

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

Birchanger

December 2010



Magazine

Issue 96

A Happy Christmas “Tail”

For the past few weeks residents around a part of Birchanger Lane have been very concerned about a Yorkshire Terrier who has decided for reasons we do not even want to think about, to reject humankind completely and utterly for the time being.

His aversion to any two legged species meant he took off as soon as anyone tried to get near him, and well intended attempts to catch him only made matters a great deal worse.

It was no good telling the RSPCA or the Local Dog Warden about him as he would run on sight and keep on running. So it was back to basics and a certain amount of DIY.

Food was left out regularly with no attempts to catch him. He got to sit beside us in the garden but ran off if we come closer than a metre. He had shelter and a bed in our wood store which he used regularly at night. He gradually came closer to us and ventured into the house only to run if anyone came near or tried to close the door. He caused traffic chaos in the lane.

Finally it was our own resident “dog whisperer” Allie Lamprell who managed to slip a lead over his head and he was finally safe. Next was a trip to the vet where his fame had gone before him where he was pronounced fit and well but without any micro chip.

He has settled remarkably well for a dog who has lived rough for a month. He is a good passenger in a car and is used to cats. If his owner comes forward with a good reason as to how he became so lost and traumatized they will of course be reunited. He will live here for now if not permanently. I will just need a trusty dog sitter for my trips away?

Please take care in the lane. It is almost impossible to dog proof our garden and he is a practiced escape artist!



The little chap who caused such concern

Stop Press Security alert

Please be aware there has been a spate of attempted break ins and burglaries both in Birchanger and Stansted recently. The thieves are targeting sheds, garages and outbuildings and will probably not think twice about unoccupied homes so please make sure your properties are locked up and secure.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Christmas shopping in Birchanger

It was arguably the case that all your Christmas Shopping could have been achieved in Birchanger this year. During November we were treated to a series of fun fairs where there were plenty of Christmas gifts on offer. In fact there was one every week.

The first was run by the Over Sixties Club and there were plenty of customers for the gifts, decorations, and cakes on offer. There were also hand knits and cards to buy as well as fun afternoon meeting and talking to friends.

The Nursery Unit then held a Christmas Reception Evening where, over a glass of wine and a mince pie, you could shop for jewelry, decorations delicious fudges and other Christmas treats. This was another evening of fun where friends could meet and shop at their leisure, despite the raging gale outside.

Birchanger Church held their Christmas Fair on the following weekend. Again there were more of the old favourites and a chance for a Saturday afternoon chat.

Last but not least the school held their Christmas Fair, complete with items which the children had made, enormous raffles and of course Father Christmas.

You might have thought that with all this pre Christmas activity takings might be down. Not so and in fact the church Fair produced a record breaking total of £812.

Legitimate doorstep recycling for textiles is on the way

We shall shortly find another bag tacked onto our green bins. This time it is a perfectly legitimate one from the District Council. It is run by a collection agency and clothes are sorted into those which can be used and those which are only fit for reprocessing. The idea is that when the bag is full you simply leave it out with your green bin. At least this way you know that the clothes will not end up dumped in ditches which is what has happened when other so called charitable collectors come calling.

A big turn out for Remembrance Sunday

Whether it was the Afghanistan effect and the close proximity to Carver Barracks, from where a large part of our serving forces are trained before they are shipped out to serve overseas, or just a higher public awareness of everything our soldiers are going through but Birchanger Church was full on Remembrance Sunday. It was a special service taken with thought and compassion by the Rev Giles Tulk. The Scouts carried their Standards as well as the British Legion Standard. Two Scouts read the names of all those who were killed from Birchanger in both world wars and laid the British legion wreath on the memorial. There was a big turnout to the service by the Scouts and Cubs and this was much appreciated by everyone there.

The Poppy Collection was organized again this year by Geoff Driscoll. This does take a great deal of work and organization which Geoff does willingly every year and all the places where people congregate, including the Services at Junction 8 have their own box. A total of over £2000 was raised.

Prehistoric mound for Birchanger

Well actually it is a replacement salt store which will be sited where the existing one is at Junction 8. It will be much larger than its predecessor and the shape will resemble a prehistoric mound. The shape will be distinctive to say the least but there are other examples of these mounds about, including one at Chelmsford. The larger store is needed as the original was built to service the original motorway stretch from Junction 8 to Wanstead. Since then it has had to cope with the additional stretch of motorway as well as the new A120, so frankly it is simply not big enough.

It is not exactly the most welcome addition to the Green Belt, but hopefully it will be well screened from Birchanger by the retention of most of the trees as well as new planting. It is supposed to be painted green. Building has to start soon as after 2011 the funding will be lost.

The 2011 Birchanger Fete is coming but it does need you!

There will be a fete next year on the Club Sports Field. It will be more than just a fete. It will combine fundraising for Birchanger Projects with a Beer Festival and a Club Open Day, which means that just for the day of the fete, Saturday September 3rd everyone will be able to use the club facilities. However events like this don't just happen by magic. They need planning and organization and they do need you, whether as a visitor to the fete, a club member or a volunteer. The fete committee which consists of club committee members as well as other village residents, is hard at work planning the fete, but your ideas are welcome now. Later on your help will be needed perhaps on the day to help set up the fete, to man a stall for part of the afternoon or to help to clear away in the evening. Any contribution you make will be very welcome.

Please call Peter Booker on 813012, 0787 5284364, or myself on 812793 if you are able to offer any help in any capacity even if only for a little while or if you would like to run your own stall at the fete for a small franchise for your own particular charity. All the profits otherwise will go to the Birchanger village projects.

Need a lift to important dates?

If you are elderly or disabled or isolated through circumstance and without transport, Uttlesford Community Travel could be exactly what you need. UCT as they are known, receive funding from District and Town Council in Uttlesford and have been providing a taxi service at a reduced rate for the past 13 years. All you need to do is to become a member of UCT, then transport could be yours on weekdays between 8.30 am and 5.30pm when you book it in advance. The charge is £2.50 for the first two miles and 60p per mile thereafter.

UCT is entirely wheelchair friendly. In addition to individuals membership is also open to Church and Youth Groups. Fully trained volunteers help to drive the mini buses, and more recruits are always needed. Volunteer car drivers are also needed to drive their own cars, with a paid mileage allowance, to take people to their appointments who do not need wheelchair transport.

If you would like to use the Uttlesford Community Travel, or would like to volunteer your services please call UCT on 01371 875787.

You Will be Really Bored With This!

Sorry but I have been asked to include this plea yet again. I have done it so often before. It is important and it is ignored.

Stop parking on the pavements!

It is driving your friends and neighbours out into the road on dark nights and putting them at risk every time you do it. The fact that it is illegal when it is impossible for a buggy to pass seems to worry nobody.

If you see it tell the police on their mobile number 07801 461666 immediately, then they can act. The offence can also carry a 3 point penalty as well as a fine, but it is no good unless the offenders are actually caught in the act by the police. It really is up to you.

Food and hygiene standards for all to see

All establishments which prepare and sell food are to have their food hygiene standards rated by the District Council from January. The premises will be checked by Food Hygiene Officers and rated between 1 and 5 according to the way in which food is prepared, the storage of the food and the overall cleanliness of the premises amongst other checks.

The ratings should be clearly displayed for members of the public to see and the premises will still be checked regularly with ratings adjusted as necessary. Hopefully this will eliminate the horrors we have seen in the press in the past when the miscreants have been brought to court.

Would you like to listen to our children read?

Reading is a very important part of everyone's life. We all need to read something everyday even if it is the rather dubious prose on our mobile phone. We do not know exactly how we learn to read, but one thing is agreed, the more you do it the faster you learn.

That means you need to have someone to help you over the difficult words and to point out where you went wrong. In fact someone just to listen to your reading.

Teachers do not have as much time as they would like in their very busy days to devote any more time to this so that is where you come in.

The school is looking for adults who could just devote a small amount of their time each week to helping the school with this. Explanations of what you need to do would be brief and you would be helping children to achieve very important milestones in their lives. You only need to give the time you can spare and your help would be deeply appreciated.

If you can help, please call the school on 812362, to speak to Miss Williams who is the School's Literacy Co-ordinator.

School News

A busy November

November may have a very gloomy reputation but it was far from dull at Birchanger School. The highly successful Greek Day for Class 4 was followed by a Roman Day for Class 3, with more togas but a slightly different lifestyle. Then there was the French Day at the end of the month which involved the whole School. The children all participated in Community Cohesion Week which involved them in thinking outside the boundaries of their own small community into the lives of those very different from their own in this country.

During Anti Bullying Week the children focused on life for those who felt slightly marginalised and although bullying may not be apparent, care is always needed for those who may need help making friends and who may feel left out for whatever reason.

As an adult I am always aware that things in some children's lives may not be all they might be. It is up to everyone to try to help although bullying does have a terrible habit of happening when adults cannot see

School website in place

Birchanger School took the final steps towards a school website in November. This has been perhaps too long a time coming but great care has to be taken throughout, and everything must be totally secure for the children who use the school.

The website, now completed will be maintained regularly. Children's details cannot be published in full but those visiting the site will be able to catch a flavour of the school and access general information.

Applications for places for children in September 2011 can be made on line now. The Admissions Policy is set by the Local Authority but copies of this may be obtained at the school.

Literacy is fun

The whole school managed to show their parents just how much fun learning to read and write really is during a Sharing Assembly at the School in November.

Class 1 read their own short stories, while Class 2 performed their own version of The Three Little Pigs, complete with actions to the delight of everyone.

Class 3 had compared house prices right across the country, complete with the indications of what made an expensive area.

Class 4 demonstrated just how well Big Writing had improved the attainment of everyone. An enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone and the children's own deligins what they could achieve was very clear to everyone.

Everyone turns spotty for Children in need

They love their non-uniform days at Birchanger School so it was no surprise when a group of children asked if they could come to school wearing spots for Children in Need Day. They all brought in coins to fill the shapes of three Pudsey Bears outlined on the hall floor in the fashion of the Three Bears. Fund raising activities which included making Pudsey Biscuits also contributed to the total of over £147 which was raised on the day.

Please don't axe our sports clubs.

Government cuts have meant that Uttlesford District Council is pulling out of funding the SportsPartnership. This means that the funding for the coaches for such clubs as Tag Rugby and Multi Skills will be withdrawn from next year. No one is taking this lying down. The parents signed a petition along with parents from other schools in the partnership, which was delivered to the Secretary of State Michael Gove earlier this month. Sir Alan Haselhurst also met the Chairman of the Partnership last month. With all schools facing a reduced budget now it is the so called extras which will be the first to suffer, although it seems all wrong in a country which is about to host the Olympics and is now attempting to bid for the football World Cup.

And so it is Christmas

At the start of December a busy term became even busier. The school stayed open, and the children had a great deal of fun outside in the snow at playtimes. The Infants delighted everyone with their annual nativity play, then it was the turn of the whole school to visit Harlow for the pantomime at the Harlow Playhouse.

Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by children staff and governors alike, prepared at the school by Mrs Qadri and her team of helpers. Later that day children took part in the Cluster School Carol Concert at Stansted Mountfitchet School. Finally the children lit up the Church in more ways than one with their annual Christingle Service before the Class Christmas parties. Throughout the final week of school the children were delighted to welcome Birchanger residents to share in their events and to make it a very special time.

Fun in the Snow

Birchanger School stayed open all week despite some staff having severe problems accessing the school.

For the children it was a memorable week. They were able to play in a snow covered field throughout the week. Snow balling was banned as the snow hardened, but giant snow balls and snowmen were plentiful and it was a wonderful opportunity to run about in crisp deep snow in safety. everyone enjoyed the fun, including the Head Teacher Mrs Warbrick.

Mrs Helen Rose

The Magazine has been saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Helen Rose (nee Dix) who was the headmistress of Birchanger primary school from 1964 until 1982) She was 84 years old.

Miss Dix came to the school in the depths of the winter of 1963/64 so it is especially poignant that she should pass away during a similar period of cold weather.

I remember her as a quiet but firm teacher who delighted in country dancing and all kinds of music, She taught many of the village children to play the recorder and played the piano at every morning assembly. Miss Dix became Mrs Rose when she married Terry Rose in 1970 who taught Morris dancing to the children at Birchanger.

During the two years that she was my head mistress Miss Dix organised several outings including the Royal tournament and the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

I am sure there are other ex pupils of Mrs Rose/ Miss Dix who have memories they could share with the village. If so, I will be pleased to print them.



Have you got a mobile phone to recycle?

During January Birchanger Primary School will be taking part in the Fonebank Schools mobile phone recycling initiative by collecting old and unwanted mobile phones. The school will receive payment for every handset received through the scheme, and not only will they be raising money, they will be helping to protect the environment too! The money raised through this scheme will go directly towards enhancing the children's school lives.

Please help the school raise money by donating your old or unwanted mobile phone to the scheme. You can drop your phone(s) off at the school reception or contact Emma Young on 0781 7688384 to arrange collection.

Thank you for your support!

News from St Mary's

Confirmation

Anyone interested in being confirmed should contact the Rector on 01279 812203

Christmas Services

25th December at 11am - Family Communion with the Rector

Some years ago I started knocking on doors asking people to help support St Marys by making regular payments to the church by direct debit. The response was very encouraging but I never did get round to every household. With a building as old as ours, funds are always needed to carry out repairs and renovations. So, in the coming year I shall resume my task but, in the meantime, if you would like to make a regular contribution please call me on 07702171744.

BALLROOM DANCING

Did you know there is still Ballroom Dancing in the Church Hall on a Monday evening at 7.45 p.m. Why not come along and have a really great and fun evening of dance, minor instruction can be given but not lessons. Please do come and join in the fun and dance the evening away with the magic of Ballroom Dancing. What a great way to meet new friends and perhaps some of your old ones. Give it a try what better way to keep fit.

A New Baby and Toddler Group for Birchanger

From January 28th there will be something new for the under fives in Birchanger. Following a successful trial afternoon in the Autumn where a large amount of interest in a possible group was shown by the 26 or so mothers who brought their children along, it has been decided to run a mother and toddler group every Friday afternoon from 1.30 pm to 3pm. An invitation is extended to all the mothers in the neighbourhood with children of this age group to come and enjoy a cup of tea, a healthy snack and the company of other mothers with children of similar ages. The name of the group has yet to be decided, but the start on January 28th is certain. The group will be borrowing equipment from Spangles Children's Centre, but aims to be fully self sufficient as soon as possible. If you do have any toys in good condition which your child has out grown and which you feel might be of use to the group, please contact me on 812793.

Dustbin Collections over Christmas.

Normal collections remain in place before Christmas.
Wednesday Dec 29th Green Bin Only.
Wednesday Jan 5th Black and Brown Bins.
Then as normal, weather permitting!

A very Happy Christmas and New Year everyone.

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Our first concert in 2011 will be on Sunday, 30th January at 3pm and will be given by Victoria Sayles (violin) and Martin Cousin (piano), in St John's Church, Stansted. Their programme will include Handel's Sonate for Violin and Piano in G minor Op1 Nr6; Brahms G major Sonata Nr1; Sarasate "Zigueneweisen"; and also music by Ravel and Elgar. This concert is sponsored by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers and The Countess of Munster Music Trust. Tickets cost Adults £12, Children £1, and are now available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted, Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)

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Birchanger Boot Camp Is Back!

Due to the success last summer the 'Birchanger Bootcamp' is back - with more exercises, new equipment and extra fun!

Starting 13th January at 9.30am you can enjoy a fun filled 45min non-military style exercise class that is guaranteed to hit those fat stores and move those muscles, right on your doorstep at Birchanger Village Hall.

For your 10 week 'Birchanger Bootcamp' prices are £6 per session and if you pre book 10 sessions you only pay £50, a saving of £10.

Read what others had to say about the 'Birchanger Bootcamp'

"Every session is different, every session is worth it! No matter what your abilities you are made to feel welcome. My fitness has improved dramatically and I feel phenomenally better – I would recommend everyone to come and join in and enjoy Chloe's sessions to decide for yourself" James Dowle.

*"Although the first couple of weeks were hard going, I quickly began to push harder and harder and for the first time actually began to look forward to exercise – gyms were not for me!
You usually work in pairs with a mini group 'competition' towards the end of the session. I find working with others compels you to push and not give in as you may do in a gym environment"* Chris Barrett

Also with Christmas just around the corner perhaps you are looking for a unique gift? You could even purchase a Birchanger Bootcamp Gift Voucher ready to kick start the New Year. Please visit www.fit-with-me.com for details and other services Chloe provides.

Places may be limited so do not leave it too late. Book now for January by calling Chloe 07837664483 or email fit-with-me@orange.net

The 'Birchanger Bootcamp' starts 13th January 2011, 9.30am Birchanger Village Hall.

Birchanger Scouts

"New Years Eve Fundraising Disco"

Dear Village

There will be a fundraising "Family" Disco at the Birchanger Village Hall on Friday 31st December 2010. All proceeds from the night will be donated to The Birchanger Scouts so please come along!

There will be a professional Disco playing music from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and the best of today's well know songs. Your ticket will also be entered into a prize draw so no need to buy a raffle ticket.

Tickets are limited so don't leave it too late!

Adults £6.00, Family £15.00 (2 adults up to 3 children) and don't forget this includes a prize draw!

Tickets can be obtained from Gary or Penny at 278 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, or phone 01279 814075 for availability.

FOOTBALLERS REQUIRED

The Birchanger Veterans football team needs players to continue

Or they will cease to operate in the new year

If you are over 35 and would like to play, please contact Gavin Tooke on any of the following:

01279 656992

07880 525327

gavin@birchangervets.co.uk

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Village Diary December 2010 January 2011

December

- 24th 8.00 pm At the Club
Shanay on Stage
- 25th 11.00 am St Mary's
Christmas day
Family Service
- 26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
- 26th 12.00 At the Club
Whisky Draw
- 31st 8.00 pm At the Club
Music though the Ages

January 2011

- 2nd 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
- 9th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
- 15th 8.00 pm At the Club
Race Night
- 16th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service
- 23rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
- 29th 8.00 pm At the Club
Hit & Run
- 30th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

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