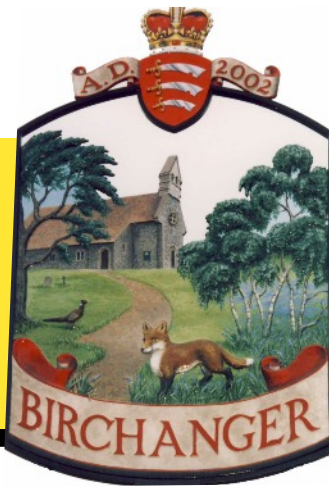


Birchanger

September 2014



Magazine

Issue 141

SUMMER FETE 2014

Birchanger's well attended Summer fete took place on the club field September 6th on a warm grey day. There was a wide variety of traditional stalls to attract punters and the club itself remained open for the duration. There was a coconut shy, Rolling for the which was won by Sam Richards and Angels Miles raising £84, There was a bottle stall, tombola, various cakes and sweets being sold on behalf of St Mary's. There was a pot of gold. A bouncy castle, hand made jewellery, etc,etc.

For entertainment the Hadstock Silver Band played popular selections from their repertoire.



The Hadstock Silver Band

Once again the fete hosted a dog show with many entrants from a cornucopia of breeds. Brian Ross's Velkie won the first of the prizes. The results were as follows;

Handsomest Dog- 1st Merlot and owner Derek. 2nd Sid and Louise. 3rd Chester 2 and Ben.

Prettiest Bitch- 1st Velke and Brian. 2nd Lola and Michelle. 3rd Akira and Julia.

Best Rescued- 1st Rascal and Aaron. 2nd Lola and Michelle. 3rd Clancy and Devon.

Musical Sits- 1st Pippa and Gemma. 2nd Chester and Bernadette. 3rd Sid and Louise.

Best Behaved- Velke and Brian, (Only entrant).

Best in Show- Merlot and Derek.

Only teasing about the Judging, (my owner told me to say that), congratulations to all and see you next year, when I intend to win everything except Prettiest Bitch! Any errors are the fault of my owner.

Chester, AKA Ouseview Star of Long Yard, Signed.



Velkie's moment of triumph!

No Fete would be complete without a Hog roast / barbeque by Jay Leavers and Roy Brown.

Appetites were further sated in the pavilion where Mathew Zych and Tom Granger served tea, biscuits and cakes.



Nobody is going home hungry

There was a Falconry display with some wonderful raptors, Vultures and Owls on display.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Could a Memorable Evening Benefit Your Organisation in Birchanger?

The Birchanger All Girls Dinner at the end of July was a great success. Not just because it was a fun evening, but it raised a substantial sum of money which could benefit voluntary groups and organisations in the village.

After all the bills have been paid there is money left over, which might be of benefit your group or organisation. All you have to do is to call the management team, Michelle May on 814481, Barbara Wilson on 813007 or Angie Driscoll on 817376, tell them what you are doing and give details of the project for which you need funds, and your request will be considered by the team, who may require further details of your request, before it is passed on to the group.

All requests must be for the use of people in Birchanger or those who use the facilities in the village. The requests will be considered by the BAG group at their October meeting. This could be just the funding which your organisation needs. Go for it!

Rural roads treated like race tracks.

Birchanger lane is certainly treated like a race track, as many residents know to their cost. Now it appears that 33% of drivers admit to driving too fast for safety, by speeding, taking bends too fast, and over one third admitted that they had experienced a near miss on our country lanes.

It seems that because they expect to find less traffic on a rural road, they are happy to take greater risks like speeding, overtaking and not slowing down for bends. They simply do not expect anyone to be there. How very wrong they are, as rural roads have been shown to be the most dangerous for all types of road user.

Car occupants are twice as likely to get themselves killed on a rural road as an urban road. For motorcyclists and cyclists, the risks are much higher. It is hard to understand why there are proposals to raise the speed limit to 50. The claim is that it will stop overtaking in unsuitable places, but are the country roads fit for this? I don't think so.

Surely driving badly on our lanes at speed is just simply completely selfish? After all, most of them are effectively single carriageway roads.

Ignite your business?

Do you run your own small or even micro business? Perhaps you are thinking of starting one in the next few months. Perhaps you need some help and support to get your new business up and running, or could do with some useful advice with one which is up and running?

From now until the end of December Uttlesford District Council is offering help and support to all small businesses and those people who are planning to start one, by teaming up with Ignite.

The help will come in two ways, one through workshops run by Ignite and the other to small businesses through a help line known as "Business Assist".

Those who call Business Assist and who need further help will be offered face to face advice and will be able to book an appointment with an advisor. For those wanting to start their own business there will be workshops in both Saffron Walden and Dunmow. The cost of these workshops are just £10 per person and will cover topics such as bookkeeping, selling skills, social media and publicity.

Ignite has been active in the area for some 30 years and has helped many small businesses to survive and prosper through the recession and the following difficult three years. For further details please contact the Ignite Office, or email info@ignitebusiness.org

Local plan hearings.

The completion of the Local Plan moved forward a stage when the inspector who has been appointed to examine the proposals, will be holding hearings in the week

beginning November 17th and December 1st. The inspector may invite some of those who have indicated that they wanted to speak, may be invited to. Anyone who does simply want to attend and observe proceedings will be able to do so in those weeks.

Consultation on new anti-social behaviour policy

We are all sick of ongoing anti-social behaviour, in our neighbourhood, streets, villages and towns. Finally the District Council has drawn up a new policy on anti-social behaviour which is currently out for consultation, and which is expected to be implemented in the New Year.

Everyone has a right to live quietly and peaceably in their homes, without noise, harassment, and unacceptable

behaviour from anyone around them. There are often complaints that incidents are reported but nothing is done.

Once the policy is implemented, the council will have the right tools to deal with incidents. The manner in which these incidents will be managed are detailed in the consultation report. This may be viewed at the Uttlesford District Council Website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk

Now there is too much salt in our cheese

We have heard it all over again, too much salt in crisps, biscuits, processed meat, bacon to name a few, but now it is our cheese which is in trouble. The worst culprits are the imported blue cheeses, such as Roquefort. Branded cheddar comes next, while the supermarket's own cheddar is actually better for us as it actually does contain less salt.

This is a major issue for us all, as apparently the average person actually consumes 9 kilos of cheese per annum. With all the added salt we are potential walking disasters. Salt is added to make the cheese more attractive to our palates. It seems that manufacturers have been adding salt to a great deal of our food for years. It is very bad for our blood pressure and cardiac systems. As the amount has been added slowly, surely it is time to start to reduce the amount so that the product does not eventually cause the demise of the customer?

Fancy a good lunch?

If you are over 60 and are within easy reach of Stansted village, why not have lunch at the Day Centre? Or perhaps you would simply like a cup of coffee while you wait for that Chemist's prescription or even catch up with a friend? Either way, the Day Centre will welcome you.

You can relax in cheerful bright surroundings, perhaps enjoy the newly established garden or arrange to meet up with friends. A two course lunch will only cost you £5 and it will all be fresh food, with vegetables grown in the centre's garden.

There are also other items going on in the centre on different days. Although the Day Centre operates for lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, there are Art Classes for all on Mondays as well as Contemporary History sessions, embroidery groups, music by a local organist and much more arranged for other days during the week.

When the new Stansted Library is completed, there will be a direct link from the Day Centre to the Library undercover, which offers more options and convenience for all the centre users.

Why not visit the centre and find out for yourself what might just be of interest to you?

More interest in Uttlesford?

Seems that more people than ever before are looking at what the council is up to these days. There was a big surge of interest at the time of the Tour de France, quite

understandably, but it seems that the interest is being maintained. Possibly the controversial new Local Development proposals have accounted for some of this interest, while many others are looking at Planning proposals in their patch and which might affect them. Some recent planning proposals have been in themselves controversial and have raised concerns with residents right across the board.

July figures show that there were some 57,392 visits to the website and that over a quarter of these were made on a mobile device. To access the website for all council related matters the address is given above.

Bus services

The government is always banging on about connecting out of the way villages to the bus service, but nothing ever seems to happen. The problem is that there is only a limited amount of cash around, the government is making louder noises, so any service to remote locations could well be at the expense of the existing village services. These services are reviewed regularly and if the service is not used enough in one area, it could be moved elsewhere or the buses might become more infrequent. So when you can, use the bus. We should be having the service extended to later in the evening, not cut back.

Art Show back again

The very popular Birchanger Art show has once again attracted a very high standard of entrant. It will also have a very high standard of refreshments, all homemade which is expanded this year to provide lunch time snacks as well as the cakes and refreshing tea and coffee. The new room at the hall has made this possible.

So there is no excuse not to pay a visit to the show. It is right on your doorstep, you can buy quality refreshments as well as pick up a picture by a local artist, for a present perhaps, or you might find one which you would really like to have at home. There will be a big selection of unframed prints to tempt you as well.

It is also a very good way to while away time on doing something slightly different on your own doorstep. Come and enjoy. The Art Show is being held on the weekend of October 4th and 5th. It is open between 10.30 am and 5.30pm on Saturday, and between 10.30 and 4.30 pm on the Sunday.

News from the Birchanger Wood Trust

Hello Everyone

So we are now into Autumn and the time to spot and photograph fungi in Birchanger Wood.

NOW, in June or maybe July, I walked across to Birchanger Wood from Stansted (that is, to Birchanger Wood on the Birchanger side of the A120) and whilst walking the paths I heard the calls of buzzards. I could not see them, there are too many trees! Never mind, upon exiting the Wood at Birchanger, I stood and looked upward and then saw a marvellous sight of two beautiful buzzards circling and calling to one another; they were so low that the colours of their feathers were so easy to see and the birds were beautiful.

I do not know if the buzzards nested in Birchanger Wood, BUT at the beginning of September, I was again walking from Forest hall Park across the fields over to Birchanger when suddenly just above me one beautiful buzzard flew up and coursed the fields at a low height and then started to find the thermals. Upon doing so it then circled and spiralled way up into the clouds without any further use of wing power. Gosh it was a wonderful sight.

Tonight, looking out of my window across to Alsa Wood I spied a kestrel, strangely much higher up than I have noticed before, but again coursing the fields for food. I note also that the familiar garden birds will shortly be returning from the fields to our gardens to search for food.

The Autumn is a great time to walk in the ancient woodland of Birchanger Wood, whether this be in the smaller woodland on the Birchanger/Stansted side of the Wood, or in the larger woodland situated on the Bishop's Stortford side of the A120. Our lovely paths enable you, your children and your dogs to enjoy the woodland without becoming embroiled in mud.

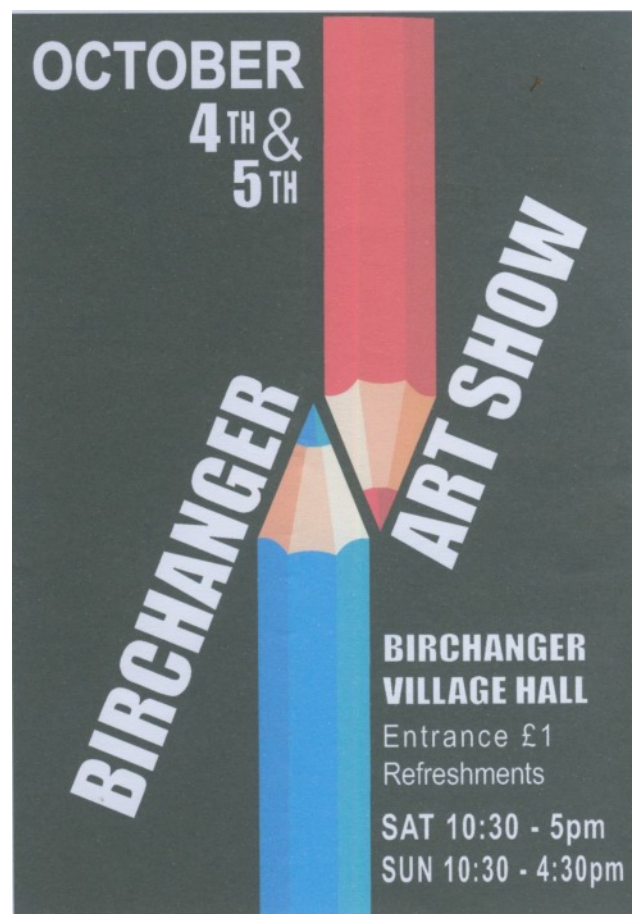
Enjoy Autumn!

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

The Belly Belles visit the Birchanger Bags.

You can expect the unexpected when you come to the monthly Birchanger Bags on the last Wednesday in every month. There was the Birdman in July, then for a complete change, the local Belly Dancing Team visited the BAGS, showed them how to do it, then it was everyone's opportunity to try it for themselves. It all made for an evening which was both interesting and full of enjoyment for all ages.

Belly Belles run classes in Birchanger on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. There is space and instruction for new students, so if you missed it last month, you can still see what Belly Dancing could do for you. I know one thing, it is very good exercise! This month's meeting will feature on a make up demonstration.





News from Birchanger Social Club

SPORTS RENAISSANCE IN BIRCHANGER



Alongside great value food, drinks and entertainment, the club prides itself on the unrivalled sporting facilities available on site that suit all levels of player. Currently the club is home to darts teams, the Birchanger Bowls Club, Football and cricket teams two snooker leagues not forgetting our beloved cribbage crew. These teams are popular with professionals and amateurs alike, with members coming from miles around to enjoy the very best facilities in the area, whether that be the immaculate greens, the regularly maintained tables or simply our famous Birchanger welcome.

Alongside the sports we are also able to offer the invaluable after match drink at a great price or even great value and tasting hot food, to replenish after a vigorous crib match. So if you're looking for ways to stave off the blues as the days draw in, why not come along and find out about one of our teams – new members both on the pitches and in the club are always welcome!

DAY TRIPPER WITH BSSC



We may not have secured a Beatles reunion, but we have managed to get the next best thing. Working with key partners such as Hills Prospect, we have been planning fun day trips out for members. These have been anything from a brewery visit to discover the mysterious art of beermaking, to a fun day out at Newmarket races. Spaces are limited on these trips, but make sure to keep an eye on the notice board. At time of writing we could still squeeze in a few more for the following trips:

Great Yarmouth & Lacons Brewery – 27-09-14 or 02-12-14

THE END IS NIGH!



Once again a big thanks for everyone's patience and understanding as we progress with the building works. The great news is that by the time you read this we should be near to completion. This huge project could not have been completed without the great and supportive inputs from staff, members and the committee over a long period of consultation. We have listened to members as well as the expert team of designers who helped us to develop the look and feel of the club. In particular thanks to those members who came along to give their thoughts and input at the update meeting held in the club on 10th August – it is your comments thoughts and inputs that will make this an even better club to be proud of. We recognise it has been a difficult time for members and employees alike as we change the layout of certain areas and as works have interfered with the day to day running of the club. Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated.

Once completed we hope the club will continue to attract our loyal members back in as well as prove more appealing to new members both of whom are the current and future lifeblood of this club. So if you haven't been in to the club for a few weeks, why not come back and see what we've done, and if you're new to the area or simply haven't given us a visit, try it – you might just like it!



Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool – Football - Cricket - Bowls

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 22nd October from 8pm. This is an opportunity to come along listen and have your say about the running of the club and to find out how we're doing and what's in store. It's also the chance to stand to be a part of the committee if you want to play a part in the success of the club moving forward. Keep an eye on notice boards over the coming weeks to see the agenda and find out more.

Treasure Chest Draw

19th September and 3rd October



We are down to three keys
The prize keeps growing,
but you got to be in it to win it

Paul Doody – 27th September



1996 Stars In Their Eyes winner described by TV presenter Chris Evans as possessing a 'superb voice' and being a 'brilliant vocalist' is back off tour to give Birchanger a run for its money.

Winnie – 4th October



AKA Juanita Diaz, this lady can belt out the greats from everyone from Abba to Madonna

Brett Faulkner – 18th October



Back by popular demand, dynamic young singer/songwriter Brett Falconer is a current star of the South East. His gigs mainly involve popular covers from across the ages, but he also has some exciting personal material that will spice up the evening.

Weekly events At the Club:

Weekly	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evenings

Plus Weekly Bonus Ball, Bottle Draws, Cash Raffles & Prize Raffles throughout the year.

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813441

Email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Discovering South Africa

The Mountain and The Prison

There are two sights which any visitor to Cape Town would not want to miss. The first is a visit up to its highest point and most stunning landmark Table Mountain. The second is a journey of reflection to the penal colony that is Robben Island.

Two alternative ways to get up to the top of the mountain are:

- 1) Walk - duration about 4 hours. Essential equipment-a good pair of lungs and a fit body.
- 2) Cable Car - duration about 10 minutes. Essential equipment - a good pair of eyes to enjoy the view.

No prizes for guessing which route Barbara & I took! The cable car rotates as it climbs towards the top so that everyone on board gets an equal view and the panoramic sight which unfolds as you climb is priceless. As far as the eye can see below you, there is uninterrupted sunlit Cape Town. No wonder you can see the mountain for miles, it towers above the city like a loyal sentry watching over the land. Far from being flat on the top as it appears, Table Mountain is a vast rocky area with great chasms and the massive 'Flat Top Gorge' which divides the plateau. The area is a magnet for climbers and even as we descend I am astounded to see someone hanging perilously from one of the cliffs by his fingertips! Thank goodness for cable cars that's what I say!!



Robben Island ! Even the name sends a shudder through your body. The apartheid regime kept all of its political opponents locked up there for a very long time and the mental and physical cruelty inflicted on them was immense. But this was not the first time the island had been used in this way. Over 300 years it had been variously, a leper colony, a place to put the mentally ill, a general prison and a place to banish military prisoners and anyone else who was an inconvenience to whoever was in power at the time.

But of course its most famous resident was Nelson Mandela and he is the reason people from all over South Africa and the world come to this place. To add authenticity to your visit, you are told as you board the ferry " you are our prisoner now" and you can only imagine the chill

those words would have sent through the real prisoners bound for the island. Mandela was by no means the only high profile prisoner, another largely forgotten inmate was Robert Sobukwe leader of the Pan African Congress who was held in isolation for many years then banished to Kimberley, a white stronghold, where he eventually died.

From the ferry we were taken by bus around the island, seeing the detention blocks and the Lime Quarry where the prisoners were put to work breaking rocks in the searing heat. Seeing the small cell in which Mandela was held and the exercise yard where he tended a small garden is a moving experience. But along with the despair this was a place of hope where black South Africans never gave up their dreams of independence. Mandela himself would hide messages in his garden and other prisoners used ingenious methods to smuggle them out, even making a small slit in a tennis ball and inserting his message inside. They would then play tennis in the yard of B section, which did not allow visitors, and lob the ball over into the neighbouring yard of a section which did have visitors and thus the messages were secreted out of the prison.

When you visit this prison your guide is always a former inmate and ours served time in the 1980s along with Mandela though he was released later. Finally as you emerge from the prison you realise there are no buses to take you back to the ferry, it is then that the guide tells you " you are now released Go! Take your long walk to freedom" which is, of course, the title of Nelson Mandela's autobiography.

And the journey back to the ferry is spent for most people thinking about what happened here and certainly thinking about one mans struggle during 18 years of incarceration and how hope triumphed over despair and freedom over cruelty and deprivation. For Barbara and I, our time in Cape Town is now over. Tomorrow we set off for the vineyards of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, a journey we are looking forward to with some anticipation!



Tony Wilson

School News

A message from the new Head Teacher

This is an exciting time for me as I prepare to join Birchanger School in September. I am beginning to meet the children, staff, governors and parents on my visits into school and everyone has made me feel very welcome.

I live in Stansted with my husband and daughter. The family also includes a cat called Makali and a boisterous Labrador dog called Alfie. In my spare time I enjoy reading a good book or sharing a meal with friends. I'm often outside - walking the dog in the woods and fields near us, horse riding and I can be tempted to do a bit of camping in sunny summer months.

I am originally from the North of England and grew up in a village called Marske by the sea on the East coast. I went to university in Leeds and lived and taught there for a number of years before moving to Essex in 1998 when my husband's job brought us south. Since then I have worked in local schools including six years at Henham and Ugley School. I am currently Deputy Head teacher at Sheering School which, like Birchanger, is a small village school with mixed-age classes and strong links to the church and community.

I am delighted to be appointed as Head teacher of Birchanger School and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Helen Coop

What Heather is Doing This Autumn.

The nights are starting to draw in and the first frosts cannot be far away. The long summer days will soon be just a memory. It is time to turn thoughts into more indoor pursuits and it is a great time to think about taking a venture into the art world. Heather Brown's Art Classes are continuing right up to Christmas. October.

Wednesday 15th, 10 am to 4 pm Fruit and Flowers in Oils and Acrylic. Materials included. £45 per person.

Monday, 27th, 10am to 12.30, Total Values in Ink Pens and Watercolours, some materials provided, £ 25 pp. November.

Saturday 15th, 10am to 4pm, bring your own subject and materials. Individual advice and guidance will be given.

Saturday 22nd, autumn Fruits in gouache on mountcard. Materials included, £25 pp.

Tea and coffee are provided, please bring a packed lunch for full day classes.

For further information, please contact Heather Brown on 815453 or email heather.highview@googlemail.com

"Musical Director wanted!"

Newly formed male singing group in the village is looking for a musician/ musical director to help with rehearsals. 2 hours per week. Anyone with the ability to read music who has a bit of time to spare as well as a sense of humour and wishes to join us in a relaxed and easy going music session would be most welcome. Please contact Tony: 01279 813007

Autumn Coffee Morning



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday October 7th
10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



News from St Mary's

Birchanger Bells

Can you hear them? History was created here in Birchanger at 12.00 on Tuesday the 9th September when our 2 bells rang out for the very first time. One of the bells was made and installed in 1774. The other is new and bears the inscription "Donated by the Friends of St. Mary's - 2013). Both were made by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

The bells have been set to chime at 10.45 am each Sunday morning to call us all to worship. They will also strike on the hour. You may have heard them already. We have been expecting complaints about the noise but, surprisingly, comments have been made that the bells are too quiet! It is early days yet so we will wait for a while before deciding whether or not to turn up the volume. In the meantime, just enjoy the mellow tones, that remind me how lucky we are to live in this wonderful place.



The old and the new
Their different sizes should give us two different notes

Bishop's Visit - 19th October 2014 10.30am

No one seems to know when was the last time a Bishop visited St Mary's (if ever) but our new Bishop is coming here to take part in a special service to celebrate the installation of our bells. If you would like to be involved please come along and join us.

Afterwards there will be a lunch served in the Church Hall, in honour of the Bishop and to celebrate all the work that has been done to the hall. A three course hot meal for £10. If you want tickets please call Pam Lee on 07702171744 (Not available between the 20th September and 2nd October) but book as soon as you can because tickets are selling very quickly.

Church Hall Hire

For rates, availability terms and conditions and a description of the available facilities

Please contact

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01279 812309

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Every Wednesday

2.00 till 4.00



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Village Diary

September/October

September

28th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

October

5th 11.00 am St Mary's
Matins

12th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

19th 11.00 am St Mary's
Family Service

26th 11.00 am St Mary's
Holy Communion

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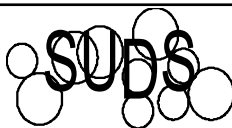
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