

# Birchanger

June 2012



# Magazine

Issue 114

## Birchanger Celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

There's really only one story this month - the fantastic celebrations in the village for Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which I'm sure were enjoyed by monarchists and republicans alike. Inside this month's edition of Birchanger Village Magazine are descriptions of celebrations at the Club, the school and in other parts of the village.

The highlight was surely the set of events put on for all, member and non-member alike, by the Sports and Social Club. Once again this excellent organisation has shown that it's at the heart of village life. A lasting reminder of the occasion has been provided by the planting of the Royal Oak in the Club's field by William Fraser, president of the Club and a direct descendant of Sir Charles Gold, the philanthropist who gave the club to the 'working men and others' of Birchanger way back in 1891 - three years before Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

So - perhaps it's time we started planning for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The oak may provide a bit of shade by then.



Birchanger Residents proudly display their patriotism at the village Diamond Jubilee celebrations

# Jubilee Roundup

Birchanger has always known how to through a good party, the Silver Jubilee, Millennium, many memorable fetes and parties have brightened the village scene down the years. The Diamond Jubilee parties upheld the tradition, Birchanger style.

First to celebrate was the school, starting with a Jubilee Lunch of Fishfingers, Chips and of course Jelly. Then it was outside for an afternoon of fun followed at the end of the day by a special assembly where every child received a Jubilee Medal to mark the occasion.

Not everyone in Birchanger is able to hold a street party, but Harrisons is one place where you can actually party with minimum inconvenience to everyone else. Residents in Harrisons all joined together to put on a Street Party where everyone could enjoy themselves. The children in particular had a great time as there were special games organised for them with presents and prizes galore. Everyone brought their own food to cook on the barbeque and others made plenty of treats to share. The party brought real benefits to others. There was a raffle which raised over £200 for charities which included the Air Ambulance which is regularly in use in the village.

Sunday was a wet and miserable day but that did not deter the braver elements to go to London to watch the River Pageant. All generations made the trip and the last thing you heard from them was a moan about the weather, everyone said they had a brilliant day and were glad they actually made the effort.

On the Monday the Club was open to everyone to come and celebrate the day and to enjoy the facilities whether they were club members or not. The club put on a Beer Festival and for the first time ever, actually ran out of glasses. There was a free Hog Roast paid for by a donation to the Ward Member and cooked by Hog Roast expert Jay levers, games for the children which included races and a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The rain stayed away and it was actually warm enough to relax outside. In the evening the big raffle was drawn and local singer Esther Richards and her band entertained at the club as the festivities flowed on well into the night.

Congratulations to the Club for allowing all this to happen and to the Club Committee Members who worked so hard for so long to ensure the big success which the day certainly was.

Not surprisingly the village was quiet on Jubilee Tuesday. Some went to London while others remained close to their televisions instead. We may never see the likes of this weekend again in our lifetimes however young we are.

## Liz Godwin Awarded 'Freedom' of Birchanger

Friends of Liz Godwin have awarded her the freedom of Birchanger in recognition of her contribution to the village.

The inscription reads *'Elizabeth J Godwin, of Moorswood, 330 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, a District Councillor and Justice of the Peace is hereby admitted into the freedom of Birchanger on this 12th day of May in the 60th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England in this year of our Lord 2012. Those here present make their mark as witnesses to this most solemn ceremony.'*



Keith and Jean Williams and Angie Driscoll look on as Liz is admitted into the Freedom of Birchanger



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Don't Forget the Olympic Torch is Coming Our Way on July 7th

Although the torch will not actually come through Birchanger it will proceed along the B 1383 at the Stansted end of the village. It will pass the end of Birchanger Lane in a coach which is part of the Olympic Convoy. It will then be carried by a team of torch bearers along the length of the B1383 to the end of Stansted and this is expected to start from the 30mph sign in Stansted. From there it will be bussed on to Newport where there will be another team of bearers to carry the torch through the village. It will then proceed to Saffron Walden by coach where the bulk of the Olympic Events will be happening. Blue Peter will be broadcasting the event live on children's television from the common at times throughout the afternoon. It will arrive in Saffron Walden shortly before 1pm.

The torch is expected to start its run through Stansted at approximately 11.50am on Saturday July 7th. It will have come from Bishops Stortford and you may expect several temporary road closures around this time. Car parking will be difficult in Stansted, so an early start if you want to see the torch is recommended.

## Do You Want to Become More Involved with Birchanger?

If you do, we may have on offer something you might be interested in. There are two vacancies on Birchanger Parish Council following the unfilled vacancies in the uncontested election last month.

Some people shy away as they think the job is boring. Some fear it could take up too much of their time. Wrong on both counts. Meetings are every first Tuesday of the month, and you could become involved with planning, parish plans, checking the footpaths and bridleways around the village, keeping

an eye on the recreation ground and allotments as well as helping to sort out the concerns which other Birchanger Residents may have. In short, Parish Councillors try to help out where they can and bring ideas as to how Birchanger can become a better place to live for everyone.

At the moment there are new projects to work on, such as improvements to the Recreation Ground and the extension of the Church Hall and car park.

Interested? Call our Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 503912, Chairman Maria Davy on 816490, or me on 812793.

## If there is Cash to Spare?

The parish council is about to issue a contract for a small football pitch on the recreation ground. It is hoped that there will be some money to renovate some of the existing equipment and to purchase another item of play equipment as well.

If there is, what would you like to see there? Suggestions so far include a sunken trampoline, a zip wire, and monkey bars for younger children. The money left over will not be enough to cover major items of equipment, so suggestions for smaller pieces are welcome.

## We Have the Best Recycling Scheme for Miles on Our Doorstep

We can now recycle bottles, all plastics, clothes, shoes tied together, towels, polythene bags and much more in our green waste bins. In fact the only items to go into the black bins include nappies, dog waste, polystyrene, light bulbs and cellophane. Just about everything else except batteries can be disposed of in the green bin.

Food waste bins are to be replaced at some point this month by food caddies, which are smaller and



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

more convenient for smaller households. Additional caddies can be requested if required. You may keep your brown bin if you request this, it could be useful for water storage, otherwise it will be taken away.

Full details of the new scheme will be found inside your new food caddy when it is delivered. The following week the brown bin will be collected alongside the food caddy contents, if you have not registered your request to keep the brown bin. This can be done on line or by calling a designated number, details of which will be found in the new food caddy as well.

It is possible that your collection day will change. Details of this will be found on a yellow sticker placed on your black bin, and will begin the following week.

It is all happening this summer. A new fleet of refuse vehicles has been purchased and all the servicing and maintenance of the vehicles will be done in house. Bottle banks will gradually disappear from all but commercial sites, and visits to the tip will be cut back considerably. Recycling really is coming close to home.

## The One and Only Jubilee Grant.

Voluntary Groups are invited to apply for the one and only Jubilee Grant which will be offered by Uttlesford District Council as a one off grant from part of the New Homes Bonus.

Voluntary Groups and Voluntary Community Organisations are invited to apply for a grant of between £1000 and £10,000. These groups include village hall committees, sports clubs, community

associations, play and recreation groups. The grant is for capital expenditure only, such as an item of equipment, a toilet for the use of the disabled, play areas etc. Projects must be completed before 20th March 2013 or the money will be lost.

Applicants for the grant have to prove that there is a proven need or benefit to the community and evidence of consultation must be provided. This means in effect that user groups and members of the organisation should have been asked to comment on the project.

To find out more, please call the Community Development Officer, Sue Hayden on 01799 510563. Applications must be in by midday on July 16th. You will know whether you have been successful by the middle of August. Your application will be acknowledged, but please contact Sue if there has been no acknowledgement a week after lodging your application. Good Luck. Any problems please call me on 812793.

## See Where They Plan to put our Housing Allocation

Nobody wants a housing estate in their back yards and we have taken our share at Forest Park. Development in Birchanger Village is expected to be minimal, but there are 60 houses proposed for Stansted.

To see where these sites and where other development across the District is possibly to be included in the new Development Framework Plan, as well as to have your say, visit the exhibition at Stansted Day Centre on June 28th between 10 and 7.30 pm. Officers from Uttlesford District Council will be there to answer your questions.



Some younger villagers enjoy the Royal Diamond Jubilee celebrations

# News from Birchanger Social Club

## **BSSC Queens Diamond Jubilee street party**

No doubt the main news this month is the celebrations for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Many street parties were held throughout the UK over the June bank holiday weekend and Birchanger was no exception. After a day of relentless rain on Sunday and despite overcast clouds and the threat of rain on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of June, BSSC's Diamond Jubilee celebrations started on the dot with a beer fest at midday. Unfortunately due to the wet grounds the planned marquee could not be erected but this did not dampen anyone's spirits and apart from a small shower mid-afternoon the day remained dry throughout the day's activities. Over 300 adults and children attended the party during the day and night and at times queues at the bar were two to three people deep but Graham and Kim had brought in extra staff for the day and customers were served quickly and efficiently by the bar staff who deserve medals for keeping up with the demand.

## **Jubilee Glee**

The day kicked off with sports games in the playing field where the two and three legged races tripped up a few of the competitors whilst many got a soaking in the catch the water balloon contest but everyone enjoyed the fun. Young children were kept busy with a bouncy castle; pass the parcel, teddy bears picnic and other games whilst the adults were entertained by soloist singer John Paul who put on a great show with songs and music to suit all tastes.

## **Roast with the most**

Early afternoon a wonderful aroma drifted around sports field. Yes, it was time to serve the free hog roast and what a roast it was! Jay Leavers had conjured up once again the most delicious tender pork served in beautifully soft baps with apple sauce. The only hiccup (excuse the pun) was when we ran out of rolls and someone had to be sent post haste to the local supermarket to replenish the stock, our apologies to those who had to wait for their lunch!

## **Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow**

At 14.30 it was time to plant the memorial Jubilee tree in the BSSC sports field. The tree was in the form of a 30cm Royal Oak sapling grown from an acorn gathered from the Sandringham Royal Woodland Estate. The Royal Oak can grow up to 30-35 metres and is the English oak within which King Charles II of England hid to escape the Roundheads following the Battle of Worcester in 1651. The honour of planting the tree went to Mr William Fraser, current president of the club and great grandson of Sir Charles Gold who was the founder of the Birchanger Working Men's Club, now Birchanger Sports & Social Club. The Tree was originally donated by the Woodlands Trust to Birchanger School but they thought the tree would be better off in more open surroundings. The headmistress contacted District and Parish Councillor Elizabeth Godwin who made the arrangements for the tree to be planted in the club's grounds. Elizabeth was also responsible for arranging a donation of £1,000 from Uttlesford District Council which she decided to put towards the BSSC Diamond Jubilee Day, so our thanks and appreciation go to Elizabeth for her generosity and making the day even more perfect for all the residents of Birchanger.

## **A perfect day**

Late afternoon most people retired to the club house where a game of "Play Your Cards Right" started the evening's entertainment and had the crowd noisily joining in as usual. The evening continued with the five piece band "Trax" who certainly rocked the night away and in between sets the grand raffle draw was held. No doubt this was a day to remember with something for everyone. The committee would like to give special thanks to Claire Jones and her assistants for arranging the entertainment and games and to the Stewards and bar staff for all their hard work in making the perfect day.

## **Other news in brief**

Members may have noticed the new hanging baskets put up around the outside of the club. It is starting to look like summer; all we need now is the summer weather!

The sports changing rooms were recently re-decorated and have been given a face lift, surprising what a lick of paint can do! We hope the members like the new fresh look

The new foundations for the cricket practice area were laid in May and a new high quality outdoor net ordered and will be ready to use in early June

# School News

## School Celebrates the Diamond Jubilee

It is highly unlikely that the children of Birchanger School will see another Diamond Jubilee. The rest of us certainly won't. So it was all the more reason to enjoy this one Birchanger style.

After a 50's style special lunch of fish fingers, chips, peas, beans with uncharacteristic pepper salad, followed by jelly and chocolate sponge also enjoyed by their parents, the children enjoyed an extra long playtime. They then persuaded some of the parents to join them in sporting activities which included rounders and badminton. An assembly followed at which every child was presented with a jubilee medal to commemorate the once in a lifetime occasion.

## Come and Enjoy a Mid Week Roast at Birchanger School

The ever popular Wednesday Roast Lunch is now on offer to all the Senior Citizens in Birchanger. The lunch is priced at a very reasonable £2.50 and includes a full roast lunch with all the trimmings as well as a dessert. Lunch is at noon and must be booked by the previous Friday so that supplies can be ordered.

If anyone is unwell on the day, who has booked and actually paid for their meal, credit for another lunch will be given, provided that the school has been notified of this on the day.

Come and try this famous treat with your friends. It is well worth it.

## Bag 2 School

Bag 2 School may not mean much to the majority of us, but for the school community it is a good way of earning a little bit of extra cash for the school in the time of cut backs all around us. The scheme was simple. Just fill the blue bag with outgrown or unwanted clothing, and the contents of the bags will earn much needed money for the school. Cupboards were duly turned out and the collection was impressive. In the days of cut backs to our budget it all helps.

## Big Breakfast Helps the Year 6 Tests

Nobody like tests and exams, and the annual SATS tests for Year 6 pupils are not exactly looked on as the high spot of the last year at Birchanger School.

An idea started two years ago has proved to be very helpful when the school offered to extend Breakfast Club for all those sitting their SATS tests for the whole week just for them. Not only did the children have a good breakfast, but the occasion was so much fun that exam nerves, *disappeared and the children went into the exam in a relaxed frame of mind.*

## Change of Date for School Sports

The day before the Olympic Torch will pass through the end of Birchanger on the B1383, there will be a chance to get into the Olympic mood with a visit to Birchanger School's Sports Day, which will be followed immediately by the Summer Fayre run by the PTA. Again all the money raised goes to the school. It also promises to be a very pleasant afternoon for everyone, with entertainment, a barbeque, and stalls and opportunities to try out all the fun of the fair.



Club President William Fraser plants the Royal Oak

## ART CLASSES IN BIRCHANGER

### **Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 4pm**

Acrylics or oil on canvas with palette knife and brush - £38 per person

### **Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10am to 4pm**

Bring your own subject and materials – individual advice and guidance will be given - £30 per person

### **Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 4pm**

Watercolour special effects and textures, step by step -£38 per person

**For more information contact Heather Brown on 815453**

## GARAGE SALE

33 Harrisons

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July

11am - 4pm

### **Interested in playing Cricket?**

With the season now under way Birchanger cricket club are on the lookout for new players to boost their playing ranks. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI play in Division 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI play in Division 6 of the Herts & Essex Cricket League

(<http://www.hecl.co.uk/joomla/>) on Saturday afternoons from 1.30pm. Anyone who is interested in playing should contact either Justin Bass (1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain) at [jc.bass@ntlworld.com](mailto:jc.bass@ntlworld.com) or Paul Richardson (2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain) at [pnrichardson1@btconnect.com](mailto:pnrichardson1@btconnect.com).

## DANCE CLASSES AT BIRCHANGER SCHOOL

With time to rent at the Church Hall at a premium dance classes have started at the school on Monday evenings. The classes, which are run by certified BOKWA instructor Maxine Stock, are taking place at the school on Monday and Wednesday evenings in term time. Classes on offer include the usual ballroom dances with the addition of Jive, Salsa, Cha Cha, Rumba and Merangue. There are also absolute beginner classes.

Maxine has been dancing at the Apton Dance Studio since she was seven years old. She is now a co-director of the company.

### **Monday**

6-7 pm and 7.30- 8.30 BOKWA Level 1 for all beginners.

### **Wednesday**

6.45 - 7.30pm Beginners Ballroom and Latin.

7.30- 8.30 BOKWA Level 2

8.30- 9.15 Beginners Salsa

To find out more please contact Maxine Stock on 07854 251528.



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## Village Diary July

July

1st	11.00 am St Mary's
8th	11.00 am St Mary's
15th	11.00 am St Mary's
22nd	11.00 am St Mary's
29th	11.00 am St Mary's

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