

Birchanger

March 2016



Magazine

Issue 158

BEWARE FRAUDSTERS



Over the years crime has been evolving from straightforward theft and robbery to today's complex world of cyber crime, fraud and identity theft. Far be it from me to paint a picture of a dangerous new world, figures up and down the country show that crime rates are dropping, our children are safer than they have ever been as are our homes and cars. In this new world, however, criminals are turning to different and ever more canny schemes to make a dishonest buck.

Back in February one of the residents of Birchanger received a letter, claiming to be from a debt collection agency recovering funds from late payment of council tax. This resident had only moved into his property some seven months earlier and as a man of mature years could easily have been profiled as a vulnerable easy target. Luckily, this gentleman saw through this clever scheme and didn't provide any details or send any funds. Instead he contacted 101 and spoke to the police, who advised he should ignore the letter and contact the fraud department. For him came a happy ending, but the police confirmed that many people in the area are being targeted by this scheme and so he contacted the magazine to spread the word. As fraudsters will continue to target people

it is really important that we all follow some simple steps to stay safe:

- 1) Know who you're dealing with - always find a seller's physical address - not a PO Box or similar. If someone calls you make sure you identify them properly, looking them up online before paying anything or providing any details. If you're not able to do these checks immediately request a call back and find a neighbour /family member to help.
- 2) Never wire/transfer money - Once done it is impossible to get back - no decent seller will request this.
- 3) Read your monthly statements - dull and sometimes depressing yes, but someone could easily be slowly siphoning funds so make sure you recognise transactions.
- 4) After a disaster only give funds to recognised charities - this is a peak time for fraudsters so if you want to donate, find the charity yourself, rather than taking unsolicited requests.
- 5) Low risk, high yield - if someone promises the earth in an investment they are lying - all reputable companies will be up front with risks.
- 6) Don't send money to someone you don't know - that online love interest may not be who you think they are.
- 7) Don't respond to messages asking for any personal details - even opening the links or attachments on your computer could leave you with some seriously dodgy computer virus.
- 8) Allow yourself to be rude - many people end up being bullied into these frauds through a sense of politeness, not wanting to cause a fuss, or not wanting to bother anyone to check their validity.



a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

March is upon us, and spring is almost in the air. This month we can hopefully all relish the beauty of fresh daffodils growing in the hedgerows and the sound of birds as they nest. This is also the month of the long Easter break, which for many won't come soon enough and for many parents won't be over soon enough.

Here at the magazine we're still looking for any support you can provide, whether that be providing an article for the magazine, or helping us with our advertising sales. Everyone involved in the magazine does so on a voluntary basis, but the views and ideas of everyone can help make the magazine a richer and more vibrant read (I'm sure there's only so much sarcastic innuendo you can all take). I'd like to thank people for their submissions and ideas so far, especially those brave enough to come back with critique and challenges - do keep it coming.

Finally, a more general plea to everyone living in Birchanger to get involved wherever you can in the village. We have a vibrant community driven by a number of people, but that vibrancy can only continue with everyone's support, whether that be popping in for tea and cake on a Wednesday afternoon in the village hall, supporting the club as they celebrate their 125th anniversary, choosing the Willows for a celebration meal or offering a helping hand at the next school, church or playgroup fundraising event. The village is, has always been and will always be what we make of it.

Tom Granger



magazine@birchanger.com



816349



319, Birchanger Lane

LOCAL HEROES

SHEILA DEVEREUX



Sheila has been a beloved member of the village for more years than would be polite to mention. Supported by Ian, Sheila has proved herself one of the driving forces behind village life. The last few years have seen her evolve the Open Gardens charity event into the ever popular Birchanger Arts Festival, whose organisation she leads with tireless vim. This alone has raised thousands in essential funding for local charities and projects. Sheila also throws herself into every manner of thing that's going on, whether it be sorting out teas and coffees for the Parish Council AGM, lending a hand at summer balls or simply doing her bit for the club's profitability. A formidable woman and staunch friend if you see her over the coming weeks, why not buy her a drink to say thanks for her support.

KEN WHEATLEY



A co-member of the village magazine team, Ken has for years ensured that our scarce funds are well-managed and eked out as far as possible. Further to supporting the magazine, Ken is also a valued Parish Councillor not to mention creator and manager of the village website. Over his time in the village with wife Rosemary, Ken has helped out in many areas including leading the Club committee. These days his club commitments include being an expert on the real ale selection. Train enthusiast, international IT guru and all-round great guy, Ken is another person who deserves our thanks and maybe a pint bought for him next time your paths cross.



VILLAGE NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Would You Throw Away £17,000,000?

Well it seems that throughout Essex the clean up bill for litter is a staggering Seventeen million pounds. It is money we should not be spending on something which should be unnecessary and this money is badly needed elsewhere. Road repairs for a start, social care, schools, the list is endless.

It was very gratifying to discover that in the recent anti litter campaign, litter was reduced in some areas by up to 70%, and that was in Lower Street in Stansted. Most of the county achieved at 40 % reduction in litter. Fast food outlets achieved a 41% litter reduction overall. The trick is to keep up this improvement. However, I cannot see that there was much improvement in Birchanger Lane!

Is Integration the Way to Improved Health Services?

A one stop approach to integrated health care may seem like an unrealistic dream, for those of us struggling to cope with just getting to see a doctor. However trials which have happened in areas other than ours have shown that there are huge benefits when GPs, nurses, social workers, mental health services, pharmacists, and voluntary services all operate as a team from a central point, or one stop shop. Even specialists visit the Centre when required.

The aim is to provide a good well coordinated service, to keep people out of hospital wherever possible and to centralise patient's records so that the details of patients with multi conditions are clearly recorded together.

This is not going to happen overnight, but work towards the integrate care will start this year and it is expected that the program will be fully operational in 2021. Hopefully the new Stansted surgery will have a large part to play in this, but the whole plan assumes that hub surgeries will be very much larger than the ones we are used to today. If all the services work together from a central point, surely it will make the overall care of patients, who often need input from various health professionals, it will be better all round for everyone?

As long as we can actually get to the doctor and survive to 2021. The idea is a no-brainer. The only amazing thing is that it has taken so long to work this out!

Have You Been to Princess Alexandra Hospital Lately?

If you have, you might well have found yourself unable to park and totally confused .the building work there has resulted in some major changes to the roads, car parking layout and access to the departments. As if this was not enough, when you actually have struggled to find a parking space and needed up late for your appointment, you find that actually getting to where you need to be is proving a near impossibility. Instead of clear signs which say pathology, x ray or outpatients there are just zones. What is BB for goodness sake, is it X-ray or clinic. The uninitiated can only find out by actually entering the department. I was lucky to end up in X ray, not the morgue!

So you retrace your steps looking for some kind of explanation for all this. There is neither explanation or code that is readily available. By trial and a great deal of error I finally reach my destination.

There the staff were kindness and consideration personified, so the hospital is getting something right! Too much to hope for miracles across the board, or is it just a plot to keep people out of casualty? Perhaps they need to send out de-coders and guides with the appointment letters?

Steps To School

Thanks to a large contribution from the group of fund raisers who provided the ceilidh last summer, the entrance to the school by the Village Hall is now up and running again. In addition to the new drainage system which has been installed, the steps are much more user friendly, particularly for those with buggies. There is also a bright new yellow handrail and some steps have been resurfaced and realigned.

A very big thank you to all those who who contributed to the project.

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday March 23rd at 8 pm in the Village Hall

Come and meet your fellow villagers, Parish, District and County Councillors at Birchanger's Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday March 23 Rd at 8pm in the Village Hall. It is an opportunity to find out just what is happening in Birchanger and to ask questions. It will also be an opportunity to find out directly from a member of the Ambulance Service just how the new defibrillator works and to perhaps sign up for a first aid course in the village at the same time.

It can be a very useful and informative evening, but it does need you!

Does Your Group Need Cash for a Project?

The Birchanger Art Show money raised is now available for village groups who would like to raise money for a particular project. It may be a work in progress, or a just a one off project. It is for you to tell the team behind the Art Show about your project and why you need the donation on either 813843, or 812793.

The Birchanger Art Show will be back again at the end of September. Watch this space for further details as they are known.

What is a guarantee is that there will be several acclaimed local artists participating again this year and that there will be some particularly delicious refreshments on offer as well.

Any profits from the Art Show go to support Birchanger village interests. This magazine, the school and the church have all benefited in some way, as have other groups who have applied to the group for funds. It is up to you and your group to apply for the money available now.

Garden Assistance Needed for Elderly or Infirm Birchanger Residents.

A lot of us enjoy our gardens, but we all know how it feels when physically sick or injured, we have to pass on doing the necessary chores and the work is all the harder when we can eventually get round to doing it. Imagine what it would be like to be permanently unable to do the garden, and gardeners do not exactly come cheap!

Some of us are fortunately able to zip around our various patches and like being outdoors. Would any of you have the odd occasional hour free so you could help someone else? The person would be delighted that someone has actually go the time and cares.

Maybe a small team could be formed. It is always more fun to work with others on many projects.

If this interests you or you would like to help, please call me on 812793.

Are You Getting the Help Which May Be Due to You?

If you are over 65 and suffer from a long term illness or infirmity, which may mean that you find it difficult to do household or gardening chores, you may be entitled to additional financial support day and night, depending on the nature of the infirmity.

This could mean that you could claim additional financial support to pay towards the cost of funding a cleaner or someone to help in the garden. There are many older people who are actually entitled to this help, but who have never claimed the allowance.

You can find out more about the allowance and your entitlement to it by calling 0345 605 6055. If you think you might be eligible, it could be greatly to your advantage.

Microchips For All Dogs

The canine variety that is! This is something which all dog owners must take note of, as from the beginning of April it will be an offense to keep a dog which has not been microchipped.

The District Council has been running a campaign all month with free microchipping on offer for all. You may just be able to have this done if you hurry as Mercer and Hughes have been offering the service as well.

I am told that the regulations are going to be rigorously enforced and it is hoped that this will cut down the number of irresponsible dog owners. Who knows, it may cut down on the seemingly never ending trails of dog mess as well. There is one dog who is fouling Birchanger Lane at the moment. Just what you need as you walk up the road on these dark night!

Some Highway Action on Improvement in 2016








Well don't hold your breath. The section 106 agreements whereby developers pay cash for highway improvements to mitigate the affects of their developments have been around for a very long time now, but unfortunately the long awaited improvements have never materialised.

Following a meeting of Parish Council representatives with County Highways staff, it is hoped that next year will see some action, including a footpath on the bend at Churton, 5 new lighting columns, as well as measures to stop the nuisance of lost HGV vehicles trying to turn in Birchanger Lane.

The significant word is hope. We have hoped before but nothing has happened.

What's On ...

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet <small>St. David's Day</small>	2 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00	3 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 	4 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Treasure Chest 	5	6 St-M - Matins BSSC - Mothering Sunday Meal
7 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	8 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	9 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00	10 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	11 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - bottle draw 	12 BSSC - Rugby 6 Nations - England v Wales 16:00 - Live Act - The Aces	13 St-M - Holy Communion
14 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	15 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	16 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00	17 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance <small>St. Patrick's Day</small> 	18 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Treasure Chest 	19 BSSC - Rugby 6 Nations - France v England - 20:00	20 St-M - Family Service
21 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	22 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	23 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00	24 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	25 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all BSSC - Wheel of Fortune <small>Good Friday</small> 	26 BSSC - Live Act - Rachel's Robot Army	27 St-M - Easter Holy Communion <small>BST Begins</small> <small>Easter Sunday</small>
28 <small>Easter Monday</small>	29 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	30 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00	31 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance 			

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

Low impact – our routines are specifically choreographed to be low impact providing a safe and effective workout

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

Promotion of wellbeing – SOSA will work wonders for your general happiness and wellbeing. Boost your confidence, meet new friends and gain a skill for life!

Our classes are about YOU – we are committed to ensuring our clients get the maximum benefit from our classes...we break-down the steps of each routine so you are never left struggling at the back of the class.

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



125 CELEBRATIONS

March will see the club ramping up its 125th anniversary celebrations with a host of different events. Throughout the year we will be having a number of special 125 promotions where members will benefit from discounted drinks at £1.25 or meal deals and food at £12.50. Covering everything from St Patrick's Day to Halloween, just keep an eye out for the 125 logo (above) to make sure you make the most of the deals. Furthermore, to mark our anniversary we have a calendar of celebration activity taking place:

Thursday April 21st - Queen's 90th

We will be joining hundreds of villages and societies up and down the country as we light a specially created beacon in Her Majesty's honour for her actual birthday. Alongside the beacon inauguration we will have special offers and drinks to celebrate the birthday running through the weekend.

28th - 30th May - 125 Beer Festival

As officially the best club in East Anglia, recognised by CAMRA, we could not celebrate our 125th anniversary, without some kind of homage to ales, lagers and ciders. Throughout the second May bank holiday we will be running a dedicated beer festival with live entertainment and the finest tipples to sample.

Saturday 7th May - Birchanger Treasure Hunt

Back by popular demand we will be organising a special local treasure hunt around the beautiful local countryside. Teams will come to the club to collect their instructions, then drive off filling out clue to be submitted back. That evening there will be food and entertainment in the form of an Adele tribute band.

25th + 26th June - Official 125 Celebration

Throughout this weekend we will be having special entertainment and events happening day and night to mark the 125th anniversary.

3rd September - Summer Fete

Always a popular day, open to members and non-members, this year the fete is set to be bigger and better than ever before, with surprise 'celebrity' appearances and a host of new attractions.

Sunday 6th November - Bonfire Night

On the Sunday after Guy Fawkes night we will be hosting our first bonfire party for years. Particularly aimed at families and the young at heart we want to hark back to the days when we always ran a Guy Fawkes night for the village.

Friday 2nd December - Christmas Lights

Given the huge popularity of the Christmas lights competition in the village, we plan to make our own offering worthy of our 125th anniversary. Come ready for mulled wine, carols and Christmas Cheer for the big switch on!

Sports

Not forgetting the 'sports' in sports and social we are planning a number of special events throughout the year including cash tournaments, high-profile appearances and much more. Just watch this space as we reveal more detail.

ENTERTAINMENTS - MARCH

Sunday 6th March - Mother's Day

Special Mothering Sunday Menu (see page 7 for details)



Saturday 12th March - The Aces LIVE

Come watch this incredible act perform live for our aural pleasure.



Saturday 26th March - Rachel's Robot Army

Back by popular demand this band is set to blow your mind



RBS SIX NATIONS - SHOWN LIVE

England v Wales 12th March 16:00
France v England 19th March 20:00



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: DUKE'S HEAD - HATFIELD BROAD OAK - GOOD FOR THE ABSTEMIOUS?

It's a good job we arrived at the **Duke's Head** in a taxi given the plethora of Range Rovers parked behind this Hatfield Broad Oak favourite. Intimidated we weren't however, even when we all bumbled in and headed to the small bar where a snoozing and unmovable mutt of unidentifiable breed forced us to peer round the pillar in order to get the first round in.

A short wait for the table and it was immediately apparent that an early sitting for lunch was a wise move. Service, whilst generally friendly (more on that later) was rather slow and having to play the "catch-the-eye-of-the-waitress-who-is-definitely-trying-to-ignore-you" game is not something I am happy to play. As the place filled up around us, staff seemed to move quicker but then often disappeared completely for lengthy periods of time and this became increasingly frustrating for all our party given that all we wanted to do was order more drinks – something a pub should be good at?

Food wise, the Duke's Head markets itself as "fine dining" and I suppose to an extent this is true given the mix of pub classics but also genuinely innovative and tasty dishes. Perhaps another definition of fine dining is the ability to nonchalantly but confidently serve food on the most bizarre array of items. Slate, glass and of course the favourite wooden chopping board all featured throughout. A broad array of ales and lagers were on offer although it was disappointing that the only draught cider was off. The wine list is quite varied and includes something for everyone both in terms of grape and origin, whilst the range of wines available by the glass is something that should be commended given the trend in some places to serve just one or two.

Now, I'm all for friendly service and some banter with staff on the odd occasion, but at the Duke's Head, a true first was experienced with one of the waitresses. Admittedly a little worse-for-wear following a "heavy" evening at the Social Club the night before, one of our party ordered a Bloody Mary as a Hair of the Dog and the related banter between us at the table was soon picked up on by the waitress who proceeded to spend the rest of the lunch castigating this guest for ordering alcohol at all. We thought it was a joke so we played along but it turns out, she wasn't joking. As it turns out, nor were we - duly reflected in the tip that we rewarded her sanctimonious attitude with.

So there we have it. I'd go again but not for some time. We are blessed with some really excellent places to eat around our patch of Birchanger and thus the Duke's Head will be kept in reserve for another day.

The Duke's Head: High St, Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7HH Tel: 718 598



Mother's Day in the Club

Whatever you do don't forget Mother's Day this year. Whether it be your own mother or the mother of your children, she won't be impressed if you let her do the cooking this Sunday. Why not try the club's special menu, which can be booked for a 12:30 or 15:30 sitting.

Starters: Homemade soup: *Stilton and broccoli*/Pork and chicken terrine partitif: *Minced pork and chicken pressed to a coarse pate, served with warm toast*/Black tiger prawns: *In a crispy batter served with a chili jam*.

Mains:A selection of roast beef or loin of pork: *Served with all the usual trimmings*./Plaice fillet: *A whole breaded plaice fillet with saute potatoes and a tangy mango salsa*./Roast Mediterranean vegetable tart (V): *Vegetable tart with new potatoes and salad and a fresh tomato and herb sauce*./Chicken breast: *Roasted chicken served with a creamy green pesto sauce and hand cut chips*.

Desserts: *Apple and pear crumble/Chocolate and baileys cheesecake/Warm chocolate fudge cake with vanilla pod ice cream*

3 courses - £14 or 2 courses - £11

Birchanger Nursery Update



A much anticipated topic this term was centred around dinosaurs. The children each enjoyed creating their own dinosaur mask by cutting and pasting different textured materials, and reading a selection of fiction & non-fiction books all about dinos. This enticed some reluctant book users to really engage with books spending much time poring over pages and asking staff to read and reread info about their favourite creatures. We had a really exciting dinosaur hunt with our intrepid explorers following footprints outside all through the school grounds to discover a giant standing 6ft dinosaur looking after some dinosaur eggs. Everyone was enthralled to watch them over the subsequent days and speculate what might hatch!

The children were introduced to new words including fossil, carnivore and herbivore. They used little brushes to gently uncover dinosaur 'fossils' set in plaster of paris and hidden in sand, and were amazed to see a vinegar and bicarb soda volcano 'erupt' before making 'volcanic rocks' to eat at our snack cafe.

We continue to play outside in all weathers and have had great fun in the sand, pouring and measuring water and caring for our plants, whilst observing changes as the bulbs emerged and other plants in our beautiful surroundings grow and change.

Finally, we are fortunate to have received a grant recently giving the children access to two new mini PCs plus a comprehensive set of equipment for our future cookery sessions.

Birchanger Nursery is a highly respected local preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2 to 5. To arrange a visit please telephone 01279 810800 or email admin@birchangernursery.org and read more on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery>.

Nadine Lloyd

Birchanger Nursery Committee

Recreation Equipment for All?

Have you ever felt tempted to try out the equipment in the Recreation Ground, while you visit the are, but found there is nothing to fit you, or anything you could use? It is after all designed for children, but If there was adult exercise equipment there would you actually use it?

The council are considering investing in adult exercise equipment that would be available for all to use and save some of us investing in gyms or our own equipment.

One idea is to place it in the recreation ground alongside the children's play equipment so whole families can enjoy it together.

Would it be better in an indoor location though? And , if so, where? You may have seen this equipment in other parks and playgrounds. Have you been tempted to try it? If you have, would you use it again?

The Parish Council would like to hear from you as to your views on this. You can either respond to me or bring your ideas about this and any other matters to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday March 23rd at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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. 30th March, 7.30 for 8.00

A talk on bee keeping by a local experienced
bee keeper

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

Birchanger at the O2!



Last month a group of Year 5 and 6 children had the amazing opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in London. Leaving school by coach we sped through the traffic to arrive at the O2 in under an hour. The organisation was exceptional and we were shepherded through the crowds to the arena. After our packed lunches sitting on the concourse we were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Nissan Innovation Station, this is a free activity zone promoting the science behind electric cars and the Nissan racing team. Well worth a visit if you find yourself at the O2 with some free time.

Once in the arena we hung our Birchanger School banner over the railings and looked around as the seats filled up and we became part of a choir of over 7400 children. Together with special guest stars the children performed songs from a range of traditions; gospel choruses, a madness medley and the children's favourite 'I've got the power.' The whole day was an amazing experience, as the children's words explain:

The atmosphere was amazing during the concert and there were loads of lights everywhere, There was lots of fun songs and all the parents were joining in! The concert lasted about two hours and every moment was fun! We

had a conductor and a band there. There was a street dance crew called Urban Strides, Beatbox Collective, Tom Billington (a singer) and Laura Wright who sang The World In Union at the Rugby World Cup.
Eve

I thought the Young Voices concert was really fun. We left school at 11am and got there about 12. When we got there we had lunch and then went into the Nissan Centre. We played all sorts of mini games. After that we went to rehearsal. We practiced all the songs and met some special guests. Then at 7pm All the adults got into their seats and the concert started.
Ethan

Young Voices was one of the best experiences of my life. Our conductor, David, helped us to make the show really amazing. When the show started we all gave our best. When I looked around everyone had a big smile and was enjoying every minute.
Poppy

We are fortunate to have a second access to the school from the path beside the village hall- a handy shortcut for families walking up through the village and extra parking for those parents who drive. Over the years this path at the back of the school had eroded and become cracked - the steps were in a very sorry state and becoming dangerous, especially for our young families with toddlers in tow and pushing buggies.

Last month saw our plans to repair and improve this area take shape as our landscape contractors battled with some of the wettest weather of the year to complete the project. Playtimes saw fascinated children observing proceedings from behind the safety fence and some of our younger children became very knowledgeable about diggers, cement mixers and drainage pipes!

The finished path has been upgraded with newly laid steps, a bright handrail for safety and drainage has been improved. The end result is altogether safer. The site still looks a little unfinished as we wait for spring to reseed the grass. We would like to say a special thanks to both Liz's and the Ceilidh Team whose fundraising in August contributed £1,800 towards the project.

Helen Coop

Headmistress

ANY MAKE, YEAR, CONDITION

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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

Birchanger Reading Group?

"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.

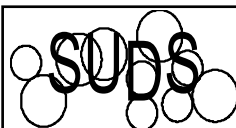
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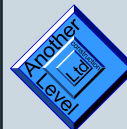


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