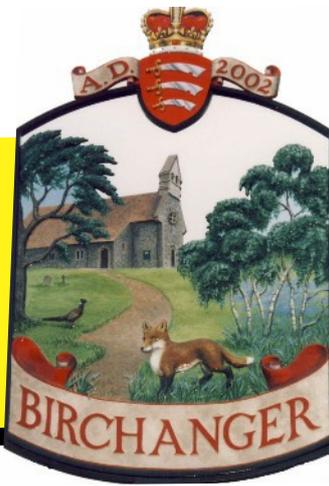


Birchanger

April 2016



Magazine

Issue 159

QUEEN'S 90th



As Great Britain's longest ever reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II has broken the record books. Over the years she has seen Britain move from a global Empire to modern state and the incredible changes that has brought with it. This year on April 21st the Queen turns 90 and up and down the country there will be a series of celebrations to mark this auspicious occasion. Right here in the village we have our very own big birthday to celebrate as the club celebrates its 125th anniversary. The first event that it will be hosting this year is a special lighting of a beacon in honour of the Queen's birthday. Up and down the country on the Thursday evening, beacons will be lit to mark this historical event. At the club, local dignitaries will be assembling to light the beacon, and there will also be a number of special 125 offers available in the club to celebrate the occasion. So why not come along, bring the family and be a part of this historic event?

BIRCHANGER LAKE - A SOLUTION?

The disgruntled residents of Birchanger have spent months and months putting up with the constant flooding at the centre of the village, whilst highways appear to be doing nothing. Finally, it seems that perseverance from the Parish Council may have paid off. In a recent meeting with the highways, the Parish Council are launching a consultation with the public on alternative solutions to the lake. It is now open to you to respond on the three options available. Firstly, a request has been put in by the Stansted angling society to introduce carp to allow for competitive game fishing, a potentially lucrative revenue stream for the village as we as a valuable source of employment. Second option was put forward by local businessman Ty Coon to offer a ferry service across the water during particularly wet periods. This would be run in association with the club, whereby a crossing would cost only £1.25 and include a plate of Del's famous thrice baked chips. Finally, a rather more outlandish suggestion was proposed by Sue Ridge, to investigate the drainage problem and have it sorted, effectively seeing and end to Birchanger lake and the wonderful and bio-diverse ecosystem it has created. In a world of climate change and mass urbanisation surely the last thing we want to do is lose this vital local resource? Please send in your feedback to Sheila Blige on the Parish Council before the end of April.



MEN NEEDED

Birchanger Bowls Club is looking for men of all ages to support their Wednesday evening bowls team. They start at 6.15pm playing weekly home and away matches commencing the beginning of May until the middle of August. They also play friendlies with other clubs mainly at weekends and have a 'roll up' and a beer on Friday evenings. Men and women are eligible to join both friendlies and at weekends. Membership of the bowls club costs £30 and you would also expect to be a member of the main social club.

The Bowls club is expecting to open at the end of April which this year is anticipated to be Friday the 29th. They are looking for players to support the league team but would also welcome new bowlers men or women to come along and play. Tuition would also be given if required. For further information please contact Rosemary Saward on 813820 or Michael Daw on 814180.



a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

April Fool! Within the magazine we always try to balance the important information of village life alongside some lighter more entertaining pieces. This month is no different and so the more discerning amongst you may notice that we have a light-hearted April Fool section this month. As a test of how thoroughly you actually read this magazine, this month we are running a small competition. The first person who can correctly identify the phony piece will receive a nice bottle of fizz from the editor (under 18s this would have to be lemonade, so get your parents to enter on your behalf!)

As I write this edition I am feeling heartened that the sun has finally appeared, puddles are drying and there is a genuine feeling that barbecue, cricket and bowls season is just around the corner.

Have a great month everyone and don't forget - the magazine is yours too so please send in any suggestions: everything will be considered.

Tom Granger

 magazine@birchanger.com  816349  319, Birchanger Lane

LOCAL HEROES

DAVE WOODS



Dave has been a long-standing member of the club committee, and in his role as treasurer has seen club finances go from strength to strength. His work in the club goes above and beyond the normal to enrich club life, from running the ever popular Treasure Chest event, to organising cheese and wine evenings, poker nights and other incredible events. His charitable side is equally impressive with his work for Grove Cottage amongst others being particularly noticeable. Dave is always willing to get stuck in and lend a helping hand as well, having at late notice stocked, manned and organised the bar at the successful village Ceilidh, helping keep the dancers well fuelled with drink and the takings healthy to provide for the local village school. It would be unfair to mention Dave without talk of Sue who as a regular 'club widow' backs him in everything he does (and often gets dragged in to help)

DAVE DARTNELL



Dave can often be found in his spiritual home of the Birchanger Club. Each week he tirelessly organises the savings scheme, helping villagers keep on track of Finances and prepared for everything. Some might find living with Donna a challenge, but not Dave who soldiers on with a wry grin on his face and a cheeky retort close at hand. Over the years Dave has been involved in many village endeavours, including being a key member of the club committee and ardent supporter of the village arts festival. Dave has battled with some health issues over the last few years, battles we all hope are over with, but his grace and good humour throughout should be an inspiration to all of us 'moaning buggers'. So if you see either Dave or indeed any Dave in the club over the coming weeks then make sure to buy them a drink to thank them for all they do!



VILLAGE NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Birchanger Knows How to do Mother's Day

There was a great deal on offer for those looking to treat their Mothers for Mother's Day. You could have gone to the special service in the Church and given your mother a little posy of flowers, you could then have taken her to a magnificent Sunday Lunch at the Club. The Club pulled out all the stops, providing two Sunday Lunch sessions on the day, both of which were fully booked. A big thank you to Del and his team who worked so hard to make it all possible.

If you are a pupil at Birchanger School, you could then have invited your mother to a very special Mother's Day lunch at the school, two days later, which also proved to be very popular, with over 60 mothers arriving to have a special lunch with their children.

Days to be remembered and perhaps anticipated next year?

So We Are Not Recycling So Well

Seems that we are not quite as good at recycling as we were when we started with the new three bin system. Our standards have slipped during the years. We have now become somewhat sloppy about the whole thing. Not bothering to separate our rubbish has become a bit of a habit. We just have to remember that plastics, paper, glass and cardboard, all belong in the green bin. Recycled items still earn money and help to keep the council tax from rising too much. This year's bill is not happy reading, even though our own Birchanger Precept was down! One of the very few councils who achieved that this year.

Book Week at Birchanger School

Literacy plays a large part in the daily routine at Birchanger School, which is why Book Week and the visit to the school by an author who writes books for children is eagerly anticipated.

The week was a huge success, with the author, Alice Hemming's visit as one of the parts of the week which the children will remember for a long time.

After assembly for the whole school, Alice visited every class and read her stories, or explained how she wrote them and where she found her ideas. She answered their many and very good questions. During the week the children shared their favourite stories, were encouraged to write their own and on the last day they came to school dressed as a character from the books which they enjoy.

A good way to start the second half of the term.

Time to Wake Up Birchanger

The new Uttlesford Local Plan rolls on, and some of the proposals are potentially life changing for Birchanger. The worst of all is the proposal to use all the land around the village for housing, providing between 3,888-8,685 houses. This is hopefully unlikely to happen, but it must be a tempting idea for those who live in Saffron Walden. More likely is the proposal to build houses on the field behind Homebase. The number is unspecified, but if this happens anyone living there is far more likely to feel part of Bishop's Stortford than Birchanger.

The field behind 238 -260 Birchanger Lane is also proposed. An application on this site was turned down on appeal on access and Green Belt issues. It is for in excess of five houses. It would be back land development. Elsewhere within the village there is a proposal to build ten houses behind 285/7 Birchanger Lane. This again is back land development with an access onto the lane at a narrow point. It has been used as a builder's yard in the past and is partially within the Green Belt.

Two types of development have been proposed at Sion House. One is residential the other would be small office or low key industrial units. These are again sited within the Green belt and the access would be onto the already busy B1383, although concerns must be raised about any access onto Tot Lane.

The council will decide later in the month as to whether to restrict or permit development in the green belt.

If they permit development Birchanger could change forever. You do have a say, and can access the proposals on the Uttlesford website or write directly. Any representations must be made before April 4 th. For details see page 8 of the magazine.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE: (Liz Godwin)

Birchanger Parish Council objects to all development within the green belt. This is ratified each year at the Annual Parish Meeting and has been supported on appeal on several occasions. The countryside is valued for the footpaths which run across it and which are used by residents of Bishops Stortford and Stansted as well as Birchanger on a regular basis. Two ancient woods, Digby and Birchanger and numerous tree populated areas lie within the Parish Boundaries.

The Parish Council is in the process of updating its Parish Plan. A questionnaire was circulated and the responses quite clearly supported the Parish Council's views. There are sites, identified by the Housing Department where affordable housing could be provided.

Site 01 Birchanger 15

Land at Rear of 238 / 264 Birchanger Lane. Proposal for over 5 houses, type unspecified on this site. Access is by footpath alongside Gower Barn, Sand Track from A 120, or Harrison's. The Site was turned down on appeal for one house. Reason Access and Location in Green Belt. Location. Outside development limits within the Green Belt. At variance with Birchanger Parish Plan Backland Development. No defined access by sand track which is not in applicants ownership although right of way is claimed. All accesses unsuitable for regular use. Gower Barn is a listed Barn. This is an Inappropriate site for development.

Sites 02/03 Birchanger 15

Sion Park two Development Proposals. The proposals are for either commercial development or residential. Unsuitable for either proposal. Green belt land backing onto single track Lane. Access would be from busy B1383. Proposal is close to a listed building, Sion House. Development between Stansted and Birchanger could lead to coalescence between the two settlements. Outside development limits and within the Green Belt, the proposal would not contribute to sustainable development and is Contrary to Birchanger Parish Plan.

04 Birchanger 15

Land Rear of 285-287 Birchanger Lane. 10 houses. Part within development limits, rest within the Green Belt. Backland development. Contrary to Birchanger Parish Plan. Difficult access on to Birchanger Lane which is narrow at this point. Vehicles tend to mount the curbstones to pass each other at this point in the lane.

05 Birchanger 15

Large development of between 3,888-8,685 houses. Within Green Belt, outside development limits. Contrary to Birchanger Parish Plan. This would completely alter the character not just of Birchanger and a small village would become the centre of what would effectively be a new town. It would lead to coalescence between Uttlesford, East Herts, Hertfordshire and Essex. The development would impact on the M11 and A120 junctions, which are already at over capacity. Secondary School provision is not sufficient in either East Herts or Essex to accommodate the need for places which this development will generate.

Developments along the A120, are already in the pipeline at Bishops Stortford North, and their impact must be considered. There will be further pressure on Junction 8, which is already over capacity. A fact that has not been lost on inspectors in recent appeals.

06 Birchanger 14

Land off Stortford Rd, rear of Homebase. Within Greenbelt. Outside development limits. Contrary to Birchanger Parish Plan. Will contribute to coalescence with Bishops Stortford Close proximity to Ancient Woodland Birchanger Wood. Would impact adversely on the wood. Area of poor Air Quality.

No links with Uttlesford area. Residents would identify with East Herts. Concerns with school provision at all levels. Birchanger is in a strategic position at the edge of the District. The fields and woodland mark an important boundary not only between Bishops Stortford and Uttlesford, but the county boundary as well. Coalescence, which is what these sites would ensure, has always been something which councils have sought to avoid and which we will continue to fight. All responses must come in before April 4th



Grace Massingham-Lamprell - Woodworking Wizard!

It seems we have a budding woodworking genius on our hands right here in the village. Grace was kind enough to help with the new village notice board working on it during her school woodwork project. The Birchanger Parish sign which is befitting of village life is now happily situated. The workmanship is excellent and has indeed put to shame some of our more experienced village chippys who would have charged an arm and a leg to do the same. Grace was helped with the project at Bishops Stortford College by her teacher Sasha Gunes.

What's On ...

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Treasure Chest - only 2 keys left 	2	3 St-M - Matins Service
4 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	5 H - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet <small>St. David's Day</small>	6 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 14:00 - 16:00	7 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	8 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Bottle Draw 	9 BSSC - 80s night including fancy dress competition and music	10 St-M -Holy Communion and APCM -after 11:00 service BSSC - RULE BOOK CHANGES - meeting in club
11 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	12 H - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet <small>St. David's Day</small>	13 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 14:00 - 16:00	14 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 	15 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Treasure Chest 	16	17 St-M - Family Service
18 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	19 H - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet <small>St. David's Day</small>	20 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 14:00 - 16:00	21 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance BSSC - Quens 90 th torch lighting from 19:00	22 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Wheel of Fortune 	23 <small>St. George's Day</small>	24 St-M - Holy Communion
25 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	26 H - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet <small>St. David's Day</small>	27 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 14:00 - 16:00	28 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 	29 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Poker Night 	30 BSSC - Francisco Sommers	

SOSA CLASSES: Friday 09:30 Village Hall

No up front financial commitment – classes are £5 on a pay-as-you-go basis and run every week

No dance experience necessary – our workout programme is suitable for all ages, shapes, sizes, and fitness abilities

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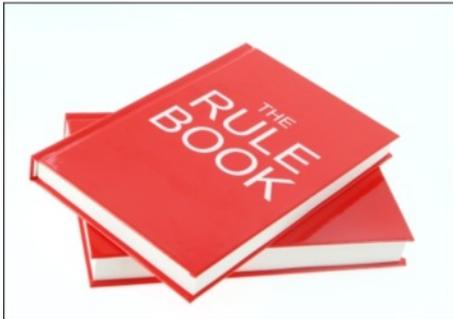
Fun-packed approach – We want to get everyone dancing! Our fun-packed approach to our classes makes burning calories easy...

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Ladies only environment – professional, non-intimidating, and inclusive of all cultures and faiths.

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



RULE BOOK CHANGE

The club rule book has long been in need of a major update and in recent months the committee has been going through the current rule book to correct irregularities, to tidy up the structure of the rules and to amend certain rules to ensure compliance with today's licensing requirements.

Copies of the proposed new rule book and an explanation of the changes are now available behind the bar for members to review and comment upon.

There will be a 'Questions and Answers' meeting in the club on Sunday 10th April at 7.00pm to go through the proposed new rule book explaining the changes and inviting feedback. Please try to attend this if you possibly can, and make your views known.

During April, feedback forms will be available behind the bar and there will be a 'post box' in the club for members' comments. After all members' comments have been reviewed, a final version of the proposed new rule book will be produced and an EGM will be arranged for May or June to seek members' approval.

It's not often that the club rule book undergoes a major update so please take time to look at the proposal and help us to get it right.

Treasure Chest - 1st April

It's no April Fool's trick as this month we see the draw including the last two keys/ Someone is guaranteed to win at least £1,000 which is no laughing matter. Last month we ran a double dip event in the club with two chances to win, but still the wrong keys were selected meaning that at the next draw we have to find a winner. So make sure you get along early to grab a seat and get yourself some tickets for the next draw!

HAPPENINGS - APRIL



1st - Treasure Chest - Only 2 Keys and £2,000 in the box.

8th - Bottle Draw



9th - 80's Night! Fancy Dress, best costume wins a prize! Live POPGUN on stage

10th - RuleBook Changes - Questions & Answers Session 7pm

15th - Treasure Chest



21st - 125th Celebrations: Queens 90th event: Lighting the Beacon at BSSC!



22nd - Wheel of Fortune



29th - Poker Night

30th - Francisco Summers LIVE

This guy is now a living legend in the world of Birchanger club entertainment having had many of us on our feet dancing and prancing in ways we could never imagine. A class act who will make you smile!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Day	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	Bottle Draw	Evenings

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813441 email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com



Seasonal Advice



Gordon Blue Review: Rose and Crown - Stansted - FIVE STARS

J greets you with a cursory glance and a sniff when you set foot in the Rose and Crown, Stansted. It's a charming welcome and the temptation to pick him up and stroke him is immediate, until you catch the sight of the display of gins on offer and you realise that that is far more of a priority. Generally when choosing places to eat these days, Tripadvisor has things covered and for this traditional pub, the acclaim is seemingly universal to the extent that our party arrived expecting something truly special. Well was it? Errrrr, yes.

The decision to award somewhere five stars out of five can depend on a number of factors, including expert waiter and sommelier service, Michelin-starred food (and prices to boot) and fine dining surroundings. None of these really apply to the Rose and Crown and yet I have to agree that the solid reviews it gets are entirely worth it. I suppose being greeted by a Jack Russell named after an American whiskey (J of JD) is not everyone's cup of tea but it seems to signify everything that is right about this place. The owner and waitress could not be nicer if they tried, whilst fellow punters - be they playing dominoes, grabbing a meal straight from work or getting ready for quiz night - were also filled with some magical spirit of joyfulness that even the most miserable of souls (including myself) could not help but be captivated by.

The food itself does not vary wildly from typical pub classics although the quality (and quantity!) are really good relative to the prices charged – the whitebait in particular is a solid classic, expertly presented. Some interesting touches make choosing a main course quite difficult and any questions asked were quickly answered and recommendations duly provided. I opted for the Halloumi burger which was served in a brioche bun with salad and proper chips, whilst my dining companion opted for a regular burger. Both were tasty and would be ordered again. At this point, we were struggling to choose the next gin (all served with Fever Tree tonic no less) although another pint of the excellent Harry Sparrow cider was an easier choice. On previous visits we have sampled the wine which is varied and affordable and the range of beers and ales also appealed.

In the winter you have two real fires to ensure the place remains cosy and inviting, whilst in the summer you can enjoy the extensive garden and maybe throw a ball for J to retrieve. Either way, there is something in the air at the Rose & Crown that makes it a firm favourite every time.

'Come on Gordon' you must be asking, 'there must be something wrong with this place' to which I would simply answer: Yes: the food is too good and the portions so generous that any thoughts of getting a 'summer body' have been postponed for several summers. Darn it.

Rose & Crown. 31 Bentfield Green Stansted Mountfitchet STANSTED CM24 8HX. Telephone (01279) 812107.



Does anyone remember when this was the village store rather than a place to come face to face with an irate bus driver? Send in any old photos of Birchanger from through the ages so we can share them with our readers.



As Stansted Marks its 25th Anniversary Using The New Terminal, February Passenger Traffic Hits Record Highs

London Stansted saw more than 1.69 million passengers pass through the airport in February, up 15% on the same month last year and the busiest ever February on record. The 23rd consecutive month of passenger growth enabled Stansted to surpass the previous high for February set in 2007, even allowing for an adjustment to a like-for-like 28 day month.

Aircraft load factors for the month also achieved another record with an average of 84.9% of all available seats occupied on every flight during February.

In the 12 months ending February 2016, the total number of passengers using Stansted grew to over 22.9 million, an increase of 11.5% over the previous year and the highest annual total since August 2008.

Cargo volumes also recorded a significant increase with tonnage up 9.4% in February compared to the same month in 2015. The annual total grew to over 240,000 tonnes, up 4.5% on the previous 12 months.

Alongside this Stansted has recently added British Airways to its airlines, which will start flying to summer destinations Malaga, Faro, Palma Ibiza and Berlin from May 28th.

The airport has also recently seen success, having been voted the best London airport in the London Travel Awards thanks in large part to the recent programme of investment and improvements at the airport.

Success can, however, breed complacency. As a village we must ensure we keep a close eye on our noisy neighbour. This month also sees the appointment of a new CEO in Andrew Cowan, who we must watch to see how his ambitions might shape the destiny of the airport and indeed the future tranquility of our village life.

READING CLUB - LAST CHANCE

"Is anyone interested in forming a Reading group and has a free afternoon once a month?"

Choice of titles democratically chosen but can provide lively and provocative discussions over a cup of tea or glass of wine!

If you are interested please contact Cathy Gooding 01279 813103.



Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every Month

Doors open at 7.30 for 8 – 10 p.m.

'A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed. 27th April, 7.30 for 8.00

A ceramic painting workshop

Tel. for details: Michelle - 814481,
Barbara – 813007, Rosemary - 814678

News from the School

Book Week

We celebrated our school book week at the end of February with a whole range of booked themed activities.

At the beginning of the week each class visited Bishops Stortford Library. Children were introduced to how a large library is laid out, explored the fiction and non-fiction sections and then the librarian led a story session. Before the visit we sent home library forms so that children could join the library and then borrow books during the visit. The library is such a fantastic free resource where children can try out different authors and browse from a huge range of books, including the non-fiction section which is often much better than the stock carried by bookshops. In the age of the internet it can be easy to forget how important libraries are and we hope this visit might encourage our children to make the most of this local local resource.



During the week we were delighted to welcome the author Alice Hemming who has written a range of picture books including 'The Black and White Club' and 'Gold Star for George.' In her introductory talk she read one of her books and explained the process from first idea through to published book. It was fascinating to see how many drafts of the words she makes (about 12!) and how her illustrator creates several versions of each character for her to choose from. Throughout the day Alice held a writing workshop with each class. She linked her stories to our core values of Love, Care, Courage and Truth and worked with the children to shape their ideas and create their own stories.

Later in the week we held our 'Big Read.' The children all chose a favourite book and then we split into our House Groups and children shared their books with a drink of squash and a biscuit to finish the session. Its always lovely to see our older children working patiently with our younger children and everybody enjoyed the reading session.

Friday was our dress up day and children (and staff) made a huge effort to dress as their favourite character. We had a few dalmatians, a couple of Harry Potters, Thing 1 and Thing 2, superheroes and some fairytale princesses!



Pancake Breakfast

Pancake day was celebrated in style at Birchanger School when the PTA organised a Pancake Breakfast. Our hall was filled with children enjoying a pancake breakfast before school started. Children ate pancakes spread with butter, jam, syrup and some enterprising children brought their own marmite! Children topped up on toast and helped each other with pancake themed puzzles and colouring. Thank you to our hardworking Mums on the PTA for another great event.

Helen Coop

Headmistress

ANY MAKE, YEAR, CONDITION

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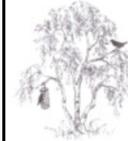


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CALLING ALL CLUB MEMBERS

BSSC is run by and for its members. Throughout the year the committee are working hard on entertainments, drinks, food and sports for the members, but we can't succeed without you. If you have any ideas or have time to dedicate to sub-committees then get in touch!

Drop us an email at club@birchanger.com or speak to one of our staff

“St Mary’s Church Birchanger will be holding their APCM (Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on Sunday April 10th at 12 midday immediately after the 11.00 service. All are welcome to attend.”

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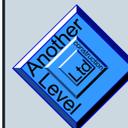


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