

Birchanger

November 2011



Magazine

Issue 107

SUCCESS FOR BOWLS AND KARATE CLUBS



Birchanger bowls club were runners up in the final of the North West Essex Group 2 division A, excellent for such a small club!

Our Gold cup gala was cancelled due to poor response so in 2012 we will be looking at running this as a mixed team.

Our Open pairs competition which was held on the 2nd July was won by Ken Hayden and Peter Dawson.

Club competitions have taken place. Our club champion is R Smith who has won all of his games.

H Gunn is our over sixties champ winning the Wilf Law cup.

AGM and enrolment night was on 26th October and was well attended although we are always happy for more, so please contact us.

We will be holding an open day in May 2012 so watch this space for further updates.

KARATE ENGLAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

Sensei Dean Tilley and four of his students travelled to Loughborough leisure centre on Sunday 6th November 2011 to compete in the fourth English National open championships. Ten year old Isabella Tilley, Second Kyu took part in girls shitoryu kata under 14 years competition winning a bronze medal and then took part in girls Kumite Under 10 years minus 30 kilos winning another bronze medal. 12 year old Jordon Martin, Second Kyu took part in the boys Kumite 11-12 years minus 40 kilos winning a bronze medal. 12 year old Ross Rospo, Third Kyu took part in the boys Kumite 13-14 years minus 55 kilos and was unlucky not to take a medal, 18 year old Katie Martin, Second Kyu took part in the female Junior Kumite open winning a silver medal and on the day was put in a senior team Kumite Sabon for Shikon West and the team won a bronze medal and in senior team Kumite team rotation won another bronze medal.

Dean Tilley's Karate Club in Birchanger, Stansted and Bishops Stortford are part of Shikon. New Students are always welcome. Including Mini Rangers 3 to 5 years old, Contact Sensai Dean Tilley on 07951479125.



Katie Martin, Dean Tilley, Ross Rospo
Jordon Martin, Issabella Tilley



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Paul and Paula move to a new Pub

Paul Tucker has been the landlord at the Three Willows for about 16 years. With Paul's parents Dave and Maureen and partner Paula, the pub quickly became a popular eating venue. Many have fond memories of warm summer evenings and extended boules games, as well as two village fetes. They transformed the pub from a rundown establishment which served poor food and even worse beer to somewhere which served beer and food at their best in a very short while.

The problem with all successful pubs is that landlords get greedy and up the rent in line with the profits. The only answer for a successful team is to beat the brewery at their own game, and to open a pub which actually belongs to you.

This is exactly what has happened. Paul and Paula have bought the Three horse shoes at Hazel End. They spent the summer refurbishing and repairing every square inch of the property and were finally able to open for business last month.

The Three horse shoes is smaller than the Three Willows. It is an older classically beamed building, set in a large garden with ample parking. The inside is attractive, bright, warm and welcoming. The beer is excellent, as always, with a much better choice as it is a free house. The menu has all the Willows tried and tested favourites and there are areas for those who want to simply have a drink and for those who wish to linger over a meal. Welcoming wood burners in inglenook fireplaces give warmth at each end.

The Willows will remain under the same management for now, the long term future is a little more uncertain. Anyone who takes it over will have the best possible role model and the hardest act to follow. Meanwhile best wishes to Paul and Paula in their new venture, and to Dave and Maureen Tucker in their well earned retirement.

Honouring modern day heroes

The skills of the bomb squad are in high demand in these days where every terrorist seems to be more than just a little capable of manufacturing their own bomb. We have our home based unit in Colchester. We also now train and equip a second battalion at Carver Barracks to serve overseas, in particular in Afghanistan.

These soldiers are really in the front line. On their tour which ended last month they dismantled over 350 devices, rendering safe over 70 tons of explosives with every single man risking their own life in the process.

There are robot devices which can do a good job up to a point. Sadly there is nothing like the trained human eye and technical skill to render a device safe. Many fit and healthy young men are seriously injured or even die from their efforts. Yet they go out willingly each day to do one of the most dangerous jobs in the world.

The day after the 32nd Engineer Regiment returned from Afghanistan last month they were granted the Freedom of Uttlesford at a ceremony in Saffron Walden Town Square. Delighted relatives joined the large crowd who watched as the regiment, complete with a tank, marched from the District Council Offices to Saffron Walden Town Hall on a "Freedom Parade" where the award was presented to the regiment by the Chairman of the District Council. Afterwards they returned to Carver Barracks for a reception which will be followed by 5 weeks well deserved leave with their families.

It was a very emotional occasion. The families I spoke to told me that the worst times were just after the soldiers had left and at the end of their period of time in Afghanistan, as the waiting became almost unbearable. They are only too aware that the soldiers may not make it home as so often disaster seems to happen at the end of the tour of duty. The families' delight is bitter sweet. The commanding officer warned that the regiment will be back in Afghanistan next year and in 2013 as well. Meanwhile it is all smiles and enjoying the happiness while it lasts.

Several primary schools were bussed in to watch the parade at the town square in Saffron Walden and had pride of place in the front row. Many of the soldier's children had been granted a special leave day by their schools. Relatives had come from all over the country just to be there. Staff had given up their parking spaces in the District Council Offices so the soldiers could gather there. The only vehicle allowed to use the car park, other than vehicles belonging to disabled drivers, was a tank. The event was organised by the District Council and the Town Council and the staff from both councils.

The returning soldiers all looked incredibly young to be doing the jobs which they are doing, and there were several women among them. There was also a very brave group of the wounded, two of whom were in wheelchairs. One young man had lost his legs. A harsh reminder of what war really means.

It will not be long before the soldiers see active service again, but as their CO told us, they go about their work

willingly and competently every time. They are the second regiment to be based at Carver Barracks. The first engineering regiment received their freedom award two years ago. It is hoped that the district will be able to welcome them both back home in style again next time.

Can we blame kerosene odours on the Fuel Farm?

For years Birchanger residents, mainly in parts of Birchwood and Birchanger lane, have been plagued with a strong kerosene odour, which appears to happen randomly and which can be nauseatingly strong. For years the parish Council members have tried to find the cause of this odour, albeit unsuccessfully. An "odour card" scheme which was tried a few years ago showed that the smell appeared at remarkably similar times and dates throughout the affected area which showed that a large area was experiencing the problem.

In an effort to try to understand more about the source of this odour a small group visited the Fuel Farm, with a member of the Environmental Health Team. There the whole system of fuel supply and refuelling was explained at length. From this we learned that the Fuel Farm consisted of three large storage tanks, which took 27 hours to fill from a government controlled underground pipeline network. The tanks worked on a one filling, one waiting and one in use basis.

The petrol was supplied from the tank in use via an underground network directly to the stands. The only petrol tankers used were the ones supplying the lighter aircraft and helicopters. Spillages are dealt with in seconds at the control centre.

The storage tanks have to be vented at the top for pressure reasons. It is not expected that these vents would produce such a strong odour in an area so far away, which leaves the aircraft themselves as the chief culprits for this smell, depending on wind and take off direction.

It is time perhaps to return to the odour cards for another period, starting next spring as the smell is more noticeable in the summer months when doors and windows are open. Meanwhile if you do experience the smell of kerosene please note the date, time and wind direction if you can and tell the airport about it on the noise hotline 0800 243788, or tell myself on 812793.

Free garden waste collection bins

Free, as long as you sign up for the scheme before 29th February 2012.

About 1600 homes across Uttlesford have expressed interest in participating in the scheme. This means that the number is sufficiently large to launch a garden waste collection service between the beginning of April and the end of November each year. The cost will be £40 per annum but the bin will be supplied free to every household who signs up to pay for the collection by Direct Debit by 29th February next year.

Details of how to do this will be sent out shortly. Households will still be able to share the service, but will have to arrange the payment and collection address between themselves. After the 29th February you can still join the scheme, but you will have to pay for your bin, which will be supplied by the District Council.

Bonfires

Bonfires are not banned in this area, unless they are causing a nuisance. This means that they are blowing smoke and debris over neighbour's gardens. Many people light bonfires, irrespective of the time of day, and the wind direction.

If you are allowing smoke to blow over neighbouring properties, you are causing a nuisance and the smoke is endangering people's health. You can be reported to the District Council and told to put the bonfire out immediately. There are penalties for noncompliance. If you must have a bonfire, make sure the material to be burned is dry. Petrol is often used to light bonfires, but this must be done with the greatest care and regard to wind conditions.

There have been bonfires in Birchanger which have caused legitimate complaints lately. There are other ways to dispose of damp rubbish, one is called composting and is used by real gardeners. Please try and use this method where you can, or until the green bins come, do what most of us do, take your garden rubbish to the tip.

Fly tipping out of control, again

It seems that Birchanger is once again a target for fly tippers, both big and small. It is quite normal for residents in the lane to have to pick up a bag of other people's extremely unattractive rubbish on a daily basis, whether it is from their late night feasts at the service station, or the cans and bottles they are simply too lazy and too stupid to take home. Talk about parasites! Living off the rest of us big time.

There is another sort who specialises in chucking the contents of their home after renovation and building work in the ditch in Tot Lane. We think the contents of your home, cupboards, wardrobe, whatever, even more disgusting than you did and we don't want them on our patch. There are places for this mess, they are called tips, and in case your ignorance extends more than we previously thought, there is one in Bishops Stortford. Of course you can actually pay the council to take it away, after all, if you can afford to buy and renovate, you can afford the fee as well.

The police are as tired of you as the rest of us are. They are looking out for your activities, and the council dissects your disgusting mess for clues as to just who you might be. The inevitable fine and aggravation will cost a great deal more than the disposal fee. You have been warned. Closing Tot Lane off altogether under the Section 106 agreements might be the only way to stop the menace in the end.

Clare's trek final part

SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2010

It was so nice to sleep in a bed even if it was a bit hard, nowhere near as hard as the sand though. We even got a lie in as we didn't have to leave until 9am today.

Now we are back on the bus for our 5 hour drive back to Marrakech. We'd only been on the bus about 1/2 hour when Jimmy (tour guide) said we were stopping at the place where Gladiators was filmed, it seems strange to be walking around where such a famous film was made, after about an hour here we are off again.

It's raining now as we start to go through the Atlas mountains and many of the mountains have snow on the top of them, I think we have experienced every type of weather possible while on this trip. Oh my God these roads are so narrow, we've had a few near misses, and as we go around the side of this mountain there is a huge drop and I feel quite sick, a car has gone over the edge, it is so far down but the police are already there getting people out and they appear to not have any injuries as they are walking away, what a miracle, but it doesn't seem to bother other drivers they're still driving as erratically as ever. Well we've made it safely to the Riad Hotel where we are staying tonight.

Well we are stuck in the room at the moment as would you believe it, it's raining cats and dogs out there, and with no coat or umbrella we're a bit stuck.

Well it has finally eased off raining so we braved it and had a fantastic time, we grabbed something to eat, and then went round the market, it was good learning to haggle with them, here you don't just ask how much something is and then pay for it, it is expected that you haggle no matter what it is. We are making the most of tonight as Emma leaves very early tomorrow for her flight, where ours isn't till much later. I feel a bit unsure about going out without Emma to translate for us, but we will see.

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

That was another good night's sleep, we get up and get ourselves sorted so we can go and have some breakfast with Emma to say our last goodbyes and thank you to her for helping us. Well that's it we're on our own now, we pack our rucksacks and we decide we are going to be brave and hit the market on our own.

Wow! We did it and it was great, we had so much fun haggling, we also managed to order ourselves some lunch in a very nice restaurant, I have to say I'm very proud of myself. It's now time to leave for the airport, the last leg of my trip.

Here I am sitting on the plane, I did have to phone Steve just before we boarded the plane to bring my Ugg boots as I found out it's freezing and snowing at home and I'm wearing flip flops.

Here I am, now back home sitting in the comfort of my front room, shattered but it feels good to be home, can't wait to see the kids in the morning and back to the normal routine of school runs.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everybody that made this experience possible for me also a massive thank you to all that donated money which totalled to a massive

£1843.87 TO CANCER RESEARCH, this will have made a big difference to somebody suffering with cancer as it did to my dad (Nick) when he was having his treatment, the money that you donated can hopefully bring research a step closer to finding a cure for cancer, so again a huge THANK YOU to you all.

Clare

Old Fete Photo

Last month I captioned an old photo taken in Birchanger place as dated 1910.

However it has been pointed out to me that the gentleman in the photo is Bernard Musselwhite who was head teacher at Birchanger primary school from 1941 until the late 1950s. So the photo must date from a much more recent time.

A visit to the National stud

As someone who has always been interested in horse racing a visit to the National Stud at Newmarket has always been on my personal agenda. I have been reminded of it every time I go to Newmarket but have only just managed to make the actual visit.

The stud is not somewhere you can just pop into any time you feel like it. There are times in the breeding season when it is closed. You also have to make an appointment to take a tour. The coffee shop and art gallery are open when the stud is open and would provide a moment of respite on race days at the July course.

October is not the best time to go. The stallions are always in residence, there are several pregnant mares awaiting their New Year foals, but there are few of the current year's foals left, as most have gone for training.

Race horses all have a January 1st birthdate, regardless of when they are actually born. It therefore makes sense for breeders to get their progeny born as quickly as possible after this date so as to give them the best advantage in their races. An early birth in December is a disaster. The stud is incredibly busy in January and February, and the best time to book is for March onwards when the foals and their mothers are together in the paddocks.

The stud can accommodate 200 mares in the foaling season. The mares are put up in special stables when their delivery is due, and are checked every ten minutes while they are in labour. Despite this, human intervention is rarely required. The mares then move to specially large individual stables, although they spend most of their time outside unless the weather is particularly bad.

There is a further hectic period in the early part of the year up to May when the mares visit the stud's stallions, all retired champions whose progeny are regular winners across the world. For the rest of the year the stallions enjoy their own individual paddocks and pampering. They are not ridden at all now. All right for some! The stud also gives racing respite for race horses which run their best when having had a period away from the race track and their training stables. A five star hotel for race horses in fact.

It is a sign of the times that while there are still many big prizes in horse racing to be won, there are less foals are being born at the stud. There were only 60 born there last year.

Is the age of Chivalry over?

Not for me it seems. I am a comparative newcomer to the village and recently I was out on my electric mobility buggy on the pavement in Birchanger Lane.

Unfortunately the pavement ran out and there was no drop kerb to let me back on the road.

So I got off of my buggy and was struggling to heave the buggy off of the pavement, when along came my Knight in shining armour (well a young man in a white van anyway) who was driving past.

My Knight reversed his van to where I was and man-handled my buggy into the road and he held up the traffic while he did this and saw me safely across the road.

So thank you to "White van man" and all the other noble helpers of disabled ladies in distress.

Mary Glozier.

A word about print deadlines

Just recently a number of people have been sending me details of events occurring later in the month.

Unfortunately this is never enough time prior to the event as we go to print on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Both the Over sixties and Church Christmas bazaars have fallen into this trap this year

So if you want your event to be included in the "**next issue**" we need the details no later than the first Monday in the month and that will only cover dates from the 27th onwards.

For earlier dates you need to inform us at least one month before your event date to avoid disappointment.

School News

The New School Council Takes a Look at Democracy in Action.

Places on the School council are highly prized and eagerly fought over in the Year Ballots every October. Each candidate makes a speech telling their peers just why they are the best person for the job, and what their plans are should they become elected. Just like any election, except that there are no political parties in Birchanger School for now anyway. They even borrowed polling booths, ballot boxes and authenticating stamping machine from the District Council. After the secret ballot the successful candidates in each year were announced at the Friday Assembly. The new school councillors learned to understand their new roles with a visit to Uttlesford District Council to see the Planning Committee in action. They were given a special welcome by the Chairman of the Committee and stayed to watch the start of the meeting from the gallery. They toured some of the offices, before ending up in the emergency planning room which acts as a soundproof and shock proof setting from where all emergency support in the event of any disaster in the district is co-ordinated. They also met the dog warden and one of her charges. It seems the staff at the council offices enjoyed the visit just as much as the children. At the end of the week they met and voted for their chairman, secretary and treasurer for the coming school year as their first task.

Breakfast Club is a Success.

At the moment breakfast club at Birchanger School only operates on a Friday morning and is proving to be very popular. Children have a large healthy breakfast and an opportunity to meet with their friends before school. It is also

a benefit to working parents who are able to drop their children earlier in the knowledge that they will have a good start to their day.

Parents are being asked to let the school know if they would like to see the service extended to every day of the week. The problem is that this would need more volunteers to run the club on a daily basis.

If you are interested in lending some support to the venture for just a short time each week, please contact the school on 812362.

The Youngest Children Show Their Skills.

In the short time it seems to take to reach half term a great deal seems to have happened if you are in your first year at the school. Children are only four or just five when they start at school and yet by the last sharing assembly before half term, they were able to show their new found knowledge of phonics. They demonstrated the sounds they had learned and showed samples of their art work to the delight of everyone there. The class is large, but the children have all settled very well and were delighted to take part in their first assembly.

A letter to the editor

18 Bradley Common Birchanger

Dear Ed,

May I please use some space in the magazine to plead with mums who travel to pick up their children from School in the afternoons to think about the speed they are travelling.

Occasionally I take my neighbours dog for a walk – mostly using the footpaths and invariably using the pathway from the house called Centurys, past the football ground, past the playing field and taking the footpath opposite the old school.

Today, whether they were running late or not but between 3.10 p.m. and 3.20 p.m. the speed in which these ladies were coming up the road was amazing. May I please therefore plead with you all to slow down – your child/children will wait for you and let's face it- it is better to arrive late than not at all!!

I have four grandchildren who mean the world to me as I am sure your child/children mean to you so let's all think about them when we are travelling at speed and slow it down.

Yours most sincerely

Janet Bowser (Mrs)

News from St Mary's

Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Coffee Morning Supporting the Church.

We all seem to take it for granted that the Church in Birchanger will always be there for us. We believe it will cater for our Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and Christmases without too much need for action from ourselves. Well if we think that we are wrong. The church is an ancient building, with a frail fabric and a very delicate and highly prized organ for a start. It costs a great deal of money to keep these items going alone. Then there is the Churchyard, the trees which surround it, and the paths to maintain. Heating the Church also costs a small fortune these days.

Those who believe that the Church is worth fighting for work very hard to try to fill the gaps. No matter how hard they try they cannot do it alone. They need your support.

There are easy and hopefully enjoyable ways of doing this even if you are just an occasional churchgoer, but you value the church in our community.

We start to celebrate Christmas this year with the Christmas Fair in the Church Hall on November 19th at 2pm. There is a Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood on December 6th at 10.30 am. Which is Another opportunity to chat with old friends and meet new neighbours. On December 3rd the De Merc chamber choir is performing a concert of seasonal music at St Mary's. On Sunday 18th December Family Christingle Service at 11am On Friday 23rd December at 7pm Evening Carol Service in St Mary's. A traditional service where we will be joined by the Benefice choir, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Join us at these events if you can. You will be very welcome.

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

December Entertainment

10th - **Julie Nevada live.** Plus Grand Xmas draw

17th - **Childrens Party**

24th - Xmas eve. **Hit & Run live.**

Bar open until 12 midnight

31st - New years eve. **"Music through the ages" disco.** Bar open until 12 midnight

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Christmas Coffee Morning

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Village Diary November/December

November

27th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

December

3rd Harlow Choir Sing at St Mary's

4th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

6th 10.30am Moorswood
Christmas Coffee Morning

10th 8.00 pm At the Club
Grand Christmas draw
Julie Nevada

11th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

17th At the club

Children's Party
18th 11.00 am St Mary's
Christingle

23rd 7.00 pm St Mary's
Evening Carol Service

24th 8.00 pm At the Club
Hit & Run

25th 11.00 am St Mary's
Christmas Day

Family Service

26th At the Club
Whiskey Draw

31st 8.00 pm At the Club
Music through the Ages
Disco

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