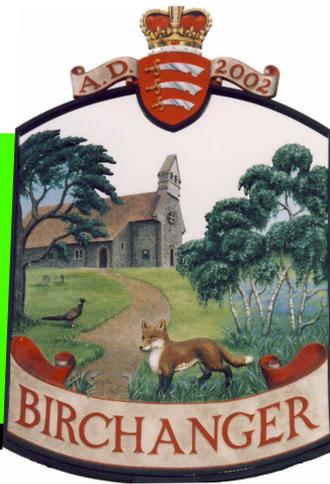


Birchanger

May 2010



Magazine

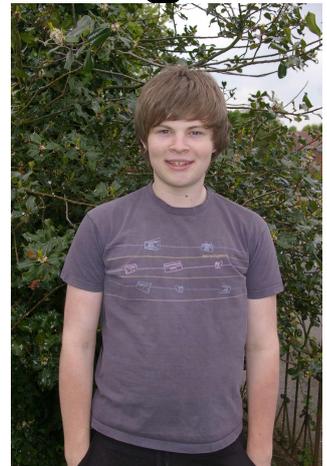
Issue 89

The Youngest Voter in Birchanger

It is a very big event for everyone when they cast their first vote. Sometimes it is a very daunting experience as you wonder which name belongs to which party, especially when you do not know the individuals concerned. It is also an occasion when you feel that at last you are grown up and have your own choices in life.

Possibly the youngest elector to cast his vote in the election was Freddie Haggerwood Bullen who reached his eighteenth birthday three days before the election. Congratulations to him and to all the other first time voters in Birchanger.

Although we did not quite have the queues reported in other areas, polling was brisk particularly in the evening. Across the constituency the rate was 72%, higher than most elections in recent years.



Freddy Haggerwood-Bullen

Enterprise in Birchanger

There are several people living in Birchanger who are running their own business from their home. There are many more who manage to a considerable part of their work at home with only occasional trips to their main office. Utlesford District Council is just one local employer who promotes home working with secure computer links where suitable.

Of the few who actually run a small business from their own home and have actually started from scratch there are few who are so "home grown" as Tim Richards who runs his denture provision and repair service from a log cabin workshop next door to his house.

Tim grew up in the village and after secondary school began training as a dental technician. Not content to work directly for a single practice Tim set up his own business which provides a service to both dental practices and a denture repair service for private individuals.

Tim specialises in the latest in clinically unbreakable flexible dentures. He offers a 1 hour repair service vital, if you break a dental appliance before that important date. He can also relines, add to and alter existing dentures, thereby offering a new and important service to Birchanger residents as well as those further afield.

Tim also invented a new Removable Nylon Bridge System, the first of its kind in the country. Instead of undergoing expensive and invasive dental work Tim can offer a simple nylon bridge with several teeth if required, which simply clicks into place. There is no pressure on the gums, no unwanted palatal coverage and no more unsightly metal. There is very little chance that food debris can get caught in this system. Being made of nylon the system is unbreakable in normal use and contains no unwanted toxins. Above all it is both cost effective and painless. It is so new that some Dental Practices may still be unaware of it. The first person to try this was Tim's mother when she broke a tooth. I can vouch for the system as well, frankly it is brilliant.

To find out more about the system online go to www.thetoothshop.com. Tim can be reached on 647614.

If you run a small business which might benefit Birchanger residents and beyond, please tell me about it on 812793.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Parish Council Chairman retires

Philip Hoy stood down as Chairman of Birchanger Parish Council last month. At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council earlier this month Maria Davey was elected as the new Chairman without opposition. Maria's speciality on the Parish Council has been planning. She will continue to do this as well. She has also been a member of the successful Birchanger Plan team and has taken an active part in its update. We would like to wish Maria well in her new role. Maybe you would like to talk to her about Birchanger and what you would like for the village in the future. Maria can be contacted in 816490.

Parish Council vacancy

The retirement of Philip Hoy from the Parish Council for work reasons has meant that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. The successful candidate would have a position on the Parish Council until the next elections in a year's time. It is a good time to start as a year is long enough to see whether the role is for you as well as to learn a great deal about how the Parish Council works. If you are interested you can call Birchanger Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 503912 and I am happy to talk about the role of Parish Councillor and just what it involves on 812793.

Litter pick done for us this time

Unexpectedly Uttlesford District Council conducted a litter pick throughout Birchanger Lane on the day after the Annual Parish Council Meeting when the state of the lane had been discussed. It had been decided to accept the offer from the Probation Service to arrange a litter pick. Sadly the litter idiots are at it again. The little deposits of neatly tied bags with their unspeakable content are again littering the lower part of the lane. No doubt someone is trying to get rid of something they don't want seen before they get home or they may simply be too lazy to put it in their own bins. Either way, they and the other litter lovers are a nuisance to everyone. It seems that very shortly we shall have to arrange a litter pick one way or the other whether it is ourselves, the Probation Service or the District Council who has to do it. In theory, nobody should have to do it at all. Apologies for the misunderstanding in last month's issue of the magazine. The litter pick was to be arranged on March 31st and carried out later in the Spring.

Recreation ground was a no go area again

The weather is warmer and it does not take long before the Recreation Ground once again becomes an area for drinking and unable to hold their drink, the participants smashed bottles and worse.

It is totally unfair that a place where young children play should be abused in this way. Sadly it does seem on occasions to be linked to events in the Church Hall. This is not the fault of the Church and on some occasions it seems to be beyond the party organisers to control their events in the hall as well, try as they may.

It is for this reason that police patrols will be stepped up in the village on nights when the hall is booked for certain events. Nobody wants a child to be injured in the Recreation Ground after such an incident and this could very easily have happened last month, but for the prompt intervention of a member of the Parish Council. It is also very unfair to expect anybody to have to clear up the truly disgusting mess. In an ideal world the perpetrators would be hauled from their beds and made to do it themselves.

Footpath maps are available

The weather is better at last and many people are finally able to contemplate the great outdoors of Birchanger again. Yes we do have footpaths to walk and Linda Pocklington who is the member of the Parish Council for footpaths walks these regularly.

It is possible to walk all the Essex County Council footpaths from Birchanger. I have done so using an ordnance survey map. Copies of the Birchanger parish Footpaths are available for a small sum to cover photocopying from Julia Peachey our Parish Clerk on 503912.

There is an experiment on the M11

How often have you found yourself following a pair of lorries, one of whom is attempting to overtake the other? Sometimes the overtaking lorry never achieves its ambition and the traffic is stacked up behind resulting in frustration all round.

The Highways Agency has started an experiment on the M11 to run for an unspecified period, whereby overtaking will be banned for all northbound lorries on the stretch of the motorway between Junction 8 and Junction 9 where there are the steeper hills. A shorter stretch of the southbound section will also be included.

It will be interesting to see if this works, or whether the lorry drivers decide to ignore the whole idea. If you use this section of the M11 while the experiment runs, please tell us about your experiences and what you think.

Home quiet home

Well it lasted for 6 blissful days. It was wonderful to have a telephone conversation without interruption, a good night's sleep and to hear the birds. Of course there was still the motorway, the noisy bikers, the neighbours and the guilt felt through enjoying all of this peace when others, including

members of the family, were having a terrible time trying just to get home and spending money they either did not have or if they did, it was earmarked for something else. It was just nice to be woken by birds for a change. People seemed to feel free of the tension which the proximity of a busy airport seems to bring. I never thought I would be grateful to a volcano in a remote area in Iceland! Sadly everything has a price these days.

Magic or menace

We've all seen them, those sleek little sports jobs with drop down lines go faster stripes and Italian styling. In case you have the wrong idea, I am actually referring to boy's toys or sleek and not so sleek souped up sports cars. Sadly it is the not so sleek but intensely dangerous variety which we seem to see most of around here.

If we are lucky we just hear them, but there are an increasing number of people living in Birchanger who have experienced near death at the hands of these inexperienced and inconsiderate young men. Maybe it is funny to injure someone or kill someone's pet, child grandmother or friend, but what if it was yours? Would it be funny then? I hope it never happens but I am being told of incidents where it has come very close indeed and people have been traumatised then angered by their experience. Birchanger is full of bends and the lane is narrow. Do these people think they have the ability to see round corners and to stop in time?

They may say you do something about it. What? Are they going to pay? Speed humps are not only pricey but are mainly being phased out and I cannot think of ways to get around the problems of the bends. Even basic gang culture demands respect, it is perceived by everyone to be a human right, but where is these people's respect for anyone other than themselves? Totally absent it seems. What do you think about it? Are you happy to let things wait until the current generation has grown up a bit? Will the new generation be any different? Sometimes if you suspect someone close do you is possibly involved, is it not better to tackle the situation at home first?

The Birchanger Art Exhibition returns with attractions

The Open Gardens Group will be staging the Birchanger Art Exhibition again this September. Artists from Essex and Hertfordshire will be invited to display their work at the Church Hall on Saturday September 4th and Sunday September 5th. There will also be an opportunity to purchase the paintings over the course of the weekend.

In addition to this the Church will also be open where there will be a floral display as well as the chance to take part in the photographic competition which will be held there for the first time. There will be three entry categories. One for primary school children the next for 12-18year olds and one for adults. There is no particular subject matter and entries can be submitted to the Church Hall or the Church after 5pm on Friday 5thSeptember.

The Turnip Prize will also be back. This became a major attraction last time and is your chance to create something rather different in the spirit of the Turner Prize. Almost anything goes with this and there some very good entries last time. Entries can be submitted on Friday 3rd or at 10.30 on the 4th. It is open to all ages and there are two categories, one for adults the other for children. It is time to let the imagination range.

The exhibition will run daily between 11am and 5pm. There will be a stall selling homemade produce. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Call for pictures

Stop Stansted Expansion is keen to hear from people locally with any good quality photos of houses, landscapes and landmarks across Herts and Essex and South Suffolk and South Cambridgeshire for its 2011 Community Calendar and Christmas card.

Landscape format is preferred and high resolution is essential. Photos must be your own work and you must still own the copyright. Groups of pictures from the same village or town are especially welcome.

If you think you can help, please email digital pictures to info@stopstanstedexpansion.com with a short caption to describe the location and any relevant information, and remember to include your contact details. If sending prints (not negatives) from film, please post them to Peter Riding at SSE, PO Box 311 Takeley, Bishop's Stortford CM22 6PY and include your contact details so we can return them later.

For more information, please contact Peter Riding at the SSE campaign office on 01279 870558 or via the above email address.

Reporting noisy aircraft and aviation fuel smells

While many are aware of the system for reporting noisy aircraft using the Stop Stansted Expansion website, still more have been unaware that it's also possible to report strong smells of aviation fuel which occasionally drift across the community.

The increasing frequency of reports about these odours means the campaign is keen to gather as much information as possible about who is affected and when so that appropriate action can be taken.

As with aircraft noise, to log your concerns about fuel smells use the online form at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com (see link to 'complain about noise/fuel smells') which ensures that SSE receives a copy of your report to BAA and enables the campaign's technical advisers to make its own enquiries too.

Help Needed.

There are some elderly people living in Birchanger who find bus travel difficult, but who would like to go to the Stansted Day Centre for lunch on occasions if lifts could be arranged. Not only does the Day Centre provide a good lunch but there is also time for social contact which for many is sorely missing.

If you can help, even if only on an irregular basis, please let me know on 812793.

School News

Can you help our children to attain cycling proficiency?

The school is looking for a volunteer to lead a Cycling Proficiency Course later in the Summer Term. This will involve a commitment of 2 hours a week after school for 6 weeks. The volunteer will be trained on the job as they work with the children and will need to take an enhanced CRB Check. There is a small remuneration for the volunteer when trained.

If nobody is found, there will not be a Cycling Proficiency Course this year.

Celebrating Britain week

The school celebrates many occasions throughout the school year, but has not yet had a week when everyone simply celebrated Britain. The first day of term was busy with preparations for the 21st which was also the Queen's birthday. The children all took part in a "Royal Day" when everyone came to school dressed in red, white and blue. They learned about our Royal Family and their role in Britain today.

The focus on the rest of the week was around St George's Day and the celebrations. The children were busy rehearsing for the event which was open to all. The evening was sunny and warm which meant that children, parents and friends could enjoy a picnic of fish and chips, with a licensed bar, before moving into the hall to watch the St George's Day entertainment and an auction of promises. The events have raised around £500 for the school.

Class 4 Enjoy a Superb Trip.

Every year there is a school trip which lasts 3-4 days and has usually been to an activity centre in the country. The trip at the end of April was very different.

Class 4 boarded a coach on the last Tuesday in April for a trip to the Baden Powell Hostel in London for four days sightseeing and discovering the sights of London for themselves.

In the four days they managed a trip to the Cabinet War Rooms and the Imperial War Museum where they met an octogenarian who told the children just what it was like in world war 2. He showed them his ration book and recounted his wartime experiences. The children then went round a three bedroom house which was kept in the way it would have been in the forties. They visited an underground shelter, and joined in the songs that people sang in the shelters as the bombs were falling.

There was a trip to Tate Modern, a River Cruise which ended in Greenwich with a visit to the National Maritime Museum and a show and the newly refurbished Planetarium.

There was the full London experience, but for some it may well be the visit to the theatre to see War Horse which will be the outstanding memory of the trip.

The children behaved at their best throughout the trip which they will revisit in school in the weeks to come.

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

Feet fit for Birchanger

Please join me in welcoming a new advertiser to the fold, and this addition could be a real below the ankle pleasure for villagers, because Julie Golden is a chiropodist looking to bring her soothing arts to us all

Julie offers a home visiting service in this area which makes sense when you think about it - If your plates of meat are hurting, why would you want to walk to a foot doctor? Anyway Julie, who has lived in Stansted for 10 years, has been a State Registered Chiropodist (S.R.ch) for 26 years (the State Registered bit is important as it means Julie is qualified to work in the NHS - not all chiropodists are you know) and has been self employed since she left the health service

Julie's services include the full range, from corns and callouses through to specialised care for diabetics and she is willing to work evenings and weekends to fit round busy schedules

As you know, the magazine relies on advertisers to keep going so, if you do contact Julie for an appointment, remember to mention where you saw the name

Good luck Julie



It's Springtime

It is that time of year when the fields and hedgerows are at their most lively and out walking recently a villager pointed out to me that there was a Foxes earth with cubs close to where we were so naturally I went and took a look.



Watching me, watching you

Given that I have lived in the village for most of my life you may be surprised to learn I had never seen fox cubs in the wild before but there they were, three of them, playing in the sunlight, until they spotted me and scampered off into the nearest hole in the ground.

So later I returned, armed with my trusty Pentax and telephoto lens. This time I approached with a good deal more caution and watched the cubs for about an hour. They were not easy to photograph as they spent most of their time obscured by vegetation. Fox cubs have very good hearing and were unsettled by the click of the shutter but their curiosity meant that once disturbed they soon returned to check out the disturbance.

They were happy to ignore me so long as I did not move but once I had some good shots I left them in peace. In the meantime I have also spotted the parents who kept their distance as you would expect. These cubs

were four to six weeks old just turning from dark brown to red and still rely on their mother's milk. If they survive for six months they will become indistinguishable from their parents.

Fox cubs have about a one in five chance of survival to adulthood, while adults rarely live beyond three years. Rural foxes mostly live on rabbit but will take rodents, birds and even invertebrates.

I realise that not everyone shares my ambivalent attitude to foxes so I won't reveal their actual location but I am told that there is at least one other earth in the village with similar occupants.



Ha ha! Got-cha

Clare's Coffee Morning and Mini bazaar

As you will have read in the March issue of the Birchanger magazine my daughter Clare is undertaking the task of the Sahara desert walk, in November, in memory of her dad Nick. Clare with the backing of Steve her husband is funding the whole trip herself. Therefore all money raised by her will go to bowel cancer research, already people have been generous on her just giving site for which we are very grateful.

To help raise as much money as we can we are organising a coffee/tea/mini bazaar at Birchanger church hall on Saturday 12th June from 10.30 until 3.00 pm, we will have a raffle, book stall, cakes, bric-a-brac, toys and children's clothes many of these are as good as new. We have unused gift sets and jewellery that would make good presents for birthdays etc. Even if there's nothing we can tempt you with, if you have five minutes to spare please just pop in have a tea or coffee and wish Clare good luck, as moral support is also very important for this sort of task.

Carol Yeoman

News from St Mary's

Easter Lunch

Last month saw the Social Club become the venue for our Easter Lunch with 37 roast dinners and desserts being served by Kim and her able team. The food was lovely, especially the lemon meringue pie. Everyone told me how much they had enjoyed their meal and I have already been asked if we shall be using the Club again. I have replied that this is a decision for the Club Committee but I hope that this can become a regular event. As an added bonus, the raffle raised over £100 for church funds.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Plant Sale

It's that time of year and I confirm that bedding and perennial plants are now on sale in my garden - 4 Harrisons - at reasonable prices. I am also filling hanging baskets for anyone who would like to let me have their empty ones (cost between £7 and £11 depending on basket size).

Song Cycle - 12th June 2010 at 7/7.30pm

It is not often that we have evening entertainment in church but for this event, we welcome back Richard and the boys who have their own unique style of singing. Tickets available now from Pam Lee £10 including cheese and wine supper. Call 07702171744.

Our Own London Marathon Heroine

Joanna Lamprell had never done the London Marathon before, so it was a new experience to sign up for her chosen charity, Medics, and spend several arduous months training for last month's event.

Jo completed the course in an amazing 4 hours 22 minutes and earned some £2,500 for medics in the process.

Jo ran all the way, resisting the temptation to walk. The lowest point was the long trek through the Isle of Dogs which has the reputation of defeating even the most experienced marathon athletes. The crowds gave encouraging support for most of the way although there are parts of the route where support is thin. Joanna actually wanted to carry on running after she had completed the course. Daughter Grace took Jo's medal to school to show her class with great pride. Jo plans to do it all again another year.

Congratulations. Anybody else want to try it another year?

Our Scout Group Needs A New Leader

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM BIRCHANGER SCOUT TROOP

It is with regret that from week commencing 1st June 2010, I will no longer be able to run the Birchanger Scout Troop as Leader.

Due to a change in my working shift pattern, I will only be available 2 out of every 5 weeks and therefore I cannot give a weekly commitment to the group.

To avoid closing the Scout section at Birchanger at the end of May 2010, we are now desperately in need of some new people willing to take on this role. If you are interested or willing to give it a go we would be very grateful and thankful to hear from you. It is also not necessary to keep it to Friday evenings as we could possibly boost our numbers by meeting on a different night.

I will be only too pleased to help your transition into this role and give assistance whenever possible.

Please contact me (Trevor) 01279 812994

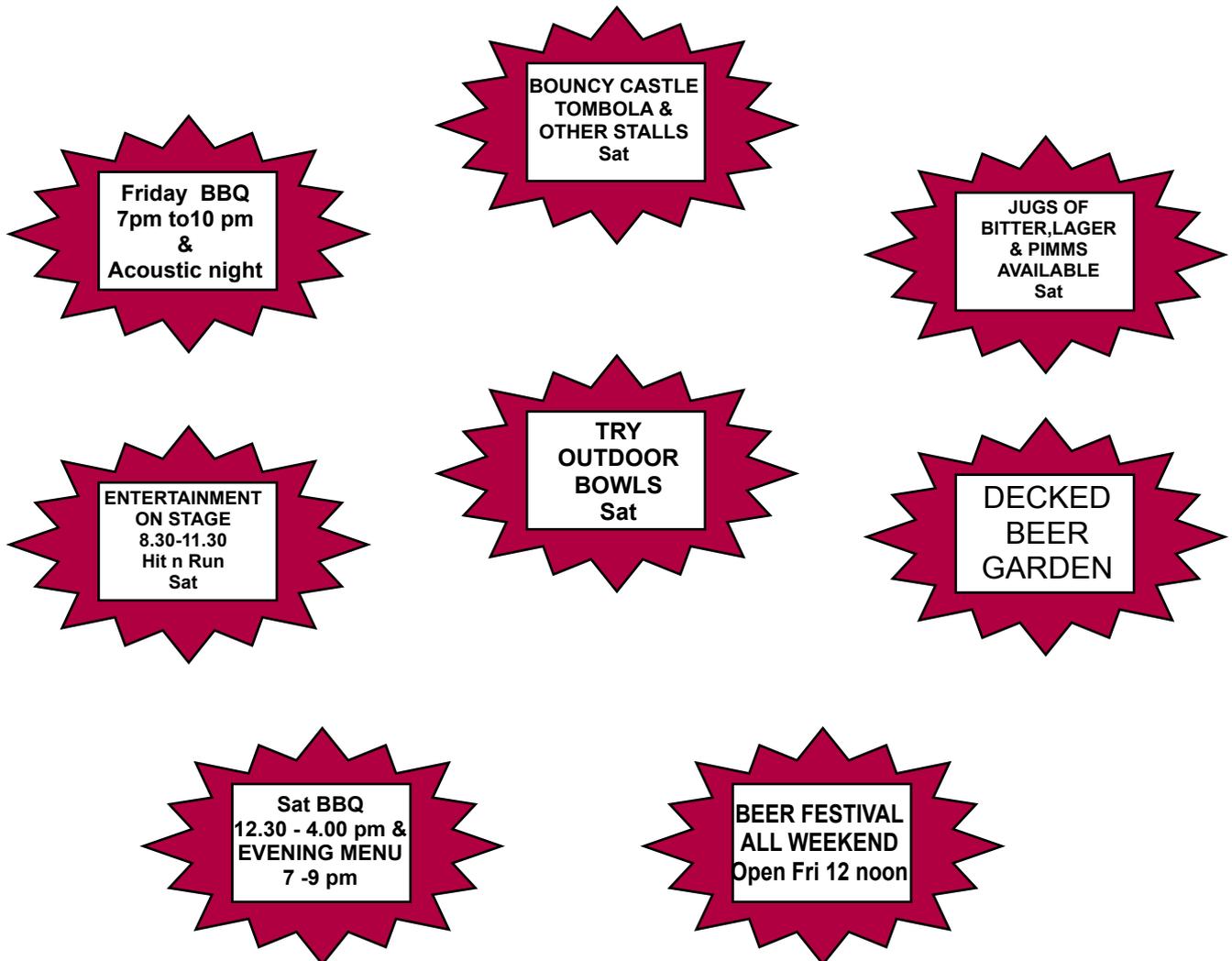
Many Thanks

Trevor Stone

BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

OPEN DAY 29th MAY and BEER FESTIVAL 28th to 30th MAY

For all existing and potential new members
For further details ring 01279 813441



Members from the various sections of the club will be available to discuss and answer any questions you may have
FOOTBALL, BOWLS, CRICKET, SNOOKER, CRIB, DARTS ETC

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.

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Village Diary May/June 2010

May

23rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

28th/30th At the Club
Beer festival weekend

28th At the Club
BBQ & Acoustic night

29th At the club All Day
Open Day
8.00 pm Hit n Run

30th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

June

5th 8.00 pm At the Club
Prize Bingo

6th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

12th At the Club kick off
19.30 England V USA

13th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

18th At the Club Kick off
19.30 England V Algeria

20th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

23rd At the club kick off
15.00 Slovenia V England

27th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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Home Visiting Practice

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

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