



# Birchanger Village Magazine

March 2017

Issue 170



## Scott Taylor dies suddenly aged 59

**Scott Taylor** unexpectedly passed away peacefully amongst friends at Harlow's Princes Alexander's Hospital late afternoon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February after a short illness, pneumonia and subsequent heart attack.

### **My very good friend** (by *Eddie Gilbey*)

Scott was born in Bishops Stortford and attended Leventhorpe School where he met his lifelong friends Bob Warwick and Paul Rumble. Scott's family moved to Duck End in 1973 and in 1976 Scott and his friends took a holiday in Cornwall. Whilst he was there, Scott aged 18, broke his neck diving into the sea. He was airlifted to Stoke Mandeville where he underwent rehabilitation as a quadriplegic casualty. During his time there he actually met Jimmy Saville of whom he said; "He was very polite and sociable but gave me the creeps!" Whilst Scott was recovering in hospital, his parents Gerry and Dot prepared and adapted the family home for a soon to arrive newly disabled resident!

### **Back to work**

After his stay in hospital and despite having to get used to using a wheelchair for the rest of his life, Scott went back to work and also developed an interest in Bonsai trees which he cultivated with yet another long term friend, Graham Baker. In all this time, even up to his untimely death, Scott kept his sense of humour and his close cadre of friends. Scott made friends easily so I won't attempt to list them as there are too many to mention. However, everyone that knew him always found him a sociable, generous, funny and cheerful person who often joked about his life in a wheel chair!

In 1994 Sue and I moved into 3 Duck End as neighbours and we struck up an immediate friendship with Scott and his parents.

### **Part of the family**

He became practically a part of the family and we shared all manner of social activities together, from barbeques to Christmas lunch, shopping trips, village events, not forgetting the Three Willows pub and the Sports and Social Club! Sadly in early 2002 Scott's father Gerry died suddenly at home, his wife Dot was suffering from dementia and had to move to a care home where she lived until 2009. In the meantime Scott received the services of 24/7 live in carers. He also received visits from a whole plethora of nurses and domiciliary carers all of whom he befriended. Scott enjoyed an active social life. He became a sponsor for Bishops Stortford Football club and attended matches with Rick Hayward and the late Trevor Sage, amongst others.



Scott was a regular in the Three Willows and had a large group of cronies at the club who he met on several days each week. He liked a tipple and certainly Sauvignon Blanc sales in the village will never be quite the same again!

### **Scott defied the Doctors**

While he was at Stoke Mandeville Scott was told he might, with luck, live into his forties. However, with his love of life and expert help from his doctors, nurses and carers he has surpassed all scientific medical expectations and reached 59 last July. Keeping in good health wasn't always easy for him and in more recent times Scott's health had begun to deteriorate. Even so, his recent admission to hospital was unexpected and his death was a shock. He will be sorely missed by me and by all who knew and loved him.

### **Funeral at Harlow Crematorium**

Scott had requested a humanist funeral which will be held at 12.15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at Harlow Crematorium and afterwards there will be a celebration of his life at Birchanger Sports and Social Club. RIP



# A letter from the Editor

*Dear Readers,*

I was both shocked and saddened, together with many others in the village, over the sudden death of a good friend who passed away peacefully after a short illness at the beginning of February. Scott Taylor was a real and rare local character that everyone knew and loved. We will all miss his wave as we pass him by driving down the lane and his love of life which despite his disability he lived to the full. Personally, I will miss our fortnightly Chinese dinners and his uncanny knowledge of films, music and bands. Farewell old friend, Birchanger will not be the same without you.

## **Plastic bags urgently wanted**

You may not know it but the magazine is delivered to the local voluntary distributors of Birchanger in plastic shopping bags. This ensures that the magazine arrives at your door dry and undamaged. Unfortunately we are fast running out of stock and need your help! Would you mind donating any plastic bags that you may have hidden at home that are in good condition and deliver them to Trevor Stone at 65 Birchwood CM23 5QL. Trevor will be eternally grateful. Thank you.



The Uxbridge English Dictionary is the silliest Dictionary in the world. Here is this month's alternative meaning for an everyday word.

**UNILEVER:** A stick for getting students out of bed

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am a little amused and slightly surprised that you currently refer to our Village Hall as "The Village Church Hall". If this is not an error on your part then I suggest it has come from someone else who has an agenda. Of our surrounding villages, Farnham, Manuden, Takeley, Berden, Clavering and Barnston, which serves Great Dunmow, all have a village hall, and not one calls it by any other name. Indeed a Google search of our own village reveals many references to 'The Village Hall' and nowhere is it called anything else. I have taken a straw poll of my own and of those I asked; "how do you refer to the hall?" All answered as "The Village Hall". I have no interest in who lays claim to our village hall but I do resent being told what to call it! For me it is the place where we celebrate village parties, Christenings, Birthdays and family parties and many happy village events, and therefore will always be the Village hall and I would like to see it referred to as such. I wonder what others think? *Tony Wilson, Birchanger*

*Editor's response: As I understand it, the reference 'Village Hall' versus 'Church Hall' has been a bone of contention in the village for many years and therefore I will leave it to more learned villagers or local historians to comment as to what the official name should be. The reason I refer to the 'Village Church Hall' in the magazine is simply a compromise in order not to offend those on either side of the argument! Having said that, and perhaps at some personal risk, I would venture to say despite who owns it, or has jurisdiction over it, isn't it a hall in a village, mostly used by villagers for village events? So why not call it The Village Hall? In the end it is only a name and everyone can call it what they like. Or is it?*

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

*Peter Sampson*



magazine@birchanger.com



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger





# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## Don't Trust the Receptionist

In July 2015 there was a court case brought against Croydon Health Services NHS Trust which at the time of writing still has to be resolved, whereby a receptionist at a casualty unit told a would be patient that there would be at least a five hour wait before anyone could see him. The patient decided not to wait and left after only 19 minutes, despite the fact that he had a severe head injury. That was a very bad decision on his part. He was returned a short while later to the hospital in an ambulance, unconscious. Brain surgery did not save him from subsequent brain damage. He took the hospital to court, but the court ruled that the receptionist is not a medically trained member of staff, and he should not have taken her word for it. She should have explained that everyone is expected to be seen by a triage nurse on arrival at the hospital, but she failed to do so on this occasion. Despite this, the court ruled in favour of the hospital. The case has been taken to appeal and the result at the time of writing has not been made public. So the moral of the story is; if you do need to go to casualty, wait for the triage nurse. She will assess you and estimate how long you may have to wait before seeing a doctor (if not ask!). The waiting time is not set in stone however as other seriously injured patients may arrive and need more urgent attention. The triage nurse is a highly trained professional, and you will know more after she has assessed you.

## One way of reducing the waiting lists

Recently I wrote about having to chase overdue follow up appointments at the local hospital. It now seems that the booking staff are doing their best to reduce the waiting lists by taking it upon themselves to discharge long standing patients. This is according to one of the specialists involved. If you are waiting for that overdue appointment make it yourself. You will get one and be seen, eventually.

## Scammers developing new tricks!

The first one concerns banks. The scammers will send you a letter on what appears to be genuine bank notepaper. It will tell you that there has been unusual activity on your account and gives you a number to call. Whatever you do, do not call this number. If you do, you will be asked very convincingly to provide all your personal details, including your security code, and very soon there will be unwanted unusual activity on your account. Instead, call your bank's telephone number, or visit the bank in person. Never call the number which the potential scammers may give you to call at any time!

Your Internet Provider will rarely call you unless they want to sell you something they only ask for your date of birth and first line of your address. However, scammers will call claiming to be your provider, telling you that your account has been compromised. They will ask you to confirm your personal details, account details or even your account number. Refuse to give any information and contact you provider using the original introduction letter or contract, alternatively go online to their website and use the contact number or email there to check.

There are others who claim to be able to reduce your council tax but want your card details first. Never give it to them. If you think you are paying too much council tax, you can find this out for yourself by calling the Valuation Office Agency on 0300 050 1501, who will advise you on how to make a banding appeal for free.

There are a whole new host of telephone sales scams today. There is the extended warranty scam; the caller take a very easy chance on the fact that you have white goods, computers and televisions in your home. They will offer a cut price but non-existent extended warranty for a reduced sum. They even provide the bogus warranty, which of course is totally useless but then what happens to your bank account? Then there is the telephone preference fraud. The fraudster claims to be from the 'Telephone Preference Service' and offers you a special telephone preference service at a 'reasonable' cost.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every month in the meeting room at the village church hall

### Forthcoming Meeting:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 for 8.00 pm

### Zumba Gold demonstration

A warm welcome to all newcomers

Telephone for details Liza-815444

Rosemary-814678 Barbara-813007



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Wait, this is not necessary! The real “Telephone Preference Service” is free so never respond to someone who claims to be calling from a government backed agency. Also, the government will never phone you regarding a pension review. Other scammers claim that you have speeding tickets and that they are from the intelligence unit or a variety of police and government departments. They will all ask for your personal details and even your bank or card details in order to pay for the fine. Whatever you do, do not give them any information or call any phone number at their request. If you do get such strange calls or are contacted in any other way; by email, post or a by personal visit, politely refuse and immediately contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. These people are being caught but only with your help.

### Consultation on night flights

Birchanger made representations on night flights but it is a very small voice compared to those of big business. Since Manston Airport in Kent closed in 2016, there have been a great deal more heavy cargo planes flying into Stansted which have disturbed many residents in the southern end of the village. Stansted Airport would like to lose all night time restrictions, which would be a huge disbenefit to all those living close to the runways. Most of us are only too well aware that this cuts little ice with the MAG Group. Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) are doing their best to reject night flying and we can only hope that the government takes some notice of us. Ryanair and Easy Jet would far rather they did not; they would happily fly all night!

### Just how good is our policing?

Recent events in Birchanger have shown just how efficient our police can be in dealing with criminal activity in our area. In every case they have been very efficient in their response. However, this may not be the case when a burglary is reported locally and another crime is reported at the same time in another area. Fortunately for the Police (and us) no other requests for their help were received during the same time period. The greatly reduced officer team had to cover most of Uttlesford District on their shift, what would have happened if there had been another call is unclear. The team were fully engaged on each occasion and to break off and attend events elsewhere was not a realistic option. This is a situation which most of us of non-criminal intent find unacceptable. Family support after the event and subsequent information seems to be woefully lacking as well. Effectively this means that someone hoping to pull off a major heist has only to divert police attention elsewhere to have a clear run. Not an acceptable situation, especially as so many have found it difficult to obtain police attention when they have been burgled.

It makes you wonder why the crime figures are down, possibly because so many disillusioned residents simply do not bother to report any event, unless they intend to make an insurance claim and need a crime number. Is this really acceptable? The police station at Saffron Walden has closed but there is a small team based at the District Council Offices in Saffron Walden, so if you need to see a policeman that is where you need to go.

### Local plan update

It seems that Uttlesford District Council have had to revise their first new local plan proposals. According to a lot of people they did not get it right at all but then any local plan by reason of its imposition of an awful lot of houses in certain areas is very unlikely to please anyone living in the area where the houses are to be imposed. Whoever did not like the first proposals may well have got their way as the plan is to re-emerge in amended form. Anyway, sadly this petulant local plan is not dead, and we are all going to have the opportunity to comment on it this summer. That is, of course, if they remember to tell us in advance where these consultations are going to be. Many people missed it last time as they had no information that it was happening, so Uttlesford District Council could well have been under the illusion we liked it and had no comments to make. One way of running a consultation to get the ‘right’ result I suppose.

### Birchanger Art Show returns

Last year the Birchanger Art Show had to be cancelled following the disastrous flooding which ruined the Hall and its newly built extension. Reparations took a very long time as all the floors had to be replaced, the building re-wired and a new kitchen installed. Naturally the work took a long time to complete and understandably the hall was not quite ready in time for the Art Show to be held there. All that is now in the past and a new drainage system has since been installed which means that unless the system is blocked, it will take a great deal more rainfall to cause the same kind of flooding ever again at the hall. The 2017 Art Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again volunteers to help to set the exhibition, to look after the visitors and perhaps help with the refreshments will be needed. Volunteers will be invited to a meeting in July. However, in the meantime, if you would like to join the Art Show helpers, please call me on 812793. It will be a very interesting and rewarding experience for everyone again.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Birchanger Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8.00pm in the village church hall. Come and meet your Parish Council, District and County Council Councillors and find out what is happening around you. It is also your chance to have your say. Coffee and Tea will be served after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.



**Emma Marks**  
Men and Boy's Haircuts

99 Birchanger Lane,  
Birchanger,  
Herts.  
CM23 5QF

Tel: 01279 814273  
Mob: 07527227943

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Bishops Stortford,  
Herts.  
CM23 5RG  
Tel: 07809879868  
ChrisPhysiotherapist@gmail.com

# What's on in the village...



March 2017



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		<b>1</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>2</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>3</b> <b>Non re-cycle bin</b> <b>Harlow Crem.</b> 12.15 Scott Taylor's Funeral <b>BSSC</b> 13.30 Scott Taylors life celebration Eve. Bottle draw	<b>4</b> <b>BSSC</b> Meat draw 13.00	<b>5</b> <b>St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Matins
<b>6</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>8</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>9</b> <b>Garden bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>10</b> <b>Re-cycle bin</b> <b>BSSC</b> Bottle draw 20.00 Six nations rugby	<b>11</b> <b>BSSC</b> Meat draw 13.30 Six nations rugby ReMark Duo	<b>12</b> <b>St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Holy Communion then Annual Parish Meeting
<b>13</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>15</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>16</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>17</b> <b>Non re-cycle</b> <b>BSSC</b> Bottle draw Treasure chest Saint Patrick's Day 50p off bar prices	<b>18</b> <b>BSSC</b> Meat draw 13.00 12.30 Rugby live on the big screen 17.00 Ireland V England. Run for Cover	<b>19</b> <b>St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Family Service
<b>20</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>22</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults 20.00 Parish Meet.	<b>23</b> <b>Garden bin</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>24</b> <b>Re-cycle bin</b> <b>BSSC</b> Bottle draw <b>Wheel of Fortune</b>	<b>25</b> <b>BSSC</b> Meat draw 13.00 Premonition Duo	<b>26</b> <b>St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Holy Communion Mothering Sunday with posies of flowers
<b>27</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>29</b> <b>Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults 19.30 <b>BAGS</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>31</b> <b>Non re-cycle</b> <b>BSSC</b> <b>Poker Night</b>		<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>BSSC</b> Mothers day Sunday Lunch Book soon!





**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News



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



### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Mark and Bex are back to entertain you



### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Back for the second time with their covers of rock and soul hits from the 60s to the present day



### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March

All the best of music from this premier ultimate party duo



**6 Nations Rugby:**  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 5.00pm  
**Ireland v England**  
Live on the Big Screen



### St Patrick's Day 17<sup>th</sup> March

50p off bar prices when you swipe your membership card  
Guinness (Pint) Magners (568ml)  
Bailey's (50ml) Jameson (35ml)

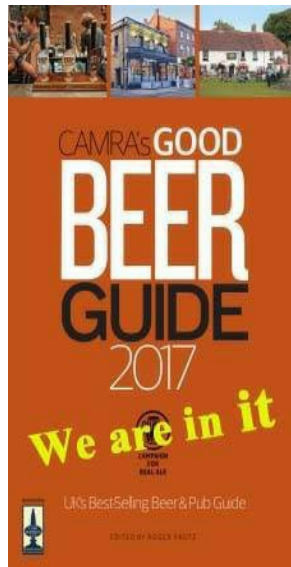


### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Treat that special lady to Sunday lunch at the club. Three courses £16.95. Children meals deal £5.00  
Bookings now being taken.

### Thank you Gemma

The Social Club would like to thanks **Gemma Williams** for her lovely table decorations which adorned the tables in the club on Valentines Night. Everyone who attended appreciated the gift. If anyone wishes to contact Gemma who makes personalised table and tree decorations please contact the club for her details.



### Treasure Chest

Try your luck and pick the right key, you could win some serious cash!

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March**

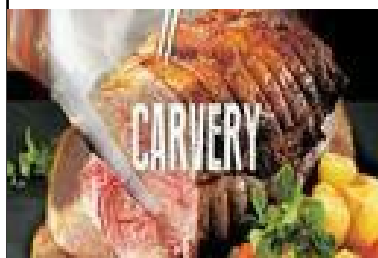
### Wheel of Fortune

Don't forget to come along and spin the wheel  
**24<sup>th</sup> March**



## Coming soon to this club!

**Sunday Lunch Carvery & Wednesday Curry Night**



### Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Treasure Chest
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Bottle Draw
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	6 Nations Rugby 20.00
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	ReMark Duo
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	6 Nations Rugby 13.30>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Treasure Chest/St Patrick's
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Run for Cover
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	6 Nations Rugby 12.30>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Wheel of Fortune
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Premonition Duo
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Poker Night

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00 pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask staff
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00 pm
Wednesdays	Steak Night	Evening
Thursdays	Bingo Night	08.30 pm
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening

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

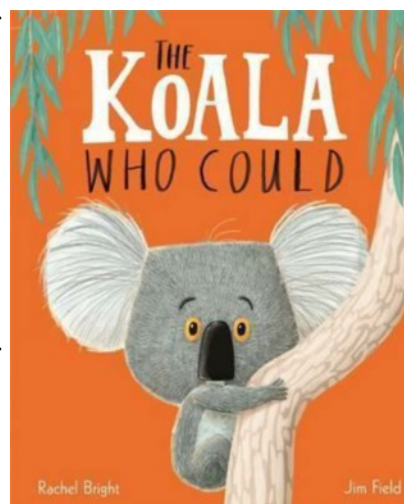
# Birchanger Primary School



## Book Week

Our school Book Week this year took place during February with a range of activities to promote enjoyment in books and inspire our children to read. To link the learning of all classes we had a whole school focus on the book 'The Koala Who Could' - a new picture book with a great message about Growth Mindset, perseverance and having a go.

Through the week groups of children visited author talks at Bishops Stortford College. One group of children heard the poet A. F. Harrold perform poems from his book 'Things You Find in a Poet's Beard.' Other children listened to presentations by Julian Sedgwick, author of 'Mysterium' and 'Ghosts of Shanghai' who uses video, ghost stories, and circus skills to introduce the exotic worlds of his stories. Other year groups heard from the author Marcia Williams who is famous for her retellings of classic stories.



Korky Paul

Year 2 children took part in The Bishops Stortford Picture Book Awards, reading a selection of picture books during the Autumn term, voting for their favourite and then attending the awards event to see which book won. The awards were presented by Winnie the Witch illustrator Korky Paul whose pictures will be familiar to many parents.

Other events in the week included the ever popular dress-up day, a whole school Big Read where children shared their favourite books and a second-hand book sale.

## Goodbye to Miss Shirley

We are very sorry to announce that Helen Shirley will be leaving our school at Easter. After over 18 years working at the school Helen has decided it is time to step back and retire from her role here. Helen does an amazing job keeping our school clean and safe and doing lots of little extra jobs behind the scenes that keep things running smoothly. We all wish Helen well in her plans for the future and we will all miss her.

## Vacancy

As Miss Shirley is retiring from her role at school we are recruiting premises staff. One role we are advertising is for a part-time caretaker. This would be working 10 hours a week to include opening up school in the morning, locking up in the afternoon and minor maintenance jobs. The job would really suit someone local who is semi-retired or to fit around other part-time roles. No specialist knowledge is needed but basic DIY skills would be useful. We would encourage interested people to phone the school on 01279 812362 or drop in for a chat to find out more.

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.

*Helen Coop, Headteacher*



## Missed Bins

There have been several reports of missed rubbish bins of all types in recent weeks. Bins are missed for a variety of reasons. Sometimes because the bin has not been put out so that it is clearly visible, or the collection vehicle was simply too full and had to return to the refuse dumping point and could not return through lack of time. Occasionally, you might simply have been forgotten. In all these cases, leave the bin out and call Uttlesford District Council on 01799510510 and report your missed bin. Leave it just where it is. It may take a few days, or a reminder phone call, but it will be collected eventually.

Sometimes it is because the bin contains incorrect material. Usually a note will be left explaining why the rubbish failed to be collected, in which case the keeper of the bin will have to dispose of the contents themselves. The Council will not pick up your bin if a notice has been issued, as some have found to their cost.

## Fourth year for the BAGS

Birchanger All-Girls Society, BAGS, recently held its AGM as it entered its fourth year. Some new committee members were elected, Michelle May stood down as chair after two years of sterling work, and Liza Clarke stepped up to take the reins.

BAGS members enjoyed a wide range of activities last year. These included quizzes, talks, ceramic painting, a ramble (ending at a pub), a cheese and wine evening, and several socials. The plans for 2017 are not complete, but it already looks as if this year will be even better than the last. We're looking forward to a Zumba Gold demonstration in March, with members getting the opportunity to try it out for themselves. April will be a social evening. We are hoping to arrange a historical talk in May and an Alpaca Adventure trip in July. For an up-to-date list of our activities see our advert in Birchanger Village Magazine.

We're a very friendly group that meets in the village hall at 8.00 on the last Wednesday of each month. It only costs £2 to come along to a meeting plus a £5 annual membership fee. If you would like to give us a try, then you can come to your first two meetings free of charge. We look forward to seeing you.



### BAGS new committee for 2017 from left to right:

Chair; Liza Clarke,  
Treasurer; Barbara Wilson,  
Committee Member; Angie Driscoll,  
Secretary; Rosemary Wheatley,  
Committee Members; Olivia Wright and Val Williams

## St Mary's Church News



### Church services

5 <sup>th</sup> March	11 am Sunday of lent. Matins
12 <sup>th</sup> March	11am Sunday of Lent. Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> March	11am Sunday of Lent. Family Service
26 <sup>th</sup> March	11am Mothering Sun. Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	11am Sunday of lent. Matins

### Special events

12<sup>th</sup> March after the 11.00am service; Annual Parish Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am; Mothering Sunday Communion Service, with posies of flowers handed out to those attending. Please bring your children.

30<sup>th</sup> March; morning service for Birchanger School.

9<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday at 11.00 am with Palm Crosses.

## Nemo urgently needs a good home!



Scott Taylor left two marine fish (Clown fish) in a self-contained biosphere that need a new home. If you have some experience in keeping marine fish and are interested in taking them,

please telephone Eddie Gilbey on 01279 816171 or e-mail [eddieb.gilbey@btinternet.com](mailto:eddieb.gilbey@btinternet.com)

## Do you smell gas?

It seems quite a number of people walking their dogs around Birchanger have smelt gas in or close to Birchanger woods, the side nearest the fields opposite the A120 bypass and adjacent to the grain store. This was reported to the National Grid some weeks ago and engineers have recently visited the site with their measuring instruments and after some days searching found three possible leakage sites. There is no major danger to the public and the National Grid is taking the appropriate action to repair leaky pipes.



### The Three Horseshoes

P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

Tel: 01279 813429

Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm # Sunday: 12noon - 3pm





# The Village People

## Do you know who this is?

The profile of a Birchanger resident obtained through a series of probing questions:

Where were you born? *Chingford, back when it was in Essex.*

The upper branches of your family tree?

*Father was a consulting engineer & ex-merchant navy man. Mother trained at Great Ormond St. Hospital as a paediatric nurse who went on to have 5 children and later became Assistant District Commissioner for the Cubs.*

The lower branches of your family tree? *I have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren*

Where and when did you meet your significant other? *During a game of charades at a house in Old Harlow back in the 1970's.*

Can you name one person throughout history you would most like to meet?

*Winston Churchill, he strikes me as a very interesting character; great orator, a man of the people in addition to which he was a great historian.*

Your favourite book, film or game (so that we all might enjoy it)?

*War & Peace by Leo Tolstoy, it is interesting that the author chose to illustrate the plight of the citizens as well as the aristocracy in this social epic and it contains a vivid description of Napoleon's futile invasion of Russia.*

If you had not done the job you do, (or did), what would be your fantasy profession?

*I would have been a dilettante, living the life of one who loves the fine arts, but only in a superficial way without any serious purpose.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Where would you have them?

*Breakfast would be in Lindos on the island of Rhodes overlooking the Med. Followed by lunch on the balcony at Host in Bishops Stortford, finishing up with Lobster & Chips at West Mersea, washed down with a fine bottle of dry Pino Grigio.*

How do you think people see you, or how would you like to be seen?

*Some people tend to see me as an enigma, never being sure if I have a "bad boy" side to me...actually it's true but my friends love me anyway.*

How long have you lived here and can you see yourself ever leaving Birchanger?

*38 years ago we moved here just as Stansted got permission to build their new terminal. So we thought we'd stay and just see how it went. Here we are, still loving the community, the Social Club and village life. It looks like I'll be around for a while yet!*

Did you guess who it was? If not the answer can be found on the back page

## What is Mothering Sunday?

Mothering Sunday (commonly known as Mothers' Day in Britain) has its origins centuries ago in the pre-Reformation Laetare Sunday (the third Sunday of Lent) which was the day to visit the mother church or cathedral. Some customs of the day outlived the Reformation and by the 17<sup>th</sup> century these included making a simnel cake and taking it to mother. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century children in service, particularly girls, were allowed a day's leave to visit their mothers.

In 1920 the Anglican Constance Smith published a booklet "The Revival of Mothering Sunday" in an attempt to revitalise the day with the idea that Mothering Sunday should not be limited to one Christian denomination. Its popularity rapidly spread through such open organisations as the Boy Scouts and Girls Guides, impelled by feelings consequent on the loss by many mothers of their sons in the First World War. Cordelia Moyse, the modern historian of the Mothers' Union wrote; "by 1938, it was claimed that Mothering Sunday was celebrated in every parish in Britain and in every country of the Empire."

At St Mary's, as in many churches, Mothering Sunday is celebrated by handing out posies of spring flowers to the mothers (and grandmothers) in the congregation by the children at the service. So please come along, bring your children and celebrate this ancient festival with us on 26 March at 11.00 am.

## Spring songs with Bishops Stortford Choral Society



**Bishop's Stortford Choral Society** will be singing a range of folk songs and spirituals by Rutter, Vaughan Williams and Tippett on 18 March at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church in South Street, Bishops Stortford. Tickets are available on the door, or in advance from Bishops Stortford Tourist Information Office, Market Square. There was a collection at the concert for Bishop's Stortford Winter Night Shelter, which closed its doors for this winter at the end of February but is aiming to continue supporting its vulnerable clients. For more information about the concert or joining the Choral Society go to [www.singwithbscs.org.uk](http://www.singwithbscs.org.uk)

## Village Services and Activities

Alzheimers	Marian	07803 115826
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet	Wendy Mitchell	01992 812781
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
BAGS	Liza Clarke	01279 815444
Birchanger Voices	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
Birchanger Nursery	The manager	01279 810800
Bird Food		01279 812248
Builders	Another level	01279 814273
BSSC Club	Del	01279 813441
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Car Service	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Dance	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Essex Tai Chi	Mary Dann	01376 342416
Garden Services	GWB Horticult	01799 543483
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Launderette	The manager	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
Men/Boys Hair	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Physiotherapy	Chris Lansdowne	07809 879868
The Three horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	John	01279 815913
Village/Church Hall	Pam Lee	07398 536717
Zumba Gold	Tam Coxall	07783 421311



## Birchanger Wood

Our ancient woodland originates from the 12th century when it was recorded as "Bircehangra" which means, "Wooded slope growing with Birch trees". Today besides the short-lived, shallow rooted birch trees, Birchanger Wood chiefly comprises the heavier traditional woodland trees. These are slower growing and deep-rooted ash, oak, Spanish chestnut, beech, and of course our recently planted group of Dutch elm disease-resistant, elm trees. There are also the lighter weight trees, the hazel and hornbeam. All trees can be coppiced (cut down leaving a stump and allowing the shoots to re-grow from that main stump) and traditionally this was carried out so that timber could be used locally because the weight and size of cut wood meant that transportation costs were expensive and difficult. Depending upon the quality and texture of the wood it would be used for furniture, buildings, fencing, to provide industrial charcoal for the smelting of iron, and bark,



from which tanning liquors were prepared. Coppicing today is continued to keep mainly the smaller trees down to a reasonable height and to save their branches from growing long and heavy and break off causing possible damage and allowing disease to enter the tree. In Birchanger Wood during March; listen for the cheeping of the first baby nestlings, look for the first bud-burst usually from the blackthorn (the sloe bush), and the hawthorn, check the first rustlings of a hedgehog and remember, we have now released several rehabilitated hedgehogs into the Wood. Of course life in a woodland depends on the weather and the warmth of the temperature - the ash can bud-burst in March, the oak can also bud-burst in March but it is usually much later, even waiting until May in some years. Phenology is the study of



the timing of natural events in relation to weather and climate. Best of all, just enjoy a good walk or ramble in our ancient local woodland on our super paths.

By Daphne Wallace-Jarvis - Photograph by Hornbeam Arts. Contact; [secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)  
[www.birchangerwoodtrust.org](http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org)



## Bishops Stortford & District Footpath Association is 60 years old in March

BSDFA walks and other historic documentation which have been stored and collected over the last 60 years have been placed on display by kind permission of the Bishop's Stortford Museum at the Rhodes Centre and will be available to view after the AGM on the 18th March for a period of two weeks.

To further celebrate this amazing 60 years of our existence, you are invited to join our Anniversary Walk on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March. We will gather in the Nags Head pub car park, Dunmow Road, CM23 5HP and depart at 10.00am. The walk will follow closely to the very first walk included in the 1960 BSDFA booklet of walks. Most of the route is fine but you will need walking boots to negotiate some short muddy sections and several stiles. The route encompasses the following landmarks:

**The Nags Head:** This is the beautiful eclectic art deco pub sign. The pub is distinctively individual, and unashamedly art deco circa 1936, by the architect Ernest Brander Musman (1888-1972).



**The Hop Poles:** Situated on the edge of Hatfield Forest at Bedlars Green this pub has been in existence for some time. In a census of 1840 it was listed as a beer-sellers and blacksmiths, and held by the Griffin family.

Hops at that time were grown on the nearby Harps Farm and at Hallingbury Hall Farm.

**Bedlars Green:** The telephone box is a series K6 designed in 1935 to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George V, sometimes referred to as the "Jubilee" kiosk, and it went into production in 1936. The the post box carries the insignia of King George VI whose reign commenced December 1936.



### Future Sunday walks (around 5-6 miles)

Leaving at 10.00 am from the following meeting points:  
**5<sup>th</sup> March** at St Andrews Church, Much Hadham (TL 430 197, SG10 6DH)

**19<sup>th</sup> March** at the Nags Head, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford (TL 500 211, CM23 5HP).

**9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.** Information to follow, for details go to our website: [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

## The Rooks are nesting!

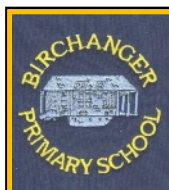
At this time of the year, twiggy platforms appear in the leafless canopy of tall trees. These bundles of sticks are the



nests of rooks. Each pair will gather twigs from tree top branches to create a sturdy nest ready to receive the three to five eggs which are laid in

late February or early March. The young hatch about sixteen days later and will fledge in just under five weeks. Rooks forage for earthworms and other invertebrates in fields but those living on the edges of settlements will scavenge in car parks for discarded takeaways. The black feathers of rooks glint a bluish purple in the sunlight and they are distinguished from other members of the crow family by the grey-white skin round the base of their beaks and their baggy feather trousers or plus fours. On the ground their walk is somewhat sedate, but once airborne they enjoy freewheeling in the March winds, often gathering in large flocks alongside crows and jackdaws in an aerobatic display. Ringing records have shown that they can live for at least 20 years and they have a strong affinity for family groups. Collectively called a 'clamour' or a 'parliament', rooks are a gregarious species communicating with a variety of harsh calls.

There may be as many as 1.4 million pairs in the British Isles. The majority of colonies are found in rural areas although within the Hundred Parishes there are some still to be found in the outskirts of smaller towns. They seem to favour ash, beech, oak and sycamore trees or, more rarely, Scot's pine. For more info on the Hundred Parishes contact Tricia Moxey at; [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



## Birchanger C of E (VC) Primary School

### Part-Time Caretaker

#### 10 hours a week - start April 2017

Our friendly village school would like to recruit a part-time caretaker to join our team. We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable person to carry out routine tasks and some basic maintenance. Duties will include opening up and locking the school.

For more details please contact Mrs Carolyn Field in the school office, 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.*

## Buffy Playbus Visits Birchanger Wednesday Afternoons

Near Harrisons CM23 5QT  
From 1.30 - 3.0pm during term time and  
at half term breaks. We have lots of  
pre-school activities on-board Buffy,  
including regular cooking sessions. Cost £2.50 per child  
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The Big Bus for Little People

## The Village People



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## 300 years of fashion at Saffron Walden Museum



A new exhibition at Saffron Walden Museum brings together fashion accessories from the past 300 years to show how fashion has changed over the centuries. 'Completing the Look: 300 Years of Fashion Accessories' explores how British fashion has been affected by social, cultural and political changes and what it can reveal about the changing world. The exhibition runs from the 28<sup>th</sup> January until Sunday, 30 July 2017. More information can be found on the museum's website. <http://www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org/>



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## The Birchanger Voices

The Birchanger Voices are a vocal singing group available for all types of venues & charitable events. Please call:  
Tel: 01279813193 or 01279813007



Providing a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment at Birchanger nursery for children aged from 2½ to 5 years old. Our nursery staff encourage creativity, independence and confidence to enable each individual child to realise their own potential. For further information contact our Nursery Manager:

Tel: 01279 810800  
E-mail: [admin@birchangenursery.org](mailto:admin@birchangenursery.org)



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## Birchanger Village Church Hall



If you are looking for a modern, well equipped venue for your next function please call Pam Lee on 07398536717 between 9am and 4pm

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