

Birchanger

January 2012



Magazine

Issue 109

CLUB REPORTS BUMPER CHRISTMAS

Christmas Joy

The club enjoyed a fantastic attendance over the Christmas period this year, even better than the previous year! The group "Hit and Run" provided great music and had everybody rocking on Christmas Eve. Christmas day lunchtime was fully attended even without entertainment and New Year's Eve with the Disco "Music through the ages" was a sell out and the club near full to bursting. The numerous raffles and the whisky draw on Boxing Day proved to be a great success.

Many thanks go to the stewards Graham and Kim, their staff and the club organisers for putting in the hard work and making such a successful and enjoyable Christmas at the club.

Club survey

A club survey was distributed in the club and around the village during December in order to find out what the members wanted for the future and how the club could improve its performance, service, entertainment and facilities. By and large the results were very positive with bar staff, food and range of drinks being at the top of the praised list. A number of good suggestions were also received which if implemented could increase the popularity and success of the club. A detailed summary of the survey will be issued next month.

Subscriptions

Birchanger Social club would like to remind its members that subscriptions for 2012 (£17.50) are now due.

Life Members

To ensure that the club complies with its licence, all Life members have until the end of February to re-register their membership.

To re-register simply complete a form (available in the club) with your name and address indicating 'Life member'





PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

A Red Letter Year?

On paper 2012 has the makings of being a year to remember. A leap year, an Olympic Year as well as the year of the Diamond Jubilee, a combination which nobody alive today can expect to see again.

These are all events which could take us out of the gloom of the winter with the continuing depressing economic situation. They are events which could not just boost us but the entire country. If one of the events does not appeal to you, the chances are the others will.

The way we will celebrate the milestones in Birchanger is as yet not entirely certain, but celebrate we will in one way or another. To date only one road in Birchanger has come forward for plans for a street party, although a different version of a Birchanger Revue at the village hall is a strong possibility.

For many the best way of viewing the Olympics will be on our own small screens, but the district as a whole will be at the forefront of the celebrations, as teams and heads of state converge on Stansted at all hours of the day and night. The torch will pass through here, all be it in a coach and many visitors to the games will be staying in our hotels and guest houses. It is still not too late to offer accommodation in your homes to Olympic visitors.

Make the most of this year, it is special and there are big gains to be made which will help us through 2013.

Happy New Year Everyone.

Once Again Your Views Are Required.

As the Localism Bill is now law, the District Council along with most other councils in the UK are busily updating their local plans to accord with the new planning structure. Uttlesford is embarking on the consultation process this month and if you have not received it already, you will be receiving the first of three consultation Documents which will come your way this year.

Following the previous consultation the option of a new settlement is no longer the council's preferred solution.

Instead development is proposed to be concentrated around the main settlements, with only very small amounts proposed for smaller villages, and these are expected to be community led.

For Birchanger although there were sites identified by landowners and agents in the Strategic Housing Land Allocations, these have been ruled to be unsuitable and unless over 50% of the electorate are in favour of the proposals are not going to happen. In fact if we need affordable housing it is up to us to say where and the site owners have to be willing to sell the land.

We can also change our own development limits, but there is a presumption against this. Some with gardens on the edge whose land is outside development limits may wish to do this as was the case at Churton. The change would need to be supported and justified.

It is important to read the consultation document. It is not all about new housing, there are other issues such as landscape, noise, and amenity which do require your input. There will also be an exhibition and maps of the District on 6th February at the Day Centre Grafton Green. This will run throughout the day and into the evening. Officer will be on hand to answer your questions and to talk through the various issues.

Your opinion does matter. The council listened to the residents of Elsenham. They will listen to you.

New Look Ambulance Service.

We have always looked to the ambulance service to take us to hospital when we are seriously ill or have had an accident. One call to the 999 service and an ambulance whisks you to casualty in no time at all.

That was the old days. These days the approach is quite different. The crew who arrive on your doorstep are likely to be highly trained paramedics or technicians. Their job is to take you to hospital if you really need it, but to see what can be done to treat and to help you first in your own home. If you are visited by the most highly trained team they can administer drugs and pain killers or call

for the support of those who can. They will assess your options and proceed accordingly.

Under the new system many who expected to have to wait hours in casualty, will find themselves comfortably treated at home, with appropriate on going care secured through the various agencies. If you do need to go to hospital, your condition will be stabilised for the journey and you will be taken to the hospital unit most appropriate to your needs, It could mean a specialist unit at a London Hospital, Papworth, the Burns Unit at Broomfield as well as the local casualty department for more routine cases.

The target time for a response is 8 minutes across the district; 75% of all calls currently achieve this. This target may not be met at peak times, inclement weather or call overload. Giving the correct address is vital. Most of the failure to arrive inside the target time is due to the original caller giving an incorrect address. In the stress of the moment this can happen very easily. Some people have already experienced the service and have been delighted to have been treated at home where this has been possible.

Training for the ambulance crews is constantly on going. It is no longer about basic first aid and getting there fast. They are assisted by the First Responders who are located in the larger towns and villages in Uttlesford and are ordinary people trained in emergency techniques. They too save lives. A paramedic is also a very worthwhile career for those about to leave school to contemplate as well.

Planning Application at Last for the Stansted Surgery.

The longest awaited surgery plans ever have finally landed on the doorstep of the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. It will be some time before the first bricks are laid, as after three months for the plans to be considered, there will be a further three months of adjustments and tender applications. The project is unlikely to start for at least 6 months from the date the planning application is decided should it be approved. The earliest we could expect the doors to open will be on 2014. Meanwhile the struggle for both patients and surgery staff alike must continue.

The plans for the new PCTs seem to be impossibly complicated to lay eyes. The trusts will also come on line around that time but I am afraid I could not put a time limit on the date we may expect the kind of service from the PCT we can only dream about at present.

Police Station Closures.

Dismay has been expressed right across the board at the closure of police stations in smaller towns and villages across Essex. Our district in particular with easy motorway access is at risk from the criminals who might trip it down from London, and escape before the victims are aware of what has actually happened to them.

The District Council is asking for explanations from the higher ranks of the police force as to the thinking behind this retrograde step and to whether the reasons are just purely financial. There need to be changes to the times the community police bus visits, as a great many of the people who might have issues are at work during the day.

The future of the Police Community Support Officers is also uncertain. They have proved to be invaluable to Birchanger in the past few years and the work they do is very much appreciated by those who have needed their help. A police officer sent out from Harlow could never understand the situation here.

At the moment our nearest Police Stations open on a part time basis are at Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. They will be open Monday to Saturday between 12 noon and 6pm.

The mobile Police Station will be in the Church Hall Car park between 10 and 11am on January 6th, February 2nd March 2nd and March 30th.

Some Section 106 Money Confirmed.

Birchanger Wood and Birchanger Nursery will receive grants of £33,000 and £7,000 respectively from the Community Section 106 money for Forest Hall park Estate. This will benefit not just those who live in Birchanger, but everyone in the area who use the wood and the Nursery.

More money will be made available, but apart from the £660,000 already allocated to Stansted, it is not known at the time of writing as to where the remaining money, estimated to be some £6-£700,000 will be spent.

CHOCOLATE, TOFFEE AND PEANUT SQUARES

Makes about 24 squares

100 g 3 ½ oz Caster Sugar
200 g 7 oz butter softened and diced
300 g 10 ½ oz self raising flour sifted
400 ml 14 fl oz boiled condensed milk
125 g 4 ½ oz salted peanuts roughly chopped
200 g 7 oz milk chocolate broken into pieces

Pre heat your oven to 180 C/ fan 160 Gas mark 4
Line the base of a Swiss roll tin with baking parchment.

In a food processor whiz together the sugar butter and flour for the short bread base until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs.

Alternatively rub together the butter and flour in a bowl with your finger tips and stir in the sugar.

Tip into the tin and press down with your hands or a pallet knife to level out.

Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown, then remove and cool in the tin.

Spread over the boiled condensed milk to cover the shortbread, then press the roughly chopped peanut into it making sure they are evenly distributed.

Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water.

Remove the chocolate from the heat and pour over the milk and peanuts.

Allow it to cool then leave in the fridge for 1 to 2 hours to set.
Once set, cut the mixture into squares in the tin and serve.



BIRCHANGER BUDDIES

BABY & TODDLER GROUP
BIRCHANGER VILLAGE HALL
EVERY FRIDAY 1.30PM TO 3.30 PM
£2 PER FAMILY INCLUDING DRINKS AND
A HEALTHY SNACK

**Birchanger Buddies is a non-profit organisation run by
volunteer mums/dads. New volunteers always wel-
come FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT**

GEMMA MILLS 07582 683 140
birchangerbuddies@gmail.com
www.birchangerbuddies.co.uk
[birchangerbuddies@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/birchangerbuddies@groups)

Thanks for your help

The magazine has received
a very generous donation
of £350 from the Village Art
show Committee for which
we are very grateful.

News from Birchanger Social Club

Club opening times:

Day	Open	Closed	Food
Monday	19:00	23:00	No
Tuesday	19:00	23:00	Evening & Takeaway
Wednesday	11:30	14:30	Lunchtime
Wednesday	18:00	23:00	No
Thursday	19:00	23:00	No
Friday	11:30	23:00	Lunchtime, Evening & Evening Takeaway
Saturday	11:30	23:00	Lunchtime & Evening
Sunday	12:00	22:30	Lunchtime time & Evening

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

February Entertainment

4th - Her Majesty & Sir Tom (Winnie & Husband)
18th - Race Night
25th - Martyn Williams. Hypnoman

Follow us at www.birchangerclub.com

229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

Applying for Membership

Membership is open to any person aged 18 or above. To apply, simply obtain a membership form from behind the bar and find two people who have been members for at least one year to propose and second your application. When all three of you have completed the form hand it in at the bar together with the application fee covering the first year's annual subscription. Once accepted, you can collect your year's membership card within 7-10 days at the club.

Application and Membership Fees

For new members, the first annual subscription is * £22.50 and then £17.50 per calendar year thereafter. Members must renew their membership by the end of January of each year, irrespective of what time of year they joined the Club. Renewal after January deadline will cost an extra £5.00

Temporary Membership

Visitors to Birchanger may obtain temporary membership. This lasts for two weeks and costs £2.50. To obtain temporary membership the visitor needs to be sponsored by a full member, who will apply to the committee on their behalf.

Life Members

Members, who have completed five years of uninterrupted membership, are fully paid up, and who have reached the state retirement age will normally be granted Life Membership upon application. They do not then need to pay any further membership fees but they are required to renew their membership each year.

Pavilion hire:

The club has a small cricket pavilion which is for hire and suitable for; private parties, kids birthdays, meetings, book and cookery clubs, first aid training, chess clubs, martial arts training, computer and photographic clubs, band rehearsal etc. The pavilion can hold around 30-40 people and has tables and chairs, kitchen and toilet facilities. Food and bar services are also available. Special rates are offered for members and regular users. For details and rates please contact Kim or Graham Griffiths on 01279 813 441.

School News

Switch Off Week!

This was the week when children certainly used their brains and skills to discover ways in which they both personally and as a school could save energy. They became conscious of just how many things were actually switched on when they did not need to be, and were using energy without a purpose. They learned which things were best to leave switched on, which needed extra energy to start them up and the myriad of small things which were actually switched on when they were not being used and simply wasting energy.

They then set about switching off the unnecessary items. There was a certificate awarded to the one who found and switched off the most unnecessary appliances. The experience which was both interesting and fun, will have benefits well beyond the school when they take the lesson home with them.

Christmas 2011 Round Up.

Christmas is mainly about children for a large number of people. It was with children that the festivities began. Birchanger Buddies started with a big party to celebrate Christmas, complete with entertainer, very special party food and finished with Father Christmas and presents for everyone.

The school extended a special welcome to senior citizens in the village to come to the school nativity play performed by Key Stage 1 children. The two performances of "A Present for the Baby " were well attended and proved to be real tear jerkers. As always even the smallest children performed confidently and well. The angels were beautiful and Mary herself had the most serene smile on her face throughout. Dressing up and face painting is always fun and the small performers gave us another memorable Christmas occasion. The term ended with Christmas Lunch, with all the trimmings and a very special treat of Indian cuisine prepared by School Chefs Amna and Liz McCarthy.

A concert of Christmas music was much appreciated and enjoyed in the church. There was a Christingle service for grownups, as well as one for the children, and the annual Christmas Carol Service complete with mince pies and mulled wine. Festivities continued into the New Year at the club. The village looked lovely and welcoming with its Christmas Lights. Happy New Year everyone.

Three New Parent Governors.

At the end of last term three new Parent Governors were voted in by fellow parents to serve as governors for the next four years. Competition was fierce, and there were only a few votes between the candidates. Those who were successful were Iain Rankin, Andrew Kay and Dawn Truscott. Their term of office began on January 1st. They are welcomed to the Governing Body and will start training shortly. Being a governor is a very interesting role. There is a lot to learn, there are constant changes in the way things are done in schools and the learning process is continuous. While welcoming the three new governors, big thanks are due to the three retiring governors, Jason Tierney, Lianne Sowter, and Jo-Ann Chaplin for all they did as governors of Birchanger School.

Can you spare one morning in May

As you are probably already aware, the PTA are now well on the way to organising the Birchanger 2012 10k/5k Run to be held on Sunday 13th May. We hope this will be an extremely fun and entertaining event which we hope will at the same time raise a fantastic sum for Birchanger School.

In order for the event to go ahead and be even more successful than last year, we really need as much help as possible from parents, staff, and the entire school community to help marshal the event course and organise car parking.

Would you be available to come along on the morning of the 13th May, we will be gathering together at around 9 am at the school for a Marshall's briefing where you will be issued with your Marshall's pack and designated a position on the course. You will then make your way to your marshalling point, the race kicks off at 10am. All Marshalls are encouraged to get into the spirit of the race and cheer on the competitors around the course. As the last of the runners come through you will be informed and everyone makes their way back to school for refreshments. We aim to finish sometime between 12.30 pm and 1 pm.

Perhaps you would be happy to organise car parking for the event that morning between 8.30 am and 10.00 am.

If you can spare a few hours to help staff the Birchanger 10k/5k Run we would be extremely grateful. Please get in touch with Selina Rankin at school during drop off/pick up or Tel: 01279 813388 Email: info@chimnesyguesthouse.co.uk or leave a message in the school office.

News from St Mary's

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BIRCHANGER Development Proposals 2012

It is now 5 years since the Parochial Church Council (PCC) approached the Diocese to investigate the possibility of installing a toilet and kitchenette in the church. The Archdeacon and some of her colleagues visited St Mary's to discuss the proposals and they then advised that before the proposals could be given further consideration; the dampness problem in church had to be addressed.

The PCC set about a program of repairs to the guttering and floorboards. These works have now been completed and already we can see an improvement in the wall dampness/staining on the main aisle. We thank the Friends of St Mary's and others who have helped to pay for this work at over £10,000.

To finish the job, the old blown plaster now needs to be repaired and then the whole church interior can be painted. This will cost around £14,000 and we hope to do all of this work in the coming 12 months.

As for the toilet, it has taken some time to locate the whereabouts of the main drains and water (there is none at the church at present), we have had a site meeting with an architect and we have instructed him to prepare detailed plans for our consideration. Once approved and costed, we intend to press on with our application through the Diocese. We are of the view that the provision of a toilet at the church is a necessity. The estimated cost is £80,000.

In a building as old as ours, there will always be something that needs to be repaired or replaced and the PCC has set aside some funds to meet the general cost involved. However, the PCC does not have access to substantial sums and must look for grants and donations to pay for this work.

There is then the organ. With help from the Friends, grants and donations, we have been able to carry out essential repair work but we are about to commence a rigorous program to raise the £100,000 necessary to completely overhaul the organ. The organ is unique and, but for the Franco-Prussian war, it would not have been built here. Daniel Roth, titular organist at Saint-Sulpice, Paris has kindly consented to his name being used to support our fund raising efforts. It is a large sum to spend but in the long term, with the organ in best condition, this will secure the financial future of our church.

So, we need to raise the best part of £200,000. Some will come from church fund raising and some from the Friends. The rest will have to come from grants and donations. Most grant making bodies want to see evidence of matched funding (if we have say £10,000, they will give £10,000) so we are asking for donations to be paid now. Any donation made for this project will be held separately and, unless you agree otherwise, will be used only for the building work and the organ rebuild. If you are able to make a donation or would like further information please contact either Pam Lee (07702171744), Peter Odrich (01279 323927) or the Rector Paul Wilkin (01279 812203)

**Birchanger Scout
and Cub Group**

Prize Bingo

**Sunday 12th February
At 6.30 pm**

In the Scout Hut

PANCAKE DAY COFFEE MORNING



In aid of Church funds

**Tuesday 21st February
10.30 till Noon**

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Village Diary January/February

January

21st 8.00 pm At the Club
The Jags

22nd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

29th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

February

4th 8.00 pm At the Club
Her Majesty and Sir Tom

5th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

12th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion And
Celebration of Marriage

8.00 pm At the Club
Race Night

19th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

8.00 pm At the Club
Martyn Williams
Hypnoman

26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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