

Birchanger

March 2012



Magazine

Issue 111

IN A FLASH OF A SAW

Birchanger Wood has new bench

Take one pile of logs, sourced from Birchanger Woods' own stock, a few volunteers under the direction of Pat Forest, and a bit of wizardry from a chain saw and you get the fantastic bench pictured

Pat and his team fashioned this fine example of forest recycling in a tad over 3 hours and it is now ready for use in the Woods on the other side of the A120 so, if you need to take the dog for a walk, fancy a run or just feel like a stroll, why not take in the new path that meanders through the trees and rest a while on the seats provided?

By the time this is published there should even be a table added, just in time for picnics



Time to vote in a new Parish Council

On April 1st all the houses on the Stansted side of Forest Hall Road will come under Stansted Parish Council, which is their preferred option after the District Council conducted a survey among all the Forest Park residents at the time of the survey last year. Accordingly the Parish Council elections were postponed for a year.

They will now take place in both Stansted and Birchanger on Thursday May 3rd. The election will be declared on March 22nd, and candidates for the election to the Parish Council have until noon on April 4th to submit their nomination papers. The papers will be available from our Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 503912, or from the District Council on 01799 510510.

Standing for the parish council is a good way of helping your community, as Parish councillors all have their individual roles and responsibilities. If you would like to find out more, please call me on 812793 or Maria Davey on 816490. The District Wards are arranged by the Electoral Commission, and a review of these boundaries is expected by 2015.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

The day the Village stood still

Birchanger is not a big village. The population stands at around 720 residents, but on one day last month 400 of them turned out to say farewell to a man who had come to mean so much to so many of them over the past 40 years.

Dave Tucker who had run the Three Willows Pub with other members of his family sadly lost a hard fought battle against cancer last month. His death brought huge sadness to not only his family but to the many who had called him a friend for more years than they could remember.

The 400 people who came to Dave's funeral last month packed the church with at least half the congregation having to listen to loud speakers outside in the churchyard. They came to pay tribute to a man who had been born in Birchanger, had served as steward at the club, and who had managed to turn the Three Willows into the attractive and well known pub it is today. He will be remembered as someone you could always rely on, who was always there with a smile and a joke no matter how busy and latterly how ill he was.

You don't meet people like Dave in life very often. Tributes like this are rare in Birchanger and always heart felt. Thank you Dave for all you did. We shall remember you with sincere affection for the rest of our lives.

Jubilee fun for all ages and you are invited!

Everyone in Birchanger and all members of Birchanger Club are invited to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at Birchanger Club on the afternoon of June 4th. There will be a free Hog roast and barbeque along with entertainment for all ages which will last well into the evening.

There will be further details next month, but put the date in your diary now. It will be a big party for everyone.

Camera traffic count in Birchanger Lane

You may not have been aware of it, but you were most probably caught on camera if you used your car at all in Birchanger earlier this year.

Cameras were located at two different locations at either end of the village. Not only did these cameras count the cars, they checked the driver's speed as well, and yes, several of you were caught speeding, the highest speed being 50 mph in a 30 mph speed limit.

The exit onto the B1383 was the preferred route in and out of the village. Some 5108 drivers exited the village

that way, compared to only 3250 using the motorway end. On weekdays, which were during term time, numbers peaked between 8 and 9am at some 95 cars exiting to the motorway and 110 to the Stansted end. Between 3 and 4 pm, 101 vehicles exited towards the motorway, making it the busiest time of day southbound. The equivalent on Saturdays between 8 and 9 am was 30 towards Stansted and 13 to the motorway.

The scary fact is that there are around 16,000 traffic movements through Birchanger. The good news is that there are sometimes periods of two hours in the early hours of the morning when there are no traffic movements at all, but be careful, just a little later the fastest speeds in the lane have been recorded.

Emergency Plan update

The Parish Council is to receive Emergency Planning Training this year. Hopefully the expertise will never be put to the test, but there is always the possibility that living close to an airport and a motorway, something will happen. If it does, apart from the emergency services and depending on the nature of the incident, the people who will be organising the volunteer support will be the members of the Parish Council who expect to receive additional training later this year.

If you would like to join them, and are interested in doing the training, please contact me on 812793.

Don't trust the Police Officer if he is wearing a tie!

Essex police are always trying to save money and the latest scheme is to change their shirts.

Every two years the force buys new shirts for all members of their teams. Up to now they have always been white shirts and black ties. The force have decided to ditch the ties and to go for wicking shirts instead, thus saving thousands of pounds not only on the lack of a tie, but in the type of shirt as well.

This started last month, so if someone comes to your door claiming to be a member of Essex Police, he isn't, if he is wearing a tie.

Jubilee Oak still needs a home

The trees at the school which the children planted are under keen observation this Spring. Although planted at random, failures would be quite obvious and it is hoped that with careful nurture they will flourish.

The Queen's Jubilee Oak from the Royal Estates will also need careful care, and a suitable resting place, where there is less chance of accidental damage and the tree will be able to reach its full potential over the next millennia. Ideas welcome please.

We could be facing a dry Summer

Veolia the water company who supply the water to most of the immediate area cannot rule out some kind of water restrictions for us this summer. There have been two very dry winters, which are bad news, as it is from winter rainfall that the reservoirs and rivers benefit most. The water table is very low, as the rainfall we have experienced has not penetrated to its depth. In the first instance they are asking people to conserve water as far as they can. Showers, not of the power variety, mending dripping taps and cisterns, and turning off the tap while cleaning your teeth are at the top of their list which they would like us all to take seriously now. Meanwhile, perhaps it is a good time to invest in a water butt for when it actually does rain. Remember the much repeated slogan, take a bath with a friend? Could be about to be brought back this summer.

Essex gears up for the Olympics!

What with everyone who is anyone landing at Stansted for the Olympic Games, emergency plans are the name of the game for Essex County Council. The temptation to disrupt or worse among terrorist groups is very high. The games are a huge opportunity for people of all ages to come together in peace in the name of sport, terrorism should have no place in there or anywhere else. In Essex with Stansted at full stretch, cruise liners moored in the Thames extra traffic on roads and rail, the logistics of security are of enormous proportions. Essex is prepared for the challenge. Emergency services and civilian volunteers have been trained for all eventualities, special vehicles have been commissioned, and a huge intelligence team is already in place. It is hoped that with all this vigilance, the emergency mortuary will be a piece of unnecessary kit. As ever, around the airport is a risk area. Please report anything you see which might be suspicious. You might prevent a tragedy. The torch will travel between Bishops Stortford and Stansted on July 7th, having started the day's journey from Chelmsford and proceeding via Harlow, East Herts, before reaching Bishops Stortford later in the morning. It seems that the bulk of the journey will be completed in a motor cavalcade, with buses, coaches and emergency vehicles escorting the torch and the relay bearers for most of the way. It could be, blink and you will miss it. Further details will be given, when they are known.

Wind's in the East. Kerosene is back.

The stench of kerosene continues to irritate the residents of Birchanger Lane from Duck End to the club on a regular basis when the wind is in the east. As has been discovered, it is highly unlikely that the odour is anything to do with the fuel farm at the airport. It is far more likely to be caused by aircraft on take off and landing.

We need once again to do our own research on this. It is proposed to bring back the "odour" cards and distribute them to every house on the vulnerable part of Birchanger Lane, inviting residents to record all the odours of kerosene they notice in a six month period. At the end of this period the cards will be collected, results collated and passed to environmental health teams and to the Airport. To make this work, we are asking as many people as possible to participate in the scheme, in the hope that ultimately a solution may be found to this continuing problem. The cards will be given out at the Annual Parish Meeting on March 28th, following this the cards will be distributed to those most likely to be affected in Birchanger Lane.

We dispose of the Airport's sewage!

When the Americans built the runway at Stansted during the war, they dug a sewer which led to the construction of the sewage farm near to the Ambulance station. Many people would not have even realised that it existed. However in the past months the sewage plant and piping has been renewed, something which meant the temporary closure of bridleways, and strengthening of the foot bridge across the motorway so that a digger could pass. A portacabin was erected beside the Duck End Barns. The creation of a sewage plant in the village was a great bonus to those living in the village at the time. There was spare capacity which made it possible for houses in Birchanger Lane, who had been without mains drainage, to connect to the sewage farm.

How about a visit to Birchanger Wood.

The bluebells and the aconites will be out soon in Birchanger Wood. There has also been a great deal of work done by a team of volunteers with the aid of grants. There are new paths and bridges, along with seating and tables which have been constructed from materials in the wood. Most of the main paths are now wheel chair friendly. It is hoped that further paths and a storage compound should be completed later this year. The biggest hazard is crossing the A120. Well worth a visit soon.

Birchanger's own Warhorse

With all of the media coverage of War horse, I thought it might be of interest to share with you the story of a Birchanger man who served his country as a cavalry man in the first world war.

That man was Ernest Arthur Harvey. Known as "Tod", He was born in Clavering and then settled in Stansted before marrying Annie Banks.

Tod joined the Essex Yeomanry before the Great War broke out and appears on his Medal Index Card as being "Disemb" which means disembodied. This means he was a pre-war Essex Yeoman who had been embodied for full time service on 5 August 1914.

He was number 1414 and went to France on 8 June 1915 qualifying for the 1914-15 Star. He was also entitled to wear the British War and Allied Victory Medals

This timing would have been dictated by the heavy losses suffered at the Battle of Frezenburg on 13-14 May 1915 where the Yeomanry lost heavily and was in need of reinforcements.

He was renumbered in 1917 as 80268 when all the Yeomanry and Cavalry were absorbed into Corps of Dragoons, Lancers and Hussars and their personnel given new numbers to reflect this change in administration. Tod served for the entire course of the Great War.



**Trooper EA Harvey
Essex Yeomanry**



After moving to Birchanger he first lived in a cottage near the Three Horse Shoes pub and then number one Digby view followed by 10 Birchwood.

Tod's sister Edie Turner also lived in Birchwood in her later years.

While living in the village Tod was employed by Fred Haggerwood and his last job as a builder was to become his home Hybanks.

Tod was a keen member of Birchanger bowls club and there is a photo that includes him in the Club as part of the 1957 bowls club. He was a small man and is seen pictured between John Bass and Son in Law Bert Kadwill.

Dear friends

Please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the wonderful cards, flowers and condolences that you have sent to us since Dave passed away. The day of the funeral "ran on rails" which Dave would have loved and we were truly amazed and touched that so many friends took time out of their busy lives to give him such a send off.

Special thanks must go to Revd Paul Wilkin and Pam Lee as well as Elizabeth, Pim, Rosemary Nigel, and Jay.

Also many thanks to the members of the club for their kind donation of "wet" supplies for the wake at the willows.

With all our love Maureen, Steve and Paul.

News from Birchanger Social Club

Twitter the bitter

One of the perennial questions asked at the club is "What beer is on at the moment?" and I, personally, am often missing out on one of my favourites because the Nescafés descend on anything decent on Wednesday so it is all gone by Friday

There are also people always asking what entertainment is on, when is the next poker night or what are the specials on the food board? Up until now you would have had to take pot luck or phone

But now there is a way to keep up with all that is on and coming on - Twitter!

Twitter is a social media application that allows people or organisations to let others who are interested what they are doing, and the Social Club is, as ever, bang up to date with all the latest innovations

So, if you would like to know what beers are on their way and when, what entertainment has been arranged and what offers are currently being offered on the food side, go to www.twitter.com, search for Birchangerclub and then click on the 'Follow' button. This will automatically add you to the list of people who are kept up to date with what is happening at the Club

Happy Tweeting!

Cheapest food for miles

Where else could you buy your child a meal for only 10 pence? Right here in Birchanger, at our own Birchanger Club. This is great news for families with over worked parent s who can find it just a bridge too far to actually cook a proper meal for all the family every evening. It is also good news at weekends and for Sunday Lunch. I do eat regularly at the club. The food there is always good and even if you are over 12, the price is still incredibly reasonable. Too good to miss, try it soon.

News from St Mary's

St Mary's Easter Lunch

Sunday 22nd April after the 11am service in the Church Hall a 3 course meal for £10 Wine and soft drinks available for further details call Pam Lee on 07702171744

Also:

We really do need people to support the church either by becoming members of the PCC , serving in church or to help out with fund raising. If you have some spare time or ideas please contact us know.

ART CLASSES IN BIRCHANGER

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

Thursday April 12th - 10am to 4pm - Bring your own subject and materials individual advice and guidance will be given £30 per person

Saturday April 21st - 10am to 12:30pm - Basic drawing with various media and subjects £18 per person

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

April Entertainment

7th - Julie Nevada live

21st - Cockney Mix

Follow us at www.birchangerclub.com

229 Birchanger Lane 01279 813441

School News

A local farmer, Roger Prior has let Birchanger School children use a part of his woodland along with a leader from the National Wildlife Trust.

This means that first of all the younger children have been visiting the wood every Wednesday, to find out about woodland and the fun you can have just playing there.

The younger children have found out how trees can be used as seats, how twigs can make a picture, how to build bridges from timber in the wood, and even how to make "woodland" porridge for the insects. Older children are spotting different trees and plants and watching the signs of spring. It is hoped that if money permits, that the program will be extended to the older children in the summer.

The children enjoy getting themselves very muddy, which does not matter at all, as they are wearing protective weather proof clothing provided by the PTA. However more outgrown or unused gloves would be welcome for the colder weather.

Design your own library

The school is inviting pupils to submit their own designs for the refurbishment of the school library which came into use at the start of this term. The library is to be painted and furnished to designs the children have made and selected. It is to be their own room and a chance for them all to choose a book and to read in comfort whenever they are free to do so.

Please save your vouchers for us!

Once again the school is collecting Sainsbury's Vouchers. The school has benefited from the vast number of vouchers everyone has collected from both Sainsbury's and Tesco's in the past, by way of sports equipment, and other welcome and useful items which the current budget cannot provide. Any vouchers collected can be handed into the school office. Your support will be very much appreciated, as we have managed to obtain items worth over £1000 in the past.



Following on from the success of last year – the **BIRCHANGER 10K** is back.

The race starts and finishes within the school grounds. This multi-terrain course takes in local footpaths and roads around Birchanger. The route differs slightly from last year and is a two loop course, one of 6km and a second shorter loop of 4km to complete the 10km (no more) course.

To view the route go to . http://gb.mapometer.com/running/route_1764091.html

There are toilets next to the start, with collection of numbers and race day registration in the school hall. Please note there are no changing facilities, therefore please arrive ready to run. A bag can be left inside the school hall but note that any bags are left at the owner's risk.

The race starts at 10:00am with the **ONE MILE CHILDREN'S FUN RUN** starting after the final adult has finished. The minimum age for runners in the main race is 17. There will be a finishers T shirt for all finishers as well as winners trophies and medals for the children.

Car parking will be signposted locally. Refreshments and children's activities will be available in the school grounds throughout.

If you have any questions about the race please contact us at birchangerpta@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds from this race will go to Birchanger Primary School, PTA. Online entries are encouraged at £10 but on the day registrations will be accepted for £12 per entry. We regret that we are not able to offer refunds for this event.

To enter go to <http://entrycentral.com/index.php?raceID=101027>

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US TO MAKE THIS YEARS 10K ANOTHER GREAT EVENT

Best Regards



DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER IS COMING **digitaluk**

The Birchanger Area can receive TV signals from either Sudbury or Crystal Palace transmitters. In July last year the Sudbury transmitter switched off its analogue signal and April this year is the turn of Crystal Palace. For those that dealt with the change to digital television last year, the switch of Crystal Palace has no effect but those still receiving an analogue signal will now need to take action.

For older and disabled viewers who may find making the switch difficult, the Switchover Help Scheme is at hand to provide practical help and assistance to turn one TV set to digital.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option which includes easy to use equipment, an approved installer, aerial upgrade if needed and a 12 month aftercare service, including a free helpline. However the service is also free for people who are eligible and who also receive pension credit income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance.

We can help you convert your TV to digital if you:

- Are aged 75 or over, or
- Have lived in a care home for six months or more, or
- Get (or could get)
 - o Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
 - o Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, or
 - o Mobility Supplement, or
- Are registered blind or partially sighted



Run by the BBC through an agreement with the Government, the Help Scheme has been designed around the needs of older and disabled people. Equipment has been chosen to be easy to use, and contact centre, delivery staff and installers have all been trained to understand and respect older and disabled people. All installers are vetted, carry identification and will never call without having made an appointment.

Eligible people in our local area should have received a letter to explain the switchover programme, and the people must respond to get help. All you need to do is respond to our letter by sending back a completed reply form or call the Help Scheme free. Many of the eligible people will be fortunate to have relatives, friends or neighbours to assist them with their response. However, some are not so fortunate, and the concern is that these people are amongst those least likely to understand the process.

To ensure that they do not get omitted, a community support programme has been established to reach these people. The support team consists of volunteers, each covering a number of villages in their locality, and these volunteers will get the message across to the eligible people by engaging with organisations and services most likely to interface with them - Parish Councils, GP's, Pharmacists, Libraries, Day Centres and Community Transport.

If you feel that you know of people that are most in need and who may not be aware of the switch over or where to go to get help, then please contact:

Alan Stoyell – designated support volunteer for Birchanger.

Telephone: 01279 816452

Email: alan.stoyell@vaessex.org.uk

For further information on the Switchover Help Scheme visit helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900. Textphone users can call 0800 40 85 936.

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.

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Village Diary
March/April

March

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

April

1st 11.00 am St Mary's
Mattins
6th 2pm St Mary's
Good Friday Vigil
7th 8.00 pm At the Club
Julie Nevada
8th 11.00 am St Mary's
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion
15th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service
18th Birchanger Village
Digital TV Switch over
21st 8.00 pm At the Club
Cockney Mix
22nd 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion
Followed by Easter Lunch
29th 11.00 am St Mary's
Mattins

D Bonney & Sons



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