

Birchanger

October 2010



Magazine

Issue 94

EAST HERTS TO ANNEX BIRCHANGER

The consultation which was launched by East Herts Council as they begin to formulate their new Local Development Framework Plans, includes great tracts of Birchanger and Farnham, but was not distributed properly in either village. Some of the options show intense housing development right up to Birchanger Lane and similarly large incursions into Farnham and Great Hallingbury.

It is hard to believe East Herts District Council. Just what are they thinking about? Parking all their unwanted housing in Birchanger and other villages in Uttlesford! Do they think we will ever agree to this incursion into the Green Belt? Do they not have enough land of their own to use? Have they actually bothered to check the validity of the housing numbers imposed upon them in the first place? What happened to the principle of no coalescence between county and settlement boundaries?

These are just a few of the questions raised by those in Birchanger who did have sight of the documents when East Herts went out to consultation on their latest Local Development Framework proposals. None of the villages or districts involved in the out of area land grab was consulted prior to publication and it came as a shock to them as well as the officers of Uttlesford's planning department.

Each district now has their own housing numbers to resolve and to provide for. Since the coalition came into power, these are no longer imposed by government. They are not expected to accommodate neighbouring districts in any way. Why East Herts seem to think it is ok to dump their problems with us is a total mystery. They will even impinge onto Birchanger Wood which was originally bought by seven councils for public enjoyment in perpetuity. The proposals would bring housing right into Birchanger, Farnham and Great Hallingbury. Just who do they think they are? Have they actually bothered to question the validity of their housing numbers in the first place?

Rarely have planning proposals seemed so outrageous and unnecessary anywhere. The reasons behind this could be very worrying. Is their ultimate aim to include all of these areas, with Stansted and the airport into Hertfordshire? We did not like this some years ago. We are less likely than ever to want this now.

Every home in East Herts has the consultation documents. Despite the fact that we seem to be included in the plans the majority of us have not been included in the consultation. We can include ourselves by writing to East Herts Council or by viewing the proposals on <http://eastherts-consult.limehouse.co.uk> and responding directly to East Herts.



Just another meeting for the planning committee
Or a final territorial demand in Uttlesford?

BURGLARS TARGET STANSTED ROAD

Burglaries are coming very close to home. In broad daylight on October 13th between about 3 and 3.30 pm two houses in Stansted Road were burgled. Cash was taken in each case but the worst thing was the damage which was done to each property. At the time of writing, the way the intruders smashed their way in will cost each home owner in excess of £500.

It is bad enough coming back to a house which has been burgled without discovering that they have trashed the place as well. Please report anything which is strange or unusual straight away on 07801 461666. We need to catch these people. The next home to be attacked could be yours.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Will Stansted be the airport for the Olympics?

Brace yourselves Birchanger. The period around the Olympics is likely to be a very busy one for the Airport. With Heathrow accepting only scheduled flights, Gatwick with very little charter capacity in the summer, City Airport closed during the time the games are on it seems we are back in the frame big time for a period of about two months from mid July to mid September 2012.

Not only can we expect the athletes to pass through Stansted Airport, we can expect high volumes of cargo, plane loads of VIPs and even equestrian teams to pass through the airport at any time day or night.

Pressure on air space at this time will be huge, but how the rail service will cope does not bear thinking about. It barely copes now. To make matters worse everyone will have to use public transport to access the Olympic sites unless they have a disabled badge. There is no public car parking at the venues.

For the Olympic period the normal life of a British summer will be turned upside down. Holiday companies are unsure how many people will actually want to travel during this period. Employers are worried that too many staff will want to take their summer holidays to be Olympic volunteers, while those in work may be encouraged to work from home just to ease the congestion on the transport system.

There are likely to be designated Olympic traffic lanes on all the main roads to the Olympic Venues. Number plate recognition cameras will have the technology to ensure that all those without the correct Olympic designation tags will receive a three point fixed penalty in the post. It worked in Beijing. It will happen here.

It is not all bad news. We will be putting on a show to astound the world, we hope, it is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and there may just be an opportunity for those with space in their home to make some money as well. Everyone coming to the UK will need somewhere to sleep and it is unlikely that there will be enough accommodation in the normal supply to meet the need. It is a golden opportunity to rent out the spare room and perhaps offer breakfast as well.

Interested? There is someone who has run a Bed and Breakfast service for many years. Her name is Annie Adams and she would be happy to advise anyone who is considering providing a bed and breakfast service during the Olympics and is happy for you to contact her on.

I was originally delighted to learn that we had won the Olympic bid. I certainly never even began to realise what it would all mean. I am coming to suspect that those behind the successful bid are on a rapid learning curve as well.

Citizen's panel tells Uttlesford what we think of them

Uttlesford District council is always anxious to know what the public think about the services provided by the council. Last year they set up a panel of 500 residents chosen at random to answer questions about the way they see the council is being run and giving their opinions on the things which they feel to be most important. From the results for 2010 most people want to see the council remaining financially sound and giving value for money. They wanted more enforcement against environmental crime such as fly tipping and abandoned cars. Improving the health and safety of the community through working with the police and health authorities was rated as important, as was developing a well motivated and performing workforce. Recycling was rated highly as was opposition to further expansion at Stansted Airport.

Most people accepted that council tax would rise along with inflation, but over 56% felt less money should be spent on councillors, the various committees and public meetings. The council should be spending less money on the right to buy council houses service. Does this mean that people are starting to think that council houses should remain in the council sector?

Do you provide care to someone on a regular basis?

Carers are among the most hard working and overlooked people in our society. Many people give care freely to someone on a regular basis but have no idea that they could be eligible for support in their caring role.

Carers are entitled to a Social Care Assessment even if the person being cared for has declined this. If it is deemed appropriate carers may be offered domestic help, equipment loans, home adaptation and respite breaks from their caring role.

You may also be entitled to a Carers Allowance and other benefits. You can find out more from the Citizens Advice Bureau on 655363 and from Uttlesford Crossroads on 01799 513496.

Could you befriend someone who is elderly and alone?

If you lose a partner the world becomes a very lonely place, even if you do have family and friends around you. It is particularly bad when you are older as you often find you now live totally alone with family too far away to visit regularly. What many older single householders would like is a friend who would visit or phone them on a regular basis. No housework, shopping or gardening is expected, simply a friendly chat from somebody who cares.

All volunteers will be expected to undertake CRB checks and training will be provided.

It may be that you or someone you know would benefit from this service. If you do or would like to volunteer to become a befriender please contact Age Concern Essex who co-ordinate the service on 01245 346106.

We need a volunteer to help us through the fuel maze

We are besieged on an almost daily basis by people who claim to be offering us the cheapest heating deals, the best insulation, grants available, and advice on how to meet the bills at the end of the winter. In fact we need our own home grown expert.

The Citizens Advice Bureau would like us to have one too and are prepared to train someone resident in Birchanger to provide this service to Birchanger residents. They are offering a free four hour training session which will provide the volunteer to show us how to read our bills and compare different prices.

They will also provide information on cold weather and winter fuel payments, grants and schemes introducing the energy rebate scheme, switching suppliers with after switch support as well as managing fuel arrears. If you think you are able to do this as a small service to Birchanger please call me on 812793.

The Cubs and Scouts would like to help you!

Have you any small jobs which the cubs and scouts might be able to help you with? We have some 30 odd Birchanger Cubs and Scouts in the village now under the new leadership of Sarah Wellard and Barry Brown and they would like to help in the Birchanger community.

Work could include work in our community areas or helping the elderly in some way. You may have just the right job for them or know of some support which is needed which the scouts could easily provide.

If you do have any ideas, please call Sarah on 813551 or Barry on 813125. It seems I frequently ask for help for various things, maybe this is a chance to actually get things together.

Insulation installed

After some 9 months I now have state of the art free insulation in the accessible parts of my loft. This is not the insulation I would have given myself, but really is something very much superior.

My pipes have been insulated as has my cold water tanks. My loft hatch has been covered with a deep insulating layer and there is draught proofing around the edges. Small hooks ensure it is a tight fit.

One small piece where a leak was suspected has been left, but the necessary insulation to cover this when the job is finally done has been provided. It is important that the loft is leak proof as the new insulation tends to swell when wet and causes the ceiling to bulge or to collapse altogether. The loft also remains well ventilated, another very important fact when insulation is of a high standard. The only thing I am currently waiting for are the panels to slide behind the radiators, for which I have already paid.

Things are moving forward in the world of insulation all the time. There is news of a new machine which will blow insulating granules into hard to reach places and thinner wall liners which are just as effective as the thicker wall insulation. Not all of these will be free to those on benefit or the elderly yet.

This loft insulation cost me nothing and it is well worth the wait. The downside is that those older or disabled may find the task of completely clearing their lofts a task too far. This is the downside of the project as those who would benefit from the scheme most, need more than just free materials and labour to actually be able to use it without the help of friends and family.

My insulation was installed for free by the Gas Board. To find out more and whether the scheme will work for your home, call them on 07789 575669. I do have a leaflet which will tell you more about the scheme.

Two more scams

You must all be fed up with me always bleating on about the latest con tricks which could befall us, but these two are new, very real and causing the police and District Council high concern.

The new scam has two forms and takes place in isolated spots. The victims are lone drivers, more often female. The first scam is for the villains to place a highly lifelike dummy of a baby by the side of a road. Sure enough these totally unscrupulous individuals do not have too long to wait before a single female stops in concern, only to find that she is assaulted and robbed for her concerns. In the second raw eggs are thrown at the car's windscreen. This will make the individual immediately react by switching on their wipers to clear the screen. If this happens to you do not use the wipers or stop. This is just what the criminals want you to do as they will rob you as you clear your car and be gone before you realise what has happened.

Burglary seems positively old fashioned these days and I am sorry to have to keep bringing you these tales which are happening all around us now.

School News

School clubs for this Autumn Term are now well under way with a wealth of options to choose from. These include the Ukulele club complete with a large supply of ukuleles to borrow, a Christian Club known as Time Out, Tag Rugby, Cheerleading, Athletics, (yes that is the right spelling) and the ever popular Breakfast Club, Cookery Club, Choir and Football. The Multi Skills Club is run on Fridays which means that the majority of the children have something special to do for an hour after school every day of the school week.

Most of the clubs are free with 75 pence charged for breakfast and £3 for the Football Club which includes professional coaching. Clubs do vary from term to term to increase the options to learn a new skill even further.

Thinking of those less fortunate

Each class had two large cardboard boxes to fill with items such as sugar dried pasta, rice or tinned tomatoes to send to struggling families in Eastern Europe. The children themselves decided which of these their box would contain and the exercise helped to remind the children that not everyone is as well off as we are in this country.

Raising cash from unwanted textiles

There have been opportunities for families to clear out their cupboards when each child was issued with a special plastic bag by the PTA to fill with unwanted items of clothing, bags, shoes and soft toys to provide an ultimate cash amount from a registered collector of 40p per kilo or £400 per ton for the school. This provided an excellent opportunity to raise money to benefit the school while hopefully the unwanted items will go to those who really need them.

Christmas shoe boxes needed now

The Christmas Shoe Box scheme which sends a shoe box full of small Christmas gifts to children who might otherwise be facing a Christmas without presents is being operated at the school again this year. Although the boxes are collected at the school everyone in the village is invited to make up a box of presents to brighten Christmas morning for a child in another part of the world, whose Christmas is very different from ours. Boxes should be decorated and filled with small gifts for either a girl or boy. The age range of the gifts should also be marked on the outside, such as 5-7 or 7-10 to ensure that they are given out to the appropriate recipients. They should be delivered to the school by October 29th.

Nature watch

Watch out there's a buzzard about!

A family of three buzzards have been seen patrolling the skies at the southern end of the village. Buzzards are the most common of Britain's large birds of prey but they are rare in this part of the country. They are dark brown in colour with grey undersides being somewhat larger than crows or rooks with a short body and a fan shaped tail.

Each of us can help the fight against terrorism

Yes it really can come down to the little everyday things which people hate to bother the police about, but which can be vital in the prevention of an act of terrorism. Even the smallest variation from normal, the mildly suspicious act can all add up to a major incident. Reporting these small deviations can result in a massive saving of lives.

Operation Fairway is a multi agency team whose whole purpose is to investigate every reported suspicious act and to discover and apprehend the growing number of terrorists who are operating across the UK. Their message is, if you suspect it, no matter how small the suspicion may be, report it. Trust your own instincts, don't rely on others to report it for you. There is a dedicated phone number for you to use, your call will be listened to and will be investigated. We are in a time of high alert. The information you give could save many lives. It has happened already.

The number to call is 0800 789321. At Fairway they rely on hearing from you.

Alice Mabel Tilstone

1915 - 2010

Alice was born in Birchanger and died in July aged 94 years. She was born Alice Mabel Banks and had four younger brothers Ernie, Fred, Bill and Peter.

Her mother was a cook at the rectory and her Father, at 21 years old had a tragic accident when working on a farm, he fell off a hay left and broke his back. He was disabled and became a road sweeper.

Alice went to the local school and worked at the match factory making Christmas crackers. She recalled her job was to put the "snap" in the inner part of the cracker and sometimes the snaps would touch each other and set fire to her fingers. She later worked at a laundry and at the Three Willows for George and Ida Schofield.

She met Ernie (tango) Tilstone whilst working at the match factory, Ernie was in the Royal Engineers at the time. They were married by special licence on a bitterly cold January day in 1940. Mum said her outfit was a light grey Astrakan belted coat, a blue Andorra hat with navy shoes and gloves. While Ernie wore a navy suit with a white shirt and blue striped tie. Their wedding night was spent in London at "Aunt Nell's"

Alice and Ernie lived at 19 Forebury way, which was later renamed 309 Birchanger lane. Where they had four children. Ernie used to have a motorbike and sidecar and later a reliant robin to take mum and the family out in. Their family grew up and eventually Alice and Ernie moved to their bungalow in Birchwood.

Over her ninety four years Alice saw many changes to the village. Her own home originally had a tin bath and an outside lavatory.

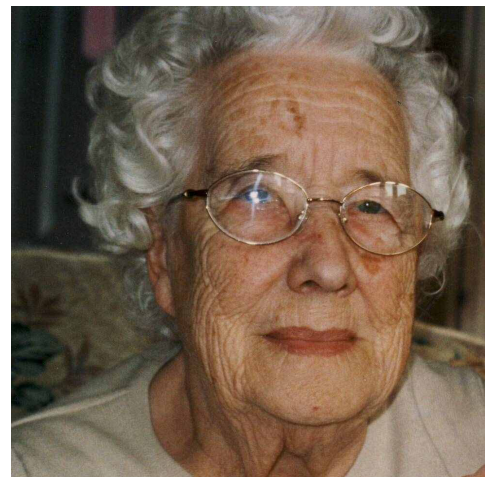
The area beyond Duck End was known as "Spots Water" where a stream ran under a small bridge, it was later redeveloped and the roundabout and a new, road into the village was built. A large house named Blacklands eventually became the Stansted Manor Hotel and is now a Travelodge.

Alice saw the disappearance of the Three Horseshoes public house, the Post office and general stores and a second shop Cedar stores at the entrance of Birchwood.

The Working Men's club had numerous extensions and Stewards and of course the introduction of lady members. She was a member of the over sixties and went to the local bingo.

Alice outlived her brothers and also her husband and a son and at the age of ninety went on her first long flight to the USA to visit her grandson's family.

Sadly her ill health forced her to leave Birchanger two years ago to live in a care home at Copford to be, nearer her family. She passed away, in July at the nursing home with her family around her. She is remembered by many especially those neighbours and friends who knew her throughout her lifetime.



Alice Tilstone 1915 -2010

Sally Tilstone

Deliverer required

We need a new deliverer for Birchanger Lane to cover the Cottage guest house and all the way from there on both sides of the road to the Gower barn opposite the Social club. There are approximately 45 copies to deliver and the delivery will take a fit person about 30 to 40 minutes. The current deliverer Michael Smith will be taking over the High View round from Dee Holder who is moving out of the village. If interested please contact Trevor Stone on 812994 or the Editor 816171. We offer our thanks to Dee and David for all of their help delivering to High View. I also offer my thanks to Mick Daw who has stepped down from the editorial committee.

News from St Mary's

The Harvest auction which took place on the 22nd August was again a success raising a wonderful £400 for church funds. Many thank to all who took part, those who kindly donated items to sell and to Birchanger's own Sports and Social club for the use of its premises. Events like this present an opportunity for villagers to meet with our Rector, Paul in a social setting and have some fun together. We will do it again next year.

Hair do's - A local hairdresser has volunteered to help raise money for the church by coming to Birchanger Wednesday afternoon 27th October to do wash and blow dry (£10) or cut/wash and blow dry (£15). Rosemary Saward has agreed that we can use her home at Bradley Common as the venue. Anyone interested should speak with either Rosemary Saward or Pam Lee - if there are enough people then we will arrange appointments on a first come first served basis.

Organist

We really do need someone local to play our Auguste Gern 3 French manual organ and if you know of anyone who can play the organ or piano, we would be please to speak with them. The organ is unique being the only one left in the world in original condition and we are doing all that we can to keep it in a reasonable condition and have just secured a grant for £2,000 towards overhauling costs.

The young lad from Hockerill college who had been playing the organ on Sunday mornings now has a scholarship to Cambridge so he cannot be with us anymore. Jo Sherriff is still playing at our Family Services and Mr Martin still helps out when he can but it would be nice if there were a third person helping out on one or two Sundays each month.

Sorry that the Gala Harvest Evening had to be cancelled but insufficient interest was shown.

Christmas Bazaar - 20th November

Please make a note of this date in your diary.

20 mph in the village?

I would love to see a 20 mph speed limit imposed on the whole of Birchanger Lane. Negotiating the lane during busy periods can be pretty hair raising as there are often cars speeding around the bends. Even more scary are the buses that never slow down, and that seem to need the whole of the road in order to negotiate the bends along the lane. Larger vehicles such as the 4 x 4's often seem to want more than their fair share of the road and I have often been forced to slow down and drive against the bushes along the lane, scratching the sides of the car in order to get past them with any safety as, again, they are often going much too fast. Particularly hazardous is the blind bend by Bradley Common where cars are parked. Meeting a car coming in the opposite direction would be far less hazardous if there was a 20 mph limit.

I know you have particularly asked for views on the speed limit but I would just like to pose a question. Why do we have to have such large buses negotiating a narrow village lane, quite apart from the speed they are going? Is it not possible to have smaller vehicles servicing the village? I understand that the bus service is vital to the village but surely this could be achieved using smaller buses.

Yours

Cheryl Sampson

Christmas Bazaar

On behalf of Birchanger over Sixties club

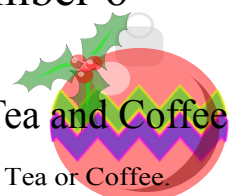
In the Church Hall

Saturday November 6th

2 till 4

Big Raffle, Tombola, Tea and Coffee

50p entry which includes Tea or Coffee.



Food times at the Club

Tuesday evenings	7.00 till 9.00
Wednesday lunchtime	12.00 till 2.00pm
Friday lunchtime and evening	12.00 till 2.00 and 6.00 till 8.00
Saturday lunchtime and evening	12.00 till 2.00 and 7.00 till 9.00
Sunday lunchtime only	12.00 till 2.00

Why not have a look at our new menu which now includes:-

Goat Curry, Venison Steak and Duck Breast see the chalk board for more details.

News from Birchanger Cubs and Scouts

At the end of the Summer Term this year 3 willing volunteers Barry Brown, Sarah Wellard and Kim Perry all residents of Birchanger, agreed to take on the Role of Scout Leader taking over from Trevor Stone, who due to work commitments could not continue in this position.

As well as this Carol Brown has joined the Cubs as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader helping Elaine Brown & Malcolm Bonney with the Cub Group. On behalf of the 1st Birchanger Cub & Scout Group Committee and parents I would like to thank and welcome them to the Group

All four have passed all the relevant CRB and Scouting checks and have started the required training for their roles. Trevor will continue as Group contact for the time being within the Hatfield Forest District, while they continue the training. We are pleased to say that this ensures the future of the Scout Troop here in Birchanger.

Scouts is now held on Monday nights from 7pm until 8.30pm and young persons male or female aged 10 ½ to 14 ½ are eligible to join. Cubs are still running on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm until 8pm for male or females aged 8 to 10 ½

If anyone is interested in joining please contact:

Scouts - **Barry** 01279 813125 or **Sarah** 01279 813551 or **Kim** 01279 810953

Cubs - **Elaine** 01279 815887 or **Malcolm** 01279 814938

Sally Stone
Secretary to 1st Birchanger Cub & Scout Group



**Parents and children under five
are invited to a free play session**

**St Mary's Church Hall
Friday 12th November
2.00pm till 3.30pm**

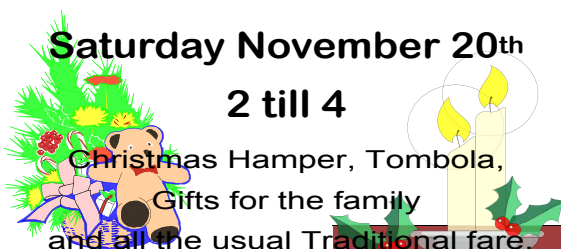
**For further information
please call Lesley on 07800578186**

Christmas Bazaar

On behalf of the friends of St Mary's

In the Church Hall

**Saturday November 20th
2 till 4**



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Village Diary October/November 2010

October

31st 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

November

6th 2 till 4 Church Hall
Over Sixties Club
Christmas Bazaar

7th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

14th 10.30 am St Mary's
Remembrance Sunday

21st 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

27th 2 till 4 Church Hall
St Mary's
Christmas Bazaar

28th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

Remember British
summer time ends at
1 am October 31st

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