

Birchanger

February 2012



Magazine

Issue 110

KARATE KIDS SHINE AGAIN

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL KARATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

Sensei Dean Tilley and four of his Karate students travelled to the K2 sports centre in Crawley West Sussex on Saturday 28th January to compete in the British International Karate Open Championships. Isabella Tilley 2nd kyu, Ruby Tilley 2nd Kyu, Josie Frost 3rd Kyu all took part in the girls under 35 kilos Kumite, Isabella won a silver medal, Josie won a bronze medal, Ruby was unfortunate not to win a medal.

Jordon Martin 2nd Kyu took part in the boys under 35 kilos Kumite winning a bronze medal, also that day Sensei Dean Tilley took part in the Men's Open weight Ippon Kumite and won a silver medal, Sensei Dean Tilley runs Karate classes throughout the week at Birchanger, Stansted, Bishops Stortford and now in Sawbridgeworth, if you are interested in going along and seeing for yourself what its like contact Sensei Dean Tilley on 07951479125



WINTER FUN

Snow on a Sunday is a rare treat for the younger generation. No school, lots of snow to have fun with and all day to do it with a bit of luck! Sledges were out in force, and giant snowmen appeared all over the village, and there were several snow ball fights. We actually had a snow plough through the village at about 11 am, which cleared the road more quickly, but the grey mess which ended up on the pavements will take some time to disappear.

Interesting wild life appeared in the gardens, and the tracks indicate that we are visited by more deer and foxes than might have been expected.

The airport and the motorway were quiet for some hours, but by lunchtime normality had certainly returned



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

You Ought to be Ashamed of Yourselves BT

Nine bungalows in Birchwood at the time of writing have been without a telephone for the past 25 days. The fault was incurred when council workers cut through a cable while providing a soak away to one of the properties, but had the cable been sunk to the correct depth when it was installed, that accident would not have happened.

Given that the fault was obvious you would think it would have been easily and speedily repaired. However with Open Reach in charge of BT's repairs these days, you have to wait a very long time for any repair to happen. First it seems there was the bureaucracy where each tenant was asked to sign a consent for a property they did not actually own, on a decidedly dodgy looking piece of paper, which purported to be a consent form for the work to be carried out, then there were constant abortive visits made without any repair actually happening.

Attempts by the council to speed things up failed, as BT did not have the contract with the council, so they refused to discuss the matter with the officers.

The people who live in the bungalow are generally elderly and possibly not in the best of health. They may not actually have a mobile phone. Surely this is not the way to treat the elderly and vulnerable in the community? If your contractors are not up to the job, well we all know what you should do!

Art Exhibition Donations.

Despite an appeal in this magazine, there was no request from any local group for any of the £600 which was available following the Art Exhibition last September.

The Church Hall and this magazine are always looking for support. The magazine is financed by donations and a small amount of advertising, but at costs running at £120 per month it is sometimes hard to find sufficient resources.

The profits from the Art Exhibition will be shared between the Church Hall and the magazine, so at least we shall be in business for the next few months anyway.

The good news is that the Art Exhibition will be back next September. Watch this space to find out when, and if you would like to become involved with the project, please call me on 812793. There is room for volunteers and although we have our own new ideas for this year's exhibition, we would like to hear yours as well.

Anyone Want to Buy a Police Station?

Well I suppose you would have a built in place to lock up unruly children? Wandering partners? Stansted Police station is up for sale, or possibly a long term lease. It seems to underline the finality of the situation, sending out a clear message of no more police base in Stansted for the foreseeable future. Many hoped the closure was only temporary in harsh economic times. Now it appears to be permanent. There are all sorts of apparently new and better ways to police an area, but a place you could actually drop into was always reassuring. It will be a major inconvenience for those who have to produce their documents. In some cases already people have had to take time off work to do this. The police are appealing for space in Village Halls, but they want this to be free of charge forgetting that somebody has to pay the electricity and heating bills.

It is all very well to base crime predictions on the fact that crime rates in recent years have been low. There is some evidence that the trend is reversing again. Should that happen the police might have to have a rather expensive re think!

Still Time to Respond to the Local Development Framework Consultation.

The first phase of the Local Development Framework Consultation comes to an end on March 5th. There is still time to make your representations to Uttlesford District Council and all the sites may be viewed on line, if you cannot access a hard copy.

This consultation is for comment on the sites which have been suggested only. The sites have been put up for consideration by a wide range of the community, which includes landowners, developers, Parish Councils and private individuals as sites worthy of consideration only. It is for you to make a judgement on these sites. If you support a particular site or loathe it,

now is the time for you to have your say. There are far more sites for consideration than are required for the number of houses needed across the district, so only a few will be evaluated for further consideration. If sites are rejected by the majority then they should not be considered further, unless there are unusually pressing reasons for their inclusion.

Numbers of houses in specific locations will be put forward for consultation in June. You do not have to comment on every site, just the ones you have views on. Comments may be made on line, or by letter. In each case, please make it clear as to which question you are responding to.

Stansted Airport Update.

In Birchanger we all know that Stansted airport has been quieter in the past year. We are right. Some eighteen million came through the airport last year, another drop from the twenty four million who used the airport five years ago.

Make the most of the quieter period, as it will not last much longer this year. Summer will be really busy. Some 100,000 people are expected to pass through the airport on August 13th at the close of the Olympics. With all the other airports bursting at the seams, we can expect Heads of State, officials, teams and tourists to end up at Stansted over the Olympic period. Night times will be busy as well, as the night flight regime will probably be abandoned for the duration.

Cargo flights are expected to increase as equipment arrives for the games. British Airways already has a state of the art 747 in service at Stansted, and quieter planes are expected to be introduced by Fedex shortly. Third world countries are allowed to fly some of the older noisier planes.

Stansted Airport is still to be sold, although BAA is appealing against this. They are putting Edinburgh onto the market in the hope that the Competition Commission will have a change of heart. They are proud that Stansted is the most punctual airport in Europe, largely due to the biggest customer, Ryanair waiting for nobody, I suspect. It is the third most punctual airport in the world. New routes to Iceland are expected to start later this year, but long haul on a permanent basis is unlikely to happen.

The Night Flight Consultation has been put back yet again, and will probably be taken up with the Aviation White Paper which is some months away at least. The continuing aggravation of empty properties which were bought by BAA for the second runway schemes remains but they are being sold slowly. BAA says they want to be rid of them, but does not want to "flood" the property market. They say they do not need the properties, but it is hard to believe that the spectre of the second runway has really gone away. It has been easier living with the airport at its current level, but BAA would rather that state of affairs did not last.

Sad Farewell to PC Kelly Roberts.

PC Kelly Roberts has left us this month to expand her career in the police force. She has been our Community Police Officer for the past 6 years, and most of us have come to know and respect her during her time here.

She is always able to defuse a difficult situation, adopting a calm and pragmatic approach to all the problems we threw at her over the years. Her ability to defuse a situation was phenomenal. She has the ability to see all sides of a problem. She has a sense of humour and a real appreciation of the daily irritants of village life, in particular speeding drivers, inconsiderate parkers, inappropriate use of the bridleways as well as disputes between neighbours. Good luck Kelly in your future career with the police. We shall still have our Community Police Support Team, cuts permitting, but you will never be forgotten in Birchanger.

Few More Days Left to Sign up for Garden Waste Collection.

The new garden waste collection is to start at the beginning of April. Anyone who has expressed an interest in joining the scheme should have had their forms to complete last month, and needs to return them if they are still interested in participating in the scheme.

For those who have not yet signed up for it, you have until the end of February to do so. The scheme costs each household £40 per annum and for that you get a bin for green waste and fortnightly green waste collections between from the beginning of April until December. It may seem pricey, but households are free to arrange between themselves to club together and share a bin if they are unlikely to fill one on their own. After the deadline collections may be difficult to arrange until the following year. 2,500 households have expressed interest, 3,000 bins are on order. This is the start of the way recycling will develop in Uttlesford during the next few months. Expect food caddies and the ability to throw bottles into the recycling bin and to do away with bottle banks later in the year.

David (Wizz) Tucker

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Dave Tucker who passed away at home surrounded by his family on Thursday February 9th.

On behalf of the magazine, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Maureen, Steven, Paul and all the Tucker family.

There will be many tributes paid to Dave in the village. The following is the first

Ed



Dave seen at the 2006 fete

Thank You Dave

It is a very sad time for Birchanger. Dave Tucker, the driving force behind the revival of the Three Willows finally succumbed to cancer on February 9th.

Birchanger has lost a true friend. Not only has he lived or been associated with Birchanger for the major part of his life, he was steward of the Club, and finally the inspiration for the success the Willows has become, ensuring it the highest ratings in Good Pub and Place to Eat Guides. The fish served in the Willows became legendary, with his wife Maureen as chef in the early years, and chief dessert chef after that. People travelled from London just to eat at the pub in Birchanger.

Dave was always a supporter of Birchanger village. The pub provided many free meals as raffle prizes for village functions, and encouraged charitable collections at the pub. The pub was extended, the garden and car park were developed with play equipment provided for children. After many years of indifferent management by previous landlords and managers, Dave showed everyone how a village pub should be run.

As well as ensuring that everything in the Willows ran like clockwork, that the food standards always met the standard he expected, Dave was always happy to chat with his customers, who quickly became his friends. There were jokes galore along with the ever changing varieties of beers and wine available. He was always on the lookout for different foods he could include on the menu, from delicious roasts, to crab and lobsters from Norfolk where he had a holiday home. He passed on his skills to his son Paul as the licensee of the Willows, who is also an excellent chef in his own right, and his son Stephen while working outside the pub business, could be called upon to run the pub in the mould of his father when required.

The last two years were difficult. Dave was determined to beat the disease, and had good periods of a seeming remission. He approached each round of treatment with courage and optimism. He kept his illness at bay for a long time, always working whenever he could. His last project was to complete the improvements on the home he moved into last year, which was a house in which he hoped that he and Maureen would spend their retirement years. In the end, Dave never did retire.

For me, I have lost a very real friend. Like the family I have happy, funny and inspiring memories of Dave. They at least cannot be taken away, but the hardest thing of all is the knowledge that Dave is no longer here.

Dave is irreplaceable and very much missed.

Elizabeth

News from Birchanger Social Club

Entertainment:

After the Christmas season, there was still a good size audience at the club on Saturday 21st January. Entertainment was provided by the popular professional duo "The Jags". The pair were formerly a three piece known as the "GTO's" and played a wide variety 60's music as well as more modern numbers. The duo used backing tracks to give a fuller sound and it certainly worked as the audience danced and applauded all night to the talented couple. "The Jags" are; Gordon Neville (vocals and guitar) and Alan Carvell (vocals and piano) who are well known in the music world and have worked with such icons as; Elton John (Live Aid 1985), Garry Barlow, Bucks Fizz, Rick Wakeman and Sheena Easton. Those that are interested can see Gordon singing with the new London Choral on You Tube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcWI4vohYWg> / <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3E0in-YGXE&feature=related>

Check out the clubs website to see what's on in the coming weeks and don't forget the entertainment is free to all members and just £2 for member's guests!

Club survey finds a winner!

As published last month, a survey was distributed in the club and around the village during December 2011 asking BSSC members for their opinion of the club and what improvements they would like to see in the future. The survey results were entered into a free draw on Saturday the 21st January and club member Kenny Gould was lucky enough to win. Claire Monk,

Birchanger Sports & Social Club supports MENCAP and takes Grove Cottage to the Races!

Birchanger S&S Club have chosen Mencap - Grove Cottage to support throughout 2011/12 by running various events and with the generosity of our members allows us to make a number of donations.

Based in the middle of Bishops Stortford, Grove Cottage provides social activities suitable for every age group. Children can start in the Saturday Clubs at three years old and transfer to an older Saturday group around nine years of age. At fourteen they are able to join the evening Youth Club and when they are ready, normally by the time they are twenty- five, transfer to the adult clubs. Our hope is that their members pass from childhood to adulthood will maintain a strong network of friends that will minimise the risk of social isolation as they become older.

SPECIAL NEEDS NURSERY- operating Tuesday and Thursdays.

SCHOOL AGE CLUBS- operating every Saturday

YOUTH CLUB- operates every Tuesday evening

ADULT CLUBS operating Weds and Thursday evenings

They need volunteers! If you are interested, please contact info@hardsoft.co.uk

We have run very successful DVD video Race Nights periodically in the club for some time, so we thought that it might be a good idea to transfer the event to Grove Cottage and take them to the races. Sure enough it was a huge hit with their Thursday evening adult club. We ran 6 races with each person taking part and picking a number or name of the horse in the race. There was cheering and shouting from the 35 strong race goers as they encouraged their horse to the winning line and euphoria if they had won. The winners of each race came up to choose their prize from a selection of sweets or colouring books and pencils donated by Birchanger Sports & Social Club.

We were made so welcome by the volunteers and the members alike, our reward was seeing their smiling faces throughout the evening and we felt so humbled by the whole experience

We will be back very soon if you "Play Your Cards Right" and that is precisely what the next event will be!

Sue & Dave Woods

School News

School Parking Again.

Last month the police wrote to all the school parents in our Neighbourhood Watch Area, after they had been deluged with complaints from residents whose patience had finally snapped over inconsiderate parkers. These people are still selfish to think it is ok to park over people's driveways and to obstruct both the road and pavement while they take their children in to school. They will "only be a minute" they say, they will only do it this once, but the problem is that someone does it every time at drop off or collection times as residents will testify. Frequently residents have been abused while asking for the car to be moved. It has reached the point where it is more than just extremely annoying. Following a complaint at the end of last year, the Parking Partnership is considering restricting parking in Birchwood to residents only. This would be inconvenient for both residents and visitors to the school alike, and the decision to do this is to be kept under review.

Please think of others when you park anywhere. The school is the most frequent but certainly not the only place where this happens. It has now reached the stage when obstruction charges will be made, and these come with three points for your license.

So inconsiderate parkers where ever you park, remember this. Parking on both sides of the road makes it very difficult for residents to exit their driveways. Traffic wardens are going to police the area on a regular basis. If you block a drive or a pavement so that a buggy cannot pass, it is obstruction, even if you are only doing it for a very short time. Birchanger Club offered its car park for use by parents at peak times. It really is not that far to walk if you are on time. Meanwhile remember , if someone blocks your drive, it is an obstruction, take the registration number and call the police.

Still Time to Look After Your Trees.

For many types of tree the winter is the best time to prune many types of trees and to remove dead wood. The January gales brought home the need for this all over Uttlesford. Birchanger fared better than most, but trees did still block roads in Birchanger.

Calling out a tree surgeon in an emergency can be a very expensive process. The bill is down to the land owner, even if it is the police or council who have been

forced into emergency action while unable to contact the landowner or householder. Best to seek advice before this happens.

Jubilee Wood for Birchanger School.

Every child who came to school on February 3rd helped to plant a tree donated to the school by the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The weather was bright and very cold but fortunately the ground was not too hard.

The children learned a great deal about tree planting, how to dig to the required depth, to include the right nourishment and to protect the tree from weather extremes. Finally every tree was labelled, staked and protected with its own tube.

If these trees are successful, there will be a small wood consisting of cherry, crab apple, rowan, and silver birch to delight children at the school in years to come. A small Jubilee Wood in fact. They will need careful nurturing for the first few years, with regular watering. One small problem, there is a Royal Oak from the Queen's Estates which needs a home in the village. Anyone got any ideas for a suitable site? It cannot remain in the pot for too long,

Big Bird Watch.

Birchanger School has always looked after the birds around the school. There is a pond and wildlife garden and for many years the school has watched blue tits from the time the eggs were laid until they finally fly. The RSPB locally have been very active in the school and they were there again to help with the Big Bird Watch which ran for two weeks in the school last month, where everyone had the chance to join in and learn about the wide variety of birdlife surrounding the school.

In my own garden the count was down this year, perhaps due to the milder winter we had experienced up to the end of January.

Don't Forget the Annual Parish Meeting!

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday April 28th at 8pm in the Church Hall.

Come and find out what is happening in Birchanger. Meet the Parish Council Team. Discover what may be on offer from Essex County Highways as Section 106 Options are proposed, and to ask questions about parish matters which concern you, or maybe you have some good ideas of your own.

Refreshments will be provided for everyone at the close of the meeting.

ART CLASSES IN BIRCHANGER

Would you like to have a go at drawing or painting or are you already painting and would like to improve your skills or try out a new medium? Maybe you would like to commission a painting of your pet or your house and garden? Perhaps you are not an artist but just like looking at original art.

All of that goes on at Highview Studio in Birchanger. Small friendly classes to suit all abilities from complete beginners to those with some experience. The studio walls are filled with a variety of original paintings. Just make an appointment to come and have a look at any time. Artist and Tutor Heather Brown has been painting and teaching art for over 30 years. Phone 815453 to find out more.

HIGHVIEW STUDIO

6 Wood Lane, Birchanger,
Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 5QN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF LESS THAN ONE WEEK'S NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR A CANCELLATION WHATEVER THE REASON HALF THE FEE MUST BE PAID

Wednesday February 29th - 10am to 4pm - Soft pastel winter scenes step by step £35 per person
Thursday March 8th - 10am to 4pm - Bring your own subject and materials individual advice and guidance will be given £30 per person

Wednesday March 28th - 10am to 4pm - Gouache on mountcard, spring flowers and trees
Step by step £35 per person

Local Councillor Contact details

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Maria Davy (Chair) | 211 Birchanger Lane | 01279-816490 |
| Julia Peachey (Clerk to Parish Council) | 11 Ascot Close Bishops Stortford | 01279 503912 |
| Elizabeth Godwin District Councillor | 330 Birchanger Lane | 01279-812793 |
| Ray Gooding County Councillor | 260 Birchanger Lane | 01279-813103 |
| Angie Driscoll | 281 Birchanger Lane | 01279-817376 |
| Alex Stuart | 279 Birchanger Lane | 01279-812303 |
| Linda Pocklington | | 01279-812246 |
| Ken Wheatley | 69 Birchanger Lane | 01279-814678 |
| Mark Crossley | 5 Duck End | M-07590379399 |

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

March Entertainment

10th - Winnie
24th - Stone Cold
30th - Poker Night,
7.30pm for registration,
8pm start

Follow us at www.birchangerclub.com

229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

PANCAKE DAY COFFEE MORNING



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday 21st February
10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome
Come and enjoy a coffee
And Pancake



Paul Davall
Carpentry & Joinery

Traditional time served carpenter and Joiner

All Carpentry and Joinery
Traditional box and casement sash windows
Door Fitting Service
Kitchen cabinet fitting service
Fitted wardrobes and cabinets



11 Rainsford Road
Stansted Essex CM24 8DU
01279 814058 Mob 07962 963987
pauldavall@btinternet.com

Painter and Decorator

Roe Smith

9 Churchfields, Stansted
Essex CM24, 8RJ



Tel 01279 816459
Mob: 07798 936627

Village Diary
February/March

February

26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

March

4th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

10th 8.00 pm At the Club
Winnie

11th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

18th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

24th 8.00 pm At the Club
Stone Cold

25th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

30th 7.30 At the Club
Poker Night

D Bonney & Sons



Motor Engineers

MOT TESTING, SERVICING
DIAGNOSTIC, MECHANICAL REPAIRS

SELECTION OF NEW AND USED CARS

Yew tree corner Manuden
Ring Malc or Neil on
01279 813315 or 815946



LAUNDERETTE

DO

DO

DUVETS

DIVINELY

AND CLOTHES TOO!

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



State Registered Chiropodist

Home Visiting Practice

Mrs. Julie Golden S.R.Ch.

Est. 1994

01279 817810

Stansted Mountfitchet

A professional service at a competitive rate



Friendly, Professional & Reliable
Sustainable Garden Services Provider
Gardening, Landscapes & Tree Works

T. 01799 550032 M. 07866 752713

One off Garden Tidies Regular Garden Maintenance
Hard & Soft Landscaping Tree Pruning, Felling
Hedge Cutting & Trimming & Reductions
Advice & Planning Fencing & Timber Structures
Planting and Plant Sourcing Traditional Countryside Crafts
Log Splitter & Operator Hire Leaf & Snow Clearance
Chipper & Operator Hire Soil, Log & Aggregate Delivery

Free No Obligation Quotes
www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk

**ALL BUILDING AND LANDSCAPING
WORK UNDERTAKEN**

**FENCING, PAVING, DECKING, DRIVEWAYS, DRAINAGE,
BRICKWORK, EXTENSIONS AND CONSERVATORIES**

For a local service call Sean on
07703 115079 or 01279 813818



Qualified and experienced freelance hair stylist
offering a full range of services at reasonable prices

To book an appointment please telephone
:- 07840 995848 or 01279 814037

www.beautifulhair4weddings.co.uk

Published on behalf of the people of Birchanger, and distributed free to each household in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not automatically reflect those of the Editor or any of the organisations or institutions represented. Editorial team: Eddie Gilbey (816171), eddie.gilbey@btinternet.com Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.