

Birchanger

July 2011



Magazine

Issue 103

BEER HOUNDS ON THE LOOSE

Birchanger Club ran another of its successful Brewery trips on June 23rd with 24 members led by Keith Robins setting out on a coach that arrived 45 minutes late.

Fortified by some emergency beer supplies we arrived at Woodbastwick in Norfolk at 7.00 pm just in time for the tour of the Woodforde's brewery where two knowledgeable guides instructed us all in the noble art of brewing beer. Two hours later they allowed us to try some.

The Woodforde's brewery has been producing Norfolk Ales for many years. They currently brew seven different ones the most popular of which is called "Wherry" after the boats on the Norfolk broads.

At the end of our tour we were directed to a hospitality room where some buffet food and two barrels of beer were provided. When this was exhausted we retired to the Fur and Feather, which is the brewery tap situated right next to the brewery itself.

More product was consumed and as all good things come to an end at some time, we boarded the coach at closing time and slept all the way back to Birchanger.



All looking patient but thirsty

Can't wait for the next one!

MORE PATHWAYS IN THE WOODS

The Birchanger Wood Trust has secured more cash from BAA's London Stansted Community Fund to assist with the work the Trust is doing to refurbish the woodland paths in this ancient woodland. The Trust is securing funds to pursue the upgrade of second stage (1225 meters). This is an all-year-round woodland path suitable for wheelchair users, and those local residents taking exercise, and enjoying solace, which, because it prevents the need for people to step off the path, also conserves the undergrowing English bluebells and beautiful wood anemones. A two in one bonus achievement!

Photo showing Marcella M'Rabarty handing a cheque for £5,000 from BAA (London Stansted Airport Community Fund) to Ralph Gilbert, Chairman of The Birchanger Wood Trust,





PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Unsung Heroes!

Essex county council are facing cuts like the rest of us, and the work on footpaths and bridleways seems to be falling behind: unless you have a footpath which has apparently deviated from the route shown on an ECC map. Until last month even although they finally agreed that we could have a permitted path, you were directed into a thicket then a garden, which never a path at the end of it. Happily common sense prevailed at last on that one.

Anyway the nettles along the footpath which leads to the motorway footpath crossing had become seriously overgrown and were not apparently a priority it seems. Several children managed to fall into them over half term, with the usual unfortunate results and there was not a dock leaf to be seen.

Finally the father and grandfather of one of the victims took matters into their own hands and cut and strimmed the footpaths. They even carted away the debris. They are owed a big thank you from everyone who uses the path and are perhaps an outstanding example of the big society and community action for the good of all.

I for one appreciate it. Thank you. When they grow back, any more volunteers? There are other paths in need of urgent attention as well.

Seems to be Tree Lopping time.

Following Essex county council decision to revoke a great many tree preservation orders without telling the district council it seems to be open season on tree felling. The district council has only reinstated the orders on three of the trees, with the others the owners seem to be doing what they like.

It seems that the rest of the village is also getting in on the act, leading to some complaints from those who are not the actual owners of the trees. Tree felling must be considered carefully. Responsible tree pruning is vital. Irresponsible felling is not and there is a fine line between the two. Remember tree felling cannot be undone quickly if the results are not as expected.

Applying online for a Council Property.

The district council has written to all prospective council tenants on their waiting list to tell them that they will have to renew their applications, but this time it will have to be done on line.

This is fine for a great many people but to those who are not computer literate and who do not have access

to a computer, it will just compound their housing problems.

You can do it on line at the council offices where there is a computer for your use and someone to assist you if necessary.

I am also happy to help where I can on 812793.

Recreation Ground Improvements.

Following the award of a grant from Uttlesford district council, the Parish council is planning to do some work on the recreation ground later this year. The ROSPA report has outlined some low risk repair work which needs to be done, mainly due to regular wear and tear of the equipment and replacement safety surfacing. When this is done the parish council will be looking to provide something for the older children, as was requested when the playground was last refurbished. One of the items requested was a basket ball net. The parish council has been looking at this and have identified a suitable net and post with appropriate safety surfacing. Hopefully with an additional grant the parish council will at last be able to provide this item by the end of the year. Sorry the wait has been so long. It is hoped to consult with young people shortly as to the preferred siting of the basket ball net shortly.

The recreation has proved to be a very popular venue this summer and we mean to keep up the standards there as best we can. Meanwhile to all users of the playground, please use the equipment in a safe manner, and young children must be supervised at all times. The Parish council does its best to ensure glass and other nasties are removed, there may be times when the irresponsible users and there are only a few, get there before us.

Kerbside Recycling Trial

The district council is to roll out a kerbside textile recycling scheme shortly. The district which has one of the best recycling and composting rates in the country is to try to increase their recycling totals by running a partnership with Essex Textiles to collect textiles across the district.

The scheme will operate in two ways, according to whether you live in a rural location or a more urban area. I have yet to figure out which one Birchanger is in, but if we are considered to be "urban" we should shortly be receiving a bag with the recycling green bin and a leaflet telling us how the scheme will work. This will be

basically on the same day as the recycling collection but using the bag for textiles. The bag will be replaced. If we are deemed to be "rural" we shall simply receive a card explaining the call and collect service, where by calling a free phone number the caller may simply arrange a free textile collection, at a convenient time. If you have not received a bag or leaflet, please call Essex Textiles free phone number 0800 787 9071.

Anonymous Complaints.

In the course of my work I receive a great many complaints, almost all of them justified but some are sent anonymously.

I do understand that if you are complaining about someone or something in your neighbourhood you may be afraid of repercussions if it becomes known that you are the complainant, but it is also very difficult to deal with the complaint. Even if the District council is inclined to act on an anonymous complaint, there are often occasions when more information is needed, and officers do not know who to contact, so no action can be taken.

The police and the council are very understanding about the potential delicacy of the situations and do their best to protect the complainant's identity, as do I.

So please, if you really want some action, please tell us who you are when you complain or need to report something you believe to be wrong.

Little Gems throw a Big Coffee Morning.

It is a long time since Birchanger has held a coffee morning quite like this one. Little Gems are a group of ladies in Birchanger who are doing their best to fight ovarian cancer, which is only too often a deadly cancer which may remain undetected until it is too late for successful treatment. The group is trying to raise funds to promote research into the disease and a means for an early diagnosis in sufferers.

They held an enormous coffee morning in the Church Hall. Along with the cakes, scones and coffee there was a wide variety of stalls selling everything from plants to jewellery. There was a raffle as well as tombola. The coffee morning was well advertised and participants were actually queuing to get into the hall at one point. Over £780 was raised which reflects the very hard work which the group had put in to ensure the event was a big success.

Their next project is a marathon in early October. Most of the participants have never done anything like this before. They will need our sponsorship. Please help them if you can.

Strawberries and Cream Galore.

That is what visitors to the Strawberry and Cream Tea Party found when they dropped into 214 Birchanger Lane for a welcome return of the Strawberry and Cream Tea which had been a regular Birchanger treat for many years.

Barbara and Tony Wilson have taken over where Bert and Rene Kadwill left off after running the event for many years, both for the church as well as the British Legion, in

the days where there was a British Legion Branch in Birchanger. Bert and Rene would have loved to see the teas back in the garden again, and it was especially good to welcome their son Christopher and his family back to the village for this occasion.

The rain mainly held off. There was a choice of strawberry cream scones or straight forward strawberries and cream, a chance to relax in a sheltered garden with friends, dip into the tombola and participate in the raffle.

The event raised £235 for Birchanger Church and gave everyone a very enjoyable Saturday afternoon despite the heavy showers. Barbara and Tony have promised that it will once again become a regular event on the Birchanger Calendar.

Birchanger Buddies is not taking a Holiday.

Very soon now everyone will be breaking up for the summer holidays. With ever stricter rules about taking children out of school many people will be actually able to get away at last. but there are very few who will be away all the school holiday.

Birchanger Buddies is aware of this and will remain open throughout the school holiday period at the usual time on Fridays between 1.30 and 3pm. Parents are very welcome to bring their older children with them. There is plenty of space and it will be an opportunity for those who may not normally be able to visit Birchanger Buddies because of the Sharing Assembly at the school, to see what happens and for their children to join in the various activities on offer.

British Legion Coffee Morning.

Although this was not in the grand style of the Little Gems Coffee Morning, the coffee morning for the British Legion raised over £170. A big hit on the menu were the cream scones baked by Ken Wheatley. Thank you to Ken and to the many who came and helped to make the morning so successful.

The annual poppy collection will start at the end of October and it is hoped that over £2000 will be raised then. However it won't unless there are more volunteers who are prepared to help with house to house poppy collections. Ideally every house should be visited and the more people who volunteer the better the Birchanger collection will be.

If you are happy to participate for even just the odd hour, please call Angie and Geoff Driscoll on 817376.

School News

This past School Year has focused on learning the basics of modern languages in school. Earlier in the year the school held a very successful German Day. This term the focus was on Spanish, and under the tuition of James, complete in a smart Spanish costume, the children not only learned basic Spanish they learned Spanish songs, and how to salsa and to perform the flamenco as well. Flamenco dancing won hands down in the popularity stakes. The children also learned some Spanish songs, learned about Spanish customs such as the March Fiesta in Valencia and discovered Spanish food. They came dressed for the day in brilliant colours of red and yellow. Some of the girls wore flamenco costumes. It all made for a very colourful day, and proved yet again how easy learning can be especially when it is so much fun.

The sad thing is that although the core funding for the school remains the same as last year, extra funding grants on which all schools have to depend, no longer exist. It will become increasingly hard to fund days like this with professional teachers in the future unless the political climate changes. The local MP Sir Alan Haselhurst was made very aware of this when he paid a visit to the school recently. Next year the focus will be on science and music. Will we be able to create special learning days like this for these subjects?

Birchanger is a Nut Free School.

The school has enjoyed a reputation over many years of being a school which is able to cater for a variety of children's needs. Nut allergy is just one of them. The school is very well aware that there can be very dramatic and worrying results when a child who has an allergy, is exposed to any product which contains nuts. The parents of the children are very good at respecting the need to keep nuts of any sort out of the lunch box, but it seems they can creep in via a number of innocent seeming spreads and desserts. There is a real need to check the contents on everything it seems. It is really surprising what gets into our food these days.

More District Council Awards for Birchanger Pupils

The District council offers achievement awards through the Local Strategic Partnership to primary school pupils across the district, who have made outstanding progress in a variety of subjects throughout the school year. They received their certificates from Gaynor Bradley at the school last month, and have all been invited to attend a special reception and tea at the council offices, where they will be presented with a book token for £20 along with winners from 8 other schools in Uttlesford. It is a very special occasion for the children as their hard work

over a long time is acknowledged and they are treated to a special occasion as well.

The school had 6 winners last year, and as one of them said that it was a lot of fun going into a bookshop with £20 to spend just on themselves.

This year's winners are Molly McArthur for Maths, Isabella Tilley for English, Lottie Deighton for Sport, Ned Sowter for Music, while Daniel Tierney achieved a second award again this year for outstanding achievement in Science and IT.

Congratulations everyone, enjoy reading your new books.

End of Term Excitement

July was an incredibly busy month for the school as always. There was not only the play, sports day and summer fair to prepare for, the leavers have their own special ball, the school hosted a two lunches, first of all for all the new parents, who had a chance to sample the menu their children will enjoy next term, then parents of the leavers were also invited to lunch at the end of the term.

To prepare their own stall for the fete the children held a sunshine day, when they came to school in bright colours of orange yellow and red, with an item in the same colours to be sold at the fete the next day. Classes continued around all the preparations, but there is a buzz in the air and the prospect of the long summer holiday to come.

Birchanger School Celebrates Victory in the District Sports.

Birchanger School beat ten teams to come first in the District Sports last month. Although the school is usually among the leaders this is the first time for a few years that they were the outright winners. Congratulations everyone, all that training paid off. Birchanger is one of the smaller schools in the competition as well.



Look and feel fantastic on your special day!

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The return of the Last Night of the Proms

By popular request the Last Night of the Proms will be back for one more year at Birchanger Village Hall on September 10 th. The event is combined with a Race Night for the first half. During the interval a Fish and Chip/ Chicken and Chip supper will be served followed by an opportunity to join in the fun live from the Royal Albert Hall, with the help of the latest technology. Tickets are available price £15 each from Brian Ross on 814961 or Elizabeth Godwin on 812793. Please state your preference for a Fish or Chicken supper when buying your tickets

News from St Mary's

Some of you will recall the Cream Teas at Hybanks which the Kadwills did each year to raise funds for various charities. Well, this year, on the 18th June ,the new occupants Barbara and Tony Wilson, threw open their door to welcome everyone to a sumptuous strawberry tea that tasted as good as it looked!

The weather did not look too promising but many prayers were answered when the sun came out and stayed for over 2 hours allowing all visitors to enjoy the lovely gardens that Barbara and Tony have tended. They raised over £240 and have donated this to St Mary's - a huge thank you to them and all who helped to make this event a real success.

Allotment space available

Further work on new allotment space is expected this month. This means that there is still more space available to anyone in Birchanger who would like to have an allotment. If you are interested please contact our Parish clerk Julia Peachey on 503912 or the member in charge of the allotments, Mark Crossley.

Can you help?

I am going to run a stall at the village fete on September 6th. I need bric a brac, nearly new and any unwanted gifts to raise funds for your village Magazine, which has now been delivered free to your door for the past 7 years. In order to continue we need funds. It costs around £140 per issue so any help,would be gratefully accepted. Please ring Sue Gilbey on 01279 816171 and I will collect. Thanking you in advance. Sue.

Can you help the Scouts?

The 1st Birchanger Scouts Group provides a range of exciting and challenging activities for young people aged of 8 to 14. In the past six months Cub Scouts and Scouts from this community have had fun tobogganing, rafting, fishing and orienteering and have contributed to their local community by helping out at the Birchanger 10k race.

The young people are all looking forward to this year's Summer Camp which will take us to Phasels Wood Activity Centre. We also have big plans for next year. We plan to join with 10,000 other people from across the world in the region's largest International Jamboree.

The group is run by a team of volunteers who have just as much fun as the young people they work with. After all, where else can an adult get to go sailing, tobogganing and climbing?

The Group has a strong leadership team and need some lay supporters to help with the admin for the Group. We are currently looking to recruit new members of the support committee to help with making sure the Group has enough resources to carry on providing young people with weekly adventures. The support team meets once a month in the Sports and Social club to discuss fund raising and promotion. We are specifically looking for a chairman and secretary to contribute to work with the existing group of supporters.

If you would like to find out more about joining our supporter's team please contact us at hatfieldforest@essexscouts.org.uk.

Letters to the Editor

Please can we have a dog mess bin?

I have two dogs and walk them daily. I have just returned from the fields behind Birchwood and have picked up a Tesco carrier bag full of dog mess!

When your dog fouls the paths why not use a nappy sack (Inexpensive) and take it home with you?

I am fed up picking up other dog owners animal mess. I don't want to walk in it when I am out.

I have telephoned Sue Knight (animal warden) and asked about a dog bin, but she informs me that Uttlesford District Council cannot afford one for Birchchanger.

Linda Collins 29 Harrisons.

Ed's Note

This is an ongoing issue that has been mentioned several times now by Mrs Godwin. The village runs several fund raising events annually. How about using some of those funds to purchase our own dogs mess bins?

And then this raised more questions of its own. Where would they be situated and whose job would it be to empty them? Etc.etc.

A new sponsor in the magazine garden

Ever needed some professional help in your garden? Birchchanger Village Magazine is happy to welcome GWB Horticulture as our newest sponsor.

Set up by Gareth Broad and based in Clavering you may have seen their vehicle while working locally. Their press release says :-

"Our landscape gardeners offering Landscaping services based in the Uttlesford district of Hertfordshire, GWB Horticulture currently delivers an outstanding and unparalleled quality of service to customers throughout Hertfordshire, West Essex and in the south of Cambridgeshire.

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A visit to their website www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk will give you a thorough insight into their varied and comprehensive services accompanied with photos and testimonials from satisfied customers.

So thanks once again to Gareth for joining our happy band of sponsors.



Before and after
A hedge reduction in Stansted



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Help us help others

Charity golf day in memory of Nick Tilstone 2011

For the last ten years I have held a charity golf day in memory of Nick, my late husband. Family and friends gathered together for a game of golf, a presentation of trophies and prizes, music and an evening meal.

It was always a day of fun and remembering Nick. Every year we raised money for the Isabel hospice, Macmillan nurses or the Marie Curie nurses.

One year we also had a Halloween disco in Nick's memory and we raised even more money.

I decided that this year on the tenth anniversary we would make it the last fund raising day.

We had draw tickets printed with prizes ranging from premier tickets to Newmarket races, dinner and wine for two, rounds of golf, etc and a lovely person donated a long weekend in an apartment in France. Many people were very generous and through such generosity I have raised £900 to go to the Isabel hospice this year. Thank you so very much to all the people who kindly bought tickets or gave prizes throughout those years. And a very special thank you to all the people who came to the golf day and supported us by participating whether they were a golfer or not.

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

August Entertainment

13th	Martyn Williams Hypnotist
20th	Charity Race Night
27th	Chris Keen

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Village Diary July/August

July

24th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

30th 8.00 pm At the Club
The Ghias

31st 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

August

7th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

13th 8.00 pm Martyn Williams
Hypnotist

14th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

20th 8.00pm Charity Race Night

21st 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

27th 8.00pm Chris Keen

28th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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