

# Birchanger

July 2012



# Magazine

Issue 115

## IF YOU BLINKED, YOU PROBABLY MISSED IT OLYMPIC TORCH FLASHES THROUGH BIRCHANGER

Yes the torch did go by that fast!

Thousands lined the B1383 through Stansted to watch the Olympic Flame pass through the village on its way to Saffron Walden. The crowds braved sharp showers and a constant stream of traffic as they waited for the Olympic Flame. There were promotion vehicles, a huge parade of police motorbikes and cars, most of whom honked their horns and blasted their sirens to acknowledge the crowds. If you were a small boy, this could have been the best part of your day. The torch was late as it had been delayed by a motorbike crash just as it left its overnight stop at Highlands park in Chelmsford.

After all this you might just have missed the torch, carried by a diminutive Chinese national with a broad smile on his face. The rain came down but the torch burned brightly through the gloom. Nobody minded the rain, they had secured their own tiny memory of Olympic history.

The atmosphere was friendly, although there were the usual incidents caused by those who felt they were entitled to block the roads, as the B1383 was only closed at the time of the procession. There was a large contingent from Brooklands Nursing Home as well tiny babies in buggies who could at least claim to have been there even if they did not actually remember it in years to come. At the end most people adjourned to the local pubs or had their own house party if they lived along the route.

The community came together in an unprecedented way. What will ever make it happen like this again?



This is what  
it looked like!  
Except there  
were some flames



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Community Achievement Awards are back!

After an absence of three years there will be an opportunity to nominate someone in Birchanger who has served the community doing unpaid work to benefit others. They must have worked in this capacity for at least the last five years and the work they have done must be or have been a significant help to a significant group of people of any age. They must not have received any pecuniary reward for their services.

They may have worked for children or the elderly or a particular section of the community. There is a special section for younger people and in their case the achievement may be over a shorter period of time.

I have the forms for you to complete if you would like to nominate somebody. You will need someone to second your nomination and you will have to write a few lines which will serve as a citation for your nomination and which will be printed on the scroll your nominee will receive at a special reception in the district council offices, to which the proposer, seconder, recipient and their relatives will all be invited. Nominations close on August 16th

I can help you with this and I do have forms available. If you would like one or want to know more please call me on 812793.

## Stop the buses, close the road, But don't tell the rest of us

Utility services seem to think they have absolute rights over the rest of us. They seem to think it is ok to close Birchanger Lane, use inadequate signage, forget to tell Essex County Council Transport, and all the rest of us that it is going to happen. We have notice boards, they have signs so why not tell everyone and save them a lot of hardship. The attitude is, they are just the customers, they can find out and get on with it.

The problem is that a lot of us can do just that, but the elderly rely on the bus network for shopping, hospital

appointments and much more. It is simply not ok to do this without publicising it first. There is a list which goes to County Highways but precise dates and areas are not given and the list is not circulated to the likes of us.

In the event the road did not actually close

Apologies are in order British Gas.

## Carry on regardless

As this extraordinary summer continues the weather continues to do its worst. The good news is that it is definitely not going to stop the year's unique celebrations. We may not have tickets to the Olympics but most of us are making the most of a really special year.

The rain did not deter millions of people from lining the Thames for the River Pageant. It did not stop Jubilee Celebrations in Birchanger and it certainly did not stop the Annual Strawberry Tea which Barbara and Tony hosted at their home in Birchanger Lane. The rain held off but the wind did its worst and the gazebos decided to visit the garden next door. If anything this all just added to the uniqueness of the year and emphasised the British ability to make the best of everything. More people than ever enjoyed a really delicious Strawberry Cream Tea with homemade scones and jam, put away the gazebos and simply carried on.

The afternoon was very successful and raised over £340 for Birchanger Church

## Now, apologies for the footpaths

Birchanger had to wait an unreasonably long time before any footpaths were cut this year. Footpaths are the responsibility of Essex County Council and although organising working parties was considered, there were too many problems over equipment and insurance. In the end it was a battle of the emails.

The reason for the glitch was as ever partly due to the weather and also the fact that the County Council had new contractors this year, who started later in the season as there was an induction process. Other

footpaths which are the responsibility of the farmer have not been cut and may not be, until after the harvest.

Apologies to all who had some pretty severe difficulties during the last few weeks. We were trying all the time to get something done!

## Opportunist burglars

All burglars are opportunists. They are taking a chance that their victim is out or too old or gullible to resist their patter. They are bold and nobody is safe even with the long summer daylight. They rely on their cheek and speed and manage to get away with handy hauls all the time.

The latest trick is to follow a delivery vehicle. They are reasonably certain that there will be several items for delivery on the vehicle, so the trick is to nip in fast when the delivery man is in the house and the van doors are wide open. It is the easiest thing in the world to rush in, grab an item load it into his van and run before anyone ever knows he was there and the theft was not discovered until the item was found to be missing at the delivery address.

This happened last month in Birchanger Lane. A delivery vehicle with two members of staff on board was delivering a television. The second driver went into the house to help with the removal of the heavy older television. The thief who had been parked a little way away was watching. He saw his opportunity when the vehicle was left with doors open and unattended. He quickly drove up leapt out of his vehicle and into the delivery van. However this time he had been spotted, dropped whatever he had picked up, shouted I was just looking for scrap and fled. The startled delivery man had no time to get his number, but the vehicle was a white pickup which has been seen in the lane since the incident.

The point is that the thief did not really care what he grabbed. There is always a market for new electrical goods whatever they are. If they just happen to be a 50" plasma screen, so much the better. The crime may not be immediately discovered and delivery vans are easily picked out when they leave the motorway and very easily followed.

So next time a van comes to your house remind the driver if he has left the doors open that there might be a problem and watch out for the white pickup truck. It is still about.

## Learning to be poor all over again!

Many pensioners we know are facing reductions in their pensions from every angle, whether it is their own

savings or from a pension provider. Now winter fuel payments are in danger and this may affect everyone who receives even a few pence more than their state pension through a lifetime of saving. It is a hard fact especially as we have gone through one of the wettest and coldest late springs in living memory. It would not be surprising if requests for a summer fuel allowance were also appropriate now.

It is difficult to cope with retirement on its own and even harder when the pension you thought you would have has evaporated through no fault of your own. Yet this generation who remember the war years are possibly the best equipped of everyone to cope with this. The trouble is that then nothing much was available, now there is temptation as soon as you hit the high street.

So these days it is a matter of choosing from the offers, even if it is not what you would normally buy. Sale shopping helps but only if you really need the item you are tempted by and it is a genuine offer in the first place. Clothes shopping stops and new shoes become a luxury.

Getting into town is a problem and will be even more of one if the free bus pass is abolished as the government threatens from next April. Walking is not a practical option. On line shopping is not possible for everyone and there is a cost attached to that. Also the items brought may not have been the best on offer anyway.

It is time to stand up for our pensioners. They personally did not create this mess, but they are the ones whose lifestyle could be impacted the most severely. Their hard earned pensions have been whittled away and now their paltry benefits are threatened as well.

It will all rebound as hospitals become full of elderly patients who have become sick through malnourishment and cold homes. Where is the saving in that?

## At the other end of the scale

School is out, colleges closed for the holidays and graduates have begun the hard task of finding a permanent job. Some have already been successful, often beating back severe competition, others are still keeping their holiday jobs for as long as they can, while some are finding they are still stuck at the bottom of the ladder on a minimum wage despite a long struggle to gain experience through their work and hours of study.

What this means in fact is that many of our young people are being exploited. In a normal situation hard work, experience and study count for more than just the minimum wage, and annual increments are expected for improved knowledge, a good work record and loyal service. Yet there are those who are seeking to exploit this, knowing that young people, who want to pay off

their debts, are prepared to work for the minimum wage and will work for a wage well below their skill levels. Employers come and go, but long service and integrity in the same job should count for something even in these times. Is it a wonder that there are so many people on benefit nowadays? If you do pay peanuts you know what you will get.

## Changes to Council Tax Benefit Payments.

The District Council is to administer council tax benefits but their job has been made more difficult as the government has slashed the amount of benefit money available to the District by 10% leaving Uttlesford to consult and then to work out where the benefit cuts will fall.

The only good news about this is that the government has decreed that pensioners will be protected as will those classed as vulnerable. Everyone else will be assessed on a sliding scale and the government has said that this time child benefit is to be counted in the total household income.

For some this will mean no change at all, but for others there may be benefit cuts which will be decided on a case by case basis. The plan goes out for consultation shortly. You will be able to have your say and to discuss your own particular case when the preliminary details of the scheme have been publicised.

## Volunteers needed for the Day Centre.

The Day Centre provides a really good lunch and support for those who are becoming older, and the years and poor health seem to be catching up with them. However the Day Centre has to pay its' way as far as it can and is thus largely dependent on the work done by volunteers who help to keep the centre running.

The problem is volunteers get older as well and new people are urgently needed to keep up the excellent service to our elderly residents.

Why not go along sometime and see what they are doing? You may find it is a place where your presence and skills will be both valued and welcomed.

The Day Centre operates at Grafton Green in Stansted.

## Did you get your new food caddy?

The caddies were delivered by a firm of contractors from Lowestoft, and the distribution of these appears to have been somewhat arbitrary at best. Several houses were missed. If you were one of these households, please call me on 812793. I have acquired some for distribution to those who missed out.

# News from St Mary's

## St Mary's Harvest Auction

This annual event will again take place at the Sports and Social Club on Sunday 26th August at 7pm. Support for this fun evening has been growing and last year was good fun. Come along with your family and friends to join in. If you have (or will have) any vegetables, fruit, cakes, home made preserves or plants that we can sell to raise funds for everyday church expenses please call Pam Lee on 07702171744.

**Village Fete - Saturday 1st September**

**At the Sports and Social club**

## Lunch Time Heroes!

It seemed like a good idea at the time, a leisurely buffet lunch in the garden with friends and it should have been a lovely afternoon. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas!

It did not rain until later but the wind did its best to spoil things. Unfortunately for the wind, the rest of us carried on regardless. Pam Lee had done a wonderful job preparing and organising the food, despite her recent illness and salmon, beef and gammon were on offer, along with plenty of salads and delicious desserts. People arrived dressed for the weather and a good lunch was enjoyed by all until rain stopped play after coffee.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Better weather is ordered already for next year.

# University – your choice, your future

As a wheelchair user and a proud resident of Birchanger I am pleased to have made it to university. Starting out at the village primary school the idea of university may have seemed a long way off and difficult to reach. However at the end of a successful first year, I feel very positive about the experiences and opportunities that university can offer. The issue of choosing to go can encompass many things: course, finance, size, distance or simply how comfortable you may feel in that place.

The great thing about university is that it's not just about the degree qualification you may gain at the end of it, yes it's a part of it, but your experiences and how you grow as a person can count for equally as much. Your level of independence increases giving you the chance to take control of your life that little bit more and for me, being a wheelchair user, this was the ultimate goal. There were many challenges that university threw at me: getting around, adapting to life without parents and forming new friendships. University has allowed me to achieve all of this with ease.

Although I am aware of the benefits of university, I'm not going to pretend that it's an easy decision. The main consideration these days is finance. The huge increase in university fees has been well publicised for this September's entry of students, the possibility of £9000 a year in some areas! It requires commitment on parents' part to support their child through the 3 or 4 years but mostly it has to come from the students themselves. The student must show dedication to get there in the first place and then harbour the motivation and willingness to stay there for the duration of their course. Anyone can reach university it is just whether they want it enough.

When I arrived at my university for the first time, I was both excited and nervous and knew straight away that this was nothing like anything I had experienced before. However, the thought of a new place and a fresh start built up and the excitement of the endless possibilities brewed. I knew I was going to enjoy it.

University is a journey that is not suited to everyone, however I urge you to at least entertain the idea because what it gives you is invaluable. As they say, "don't knock it until you've tried it".

Henry Teall

## Birchanger Nursery

### **REQUIRE A TEMPORARY - PART TIME NURSERY ASSISTANT**

Birchanger Nursery is a well-established, thriving & expanding committee-run pre-school with a charitable status.

**We are looking for a Nursery Assistant,  
for approximately four three hour sessions per week during term time only.**

We seek a friendly, flexible person, committed to young children & families and able to work well in a strong team.

A qualification equivalent to NVQ level 2 Diploma in Pre-school Practice is required. Previous experience of working with young children will be necessary.

Successful applicant will be required to complete an enhanced disclosure application with the necessary identification before commencement of work.

To start: September 2012

For further information and an application form,  
Please email – [birchangernursery@btinternet.com](mailto:birchangernursery@btinternet.com)

Closing date for applications: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August.  
Interviews will be held in the week beginning: 13<sup>th</sup> August



# News from Birchanger Social Club

## Reflection of the Jubilee weekend from Peter Booker Chairman of BSSC

I sit here reflecting on the wonderful jubilee weekend, all the spectacular sights of pageantry and music a spectacle that many of us will not see again, but what a spectacle it was.

Also I look at what we, the Sports and Social Club, achieved over the weekend of celebrations, the climax of which was Monday. I woke early [ as one does at my age ] to hear the rain on the window and trying to think about plan " B " for the days activities. True to the unpredictable British weather things did improve and with some changes all the planned events went ahead.

There were children's activities throughout the afternoon. Also we had the planting of the royal estates jubilee oak, by the great grandson [ William Fraser ] of the club's founder, the family connection going back over 100 years. Inside the club we had entertainment from soloist artist John Paul and also running all the bank holiday was a hugely successful beer festival, with some beautiful ales that hopefully you managed to sample. During the afternoon we layed on a free Hog Roast much to the delight of many who required refreshment. My thanks to Jay Leavers for this. As things calmed into the evening cooked food was available from our extensive menu, which was followed by our night time entertainment, a rock group called Trax, enjoyed by all age groups.

It was a memorable day enjoyed by the vast number who turned up, who I am sure appreciate the hard work put in by my committee, their friends and families. I would also like to thank the club staff who worked tirelessly to make the day enjoyable and memorable.

Many thanks to everybody who turned up and a again a great big thanks to all those who worked so very hard to make this successful.

Peter Booker  
Chairman  
Birchanger Sports and Social Club

## Village Turns out for Cream Tea

Despite the inclement weather a crowd of some fifty to sixty people braved the conditions to enjoy the summer joys of strawberries and cream or traditional cream tea of scones jam and cream all washed down with limitless amounts of tea!

The tradition was started by the Kadwill family and over the years a splendid amount of money has been raised for charity. It has now been carried on by Barbara & I and we are pleased to say that thanks to the generosity of the people of Birchanger we raised over £300 which this year has been donated to Birchanger Church who have a very large amount to raise for essential improvement works.

Our garden which was transformed into a village tearoom , at times resembled the deck of a sailing ship with the wind sending tablecloths and seat cushions whizzing into the air. The highlight of the afternoon being the giant party Gazebo which after a few hours of flapping and banging finally launched itself on a gust of wind into the sky leaving bewildered tea drinkers to hang on to their own section for fear it would be gone forever!

However the British spirit and sense of humour triumphed in the end and with a raffle and plant sale to add to the cream teas ,together with a few toys left out for the various children who arrived, there was plenty to take our minds off the weather. So thank you to everyone who helped out or contributed in some way and most of all to those who came and made the day such a great success.

Tony Wilson



# School News

There is always a buzz in the last half of the summer term. SATS tests are over, fun learning and some would say a lot of essential learning begins.

This summer is shaping up well. Work started after half term on the school play Stars in their Eyes. Preparation started for Sports Day and there was a surprise visit for Key Stage 2 Pupils to the Globe Theatre.

The trip to the Globe was arranged at relatively short notice so came as a big surprise to many. The children enjoyed a coach trip to the Globe where they were then escorted around the building, learned its history and participated in a workshop in one of the studios attached to the Globe. They had a real taste of what it was like to both perform and to watch a play at the Globe.

In the meantime Class 1 did not miss the older children one bit. They had a visit to Hatfield Forest to talk about and did an assembly of their own to their parents and Class 2.

The other surprise of the month came in a package in the post. You don't usually receive a real astronaut's space suit in the post but this is exactly what happened when a space suit belonging to a Russian Astronaut who had spent 6 months in space in 1999 on a manned space station, was delivered to the school.

The children had great fun touching the space suit and trying it on, a job made easier as astronauts are usually tiny and this man was only 5'2". They only had a day with the suit as it was to be shared by other schools in the area before being returned to the Space Agency.

Then there was the annual sunshine day where every child brought something to school coloured red yellow or orange, and also wearing colours to match was another success with the items brought being sold at the Sport/ Fete Day on the following day.

As I keep saying my school days were never this good.

## District Council Awards for

### 6 Birchanger Children.

Uttlesford forms a partnership with Harlow and Epping Councils to team up with the business community and statutory services to work on ways of making life better for all who live in these districts. They are very keen to

include children and young people in their plans so for the past three years have awarded prizes to children in participating schools.

The prizes go to those who have tried their very best and have made the most outstanding improvement in a particular subject. The children were presented with their certificates at a sharing assembly in the school along with an invitation to a reception at the council offices. There they were presented with book tokens and enjoyed a very special tea.

Congratulations to the Birchanger winners

## Our roast dinners are better than Cunard

That was the verdict of the people who have participated in the Wednesday Roast at the school so far. Cunard has a good reputation but ours is better. Come and try it at £2.50 a head it is a very good offer. Enjoy.

## Your old phone batteries and Printer Cartridges please

Like all of us the school is suffering from reduced income and is always keen to find a way of making up for this, sometimes in unusual ways.

In addition to renting out the school hall and kitchens to appropriate renters they have formed a partnership with an organisation known as Recyclecool which converts old phones and cartridges into cash. You don't have to actually come into the school to recycle them, there is a box in the porch especially for the purpose.

While you may now place old clothes in your recycle bin for the District Council to collect, the school still has the bag to school day, where everyone can donate clothes for which the school will benefit in cash. Save some for them if you can. The next collection is due in October.

*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**  
**July/August**

July

22nd 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

29th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

August

5th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

11th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Gary Gibson

12th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

19th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Service

25th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Red and Black

26th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion  
With Baptism

**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 & Reductions |
| Hedge Cutting & Trimming     | Fencing & Timber Structures        |
| Advice & Planning            | Traditional Countryside Crafts     |
| Planting and Plant Sourcing  | Leaf & Snow Clearance              |
| Log Splitter & Operator Hire | Soil, Log & Aggregate Delivery     |
| Chipper & Operator Hire      |                                    |

Free No Obligation Quotes  
[www.gwbhorticulture.co.uk](http://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](http://www.beautifulhair4weddings.co.uk)

**Birchanger Sports and Social Club**

**August Entertainment**

11th - Gary Gibson  
25th - Red & Black

Follow us at [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)  
229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

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.