

Birchanger
September 2010



Magazine
Issue 93

ART SHOW 2010

Birchanger had waited two years for the return of the Art exhibition which was staged by the old and new members of the original Open Gardens Team co-ordinated by Sheila Devereux and under the close supervision and professional guidance of one of the village's four resident artists, Heather Brown.

This year the festival included a photographic competition where the public voted for the winners of their choice and the Turnip Prize captured the imaginations of several would be modern artists in the Tracey Emin mode.

Birchanger School also participated with an exhibition of a sample of the work that the children produced in their school year. The Cubs and Scouts leaders provided delicious homemade cakes with tea and coffee throughout the weekend.

The quality of the work exhibited by the artists who mostly lived within ten miles of the village, was very high. This was reflected in the high volume of picture sales throughout the weekend of both the framed and unframed pictures to the delight of the artists when they came to collect their work with the bonus of a cheque to come on Sunday evening.

The Turnip Prize which was judged by Heather Brown and Brian Gough was won in the adult section by Brenda Cook for "Appealing" apples skins, with Lizzie Da Costa and Bryony Morphey the winners in the over 11's and 5-11 sections. The photographic competition where the visitors voted for the winners who were anonymous, was won by Rosemary Saward, with Lizzie Da Costa again winning the 11-18 section and Shannon Murphy the under 12's. Congratulations everyone.

A substantial sum was made which will ultimately benefit some of the Birchanger Charities. Just how much will be clear once the bills are paid.



Not at all sure what this is all about
but it caught my eye



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Litter in the Lane

Following the successful prosecution of a motorist in Uttlesford for throwing a cigarette end out of a car window, perhaps there is some hope that first of all this might deter others, and secondly we should be trying to take car numbers where we see litter being thrown from cars and reporting it to Uttlesford ourselves.

Unfortunately these cars are often speeding but if you can read the number, it might be worth a try? If you are successful, call 01799 510510 and ask to speak to a member of the enforcement team.

Does Responsible Cycling Mean Nothing to Some People?

After this particular Summer holiday when it has been good to see children out and about in Birchanger, I am beginning to wonder if we are delivering the cycling proficiency tuition to the wrong batch of people. It is good to see children on their bikes but when they and their grandparents are riding them in the middle of the lane regardless of the buses, lorries and rush hour traffic, you do begin to wonder.

I will say that the perpetrators who were accompanied older adults, who were more than just old enough to know better and who did not appear to be locals but they were at risk to themselves and other people.

Single local child cyclists performed the best. An endorsement for their training at school. Grandpas get the books out..

20 mph Speed Limit for Birchanger?

Many people have expressed a wish to have a 20mph speed limit along Birchanger Lane and other roads in Birchanger. If we do try to arrange one for any part of Birchanger we need a lot of support from residents along with evidence of need from speed surveys. In these days of cut backs whereas at time Essex County Council was keen to see this limit in rural areas, there is less enthusiasm in the current climate.

What do you think? I would like to know your views so that if enough people support this initiative we will have a better chance of actually getting a 20 mph limit.

Boundary Consultation

The Parish Council has been consulted by the District Council for its views as to changing the boundary between Stansted and Birchanger. They have also been asked as to where they think the boundary should be.

It is quite likely and very understandable that those actually living on the Forest Hall Estate will feel that they are linked more closely geographically to Stansted and will prefer to become part of that parish.

Birchanger Parish Council has to make its views known to the District Council by the end of this month and if you have not already expressed your views, they would invite you to do so either directly to the District Council or in confidence to me on 812793.

Should there be a boundary change the elections for the Parish Council for both Birchanger and Stansted would be postponed until May 2012. The decision will not affect the District Council elections in 2011 as the boundary for these elections is expected to remain as it is at present. No doubt this will cause confusion in years to come.

Energy Saving Update

It is some 10 months since I first began to improve the insulation of my very old house. It was a long time since I had heard from the Herts and Essex Energy project, currently known as HEEP and it was not until they had received two wake up calls from me that there was any action.

Firstly as my house would be very costly to insulate without cavity walls it was decided to look at loft insulation instead. Last month I had a visit from a very helpful and knowledgeable British Gas Energy expert, despite having had one in February from the HEEP organisation. He told me that because I had partial insulation recently installed which was over 65mm thick in part of the house I would not qualify for free insulation there, but I would in the area where there was some old insulation. They would not accept my offer to pay them for the additional insulation required as the roof space was too low.

Not exactly a result, as I did want the whole house brought up to a higher standard of insulation. However they left me with a lot of advice and a box of goodies. These included an electricity monitor which was duly

fitted and the results are a little bit scary. I never knew the television used that much, or the computer either. There was also a widget for the shower and a device which turns off a TV set switched to standby, another saving.

All in all I think the whole project is worth doing particularly if you are in receipt of any benefits, pensions or tax credits. I received a lot of free helpful advice, if only a small amount of insulation at the end of the day. The downside was the time it all took and the disappointment at what little there is available for older properties at an affordable price. It might be better to approach British Gas directly. I have the number of their energy consultant for anyone who is interested along with an explanatory leaflet. I can be reached on 812793.

Emergency Plan Still Needs Volunteers

A big thank you to everyone who gave their names to be a volunteer should there be an emergency of any sort in Birchanger but more volunteers are needed as not everyone can possibly be available all the time. Those with special skills are particularly welcome but chiefly we need yourselves. If you would like to be included on Birchanger's list of volunteers, please call me on 812793.

Basildon Hospital is Getting Better.

After the last few months I could practically write a good hospital guide, but I have to say that after the latest hospital ratings I was awaiting my visit to the Essex Coronary Care Unit at Basildon University Hospital with some trepidation.

As always the clerical services were outshone by the medical staff as promised letters and instructions failed to arrive and this meant that at home preparation was compromised, but that was the worst part of the experience.

I arrived, having been able to park in the middle of the afternoon to a clean and new specialist building where queues were non-existent and the appointments were on time. Directions were clear and my driver parked close to the entrance. Chairs were actually comfortable and the staff relaxed and friendly. You did not feel that you were imposing on the staff's precious time. They were actually there for you. It was very clean and the equipment new.

I had some reservations about all the coronary care for this area being delivered at Basildon. The clinical status of the hospital had been a problem. It can be a long journey by car, particularly with the road works on the M11 and an inconvenient journey by bus which will involve at least three bus changes. Ideally you will need private transport and for those who are having procedures where driving is not permitted or who have no transport of their own, or ask for help from Uttlesford Community Transport, a friend or the hospital car

service. That without doubt is the downside. The care I received was very good.

The Menace at the End of Your Phone

It is a very good idea to register for the Telephone Preference Service. This is a service which will screen your home phone from the majority of callers who try to sell you something which you certainly did not know you actually needed. The Fax Preference Service also operates in the same way. How they manage to do this remains a mystery to me, but as a user of both services for a number of years, I can confirm that they work in most cases. On the rare occasions when these people have got through, they ring off immediately when I tell them that my line is registered to stop their call.

A particularly nasty caller this summer came from an outfit which claimed to be the Crime Reduction Unit or Crime Research UK. They claim to be working with Essex County Council on a crime awareness week and to be offering a free alarm. All they are trying to do is to gain access to your property and to sell you some particularly expensive but generally inferior alarm equipment. The District Council first issued a warning about this in July but vulnerable people in particular, their preferred prey, are still getting caught.

Another scam involved phoning or calling on vulnerable people to tell them that a gas leak had been reported on their property and that they needed to gain access to their home to sort out the problem. The answer is to always closely examine the caller's credentials and to phone the number on their card to check whether the person on your doorstep is who he claims to be. Many will scamper at this point. A third purported to have information that you had the wrong banding on your property for council tax rating. They needed your details to sort it out. Never ever give your details to anyone who phones you asking for them for any reason or who calls at your home, without checking them out first.

Coffee Morning Alert.

The next Coffee Morning where the proceeds will go to support St Mary's Church Birchanger, will be on Tuesday October 12th from 10.30 am to noon at Moorswood. Everyone is very welcome. There will be unlimited coffee or tea with a selection of treats as well as a selection of goods to buy if you would like.

Farewell to a Very Good Friend

It is easy to imagine that a familiar figure who has been one of the cornerstones of village life will go on forever and will always be here for us. It was a shock and huge sadness for many in Birchanger to learn that Ted Haggerwood who had played an important role in village life for nearly 70 years and who lived at the heart of the village in more ways than one, had died peacefully in his sleep last month.

Ted was one of a rapidly dwindling band who was born, brought up and lived his whole life in the village. He did not just live in the village as from a very young age he lived for the village in every way he could. He attended the village school, played football and cricket for the Birchanger team, becoming Captain and then President of the Cricket Club. He was responsible for most of the extension of Birchanger Club and was an active committee member of the club as well as its Chairman and a Trustee for 42 years.

Ted was born in the cottage adjoining the Three Willows and only moved house within the village. In years to come he had a hand in building many homes in Birchanger. He acquired a huge knowledge of the history of the village and the surrounding area. He was always a source of knowledge and advice, not just on building.

He served a staggering 33 years on Birchanger Parish Council, 22 of those years as its Chairman. He married Dolly, also Birchanger born, who attended Birchanger School with Ted. When she became a member of the District Council he spent a large part of his time taking her to her many meetings finally giving up work after she became ill to do all the driving for her. One of his proudest moments came when she was awarded a well deserved MBE. He was regarded as a kind of "honorary" member of the council by all her colleagues and his experience and local knowledge was always valued there.

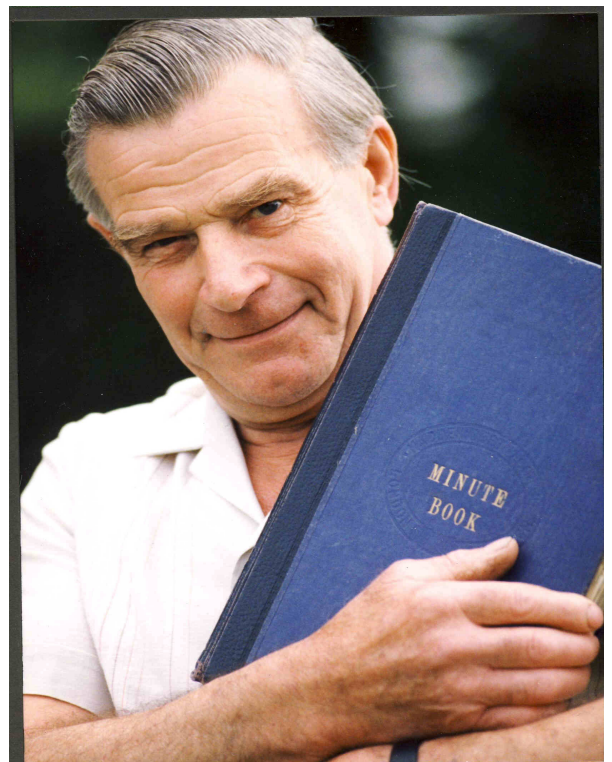
There was nobody quite like Ted in Birchanger, He was always to be relied upon, his opinions firm and well thought through. The last ten years after Dolly died were hard for him, but he always had the unfailing support of his daughter Sue and her family who cared for him to the end. He was proud of them all and they never let him down.

At his funeral held in St Mary's on August 23rd Grandson Freddie spoke movingly of his "Dannah" remembering his love of gardening and of people and friends and the history of the village. He also reminded us of Ted's softer side when he would buy sweets for Freddie and his sister Lucy on the way home from school.

A recording of Lucy performing the "Ashokan Farewell", a poignant piece well suited to a violin, was played to a full St Mary's.

The service was jointly conducted by Paul Wilkin and Canon Derek Jackson whose comprehensive funeral address touched on every aspect of Ted's life.

Farewell Ted and thank you for all you did for us in Birchanger.



Ted Haggerwood with a parish council minute book

School News

New Pupils Welcomed to Birchanger School

Eleven new and very excited new pupils arrived in Birchanger School this month for the first time. The very first day at school is always a very special one in everyone's life. They were all made very welcome and are settling in well to their new school life. There are now 89 pupils on the school roll with more expected later this term.

Meet the Teacher

Most parents are keen to be involved with their children's education and the September term usually means that children move into a new class in their school, and there may be new teachers to meet. Parents are keen to know just what their children will be learning so a series of "Meet the Teacher" sessions were arranged for every class in the first full week of term, so that parents could find out more about what their child would be doing and how they could be supported at home with their work at school. It was an opportunity to talk to the teacher and to ask questions. The link between home and school is very important as strong links can only help the learning process.

Big Breakfasts on Fridays

It is a new school year and breakfast club is back in its regular slot on Friday mornings. From 8.15 children can arrive for a breakfast of unlimited toast, honey, jam, cereals with juice or milk to drink.

In fact there is such a buzz at breakfast club, the smell of warm toast so inviting along with the prospect of chat among friends that diners are quite hard to persuade into class when the time comes.

Try it sometime.

COFFEE MORNING



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday 12th October
10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



The Great Pong

The unsavoury smell that permeated Birchanger on September 6th and 7th was due to the removal of a large pile of sewage sludge that had been deposited in a field near to the pumping station off Birchanger Lane. The sludge itself occupied an area similar to a tennis court to a depth of about 3 feet.

The foul reek of the sludge was intensified by the rain during the day and began to be detected in the village during the morning and persisted into the night. The Three Willows was forced to keep its doors closed during opening hours and residents were obliged to close their windows to keep the stench out of their homes.

The sludge itself was transported to various fields in the village, spreading the effect. The contractors who carried out this removal must be inline for a "Worst job in the World" award. Happily this sort of thing does not happen often in the village.

Local 'Mumprenur' gives small businesses a push!

Local mum of two Justine Sudbury has decided to give her own and other small businesses a push by launching a new exhibition called 'Small Acorn Events' the first of which is to be held in Parsonage Hall Bishop's Stortford on Saturday the 25th of September 1.30 to 5.30pm. In fact there will be three Birchanger businesses on show, Tina Crossley's 'Beautiful Hair', specialising in wedding day hairdressing, Jayne Devine's "Perfectly Devine ", which sells bespoke cards, arts and crafts and Joyce Brandle's "Fudgeness" which provides hand made (you guessed it) fudge

Justine explained the reason behind organising this event 'I am launching a new online funky boutique called "Little Bugs Boutique", for kids age 0-6. The market is tough for anyone in new or small businesses and I really wanted to give, not only me, but other people the chance to promote their businesses together. This will be an event for all the family, with kids' entertainment, great products to buy and exclusive offers to make the most of. On show will be everything from street dance to funky fashions and gifts, I really hope that everyone will come and support this event and realise that you need look no further than your own doorstep for unique, great products!"

Entrance is Free, and refreshments available.
Small Acorn events in association with **Little Bugs Boutique, and Lemon Squeezy.**

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 St Mary's

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

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

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

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

Update on Clare's Trek

Clare and Carol would like to say a massive thank you to all the residents of Birchanger Village who attended the coffee morning and gave generously. The donations amounted to £340 taking the total raised for Bowel Cancer research to £1,160 so far. Clare's trek is ever closer and her training regime is stepping up to the final stage. Any of you that are regulars in the Three Willows will have noticed a donation jar on the bar so please donate that loose change, every penny makes a difference. Clare's just giving site is still available for donations, <http://www.justgiving.com/Clare-Pearse>

Lastly Thanks again for your generosity

Clare & Carol

Library Visiting Times

Fornightly on Fridays. Sep 17th, Oct 1st 15th 29th, Nov 12th, 26th. Dec 10th.

Birchanger Club Arrives 15.50pm Leaves 16.15.

High View, Arrives 16.20. Leaves 16.35.

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



susiesmith

IIHHT-VTCT QUALIFIED

Reflexology, reiki & massage

£5 Off first treatment on
presentation of this magazine

Telephone 07843478237
info@susiesmithreflexology.co.uk
www.susiesmithreflexology.co.uk

Village Diary

August September
2010

September

25th 7.30 pm St Mary's
Harvest gala Evening

26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

October

3rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

10th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

17th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

24th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

31st 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

D Bonney & Sons

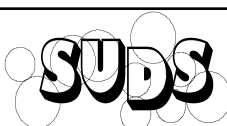


Motor Engineers

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



LAUNDERETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

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



MILLWAY

OFFICE SUPPLIES & ART AND CRAFT SUPERSTORE
CHAPEL HILL STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET ESSEX
01279 816659 www.millwaystationery.co.uk

STOCKISTS OF HORNBY, LEGO, MECCANO, AIRFIX,
DMC, ANITAS CRAFTS, ENCALISTIC ART, FIMO,
SCRAPBOOKING, WINDSOR & NEWTON,
DALER ROWNEY, RUBBER STAMPING, FABRIC PAINTS,
FACE PAINTS, HELIUM BALLOONS, GREETINGS CARDS AND WRAP

AT OUR SUPERSTORE WE HOLD IN STOCK
OVER 30,000 PRODUCTS

ALL YOUR STATIONERY NEEDS FOR THE HOME AND OFFICE
INKJET CARTRIDGES, LASER TONERS, CDRs, PAPER,
ENVELOPES, FURNITURE, FILING PRODUCTS,
FILOFAX, PARKER

OPEN:
MON-FRI 8.30-5.00 SAT 9.00-1.00
FREE PARKING

THE THREE WILLOWS

01279 815913



More than just
your village Pub!

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

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

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

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.