

Birchanger

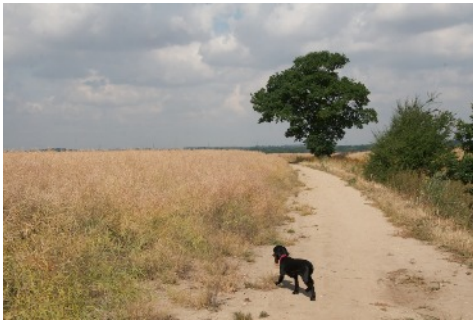
August 2016



Magazine

Issue 163

VILLAGE BOUNDARY SAFE



At last a bit of positive news for the village as it is now confirmed that none of the proposed building sites around the village are to be considered. We found out to our relief earlier in the year that the planning authorities would not be suggesting any of the proposed sites around Birchanger for development. Since then the Parish Council has received official confirmation that not only were none of the sites to be proposed, that officially they would not be pursuing any development within these sites. This means that we will be able to breathe a relative sigh of relief as once again Birchanger gets a much needed reprieve and can continue securely without being subsumed into Stansted or Bishops Stortford.

DOG BINS ON WAY



Stop Press! It's official the dog bins are on their way. Over the past years and decades even there have been a number of people complaining about the lack of dog bins and corresponding dirge of doggy deposits around the village. The Parish Council has borne the brunt of these complaints over time, with many reasonable citizens of Birchanger asking themselves how difficult it actually can be to organise a few bins. The complexities of canine waste receptacle procurement are in fact more intricate than can be imagined. Where to site them, how to have them emptied, size, shape, cost etc. Similarly, many things have been beyond the control of the Parish Council such as the times landowners take to come back on requests to site these bins in the first place. After a long and constant struggle the bins are now on order and a company has been confirmed who will conduct the emptying of these bins so fingers crossed doggy droppings or even worse the scourge of plastic bags will decrease around the village.



VILLAGE FETE - 3rd SEPTEMBER

Make sure you have the 3rd September written in your diary in pen. This year's fete which forms part of the club's 125 celebrations is set to be bigger and better than ever before. There will be new stalls coming and some surprise entertainment that will complement some of the firm old favourites from previous years. Let's not forget the ever popular and increasingly competitive dog show which will be back by popular demand! If the excitement proves too much for you during the day you can always relax in the club pavilion with some of the country's finest baked goods and a nice cuppa tea or coffee.



a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

Many thanks to everyone who has sent in kind words following my entry last month. The flowers and chocolates were particularly welcome but wholly unnecessary. Whilst times are definitely challenging, I'm sure like me, people up and down the country are working hard to make the best of this rather strained situation, so that in 10 years or so we will be out the other side and back on track.

On a positive note, we have been able to find a replacement editor to steer the magazine moving forward. I will not reveal at this stage the identity of this person, but instead allow them to introduce themselves when they take on the magazine. Next month will be a handover month and will see me making my official farewells after such a short but sweet tenure over the editorship. Suffice to say the new editor has a wealth of publishing experience, a keen eye for linguistic wit, and I'm sure a better handle of grammar and punctuation than I can ever dream of.

Kind regards,

Tom Granger



magazine@birchanger.com



816349



319, Birchanger Lane

BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION

Essex County Council has announced that there will be a consultation on the future of the village bus service, routes 7 and 7a. The service is currently costing the Council more in subsidy that they are prepared to pay so they are seeking ways to reduce the cost. The Council and the bus operator, Acme Transport Services, met with parish councillors recently to describe their proposals. They want to reduce the service so that it can be operated all day with two buses, instead of the three it uses now.

The Parish council has seen a very early version of the proposed timetable, and it seems that we will lose the first and last journeys and have a very long gap in the afternoon. It also looks as if schoolchildren attending Bishop's Stortford High School and St. Mary's will need to change buses in both directions to get from and to the village.

The consultation is expected in August and we will have 28 days to respond. The new service will start in August 2017.

More information about the consultation will be posted on the village noticeboards and website as well as Essex County council's site. Information will also be printed in the Birchanger Village Magazine if the timing is such that we can get the news to you in time for a response. Please do respond as these changes may make life less pleasant in the village, especially for those without cars. If you'd rather the Parish Council answers on your behalf then forward your views to Ken Wheatley (ken@birchanger.com, 814678).

Essex has also announced that it is conducting a short survey on bus use and people's opinion on the bus service. It's as <http://www.essex.gov.uk/transportsurvey>, and it may help our chances of keeping a good bus service if we all take part.

AFTERNOON TEA TO HELP THE VILLAGE HALL

Elizabeth Godwin has offered to do a Saturday Afternoon tea here at Moorswood. On Saturday August 20th between 1 and 4 pm to help to raise funds for the further improvement of the Hall after it was so badly damaged in the recent flooding. As all the floor boards are up, it is seen as a good opportunity to remove the gas heaters and replace them with four large radiators, as well as to refit the ladies toilets, which are in want of refurbishment. A good plan but, while the insurance will cover the repairs to the hall, they will not pay for any of the above, quite understandably. Elizabeth sees the opportunity here and would like to help. So please come to tea at Moorswood, for a very reasonable fee which will go directly to the Village Hall! Tea should be good, with sandwiches, cakes and as much tea and coffee as you would like, but I do need you to make it work.

Tickets are priced at £8 per adult, or two for £15, with children paying £3 if they are between 5 and 12. Everyone including dogs on leads are welcome, Please come if you can!



VILLAGE NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Your Last Party

Not a great thought for the holiday season. But three unexpected deaths earlier this year rather set me thinking. Would it be easier for those left behind if the person even if dying at an early age, had planned their funeral, or do those left behind hate what was planned, and do their own thing anyway. After all, they have to actually do it and some requests from the have been very bizarre and difficult to carry out. One friend requested a burial at sea. This was impossible to arrange, so it came down to asking the captain of a cross channel ferry to do the honors with the ashes, something which the somewhat surprised ferry company agreed to arrange. Unfortunately nobody had considered the wind factor, so all the ashes blew back onto the ship, covering some rather bemused passengers on three decks with a covering of dust. The deceased is crossing the channel to this day.

Nobody wants to do this, but perhaps we do need to plan the event to which the guest list is both unlimited and uncertain. There are a limited choice of venues and it really will be the party you give where you do not have a drop to drink, or a bite to eat. Could you arrange the funeral? Many of us cannot bring ourselves to contemplate this.

For the non Church attenders, the thought of a Church Service taken by someone you do not know, can be a big put off. It could be just as bad if you take the crematorium duty vicar for the day. Perhaps you might think of other alternatives, such as a Humanist service. Actually doing your own thing could be possible, but could also be a burden for those left behind, unless you had organized everything first.

There is one thing you can arrange. That is a really good party, your last gift to the people you were closest to. I have had them for relatives at home, but you could plan a venue of your choice. Leave money especially for this specify the food, otherwise you can end up with last week's vol a vents, stale sausage rolls and curled up sandwiches. Make sure that your relatives know this is what you want, there is plenty of money to pay for it and plenty for everyone to drink, while they play the Do You Remember Game. Do all you can to make sure that your last party is the best one.

Perhaps you just want a quiet funeral. That is fine, but those left behind need to know.

Can Gardening be Made Easier?

Maybe it can be, but true gardeners will probably remain unconvinced, but despite the advent of newer, more expensive garden tools, is the actual work getting any easier? I would think not. There are still the same old weeds, possibly new pesticides to control them, but in time, most of these are declared neither user or garden friendly and they seem to be all the effective ones.

It seems to me that it is time which is the best manager of a garden, not humans. We are wowed by all sorts of wonderful plants as we spend hours in the garden centre, only to find that the special plant fades by the end of the second year. Plants that we believe to be ok for our soil, rapidly decide that they are not.

It is only as years pass, that the plants who have decided that your garden is an ok place, have spread and taken over the gaps. Most of these plants are not weeds, but our attitudes to the so called weeds are changing following some very laid back show gardens at Chelsea and Hampton Court. These incomers fill the gaps which the more unacceptable weeds might have otherwise have inhabited.

So my garden now has the Natural Look. Not sure what the true gardeners would say, but these plants are helping me to win the war against couch grass and other nasties, for the time being anyway.

Using the Defibrillator

The defibrillator is there outside on the front wall of Birchanger Club, for anyone to use in an emergency. It must be returned to the club after use, so that it can be checked and replaced in the box as soon as possible. All you need to do is to dial 999 and give the club post code. The post code on the box is being redone, as it has worn out somewhat over the weeks since it was installed, but the code is the Birchanger Club code, CM23 5QJ.

Is This Really the Future?

As early as 2018 the first driverless cars are to become available to the public, but nobody will actually own one, as they will be part of a countrywide car pool.

If you need one, all you do is to dial one up from your phone and the car will arrive and drive you to your chosen destination. None will be surprised if you are using your phone, computer or knitting needles as it is the car which is doing the driving not you. You will never need to park a car ever again. When you need to return, well just call for another car to come and take you.

Just think. Your children will never need to take a driving test. Your car will never need an MOT and you will never have to buy a vehicle license or pay a garage bill ever again.

Our towns will completely change. Car parks can become gardens as over 90% of the current parking places will become redundant.

World wide, there will be 1.2 million less deaths from car accidents every year and car manufacturers and the insurance companies will go into mourning. Casualty departments will be empty and oil industry will become virtually redundant, although somewhere the energy will have to be found to recharge the driverless cars.

Not quite sure what will happen if we were all to need to use a car at once.

A dream for the future, but not a reality in 2018 I fear, and nobody has mentioned the cost.

Don't Bottle it Up

That is one of the latest messages from the Primary Care Trust in its battle against heavy drinking. Apparently one in four of us can be classed as a heavy drinker and this latest campaign is an attempt to get us to cut down and to adopt healthier drinking levels.

Most of us would not think that we had a drinking problem. Some of us are trying to help a friend with a severe alcohol habit and are not sure where to go for help. Perhaps even as moderate drinkers we may be trying to cut back, but there is a new service aimed to help everyone.

This service, called not surprisingly Don't Bottle It Up, offers hard facts about drinking, but more importantly actually gives tips for those who want to cut back, and will tailor support to your actual needs, whether it is with personal drinking or for someone who is close to you who you believe needs help.

All you need to do is to access the service on line and take it from there. The service is found at <https://dontbottleitup.org.uk>

Was it Your Knickers in the Lane?

Many of you will have seen the collection of ladies underwear which littered the lane in June. Coincidentally you may think, not long after a series of so called charity clothes collections in the village, after the bags for the clothes have been distributed, with the logos of well known charities and well respected charities on them. It all may seem bonafide, but most of it is not. Authorized collections have an Uttlesford reference number somewhere on the container. This means that the collecting agent is a genuine collector for the charity named. If the bag has no number on it, it should be binned, or used for other purposes. Never put your clothes in them and leave outside the door as requested.

What these unauthorized people do is to collect the bags, on the as stated on the bag and then retire to a quiet country lane and go through them. They then discard all they do not want on the spot, departing only with the desired items, leaving the rest to blow about and festoon the countryside, until the District Council is told about the incident and sends someone to pick them up. I have actually seen happen in an out of the way location very close to home.

So whenever one of these bags comes through your door, search for the number. All the logos and messages seem highly plausible, as it is easy to get these from the charity's website, but if it has no Uttlesford registered number on it anywhere, well you know what to do. Otherwise it could be your clothes blowing down someone's road next.

Hedges Grow too Big for Their Space

It has been a wet spring and this has meant that all the hedges have grown well. Too well in many cases. In fact so well that they are now overhanging pavements and footpaths so much that they are forcing pedestrians into the road.

House holders may not realise just how much their hedge or shrubs have encroached upon the pavements, but many have all over Birchanger, and this is putting pedestrians at risk.

Yet another chore in the garden I know, but do you want to be responsible for somebody getting hurt?

Are You Getting All You Are entitled to?







It may come to a bit of a surprise to many people that, according to a recent profile of people living in Uttlesford, Birchanger has the highest rate of child poverty in the district at 12.5% compared to the overall Essex rate of 7.1% and the national rate of 18.6%.

As the levels of employment are high in Essex, at the rate of only 1.9% long term unemployment, this is not the sole cause of the problem. Wages may be lower, and many may not be claiming all the benefits which they are entitled to.

To find out what you could be missing, talk to the District Council or the CAB.

What's On ...

August 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<small>Summer Bank Holiday (Scott.)</small> BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Chi	BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	BSSC- Treasure Chest 		St-M- Matins
8 BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	9 BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	10 BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Chi	11 BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 	12 	13 BSSC- LIVE ACT - LEE RIVERS	14 St-M- Holy Communion
15 BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	16 BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	17 BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Chi	18 BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 	19 BSSC- Treasure Chest 	20	21 St-M- Matins
22 BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	23 BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	24 BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Chi	25 BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	26 	27 - BSSC- LIVE ACT - LEE RIVERS	28 St-M- Holy Communion
29 BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	30 BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	31 BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Chi				

Summer Bank Holiday (Eng. & Wales)



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



POSH DRINKS

The club has come along way in the last 125 years since its inception as a local working men's club. The 70s saw the introduction of women a rule that many would still like to reverse. Since then there have been a number of extensions and more recently a refurb of the entire club space to make it more appealing. The latest development in the club is in the addition of a limited premium range of wines and spirits to complement their high quality but great value range. These drinks include (at the time of writing) a grey goose vodka, saffron infused gin and a premium Chablis wine. Many of our valued regulars will question the need for such items, but they are proving increasingly popular and may be yet another reason to come down to the club to give it a try!

HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP



As part of the 125 celebrations, any new members wishing to sign up for the rest of the year will only be asked to pay £12.50 including the new members fee. With this money representing what you might save in an evening spent in the club, why not come along and give it a go!



New Committee Members Required

October will see the club's AGM taking place and is also the time when a number of committee members will be up for re-election. The club is always interested in involving as wide and diverse a group of people as possible, so if you're up for the challenge and are thinking you want to give something back then why not consider putting your name forward!

125 COMPETITION



July and August see the club playing host to a number of friendly competitions across the sporting remit. There are competitions in snooker, pool, cribbage darts and bowls with each vying for a top prize of £125 as well as many other prizes. Make sure you keep an eye on the notice boards for your opportunity to win big!

HAPPENINGS - AUGUST



5th+ 19th - Treasure Chest - #pleasenotthem If you want to ensure no more committee members walk away with the money, then make sure to turn up in force and buy the tickets!



13th - Lee Rivers - LIVE - This solo vocalist and guitar player will serve acoustic realness aplenty for your listening pleasure.



27th - Retrovox - will carry us back to the 50s and 60s with some incredible tunes from days gone by.

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: Shadhona's, South Street Stortford – 5 stars

An Indian takeaway is one of the delights of life, whether it is the need to satisfy a craving for spicy flavoursome food or because you are simply too hungover to contemplate cooking. Yet the idea of venturing out to dine at an Indian restaurant was not at the forefront of any of the minds in the Blue household, as I had (wrongly) assumed that our venue for tonight would be the stuff of loud birthday or hen parties.



Upon entering Shadhona's – located in a part of Stortford brimming with cheap eateries, you are warmly welcomed into the bright and spacious dining room and the service is immediately attentive. Drinks first and a good selection is available, including the typical Cobra beer, soft drinks and a modestly-priced wine list.

Popadums next and the usual accoutrements including a fiery lime pickle and an onion salad which was almost entirely onion – a bit of a shame as some tomato and mint would have made it more appealing. The rest of the menu is extensive and includes some pleasing and appetising starters, specials I had not previously heard of together with the classic curry dishes, all of which are reasonably priced. We opted for our favourites – a Jalfrezi and a Bhuna – both being well-presented and an

adequate portion. Whilst the Jalfrezi was on the mild side to others experienced before, the flavours were delicious and everything in sight was eaten with gusto.

One of my bugbears when eating out (as you may have gathered from these reviews) has often been a questionable level of service encountered. In my opinion there is simply no excuse for sloppy, inefficient or outright poor service when eating out, whether it is dirty glasses, the wrong level of attentiveness or indeed anything that detracts from the food and overall experience. Thankfully, this is where Shadhona really excels and in my view deserves every one of its five stars. The staff could not be more welcoming, as if they genuinely want you to be there, they were suitably attentive without being intrusive and the banter was also genuine rather than forced even during busy periods. Combined with the quality and price of the food, ambience and overall experience, I will be back very soon – unless of course I let the delivery driver take the strain....

Shadhona Indian restaurant. 67-69 South St, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL Phone: 01279 656320





Stansted Airport awarded a prestigious CommunityMark, recognising its excellence in community investment

Stansted Airport has been awarded the prestigious CommunityMark, the UK's highest national standard for leadership and excellence in community investment.

Presented by Business in the Community, the CommunityMark recognises businesses that are leading the way in supporting local communities. The sought after standard is given to companies who put community at the heart of their business.

The CommunityMark involves a rigorous assessment process that is designed so that only the best companies are recognised. Stansted joins an exclusive network of only 34 businesses in the UK to hold the status.

The airport's Corporate Social Responsibility programme was highly recognised, in particular its education and community outreach projects.

Andrew Cowan, Stansted Airport's Chief Executive, said: "We are absolutely delighted and hugely honoured to receive the Community Mark accreditation. Earning trust is crucial to the long term success of the airport which is why corporate responsibility is firmly embedded in our DNA.

"In the last 12 months alone, we have opened an award winning education centre - the Aerozone - which has welcomed 3,000 youngsters from across 100 schools and colleges in the region, doubled our employee volunteering targets, introduced innovative aircraft navigation technology to reduce the impact of noise disturbance on local residents and helped almost 500 people find a new job on the airport.

"We are genuinely committed to ensuring that the business operates in a responsible fashion and is fully engaged in working with the East of England to develop a positive and effective sustainability strategy that delivers real value and change to benefit communities."



Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last
Wednesday of every Month
If the village hall is still closed we will meet in
the Birchanger Club Pavilion Room

Doors open at 7.30 for 8 – 10 p.m.

'A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'

Forthcoming meeting

Wed. 31st August 7.30 for 8.00 We
have a speaker giving us a talk entitled
'Remarkable Women in Hertfordshire's
History'

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

SCHOOL NEWS

Enterprise Week

During July our children were set a real-life challenge when we embarked on 'Enterprise Week.' Each class was given £20 to use to design and create a product that they could sell at our Enterprise Fair. In the first couple of days children discussed their ideas, some groups did market research questionnaires to find out what would be popular and there was lots of data collection and graph work. Then there was a flurry of online ordering and shopping lists going home with staff and children. All the orders were priced and recorded so children could track what they were spending. School resources also came at a cost – paper, photocopying and laminating were all charged for!



Children had lots of fun making their different products. Knowing they were to go on sale really made children think about the quality and finish of what they made. There was a huge variety of ideas and the collaboration between groups was really important to get things done.

Next was the tricky task of pricing. Children soon realised that if things were too expensive, no-one would buy them, but if they were too cheap they wouldn't cover their costs. Labels, price lists, posters, promotional slogans all followed.

By the day of the sale the school hall was filled with a brilliant selection of products: Bath bombs; Fridge magnets; Place mats and coasters; Bookmarks; Garden Candles Jars; Dream Catchers; Pancake making mixes; Mobile Phone Holders

Parents and grandparents came along to the Enterprise Fair and children brought their pocket money – lots of opportunity to practice money, giving change and counting skills. Almost all the stalls sold out and each class made a profit. The children then got to choose how to spend their profit – each class made a donation to a charity of their choice and spent the remainder on an end of term treat.

Altogether this was a very successful week with exciting opportunities for children to practice maths and literacy skills as well as communication, teamwork and organisation. It is the first time we've held an enterprise fair at Birchanger and I'm sure when we do it next year children will have even more ideas!



Mid-Day Assistant

We have a vacancy for a part-time Mid-Day Assistant from September. We are looking for a caring, enthusiastic, person to join our lunchtime team, helping in the school dining hall and supervising pupils during the lunch break. Hours are 11.45 – 1.15pm, 2 or 3 days a week, term-time only. Please contact the school office for more details Tel. 01279 812362

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. As such, the post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

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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


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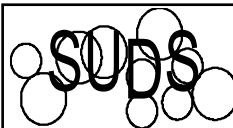
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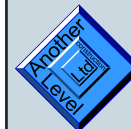


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