

# Birchanger

June 2010



# Magazine

Issue 90

## YES THEY DID

The end of an era. A significant victory for the communities around Stansted Airport, and a moral boost for those who believe that the ordinary man (and woman of course) in the street can make a difference in the face of big business now that the plans for a second runway at Stansted have been withdrawn

Never mind the fact that BAA's owners Ferrovial are crippled with financial losses due to the recession, Stansted itself is propped up by profits from Heathrow and people are not travelling as much because they cannot afford it, there must be a less serious side to it all

For example, I have it on very good authority (a bloke I met at the Willows called Manny Inthabar) that SSE were scratching their heads wondering what they could possibly do to justify another Burn's night bash (the hall is already booked). It must come as a bit of a shock when the last of the bubbly has been quaffed, to realise that all the power and influence wielded under the banner of SSE may have to be relinquished now the battle had been won. But, in the best possible British tradition of giving a fallen man a really good kick in the ribs, and just in the nick of time, someone came up with the idea to keep on fighting BAA to get the houses that were purchased with compulsory orders back. Never mind the fact that there may shortly be a few BAA execs looking for somewhere to doss down – Shame on you

And what of the people most affected by the BAA back-down in our own village? Julie will have Brian home a lot more (never mind Julie), and most houses in the village will be able to hang the calendars they really want – Well worth the victory I'm sure you will agree!

WELL DONE SSE



SSE's victory sign, off the Stansted road



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Welcome Relief as Second Runway is Finally Axed

Although there were no homes subject to compulsory purchase in Birchanger as a result of the now defunct second runway, there would have been a huge impact on the village, due to the probable final siting of the runway and the construction of Junction 8b which was related to it. A close coupled runway, which BAA were considering would have affected us very badly. The sky line to the East would have been dominated by hotels, industrial buildings and multi storey car parks. Eventually some buildings might have been demolished to accommodate the mammoth roundabout and access roads.

However there have been homes which were compulsorily purchased in what was Birchanger in the past, mainly on the old A120. The blight which the threat of the runway brought impacted in some way, on every home in the village. It would be a huge relief if the expansion to 35 mppa was axed as well as the build up of flights to the permitted number, will increase the noise, and without the second runway provision the flight numbers are very unlikely to remain at 35mppa. Sympathies must also lie with those whose homes were compulsorily purchased and subsequently allowed to rot by BAA. In many cases those who moved had never intended to do so. They felt that they did not need to move given the current number of flights. Many left family homes and relocated to areas they never really wanted to be in. Communities have been lost and may never come together again. There is a great deal to do now to try to restore those communities.

Big business must not be allowed to do this under any planning system. It is the individuals who suffer and who are discounted, whether it is for runways or other major developments. It is time to reform the planning system and to preserve the things that mean the quality of life and needs for the existing community. There may well be areas suitable for major development but picturesque rural Essex is not one of them and must be handled with care.

## Enterprise in Birchanger

Many of us suffer from depression, anxiety, need help with their battle to lose weight or have other problems for which they do need help but do not feel they should be bothering their doctor about. The lady who is the subject of my second article on Enterprise in Birchanger is able to help you with these difficulties and many more besides.

Shirley Austin lives in the centre of Birchanger and is a fully trained counsellor and hypnotherapist who practices from home at times to suit her clients. This means that Shirley is able to offer her services at weekends and in the evenings as well as normal day time hours. She can also help people to overcome what for many are seriously debilitating phobias, to gain confidence in public speaking, pain management, sporting performance improvement neurosis and much more. Initial consultations are free where prospective clients talk through their difficulties and explore how Shirley may be able to help them. You do not need a doctor's letter although there may be a medical questionnaire to complete should you decide to proceed with the treatment. Shirley is bound by professional codes of conduct so that you can be assured that you will be able to talk to her in complete confidence.

Why not speak to Shirley herself on 812474?

## Red Aprons to Prevent Mix Ups

Despite its dismally poor ratings, Basildon Hospital which is our hospital for Coronary Care has come up with a new system to prevent drug mix ups. It is well known that the wrong level of drugs for a particular patient is more likely to be administered when the nurse doing the drug round is interrupted while she is giving out the medicines which are in some cases very complicated.

In an initiative to prevent this, nursing staff engaged in the round will have to wear a red plastic apron, and all patients staff and visitors have been warned not to interrupt the nurse when she is wearing the red apron unless it is a very real emergency.

All wards and units have been issued with the aprons. If the practise proves to be successful it should be used elsewhere in the hospital system and perhaps in care homes as well.

## Remember if You Smell It, Report It

Now we are spending more time outdoors, weather permitting, we are a little bit more conscious of what is happening around us. Not all of it we like.

If you are sitting in a deckchair reading a favourite book or just catching up with yourself when a noisy aircraft disturbs your afternoon, note the time and tell either the airport or Stop Stansted Expansion about it. It does not have to be immediately, they just need to know. After all if the airline is fined, the community will ultimately benefit.

Same goes for the strong smell of kerosene which permeates Birchanger from time to time. They need to know about that as well on the same numbers or email address.

To call BAA 0800 7312385, SSE 870558.

## Have You a Good Picture of Our Countryside Or Listed Buildings?

It is at this time of year that SSE looks for pictures of the area within a few miles of the airport which is affected by the general blight the airport brings. The picture should be a special view, location, or unique spot which is within a twenty or so mile radius of the airport.

You must own the copyright to the picture and the picture should be clear, and if of a building, have the owners' permission that it may be used. For further information call SSE as above.

## Children at Risk

Longer evenings and some improvement in the weather have meant that children are out and about in the village more. It is good to see them in the recreation ground and riding bicycles again, but sadly there is a bit of a problem here.

The school always runs a cycling proficiency course for older children after the SATS tests. However children do ride bikes around the village at much younger ages. This is fine, if the parents have taught them the basics of road safety, including which side of the road is the right one. Some of the children are so young and clearly so new to cycling that it is questionable that they should be allowed unsupervised on the roads at all. Sadly there have been some near misses.

Please make sure your child is safe to cycle unaccompanied before you allow him out on the road. It is your responsibility. The last thing any motorist wants to do is to hurt a child. Despite the suspect minority of bad and speeding drivers in Birchanger, most are good, safe and responsible drivers. When a child suddenly appears on a bend on the wrong side of the road and totally out of control there is very little they can do.

## Beware the Footpaths Behind Birchwood

EDF visited the village last winter to lay cables which will help to eliminate some of the overhead electricity lines which pass through the village. They used a lot of the footpaths and bridle ways for this work. Unfortunately large trench like holes have opened up along these footpaths where the cable was laid, principally the one behind Birchwood which has made it very dangerous. Some parts of the holes are very deep and will be highly dangerous to everyone, particularly anyone on horseback, pushing a buggy or riding a bike. These holes tend to run along the middle of the path. They were reported last month to Essex County council as a matter requiring immediate attention. At the time of writing we are being treated to a full range of excuses as to why they have not been attended to. Even when repaired, dry weather means that they could come back. Take care.

## Abandoned Cars in Birchanger

We seem to have had more than our fair share of these lately, as it seems to be the fashion for people using Stansted Airport to buy a banger, use it to get to the vicinity of the airport only to simply abandon it inconveniently, call a cab and jet away.

Abandoned vehicles which are without a valid tax disc can be reported to the Council on 01799 510510, ask for the Enforcement Team, or by email on [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/untaxed](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/untaxed). Vehicles parked on double yellow lines should also be reported to the council.

Vehicles parked on the pavement where the space left would not accommodate a child's buggy should be reported to the police, as can suspected airport related car parking on 07801 461666. Cars believed to be airport related should also be reported to BAA on 08007312385. They will want to know why you suspect airport related parking. Mostly the motorist is seen unloading bags and calling a taxi. Taxis are not supposed to pick up on the street, so quite often these individuals will give the nearest house number, telling the firm that they will wait outside the house for the cab. Several have been challenged doing just this.

None of the above will be a quick fix. There are various formalities to be gone through before the vehicle is ultimately removed and the car can cause a nuisance for several weeks in some cases. The quickest should be the invalid tax disc as the authority has the power to destroy the car no matter what age it is. Sometimes though it seems that everything is on the side of the offenders even if they do find their car is "remodelled" should they ever turn up to claim it.

## Moorswood Lunch

Hopefully the weather will be kind, but a lunch in aid of Birchanger Church will take place on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>, indoors or outside whatever the weather dictates. Tickets are available from Pam Lee on 815938 or myself on 812793.

## Settees Free to a Good Home

Domestic rearrangements have meant that I have two settees which although not exactly in the prime of life, will be useful for someone who is either starting out or reorganising their own home. For more information call me on 812793.

### Do You Need A Babysitter?

My name is Laura, I am nearly 17 and I am responsible, mature and very child-friendly.  
I live locally in Birchanger Village with my parents and am currently studying for my A-Levels – hence the need to supplement my allowance!

£5-00 per hour

Please call 01279 814 723

Can give character references if required

# School News

## Bird Watch Continues

Class 1 have been monitoring the nest box in the school garden by means of a "magi cam" camera which allows all the activities in the nest box to be seen on a computer in the classroom. The children were amazed to discover that two blue tits had laid a staggering nine eggs. They watched while the female settled down to incubate her eggs, while the male brought her food throughout the day.

Nine eggs were laid in all, it seemed that most of them hatched successfully and the mother could be seen eating the empty shells.

There was an unexpected bonus. A pair of collar doves decided to build a nest in the eaves on the veranda outside the classroom in full sight of the children. They were delighted when two eggs hatched and the mother could be seen feeding her rapidly growing youngsters. Later they watched as the babies learned to walk along the ledge. The mother then stopped feeding them by day and the babies got the message that it was time to go it on their own. All too soon they were gone.

The children and staff alike were all thrilled by the experience of watching nature as it happened and they learned a lot about how the different types of birds manage their nests and families.

## SATS Are Over at Last

The focus for Year 6 as the school year wears on, are the SATS tests, which always start in the second week of May. This year all the children appeared to adopt a calm and realistic approach to the tests, and all enjoyed a special school breakfast of croissants with bacon and eggs cooked by Mrs Williams on the last day.

The PTA paid for a real treat at the end of the week. Year 6 pupils were bussed to the Outdoor Centre at Harlow where they spent the morning in kayaks and exploring their skills on high ropes. Later that day they told everyone about their visit to the theatre to see War Horse, which seems to have made a very big impression on them and left their audience with a desire to see War Horse for themselves.

## Key Stage 1 Children Have Their First Taste of Secondary School

It will be many years before these younger children will face Key Stage 2, but it is never too young to get to know what secondary school can be like when the time comes. Children in Classes 1 and 2 spent the morning attending a multi skills festival at Mounfitchet Maths and Computing college, where taster elements of a wide range of sporting activities were there for them to try in more grown up surroundings. The links with Mounfitchet continued throughout the month when staff visited Birchanger to extend the program further.

## Walk to School Week

Most pupils at Birchanger School live too far away from the school to make walking a realistic proposition. In walk to school week parents were encouraged to leave the car a little further away from the school and walk just that extra bit more. Congratulations to the parents and children who walked all the way to school from their homes in Stansted. At the same time parents are being asked to complete a survey regarding their travel arrangements to school in the hope that this could eventually lead to more car sharing and less polluting ways of getting to school.

## **SUMMER FAYRE**

**Saturday 3rd July  
2pm - 4pm**

**Featuring  
Bocking Concert Brass Band**

**barbecue, refreshments,  
bouncy castle, pony rides  
and lots and lots of  
fun games and stalls**

**Everyone Welcome**



# St Mary's Birchanger

St Mary's Church, Birchanger, is one of the 250 Anglo-Saxon or part Anglo-Saxon churches that survive in Britain. It is built of flint rubble with dressings of limestone and clunch and dates from the Saxo-Norman period (1000 to 1199).



The old South facing doorway was rediscovered during the 1930s and has a carving at the top depicting the Lamb of God with a cross and flag of victory. The Reredos and Holy table are in carved oak, and were installed during 1901.

The church is also the home of the flags of the Birchanger section of the Royal British Legion and Girls Friendly Society.

The church was extended to add the North Aisle and North doorway in 1898 at a cost of £750 that was raised from public subscription. The organ also dates from this time. This was one of the contributions to the village of The Revd William Cam who was perhaps our most significant Rector. The Church yard features our War memorial which was unveiled in 1920 by Gen Sir William Pulteney. The Lych gate was built by Frank Levey in 1956. Around the walls of the church there are various plaques commemorating benefactors to the church itself and also in memory of servicemen not mentioned on the war memorial.

There are fifty-one Rectors listed on two panels at the rear of the church. The first, John De Halsnade was here in 1349 and succeeded by Robert Pendock a year later.

All of Birchanger's Rectors were appointed by New College Oxford except two, Richard Walker in 1560 was appointed by The Bishop of London and our last Rector Thomas Evans-Pughe by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

Today St Mary's is a part of the United benefice of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham. Regular services including Holy Communion are conducted every Sunday and Weddings, Baptisms and Funeral services still take place. The Friends of St Mary's and Parochial church council who continue to raise the funds to keep our church open.

Why not read the full story on the village website [www.birchanger.com](http://www.birchanger.com)



St Mary's in 1857



An unusual view from the South

# FREE SWIMMING LESSONS\*

A great opportunity has arisen for free swimming lessons at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre as part of the Free Swimming programme and in conjunction with the Amateur Swimming Association and Leisure Connection.

## FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Contact Great Dunmow Leisure Centre for more details!

Tel: 01371 878690

### Criteria

- Aged 11 years to 100 years
- Non swimmers or weak swimmers
- One free course per person

Course dates – All courses are 6 hours in length

### Don't miss a great opportunity to...

- *Become more water confident so you can-*
  - *Enjoy swimming on holiday*
  - *Take your kids swimming*
  - *Keep fit by swimming or aquafit*
  - *Take advantage of free swimming if you are 16 years and under or 60 years and over*
  - *Enjoy other water activities like water polo or synchronised swimming*
  - *Feel safe around water*
- *Or improve your swimming technique*

Book yourself and a friend on so you can come to the Pool together and enjoy the experience of learning to swim!

Alternatively, if you are already a confident swimmer but know someone who is unable to swim who would love to learn please pass these details on to them.

### \*Terms and Conditions Apply

## Local Councillor Contact details

Maria Davy (Chair)	01279-816490	mdavypa@btinternet.com
Julia Peachey (Clerk to Parish Council)	01279 503912	juliapeachey1@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Godwin		
District Councillor	01279-812793	stickgo@aol.com
Jayne Devine	01279- 814723	gingerthecat@tesco.net
David Holder	01279 -813393	davidholder3@talktalk.net
Pam Lee	01279-815938	pam.mark2@tiscali.co.uk
Linda Pocklington	01279-812246	Not on e-mail
Ken Wheatley	01279-814678	ken@birchanger.com
Ray Gooding County Councillor	01279-813103	Cllr.Ray.Gooding@essexcc.gov.u

## GEORGE DODSON

We were very saddened to hear of the sad passing of George Dodson on Wednesday 26th May. George had lived in Birchwood for many years with his wife Jill and was well thought of. He served on the Working Men's club committee for almost as many years, particularly on the building and works sub-committee. He will be missed by Jill and his many friends in the village.

# Raising Funds for Breast Cancer Care

My Husband Kevin and our good friends Christine and Paul Grainger, held a very successful Quiz Night in the Village Hall on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The success was measured by both the good time that we all had and the amount of money we raised for Breast Cancer Care – an amazing £494 was taken on the night. This equated to a profit for the Charity in excess of £400 and we are all very grateful for the generosity and good spirits of all those who attended.

The previous Saturday, we had walked with two other friends, for 20 miles starting and finishing at Petworth House, West Sussex. The beautiful South Downs with its undulating countryside, picturesque villages and numerous wooded areas swathed in bluebells helped us forget the length of the walk as we enjoyed our day. Our biggest challenge was to each raise a minimum of £175 each for the Charity. Having undertaken quite a few ventures, including walks and treks in the past and always seeming to be asking for sponsorship money, the Quiz was a great way to help us raise some of the money and at the same have some fun – and fun we had!

Thanks to all those who attended; for your generosity, your high spirits and for helping such a worthy cause. With other sponsorships and ventures, we have now exceeded our target.

Nadia Walters



# Birchanger Boot Camp

It's that time of year where you may be thinking about shaping up for the summer. Putting on the speedo's or swimming costume can give you nightmares, so if you're looking to tone up, improve your fitness or simply feel good I can help!

I have lived in the village for 16 years, I attended Herts & Essex High School and then went onto Canterbury Christ Church University to study Sports Psychology and for the past two years I have been working as a successful personal trainer, with a qualification in GP Referrals. My clients range from 16 up to 70 years of age with varying levels of fitness. A shocking 70% of men and 80% of women over the age of 54 are currently inactive (National Fitness Survey 1999) you can see why fitness experts like myself feel passionate about getting people active. What's more, exercise has proven to improve psychological state and reduce symptoms of depression and increase self-esteem.

The 'Birchanger Boot Camp' is non-military, suitable for men and women of any ability over the age of 16. The programme will start July 1st and will continue every Thursday 9.30-10.30am at Birchanger Village Hall. You are guaranteed to burn fat, tone up and lose weight! This is the perfect opportunity for like-minded people to get together and exercise in a fun environment.

Each class will be £3 per person for a one-hour session. If you would like to become part of Birchanger Boot Camp call Chloe now on 07837664483 to book your place, or more information.

You can also visit [www.fit-with-me.com](http://www.fit-with-me.com) for further services Chloe provides.





## Bada Bing!

*Ristorante italiano*

Freshly prepared Italian food cooked to order

Pizza, Pasta, Complete a la cart menu,  
Special lunch and breakfast menus

**Buon Appetito**

30 Lower Street, Stansted, 01279 813866

## ALL BUILDING AND LANDSCAPING WORK UNDERTAKEN

**FENCING, PAVING, DECKING, DRIVEWAYS, DRAINAGE,  
BRICKWORK, EXTENSIONS AND CONSERVATORIES**

For a local service call Sean on  
07703 115079 or 01279 813818

## Village Diary May/June 2010

June

23rd At the club kick off  
15.00 Slovenia V England

27th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

July

3rd 8.00 pm At the Club  
Race Night

4th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

11th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

17th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Ash

18th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Service

25th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

31st 8.00 pm At the Club  
Karaoke & Disco

## D Bonney & Sons



**Motor Engineers**

MOT TESTING, SERVICING  
DIAGNOSTIC, MECHANICAL REPAIRS

SELECTION OF NEW AND USED CARS

**Yew tree corner Manuden**  
**Ring Malc or Neil on**  
**01279 813315 or 815946**



LAUNDRETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

- \* Open 7 days a week
- \* By Hockerill lights, Bishop's Stortford
- \* large car park Tel 866183



**Café Masala**

*Homestyle Indian &  
Bangladeshi Restaurant*

10% off takeaway orders  
On presentation of this advert  
10 London Road, Bishops Stortford  
01279 505665 01279 505885

## THE THREE WILLOWS

01279 815913



More than just  
your village Pub!

## CLEANER REQUIRED

IN BIRCHANGER

2 TO 3 HOURS PER WEEK

£8 per hour

References essential

Tel 01279 812497

## State Registered Chiropodist

Home Visiting Practice

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Est. 1994

01279 817810

Stansted Mountfitchet

A professional service at a competitive rate



**Beautiful  
Hair**

Look and feel fantastic  
for that special occasion

I am a highly qualified and very  
experienced hairstylist specialising in hair  
design for Weddings and occasions

10% discount for Birchanger Residents

Contact Tina on 07840 995848

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), eddie.gilbey@btinternet.com Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley, Michael Daw Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.