

Birchanger

October 2011



Magazine

Issue 106

Birchanger Arts Festival the best ever

St Mary's Church, School, the Scouts and the group known still as the Open Gardens Group came together to provide structure for the Arts Festival again this year.

The Church was the venue for the photographic competitions where the winners were voted for by the visitors, and which featured many excellent wild life pictures. The winner had to be decided on a tie-break by a professional photographer in the end as the votes were equal in one category.

The school provided the art work in the church, which was again of a very high standard and featured the styles of various painters which they had been studying throughout the school year, Rosemary Sayward yet again produced a stunning floral display.

The church was transformed into a riot of colour for the weekend. Those who visited the church were also treated to the sound of the very rare organ which was played at times on both days and had been especially tuned for the occasion. It was a pleasure just to visit and listen. The flower arrangements were all sold by auction on the Sunday evening.

The art exhibition standards were judged to be higher than ever with contributions from our own resident artists as well as those from miles around.

Throughout the weekend refreshments were provided by the scouts and yet again new supplies were required.

As ever a great deal of hard work made the event the success it was. While there was a steady stream of visitors and the cakes were very popular, fewer paintings were sold compared to recent years. A phenomenon repeated throughout the summer, the artists told us, so they were not really surprised. However 18 were sold in total, a result judged to be good in the current climate and the standards were very high.

The project was led by Sheila Devereaux under the guidance of one of our local artists Heather Brown. Thank you to the many who helped in so many different ways.



Sally and Dan among the artwork



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

British Legion make it a Poppy Appeal for everyone

For older people the annual British legion Poppy Appeal is a very important part of their culture and way of life. Most families lost relatives or friends. Many still remember the war and the after effects which enforced rationing for those who became known as the baby boomer generation. Until recently this may have seemed to be light years away from the younger people of today. Now events in Afghanistan have made it very clear that younger families are once again losing a key family member and there are many suffering very severe injuries in bomb blasts, who will need care for the rest of their lives, but who rarely make the headlines. In our own district we have Carver Barracks where many soldiers, who find themselves dismantling bombs in Afghanistan on a daily basis, are trained. At the time of writing three have not returned alive.

For all the soldiers killed or injured in the two world wars, and the wars which have involved British soldiers which have followed, the British legion has been looked upon as a source of help and support. The cost of this support is rising steeply, but the need for it will not go away. Money to provide this care has to come from somewhere and the British Legion does rely on the annual Poppy Appeal to finance a great deal of their work.

In order to reach a wider public, and to help them to understand just what the soldiers and those closest to them go through, the British Legion have issued training packs for schools and young people. These packs are both interesting and informative for anyone who simply has no understanding of what wars are like and how it feels to lose young people who they are close to.

They have also produced a variety of items that appeal to younger people and those who would rather have something else as well as or instead of the traditional poppy. There are child sized bracelets and badges which can be worn as well as the larger poppies which are still available, the poppy stickers, car badges and much more.

Geoff and Angie Driscoll run the Poppy Appeal in Birchanger, with help from a few volunteers. The

number of houses which can be visited for the sale of poppies depends on the number of those prepared to help. The more people who do help, the more money will be raised. It is as simple as that.

If you can help even at this late stage, please call Geoff or Angie on 817376.

Community Section 106 Money for Birchanger.

There is no doubt that the Rochford's development has had an impact on Birchanger. Traffic flows through the village have increased, the school is close to capacity, the nursery unit is full, club membership is up and the pattern is repeated in the organisations throughout the village.

Section 106 money is supposed to ease the impact of new developments in an area. While the new development will not actually be in Birchanger after next April, the actual impacts will remain the same. Stansted will claim the bulk of the money but there should be some due to Birchanger.

If you feel that your organisation has accommodated the expansion in any way and you wish to improve, expand, or refurbish your operation, now is the time to make a bid to Uttlesford District Council. You will need to give details of your plans, whom the project is likely to benefit with the costs involved to the council at the Saffron Walden offices as soon as possible. Inquiries can be directed to Jeremy Pine, Cllr Susan Barker the cabinet member involved, or myself on 812793. Even if you are not sure whether you qualify it is worth a try. As they say, you have to be in it to win it and the winnings could be big.

There Will be a Fete in Birchanger Next Year!

Running a fete is no easy task. It takes months of planning and the co-operation and goodwill of a great many people.

This is exactly what happened at the Birchanger fete in September. Work had begun last year and continues until the last chair had been put away and

the exhausted helpers could finally take a well earned break. Congratulations and a very big thank you to Peter Booker who led a team of volunteers through the whole process. Not an easy task.

The club is a good venue for the fete. There is somewhere to go should it rain, there are toilet facilities and catering facilities available, and many of the attractions have to be paid for before any money has come in. The club funded these until the money became available. The club provided all of these facilities and it is thanks to the committee for allowing it all to happen and for their big support throughout.

It is hard to know just how much money the fete actually raised for all the groups which took part. That is up to the individual stall holders but many were reporting a very profitable and enjoyable afternoon. The club will be donating a large sum to the Church Hall for new curtains from the amount the stalls which they ran made, after the payments for the attractions have been finalised.

The good news is that this year's success means that the fete will be back again next year on September 1st. It will run on the same lines as last year, and all village groups as well as those from outside the village are invited to have a stall again next year. The fete committee will build on the lessons learned from this year and plan a fete which is expected to be not only better but to have more attractions than the one held this year. A date for your diary now!

£1000 to Spend for Birchanger.

As District councillor I am to be given £1000 to spend on something which will benefit the majority of people in Birchanger. At one time £1000 would have been a considerable amount of money, but it soon disappears when serious considerations are given to actually what you can buy for £1000 these days. I am looking for suggestions as to how this money should be best spent to do the most effective good it can for the greatest number of people. It may be that you know of projects which need this sum in order to complete them. It is possible that you have your own ideas for a small project which does use £1000, or may only need a small subsidy. Whatever your idea is, I would like to hear about it on 812793. All projects will need the approval of the District council before the money is released.

Do You Want to Keep Your Food Recycling Bin?

The brown bins which we currently use for food collections are to be replaced by small caddies next spring. These brown bins can themselves be recycled or it is possible that householders may be able to find a use for them and wish to keep them. It is up to you.

One enterprising lady has said that she intends to put a tap onto her bin and connect it to a rain water downpipe. She will then wheel it around the garden to whatever spot she intends to water.

Perhaps you can tell me of other good ideas? It is not too late to register for a green waste collection bin. In fact you will be able to do so at any time, providing that there are enough takers in the district to get the scheme up and running in the first place.

Over 16's Learn Motoring Skills.

Whatever teenagers plan to do with their lives, driving a car is usually one of their priorities, even if ownership may be beyond them at first. Schools are often accused of sending out their pupils ill prepared in basic life skills, as most of us eventually end up with a job, becoming a parent and driving a car. The District Council working alongside ECC is trying to address motoring issues by offering every 16/17 year old attending an Uttlesford School the chance to complete a motoring course at Carver Barracks. At the end of this course they will have learnt about the car, what goes on under the bonnet, road safety, driving skills and everyone will have had the opportunity to actually drive a car. While they won't actually be able to go out and take their driving test, they will know all about what is involved in driving a car, what it is actually feels like as well as the responsibilities and obligations which go with it. In an ideal world everyone should leave school having passed their test, maybe one day when finances allow.

2012 Community Calendar

The 2012 edition of Stop Stansted Expansion's hugely popular Community Calendar is now on sale. There won't be door-to-door sales in Birchanger this year but there are many local stockists including Pearsons, Loft & Spires, the Herts & Essex Observer Office and Loft & Spires in Bishops Stortford, and Family News in Stansted. As in previous years, the calendars are priced at just £6 and there are also packs of 12 Christmas Cards available at the same price. If you can't easily get to a local stockist, you can place your order via the SSE office on 01279 870558 or Brian Ross on 01279 814961 and it will be delivered to your door.

More from Clare's Trek

Well what can I say about last night's sleep, nearly non-existent, apart from the sand seeming to get more uncomfortable each night, I swear something was trying to get into the tent, probably just the camels, mooching around outside again, but in the pitch dark it sounds quite scary.

Left at the normal time of 8:30am after breakfast and putting the tents away. Up and over the sand dunes again, there's not much to see except sand, sand and more sand, it's very very hot again, my legs and knees are aching and I'm now sweating in places I didn't know I could sweat in.

Today we were walking in an area where nomads live, unlike the one small family we saw on Monday, there was quite a community of families here, but still with very little between them except a few donkeys, these communities are usually quite close to a well, their nearest one would have been the one we found yesterday, so even for water, they had several hours walking to get there.

I still keep asking myself why they want to live like this, but I guess it is all they know as they seem happy enough, waving to us.

Today was good but my legs are really killing me now! I'm sat outside writing this, surrounded by the camels, they certainly make some strange noises, when they eat UUUGHHH! think of a cow chewing and times it by ten, they also quite often regurgitate and chew it again, disgusting, but we certainly couldn't manage without them, they're quite remarkable really the way they co-operate with being loaded up and carrying everything.

FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

WOW! What a treat we had this morning, we didn't have to take our tents down, wahoo! So the plan of action for today was to have our last breakfast with the camels up on the sand dune, then off in the 4 x 4 jeep (which had appeared as if from nowhere overnight) across the dunes back to a place called Mahamid. Well the camel handlers Hamid, Mohamed and Bryan the chef have to stay behind as they have another group arriving as we leave, I don't know how they do it, we said our goodbyes and went on our rough and bumpy way, it seemed funny but so nice to be sat in a jeep and not walking, but how do these people know where they are going? Everywhere just looks the same. I often thought this when we were walking. How did Jimmy (the tour guide) know where to go? There were no roads or signposts, they are so good, they work by the direction of the sun. We have now reached Mahamid, this looks to be a very poor village, I feel a little unsafe as everyone just stops and stares and the children are coming up begging for money. After a quick stop during which we were able to buy a nice cold coke and some chocolate, yummy things like these we had been missing, but didn't expect to find in this small village, but I guess they stock up knowing that us tourists/ walkers will often be passing through. Well after this quick stop we carried on to Quarzazate where we arrived in one piece.

Bliss at last, a shower and hair wash, how we take the basics for granted, makes you think!



First of the Fetes

Birchanger has a long history of Summer events going back at least until the late eighteenth century.

A trawl through the parish magazines reveals what happened at the first ever fete in 1884, just three years after the club opened its doors for the first time. The November issue that year revealed that the fete made a net loss of £15 which was made good by the ever reliable Charles Gold!

BIRCHANGER VILLAGE FETE 1884

Last month we mentioned that there was a possibility of Fete and Show being held here in September. The idea of a Show has been abandoned ; - the harvest has been so delayed by the weather that our arrangements had to be made for a later day than was originally intended, and the Show has therefore to be given up.

A meeting was held at the Rectory on Saturday the 25th August, at which Mr. P. Gold, Mr. H. Blyth, Mr Nash, Mr. A. Church, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Prince, were present; and after considerable discussion it was agreed that Saturday, September 22nd, was the earliest date possible.

The place has not yet been decided on; several fields were suggested, but the final selection, with the other details that had to be settled, was left to a committee consisting of Messrs. Cam, Church, Gold, A. Nash and H. Smith. All that we can say at present is that there will be Sports and, Races, with various other amusements, and a Tea, for which a small fixed charge will be made. A small charge for admission (probably 2d.) will also be made, and Mr. Gold has promised free tickets for the children.

Then from October

THE VILLAGE FETE AND SPORTS.

This fete, the first which has ever taken place in the annals of Birchanger Parish, passed off successfully, despite of some rain, on Saturday, Sept 23rd. Mr. Harvey most kindly placed the field known as Birchanger Park at the disposal of the Committee, and the company began to assemble soon after two o'clock. The school children were first on the ground, having met at the School at quarter to two, where they received free tickets for entry and for the tea, the gift of Mr. C. Gold.

A tea tent had been erected by Mr. Firmin and tea was provided by Mr. Phillips, of Stansted, the charge being 3d. each. Swing boats, toy stalls, cocoanut stands, and other means of amusement stood at the north end of the field, while the greased pole was put up in the centre, and the obstacles for the obstacle race were near it. The ground for the rest of the Sports was marked out on the south side of the field. The Sports began at about three o'clock.

The programme was as follows -100 Yards, Boys under 12: 1st, E. Blake; 2nd, W. Reed. 100 Yards, Girls under 14: 1st, L. Sanders; 2nd, A. Leech and Ethel Banks. Throwing Cricket Ball (open) : 1st, P Blake; 2nd, J. Phillips. Sack Race: 1st, B. Sayzeland; 2nd, A. Reed. 100 Yards, Open: 1st, John Gilbey; 2nd, H. Threadgold. Girls Egg and Spoon Race: 1st, L. Blake; 2nd, B. Savill, ; 3rd, A. Threadgold. 100 Yards under 15: 1st, E. Blake; 2nd, J. Blake; 3rd, B. Luckey. Veterans Race, Over 50: 1st, F. Blake , 2nd, Halestrap. Hurdle Race: 1st, G. J. Silvester; 2nd, Jas Gilbey. Three Legged 1st, H. Threadgold and Jas. Gilbey : 2nd, J. Reed and G. Threadgold. Potato Race: 1st, E. Norris, 2nd, A. Threadgold and F. Wilkins. 200 Yards Handicap: 1st, Sam Vale; 2nd, G. Eldred 3rd, H, Threadgold. Quoits Match 1st, Jos. Reed; 2nd, P. Blake. Obstacle Race: 1st, S. Vale; 2nd, A. Warwick; 3rd, E. Reed.

The Tug of War produced a hard struggle, and was won by F. Sandford's team (twice) again at R. Blake's (once). The Greasy Pole was almost too greasy, and after twenty minutes vain attempts, further competition was given up, and the leg of mutton was made the prize of an Obstacle Race for married men; won by K H. Hudgell.

The prizes were contributed by the gentry resident in the village; Mr. Mascall gave the leg of mutton; and Mr. C. Gold defrayed the other costs. The Sports ended about six, and half-an-hour later the Stortford Band, which had been playing selections throughout the afternoon, wound up the proceedings with "God save the Queen". Between 400 and 500 people, amongst them Sir Walter Gilbey, were present.



This photo dates from 1901 seven years after the first fete but the closest we have

School News

School is back and full of energy.

The long summer holidays and given everyone at Birchanger School a real burst of enthusiasm for the new school year ahead.

The school welcomed one of the largest new intakes into its reception class in recent years. The second week in term was "Meet the Teacher Week" when parents came to school to find out what their child would be learning that term. The PTA met to appoint a new officer team and to plan a program of events for the school year. Children stood for the School Council elections and planned to make a speech explaining why they were best for the job to the rest of their class. Stansted School came in to the school with a Maths Road Show for pupils in Years 5 and 6 as well as their parents. Breakfast Club restarted on Fridays and the usual Friday afternoon assemblies began.

The school welcomes volunteers to come into the school to help with a variety of tasks including the guided reading program and helping in the library. This is now situated in the old computer suite while the old library has been turned into a quiet area dubbed the "snug", which can be used by small groups as well as the new library. If you are interested in participating in the school as a volunteer please call the school on 812362.

New equipment in the playground.

For some time now the existing play equipment has been in dire need of renovation or replacement. This year the school decided to take the plunge to ditch the rather well used elderly equipment to invest in something new and hopefully longer lasting.

For older children the choice was a castle complete with a bridge to link the two sections. For the younger children the choice was a pirate ship which will promote all manner of imaginative play and interactions between the two units. New safety surfacing has also been provided.

Two units may not sound much, but they are large, robust and will give pleasure for years to come.

Year six leavers

Every year we say farewell to year six pupils in July. Here are some of their comments about their experiences at Birchanger Primary school.

"As soon as I stepped through the school gates on my first day this school has cared for me through the years that I have been here. Memories I have had at this school are going to be with me for the rest of my life. At this school I have done many things that I will remember my whole life like pantomimes and amazing residential

trips. I would just like to say thank you to Miss Williams, Mrs Culpin, Mrs Buckley and Mrs Warbrick and all the other teachers and teaching assistants that work in this school."

By Briony.

"My experience at Birchanger was brilliant! I achieved to jump 110cms in high jump. I enjoyed every moment at Birchanger I made loads of friends and I'll be sorry to not hardly see them again."

By Luke.

"My time in Birchanger has been fun, enjoyable and exciting. The best moment in my school life was in SATs when I succeeded in getting a level 5 in reading!"

By Frankie

"Ever since I've been here it's been fabulous! Birchanger has provided me with the building blocks for my life. I will gravely miss all of my teachers especially Mrs Warbrick, Miss Williams and Mrs Culpin. I have made fantastic friends and I hope we stay in contact! THANK YOU BIRCHANGER!"

By Andrew.

"My experience at this school began the day I stepped through the gates. I have experienced having wonderful friends and teachers. The work at this school has been challenging but the teachers and my caring friends have helped me through that. The enjoyable trips are something to remember especially the trip to Norfolk as that was where I overcame my fear of heights! I would like to say a big thank you to the teachers and friends who have helped me over the years at Birchanger Primary School."

By Jodie.

"During Birchanger Primary School I have been an average kid, but when I went in to Class 3 (Miss William's class) I have been doing really well. I got some of the highest results in the class! I am really going to miss Birchanger and thank you Miss Williams and Mrs Culpin.

"By Charlie.

News from St Mary's

Harvest for the Hungry

We are putting together some boxes to support the charity "Harvest for the Hungry" which provides essential aid for those in great need and at a time of emergency. The boxes are given direct to the families that need help and if you would like to contribute, the items needed now are:

1.5kg bags plain flour

1kg bags long grain rice

1kg bags sugar

500g bags of lentils

250g packets of biscuits

Variety bags of chocolate bars

Toothpaste

Tooth brushes

Soap

Flannels

Please bring your donations to church on Sunday morning.

Harvest Supper Evening - 22nd October

Tickets for this event will be on sale very shortly. Please speak with either Pam Lee or Peter Odrich if you are interested in joining us on this occasion.

Found!

A DVD holder containing pod casts has been found at Spots Water. If you have lost this please call me on 812793.

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

November Entertainment

12th - **Red & Black (Louise & Bernie) live**

19th - **Race Night 8.30pm**

26th - **Tequila live.** Social night, free raffle for all members. Non-members are welcome but must sign in and pay £2 per head

Follow us at www.birchangerclub.com

229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

Fete Proceeds

Sue's White Elephant stall (there actually was one) raised £137.84 and the bottle stall run by Mark and Tina Crossley another £200 for magazine funds. Thanks to all who contributed. The excess Bric a Brac has been donated to the church



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Village Diary October/November

October

23rd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
30th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

November

6th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins
12th 8.00 pm At the Club
Red and Black
(Louise and Bernie)
13th 10.45 am St Mary's
Remembrance Sunday
19th 8.30 pm At the Club
Race Night
20th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service
26th 8.00 pm At the Club
Social Night with
Tequila
27th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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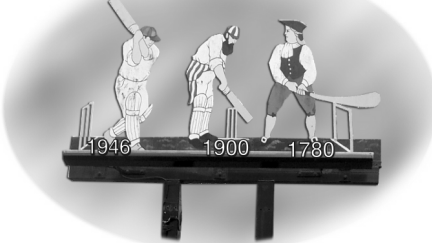
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