevitably take its place by the end of 2012 will cover a much wider area so there is more than a strong possibility that the money would be used elsewhere.

Should this happen, the current doctors at the surgery are ready to throw in the towel and walk. This year alone

they have seen an increase to date of well over 400 new patients. They are now struggling to provide a service at all. There is a strong possibility that we will find a letter in the post allocating us to practices a long way from here as there may not be a service in Stansted at all or one staffed by a series of temporary doctors. There can never be all round winners in this, and seriously ill people will always have difficulties accessing a surgery even if they do live right on top of it. We lost our one session a week in Birchanger some years ago.

## Still time to create your own entry for the Turnip Prize.

Birchanger's Art Show is to return to the Church Hall on the weekend of September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's show will be bigger and better. The school will be exhibiting some of the pupil's art work as well. Refreshments will be available throughout the day and the show will run from 10.30 to 5pm on the Saturday and 4.30 pm on the Sunday.

Local artists are invited to exhibit their own work as well as those from further afield. Most of the exhibits will be available for sale, and Birchanger Club has kindly agreed that non members can use their ATM should they need cash or a credit card to purchase a picture. There will also be home grown produce available, and of course the incredibly popular Turnip Prize will be open to everyone to produce their very own take on the Turner Prize.

This year the Turnip Prize will have three categories. One for children under 12, then for those aged 12-17 and a category for adult exhibits. Entries will be received at 10 am on Saturday and the judging will take place at 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon. Entries may be removed overnight if desired to be returned at 10 am the next day. In addition to this a Photographic Exhibition will take place in the church. The categories will be the same as for the Turnip Prize. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite picture, and there will be a prize for the winner. Remember to bring you entries to the Church between 3pm and 5pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

It all promises to be an excellent weekend and a fitting way to mark the end of the summer holidays. Enjoy!

## Birchanger Nursery is 20 Years old!

For many people this seems impossible and some of the first children are mothers themselves now, but Birchanger Nursery was celebrating 20 very successful years on July 14<sup>th</sup> last month. In this time the nursery has expanded, obtained new premises and extended its opening hours.

To mark this very special birthday the nursery invited guests who had contributed to the success of the unit throughout its 20 years to return there. This meant an opportunity for many old friends including Rosemary Wheatley who ran the Nursery from the beginning and for many years after that and a past pupil whose own children currently attend to meet again and to share their memories with parents and all those who have supported the nursery through the past 20 years. The

children currently attending enjoyed a special lunch while there were cup cakes as a treat to celebrate the occasion, bouncy castles and an opportunity to actually meet Postman Pat.

The Nursery is a big Birchanger success story. All those who have been involved deserve our congratulations with very best wishes for the next twenty years.

## Emergency plan update

Birchanger's Emergency Plan is to be updated this Autumn to reflect the changing ways in which an emergency could be handled as well as to update the resources which might be available should an emergency situation of any kind arise.

We do need your help. Emergency Plan Volunteers are mainly ordinary people who are prepared to give their time to help others who are caught up in an emergency situation whatever it might be. The list needs to be updated along with the plan as many of the volunteers currently listed have either moved away or their circumstances have changed.

You do not need to have any special skills, as sometimes a listening friend or a volunteer prepared to man the village hall and to make endless cups of coffee is all that is required. If you do have something which might be useful in an emergency and would be prepared to help if available, please tell me about it. Those with building skills, electricians, plumbers, able to operate heavy equipment and items such as chain saws are particularly needed. If you have a four by four vehicle and are prepared to drive this in inclement weather to deliver supplies please let me know.

If you are willing your telephone number will be printed in the plan which will be held by the Clerk and members of the Parish Council as well as being lodged at the District and County Councils.

Please help if you can. We need as many volunteers as possible as not everyone will be available should an emergency arise.

The number to call, 812793.

## A lane in two parts

The presence of a glacier in Birchanger during the last ice age was clearly demonstrated during the construction of the new houses at Churton last month. A pile driver had to be imported to dig deeply into the ground to find a solid base on which to build the foundations for the new houses.

This exemplifies the two differing soil types. The first is a heavy clay and chalk which quickly ends to change to the second type which is a sandy loam soil. The point where the soils change marks the final halting of the glacier on its slow progress from the north. The demarcation boundary is roughly along Birchanger Lane, with the houses to the West of the lane mainly lying on heavy clay.

If you are a gardener it is a fair bet that neither of these soils is ideal.

# School News

## Sunshine Tombola

It is great fun to have another non uniform day but there is always a small price to pay as well. This time everyone could leave their uniform at home as long as they came with a tombola prize in yellow, orange or red. It is a very good way to supply a summer tombola, as everyone discovered at the fete the following day.

## Sports Day and School Fete

Once again the eagerly anticipated Sports Day followed by the fete run by the PTA was the high spot of early July. The girls in particular were able to demonstrate the athletic ability which ensured that the girls team were second overall in the District Sports.

After an hour of races in which everyone had an opportunity to shine, it was time to enjoy the barbeque, the bar and all the delights of a really good summer fete. Braintree Brass Band played throughout the afternoon. All ages had the opportunity to participate in a tug of war, there were displays of dancing, cup cakes for treats, face painting jewellery and plants for a little bit of indulgence all contributing to an afternoon which had something for everyone.

As usual the PTA worked their hardest to ensure the day was a success and it was good to welcome old friends and returning past pupils as well. All in perfect weather as well! With the promised "matched" funding, the total raised is expected to exceed £2800, a welcome sum in the coming period of austerity and cut backs.

## School uniform to be standardised.

For some reason children have been wearing more white shirts to school. The uniform should actually be a sky blue shirt or polo neck, navy fleece or jumper, a navy blue or grey skirt or tunic, skirt or tailored shorts for girls and grey trousers for the boys. Black or navy shoes must be worn but a great many trainers which are not acceptable, have been appearing in the last term.

This stricter requirement will be phased in as pupils outgrow the existing white shirts, but any new purchases must be in line with the proper school uniform.

New supplies can be ordered through the school.

## A very ambitious "Bugsy".

The summer production of the annual school play has become a keenly anticipated event and as usual was a complete sell out.

This year's production was particularly ambitious. "Bugsy" requires a huge cast, a lot of line learning, stagecraft and challenging singing. As usual the children rose to the occasion clearly enjoying their roles, complete with custard pies and splurge guns.

There were moments of pure brilliance with many outstanding young actors emerging. Luke Dare was a convincing Fat Sam with costume to help him gain the weight, Jonny Mussard provided a memorable solo, Charlie Saunders was a dashing Dandy Dan while the quiet elegance of Naomi Bates as Bugsy Brown contrasted well with the slick and smart performances of Lucy Dodd as Tallulah, Ellie Sykes as Louella with Lily Cowler as Loretta. The role of Bugsy himself was well delivered by Raj Pandya. Everyone's performances were memorable and fun in the spirit of the well loved play from the dancers to all the supporting roles.

## A roller coaster last day

For the Year 6 leavers the day began with a service for the school and parents at Birchanger Church. There the Leavers told the congregation all the things they had learnt in their time at Birchanger and what aspect of their learning there had made the biggest impression. Their experiences were wide and very honest as they each acknowledged how the school had especially helped them.

At the leavers assembly in the afternoon they spoke about their own special memories which all reflected their own particular talents and many achievements at Birchanger. Then it was time for prizes and presents. Congratulations to Abigail Earnshaw and Lily Cowler who were presented with Bibles and gift vouchers from St Mary's Church for an amazing 100% attendance at school during the past year. The Jenny Gardiner Prize for progress in reading in Class 2 was a well deserved win for Orla Sherriff. The Governors Prize for the Year 6 pupil who had contributed that little bit extra to the school during her time there was won by Naomi Bates. Apart from her ever helpful manner Naomi will be remembered for her outstanding performance as Blousy Brown in "Bugsy" as well as the thoughtful and helpful part she always played in school life. For Mrs Sherriff who taught music at the school and Class 2 for the last two terms it was also her last day. She was presented with special gifts from the children, parents and staff who will all miss her ever creative and helpful presence in the school.

The leavers present to the school was a large hamper of books by favourite authors which is a particularly useful present for all those who will follow them into Class 4 in September. The leavers themselves were given books either of their own choice or of their choice of subject to remind them of their days at Birchanger School.

The final rendering of songs from "Bugsy" and the now famous "leavers Song" and they all thought they were off for a treat at the pub. They were wrong. A stretch Humvee awaited them and 16 very excited children set off very noisily in the Hummer to spend the rest of the day paintballing and feasting at Laser Quest.



# Birchanger Social Club

Still going strong after 119 years Birchanger Social club continues to be the social and sporting centre of the village. Since its birth in 1891 the club has grown both in membership terms and in physical size.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2002 The title of the Birchanger Working men's Club was changed to The Birchanger Social Club, thus bringing to a close a chapter of local history that stretches back to the late Victorian era..

The Birchanger Working Men's Club was formed in 1891, by an act of generosity from Sir Charles Gold MP. The Herts and Essex Observer dated Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1891, recorded the event with the following words.

*A meeting was held at The Parish Room on Tuesday to make arrangements for carrying on the Club which has recently been generously built and given to the Village by Mr. Charles Gold of Stansted.*

The first members paid their subscriptions (6d or 2.5 pence) quarterly which some had difficulty in paying.

The club grew slowly over the years until the introduction of the first one armed bandit in the club during 1960. So successful was this that bar prices were reduced and the members clamoured for a second machine to be acquired as the first one was too busy! It was also in 1960 that Women were first admitted as "Associate members". It would be 1999 before they were allowed full membership in their own right.

On the back of the profits from the "Fruit machines" the club was able to expand with a larger bar area. Membership grew and reached a peak when the M11 was built during 1975.

Today the club continues to provide inexpensive food and drink to its members. There is regular and varied entertainment

provided and all of the village sporting clubs are based and play here. Club Steward Graham Griffin with his wife Kim have been providing the welcome since May 2009. Current club subscriptions are £15 per year which represents very good value. So if you have not joined yet pop along to the club and pick up membership application form.



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## An apology

Brian Ross is after my blood as it appears from the way I wrote the piece that it was he who defaced the SSE poster at the reception in the House of Commons.

Sorry Brian it was not you, and I shall not be naming the culprit either, but you did a great job with your chief assistants in the ensuing clean up.

Elizabeth

# Nursery News

## SUCCESS AS LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AND ACCREDITATION

On Wednesday 14th July, Birchanger nursery celebrated 20 years service to the community and also announced that it has been awarded a coveted accreditation from the Pre-Schools Alliance, a leading early years membership organisation and one of the largest providers of quality childcare in England

Carol Bullo, the nursery's manager said, "Birchanger Nursery is absolutely delighted to receive the Pre-School Learning Alliance's accreditation award. We already offer, and aim to continue to offer, a caring, stimulating environment for our children to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually in preparation for school. I would like to thank all the parents and staff for their support and hard work in helping us to achieve this accreditation."

Sited in the grounds of Birchanger's Primary School, the nursery had its genesis as a small group run a few mornings a week in the school's hall, but is now a thriving not for profit organisation with charitable status (since 2001) that has 54 children on its roll, is open five days a week and has a full waiting list.

Part of this local success story lies with the way the nursery is run. A parent led committee oversees a dedicated, highly qualified and enthusiastic staff who are able to promote fun based learning to the children in their charge.

The nursery is now fully installed in its new premises, having raised extensive funds to replace their old building in 2008.

For further details please contact:

Tina Crossley

Birchanger Nursery Administrator 01279 810 800    [birchangernursery@btconnect.com](mailto:birchangernursery@btconnect.com)

## Before and after school clubs for working parents

The school looked at this provision some years ago and came to the conclusion that it would take a large number of parents wanting to use the facility and that unless this could be achieved it would not be economically possible to provide this facility at the school.

The school has been asked to have another look at the possibility of providing this service. As a preliminary I would like to know just how many parents would support fully the initiative before looking at the feasibility of the project.

The proviso is that we need to know just how many parents would actually participate in the scheme, before the school considered the provision of separate space for the clubs and considered the costs of engaging separate staff to run the facility. Anyone employed would need to be fully trained, with a CRB check, and food would have to be provided. These clubs are not to be confused with any of the existing clubs which the school runs from time to time.

If you would support such a venture, please contact me on 812793.

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## News from St Mary's

Having just put together the service rota for the next quarter, October to December, I am amazed at how quickly this year is flying by and how much is going on. On the 22nd of this month the Social club will once again be hosting the Harvest auction when we will be selling fruit, vegetables, flowers and homemade products raising monies to boost church funds. Our auctioneer this year will be our Rector, Paul Wilkin and I hope you will joins us for this fun event.

On the 4th and 5th September, the church will be open for visitors and refreshments from 10 am for the Flower Festival. Rosemary Saward and her team will be putting together some lovely floral displays for your delight.

The church will also be open between 10 am and 12.30 pm on Saturday the 11th to greet participants in the Essex Churches Ride and Stride Day. There is then a wedding but after that visitors will again be welcome to look around our lovely church.

As September draws to an end we will be hosting our annual Harvest Gala evening on the 25th . A most enjoyable event for which tickets are now available.

### Ted Haggerwood

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of lifelong village resident Ted Haggerwood who died while peacefully asleep on Tuesday 10th August after a long illness.

Ted attended the village school, made his home here and ran his business here, he became Chairman of the Working mens club and was Chairman of the parish council for many years. He lived his life in service to the village.

Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Sue, Violet and the other members of his family. I am hoping to print a more comprehensive obituary in a future issue

## Whats on at the Club

Saturday August 28th      Winnie (Solo Artist)

Saturday September 11th   Julie Nevada

Saturday September 25th   Tequila

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## Village Diary

August September  
2010

August

29th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

September

5th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

11th 10 am to 5pm  
Essex Churches  
Ride and Stride

12th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

19th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Service

25th 7.30 pm St Mary's  
Harvest gala Evening

26th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

## D Bonney & Sons

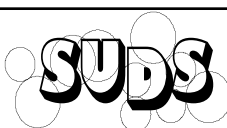


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