



# Birchanger Village Magazine

April 2017

Issue 171



## Spring is in the Air



**Birchanger Woods**

After a cold, wet and windy winter, there is nothing better than watching forest leaves unfolding and flowers blossoming to a mass of glorious colour in the tepid warmth of the sun. The woods around Birchanger in Spring are no exception as the pre-spring photo above shows. Birchanger wood is around 2000 years old and consists of 69 acres of ancient coppiced woodland including; Hornbeam, Hazel, Ash, Birch, Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Cherry, Holly, and a wide range of flora including English Bluebells, Wood Anemones and Golden Saxifrages. It even has a stream flowing through it. So if you haven't already done so, get your walking shoes on and take a walk around nature's playground. You won't regret it!

## The 'Birchanger Hedgehogs'

No, it's not a new football team! But you may have heard about the hedgehogs in the Birchanger Wood Compound. Their wooden hut is specially designed and inside it has a separate sleeping area, which has to be regularly cleaned and refilled with suitable bedding material. The hut itself is directly connected to a large natural outside run. Hedgehogs have always lived in Birchanger Wood but as with other swathes of our countryside and in many back-gardens, the population has seen a sharp decline over the last 10 years.

As part of the Birchanger Wood Trust's commitment to improving the biodiversity of Birchanger Wood, our warden contacted the Herts Hogline, the local hedgehog rescue centre, to see if our ancient woodland could be repopulated. So in conjunction with Herts Hogline, a purpose-built 'forever' home was installed into a quiet corner of the Birchanger Wood Compound. Working with Hogline, several underweight hedgehogs which would not make it through the winter hibernation without assistance, were placed into this secure environment and were fed and looked after, every day.

In Spring, when these hedgehogs achieved the necessary weight-gain, they were released into Birchanger Wood.

In addition to underweight animals received from Hogline, there are now two



disabled hedgehogs, which can never be returned to the wild, owing to the loss of a limb or an eye, as they would be unable to forage properly and in consequence would be vulnerable to predators.

### Hut & Run

These hedgehogs will remain in their 'hut and run' in the Birchanger Wood compound. They will hibernate there and never be released. Hedgehogs are wild animals and they hibernate over winter. They are not pets! They are nocturnal and should not be disturbed during the day. Indeed, handling them can cause a great deal of distress and can cause health issues. Hedgehogs that are temporary residents, that is those due for release in Spring, must not become tame, as they need to be afraid of humans so they can survive in the wild.

The Trust is indebted to Herts Hogline and to all those local residents who regularly leave tinned dog and cat food for their meals. Super-meat, or meat in jelly are fine but please NO gravy and NO fishy meals. Cat nuts are also great but again, please, NO fish based ones. The food collection point is in the Birchanger Wood compound. The Trust is also indebted to the local shopkeeper at Snowley Parade who regularly donates income he receives from sales of poly-shopping-bags. By Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

[www.birchangerwoodtrust.org](http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org) [www.hertshogline.com](http://www.hertshogline.com)



# A letter from the Editor

*Dear Readers,*

As we rapidly approach spring and the Easter Bunny I see that our last edition of 'Letters to the Editor' regarding the Village Hall versus the Church Hall has provoked quite a few comments! (See below). Now although this discussion may or may not culminate in a definitive answer as to what the hall should be called I do believe it is an interesting debate and if nothing else will enlighten us as to the background and history of the Village Church Hall (yes, I still refer to it as such in order not to offend anyone). So keep your letters coming, assuming of course you find the time after getting ready for the Easter Holiday, buying the Easter eggs and cards and going to church etc.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Birchanger Village Magazine and no matter what your faith is, we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter.

## Letters to the Editor

**Dear Ed,**

I may be able to shed a little light on the hall discussion. My maternal family has roots back to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century in the village and my grandmother and mother were very much at the centre of the community in their time. The hall was built in the early 1930's on land owned then by the church and the church contributed financially to the construction of the building and managed the hall directly through the years appointing a manager to oversee its daily function. My Dad met Mum at the hall on New Year's Eve in 1941; they got married in the Church and had their reception at the hall in June 1942. They also had parties for their 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries in the same hall, so it has a very special place in our family history. My father was the manager for about ten years overseeing new flooring and replacement windows in the 1970's. As far as I remember, the title of the hall always had the word church in it. Of course over time the important fact is that it is a community asset used and enjoyed by the whole community. I hope this helps a little in understanding its roots if not its status in the village.

*Chris Kadwill*

**Dear Ed,**

The following extracts were obtained from the Birchanger Village Archive. The authors are; Jenny Gardner (the former village historian), John Gibb (from his 'Birchanger a Village History') and finally from Ruth Clewer's School exercise books dated October 5<sup>th</sup> 1935 who was 11 years old at the time.

'On May 28th, 1934, at a PCC Meeting, the Rev B J Meeres, Rector (1931-6) proposed the building of a church hall. A subsequent meeting in September decided to accept an estimate of £600 for its erection, which took place the following year. It is situated across the road to the North East of the Old Rectory on land given to the Church by the Harrison family of Birchanger Place. In 1935, the Chester family generously donated a plot of land to the church for a hall for the benefit of the village. Part of the funding for the subsequent building of the Church Hall came from the sale of the old Parish Room which became, and remained a private house until 2004 when it too was finally demolished'. 'There is the new Church hall which has been built just lately and it is very attractive. It has been erected on a piece of ground just a little way from the Church. It was put up by private subscriptions. It has a roof made from cedar shingles which makes it look very nice and the room itself has a firm foundation and the caretaker is Mrs Banks'.

Historically the Birchanger Church Hall is what it says it is, notwithstanding the function of the building as a village social venue makes people think of it as "The Village Hall". It must be clear however that the hall's very existence is a result of a church initiative at a time when the church was the pre-eminent authority in the village.

There is an obvious contradiction in the two adult accounts, so it's important to point out that the Harrison, Chester and Nash Families as well as the Gilbey's and Gold's were much entwined by marriage and all were involved with the Church. So I am not at all sure who wrote the cheque to pay for the construction. The hall has always been administered, maintained and managed by people associated with the church and last year's floods are a good example of this.

It is not really relevant what the residents of surrounding villages call their social spaces. History says Birchanger has a Church Hall. Personally I don't mind what other people call it. Perhaps we should have a local referendum, we could call it "Chexit"!

*Eddie Gilbey, Birchanger*

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 and Kind Regards,

*Peter Sampson*



magazine@birchanger.com



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2 Harrisons, Birchanger



# VILLAGE NEWS

*By Elizabeth Godwin*

## Is the humble shed a man's best friend?

How many of us have men in our lives that spend a great deal of their time in a shed or a garage? They are there for hours in all weathers and most of us have very little idea of what they are actually doing there. Well whatever it is, it is apparently very good for them. So much so in fact, that the health benefits of sheds have been recognised, and the second 'community shed' in the District has just been opened in Barnston. Even if they



have a shed of their own at home, our men seem to think it is a better excuse than the pub for going out these days. The

first 'Men's Community Shed' in Little Canfield is very well used. Men have come together there to work on their own, or with others on small community projects. They get to make new friends and they find people they can confide in. Newcomers feel quickly at their ease. The facts are there, men seem to find the ageing process more difficult than women. They are more likely to suffer from social deprivation; they miss friends at work and seem to find it hard to make new ones. One in five men die before reaching 65, while two in five die before reaching 75. Men are far more likely to unload while working alongside other men in an informal and non-pressurised situation. The sheds are places where new friends can be made. Expect to see more Men Sheds around the district as funds allow.

## Bringing empty homes back to life

It is some time since we had badly deteriorating empty homes in Birchanger. Nowadays most empty homes are either sold, being renovated, or are available to rent. There is a new scheme whereby the council offers grants to bring up the standard of empty homes so that they can be brought back to life again.

It is better than the alternative which is compulsory purchase. The council has the power to compulsory purchase these properties and they will use it!

## Council's zero tolerance on dog fouling

Uttlesford District Council is getting very tough on dog fouling and a great many people here in Birchanger would agree with this line. There is still far too much of this happening. The fine for failing to clear up after your dog is now £75 and this could rise to some £1000 if you do not pay up immediately and are taken to court. Birchanger Parish Council is in the process of installing three new dog bins. This will make things easier for the dog walking population and harder to find an excuse for fouling the countryside. Good news for dogs and pedestrians alike. Therefore, the options are clear. Take a poo bag or risk £75 when you walk the dog. It's really a no boner!



## Our sewage system under stress

It seems that in Birchanger a great many of us are putting the wrong things down our loos throughout the village. They are certainly very good at doing this in the Travelodge, whereby tankers had to visit the sewage pumping station for days on end earlier this year dealing with the waste from the hotel. And that was not the end of the matter, the main sewage pipe in the lane blocked and backed up as well, causing raw sewage to flood into several houses, endangering health and causing a stink.

The main culprits in this are ourselves; we are simply putting the wrong things down the loo. Nappy wipes and wet wipes simply do not biodegrade in our sewage system. Neither do some types of kitchen roll and sanitary items. Disposable items are a definite no no and yet all of these items have been found in our sewage system. It doesn't take long for sewage to build up in the system and once a blockage has started it quickly floods first the lower lying houses and gradually works its way upwards. If you suspect that this is happening please call Thames Water on 0800 3169800. They will attend as quickly as they can.

## Birchanger All Girls Society

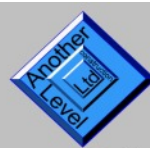
Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every month in the meeting room at the village church hall

### Forthcoming Meetings:

26<sup>th</sup> April: A social evening with 'Guess the baby quiz'

31<sup>st</sup> May: A talk on 'Discovering your family history'

A warm welcome to all newcomers  
Telephone for details Liza-815444  
Rosemary-814678 Barbara-813007



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## Cowardly Thieves

Yes, this lot really are cowardly. They have been in Birchanger, and the surrounding area, trying to attack the vulnerable section of the population in their homes. Unfortunately for them, they are exceptionally stupid and their victims extremely brave, and most times they have been disturbed and sent packing just at the sight of the householder. If you do find a stranger in your home, the chances are, they will run as soon as they are rumbled. They will probably only take items they can easily access and carry, so keep



valuable items out of sight or better still hidden away. Make a great deal of noise. They will most likely run before they take

anything and then call the police as soon as possible. Try to remember what they looked like. Write it down. Everything you can remember as well. These shysters are living somewhere. They can be caught and will be with your help. Don't take risks and call the police as soon as you can. You might also consider fitting CCTV cameras which are quite cost effective.

## The curse of abandoned vehicles

Over the years, we have had more than our fair share of abandoned vehicles littering our lanes. We are approaching the peak months of this particular little nasty where passengers from outside the area, not wanting to pay the exorbitant car parking charges at the airport car parks, prefer simply to come in an elderly vehicle, abandon it and take a cab to the airport. Anyway if you do suspect that a vehicle has been abandoned, call



Uttlesford District Council and ask for the 'Enforcement team'. You will be asked for the vehicle's details and why you suspect that the vehicle might have been abandoned. If it is suspected that this is an abandoned vehicle, the team will try to contact the owner, visit the site, and place a removal notice on the vehicle. If the vehicle is not removed, it will be collected and destroyed by the council. All the costs of this will have to be met by the last registered keeper. So be careful just who you sell your car to. It could be costly!

## Parish Records

Did you know that there is a wealth of old Birchanger records, stories and photographs which have been kept over many years in various houses in the village. At the moment Ken and Rosemary Wheatley host the collection.

The records are in good order and span several decades. You can learn a great deal about the history of your house and how it has changed through the decades. You might find pictures of long forgotten former residents and pictures of the village from the last 150 years.

Some people may remember the exhibition of some of these old pictures and records a few years back. What you saw then was just the tip of the iceberg. If you would like to look at the items in the collection, please call me on 812793 and I will try to arrange this for you.

## Illegal immigrants tracked

We all are very aware of health tourism, but although we don't seem to be able to stop those who just come and go, we can use it to catch illegal immigrants. Apparently details of names and addresses have been passed on by concerned citizens to the relevant authorities and many have been apprehended in this way.

In future, there will also be new government regulations requiring all hospitals to check up front whether patients are eligible or not for free NHS treatment. Several legal Syrian refugees are already here in Uttlesford who are welcome and settling into their new community very well.

## Feeling the cost of winter

This is the month when the dreaded winter fuel bills start to come in. For most of us this is never good news. The cost of heating seems to go up so much every year. If your home is poorly insulated, or if your existing insulation needs updating, now is a good time to be considering this.

There is funding available to everyone, regardless of income, as long as it is still available. Amounts for insulation grants are limited every year, and your home has to meet the required criteria. There is a firm based locally who will sort all this out for you. Just call Aran Services on 0800 587795 and find out what can be done in your case. Some people have been very agreeably surprised.

Don't forget also that you could save hundreds of pounds switching to another energy supplier. This is simple and easy to do. Essex Council offer a service on <https://bigcommunityswitch.ichoosr.com>. You can also use other money saving websites like: [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com), [www.moneysupermarket.com](http://www.moneysupermarket.com), or [www.comparethemarket.com](http://www.comparethemarket.com). (Not to be confused with [www.comparethameerkat.com](http://www.comparethameerkat.com)).



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# What's on in the village...

 April 2017 						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		<b>BSSC Curry Night</b> Don't forget, its Curry Night every Wednesday at the club			<b>1 BSSC</b> 13.00 Meat draw. Cat's Charity Quiz Night	<b>2 St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Matins  <b>BSSC</b> Sunday Carvery
<b>3 Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>4 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>5 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>6 Garden bin</b>  <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>7 Re-cycle bin</b>  <b>BSSC</b> Bottle draw	<b>8 BSSC</b> 13.00 Meat draw Francisco Sommers	<b>9 St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Palm Sunday service <b>BSSC</b> Sunday Carvery <b>Birchanger Lane Closure</b>
<b>10 Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>11 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>12 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>13 Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>14 Non re-cycle</b> <b>St Mary's Church</b> <b>13.00</b> Good Friday two hours by the cross  <b>BSSC</b> Bottle draw	<b>15 BSSC</b> 13.00 Meat draw Ray Collins	<b>16 St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Easter Sunday Communion <b>BSSC</b> Easter Egg Hunt Sunday Carvery
<b>17 Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>18 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>19 Church hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	<b>20 Garden bin</b>  <b>Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>21 Re-cycle bin</b>  <b>BSSC</b> Treasure chest	<b>22 BSSC</b> 13.00 Meat draw Karaoke Night	<b>23 St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Holy Communion  <b>BSSC</b> Sunday Carvery
<b>24 Church hall:</b> 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults <b>BSSC: Quiz Nt</b>	<b>25 Church hall:</b> 9.30 Ballet for adults 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 11.15 Zumba Gold	<b>26 Church Hall:</b> 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults 19.30 BAGS meet	<b>27 Church hall:</b> 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	<b>28 Non re-cycle</b> <b>BSSC</b> Wheel of Fortune	<b>29 BSSC</b> 13.00 Meat draw Boxing on the big screen: Joshuav Versus Klitschko	<b>30 St Mary's Church</b> 11.00am Matins  <b>BSSC</b> Sunday Carvery



**BIRCHANGER**  
Sports & Social Club

## Sports & Social Club News

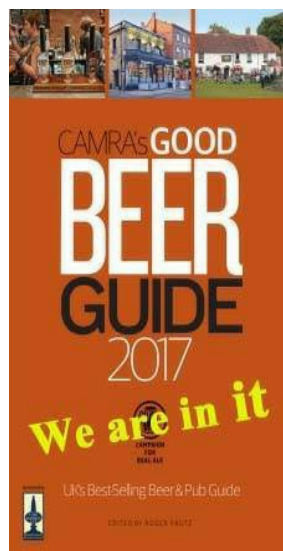


**Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool - Football - Cricket - Bowls**

Francisco Sommers  
Multi Tribute Show  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
16<sup>th</sup> April



**Treasure Chest**

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

7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April

**Wheel of Fortune**

Don't forget to come along and spin the wheel  
28<sup>th</sup> April



**Boxing Live**  
on the big screen  
**Joshua Klitschko**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April



**Charity Quiz Night**  
1<sup>st</sup> April at 8.0 pm

Cat and Adam Roberson are taking part in this year's London Marathon and will be raising money for VICTA helping blind and Partially sighted children. £10 a ticket which

includes a sausage and chip supper. Teams of up to 8 people. For Tickets please book in advance at the bar or contact Adam on 07834 720 120 or Cat on 07475 092 658  
Veggie Option available. VICTA Children Ltd. Charity No. 1065029

### Club Calendar at a Glance

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Cat's Charity Quiz Night
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Sunday Carvery
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Treasure Chest
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Francisco Sommers
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday Carvery
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Ray Collins
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Bottle Draw
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday Carvery
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Treasure chest
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Karaoke Night
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Sunday Carvery
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Wheel of Fortune
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Boxing on the Big Screen
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday carvery



### New food offering hits the mark with members!

We launched our new Wednesday curry night and our sunday carvery this month. The support and feedback from club members has been fantastic. - Thank you!

You can always check our entertainment schedule on line at; [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com) for up to date information. It's going to be a busy and eventful Spring/Summer at BSSC. We have charity events occurring during April, the annual Treasure Hunt being run in May and our usual high-quality live bands and performers through the whole period.

**Bar Staff Wanted**  
If interested please contact Del at the club for details or call 07946207513

### Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Sundays	Sunday Carvery	12.00>
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00 pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask staff
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00 pm
Wednesdays	Curry 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](mailto:club@birchanger.com) [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



# Birchanger Primary School



At Birchanger the curriculum is based around half-termly cross-curricular topics that create an exciting and interesting starting point for children's learning. This term Years 1 and 2 children in Hedgehogs Class are learning about animals



around the world. In science they have been naming different animals, sorting animals into groups such as farm animals and pets and learning about categories such as reptiles, mammals and fish. Art work has been around animal patterns, using printing techniques; they have written animal poems and even performed a Jungle Book 'King of the Swingers' dance in assembly. As part of their topic they visited Daisy May's Farm to find out about animals closer to home. It was a beautiful spring day and children enjoyed an afternoon of activities collecting eggs, grooming the ponies and feeding the animals while finding out about how the animals are cared for.



## Pancake Breakfast

Shrove Tuesday in March saw our very popular pancake breakfast taking over the school hall. Over 80 children came early to school to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes with jam, toast for those who don't like pancakes and lots of Pancake Day fun with colouring and puzzles. A big thank you to all our parents on the PTA who organised this event.



## Woodland Area

Each week classes take part in Forest School activities in nearby woodland. We are very grateful to be able to use this area and provide this enrichment activity for our children. Unfortunately there has recently been some damage to the log circle and litter left in the area, apparently by local young people. Staff inspect and clear the area each week to

make sure it is safe for our children but this has been a difficult and time consuming job recently. If you are aware of teenagers who use the space we would like to appeal to them to use the area respectfully, after all, most local teenagers have probably enjoyed Birchanger Forest School themselves once!



## Planning Notice

Our neighbours may have noticed a planning application sign up next to the school. This is because the planning permission for one of our two demountable classrooms needs to be renewed - there is no new building or demountable classroom planned but please do contact the school if you have any queries about this.

*Helen Coop, Headteacher*



## Village Church Hall Future Events



### Wednesday Tearoom

The Tearoom is open every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm. As the weather improves, why not take a stroll through the village to admire the lovely spring flowers that are coming into bloom and then stop at the tearoom for a cup of Rosy Lee and Sexton Blake (tea & cake). We also have a large selection of paperback books available for you to browse through or take home.

### Ed's review of Curry Night at the Club

Gastronomic choice at the club has taken another step forward with the addition of a curry night on Wednesdays. Starting at the top of the menu there was a Beef Madras or a Green Thai Chicken, a Lamb Jalfrezi, Vegetable Balti or Chicken Malaya to choose from.



All served with rice and a very acceptable chapatti and priced at just £8. To further tickle diners' taste buds you could start with popadoms and pickle or a mixed plate including Pakora, Onion Bhajis and Samosas. I chose the Beef Madras as it promised 3 chilli heat. I was not disappointed.

The Curry when it came was served in a traditional metal Korai with a mould of plain boiled rice to cool it down as required.

As with previous catering events Del's kitchen combined a variety of interesting choices with a beer offer to match, four bottles of Cobra lager for £12 to wash down the Asian inspired specialities. Del served around 20 diners on this inaugural event and I am sure that many more will sample these spicy delights before the club comes up with something else to inspire its members to come out on a Wednesday evening. *Eddie Gilbey*

## St Mary's Church



### Church services

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	11.00 am	Lent 5 Matins
9 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 am	Palm Sunday Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> April	1.00 pm	Easter Liturgy & Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	11.00 am	Easter 2 Communion
30 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 am	Easter 3 Matins

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Sunday 12th March after the 11am service and was attended by 16 members of the congregation. One important part of the meeting was to elect officers of the Parochial Church Council (PCC): E. Wright and P. Odrich, were elected as Church wardens. R. Saward, S. Warr, and A. Smith were elected as PCC members.

## New Church Venture

This is an exciting time for the church as it moves towards a new venture called Connect 120. This new project will strengthen the Christian presence in our churches, communities and schools, and with the engagement of a Missioner enhance existing activities as well as develop new ones. It is in the early stages of progress, so please watch this space for more information. During the meeting, our Rector, Paul Wilkin expressed his grateful thanks to Pam Lee who has over many years supported the church in various roles including; church warden and treasurer. Paul and the congregation wish Pam the very best wishes as she takes a well earned rest.

Easter is a time when we watch the crocuses and daffodils bloom and should take the time to reflect on our lives and take stock of what is important to us. Why do we call this special time Easter? It is said to be taken from Eostre the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring and fertility, leading to a new life and spiritual renewal.

If you would like some time to reflect, then please come along to one of our services in our beautiful church we welcome all.

If you need to contact the church for any reason please contact Elaine Wright (church warden) on; 01279-813474

## Birchanger Allotments

Spring has sprung! Well not quite yet at time of writing but thoughts are starting to turn towards the growing season in the garden and for those of us with allotments we are already thinking about what needs to be done and when. Did you know that Birchanger had its own allotments for residents of Birchanger, just opposite the vicarage next to the park?

### Fresh fruit & veg

Having an allotment is hugely rewarding with fresh grown fruit and vegetables to be had. Last year I had gooseberries (made great jam), potatoes, courgettes, onions, leeks, strawberries and globe artichokes to name but a few. I know other people enjoyed raspberries, beans and rhubarb, again to name but a few but it is pretty hard work because where the fruit and veg thrive so do the weeds! Late winter and spring are busiest times with lots of work to be done preparing the ground, digging it over, getting ready for planting and so on. Summer is just as busy staying on top of a quickly growing plot of fruit, veg and weeds. And autumn? Well you get the idea!

### Only £12.50 a year

If you fancy your own home grown fresh fruit and vegetables, have the time available and are ready to put in some hard work, there are currently a number of allotments available at just £12.50 a year. Its great value but please think hard before applying for one and ensure you have the time. If you are still interested then please contact:

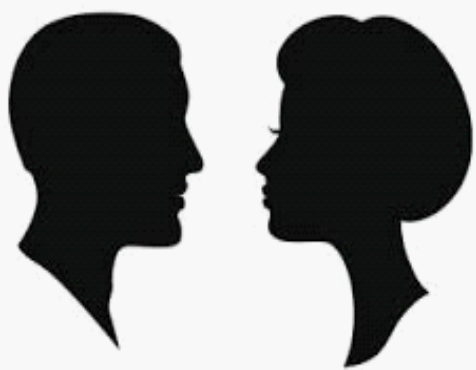
Peter Wilton e-mail; petergwilton1@hotmail.com.

Phillip Wingfield 07846 545794



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# 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?

*I was born at home, in Chingford, delivered by my Dad!*

Do you have a prized possession?

*Actually I have several; from the scrawly drawing my son gave me when he was a toddler to the tiny thimble my great aunt used to play games with us as children. For me, my most prized possession is the memories that these small treasured items bring back to me.*

What is the best advice you have been given or would give?

*Whatever you do in life, whatever challenges you meet, your instinct is always the best thing to follow, so follow it! I have often regretted the times I haven't followed mine.*

Where and when did you meet your significant other?

*In Birchanger! In late 1999 it was a chance meeting in the 3 Willows and before I knew it the millennium was here and so was he!*

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

*Boudicca or Boadicea the British warrior queen for three reasons; she was an Essex girl like me, was a great role model for strong, independent and feisty women and I would love to have been able to drive her chariot.*

Your favourite Book, Film or Game (so that we all might enjoy it)?

*It's an adaption of a book by Victor Hugo; the theatrical version of 'Les Miserables'. It is a wonderful story brought to life by wonderful voices.*

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

*I would love to have been a professional singer. I sang semi-professionally for a time but when my real passion came along I simply did not have time.*

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

*On a sunny morning I would breakfast at the Seafood Bar at Loch Kishorn looking out towards the Isle of Skye. Lunch would be at the Blue Lagoon, Grindavik, Iceland and in the evening I would dine at the Kasca Restaurant in Budapest where the speciality dish is duck.*

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

*People may have the mistaken idea that I am somehow detached from village life, simply because I spend so many hours working at something I love. But this is a great place to live and I hope I can be seen as dependable and friendly, as most of us would want to be seen.*

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

*I have been here 16 years, so it looks like you are saddled with me.*

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

### Mystery Tree Appears on Village Green!

If anyone knows who planted the tree on the village green recently would they please call  
Elizabeth Godwin  
Tel: 01279 812793

### Birchanger Lane closure 9<sup>th</sup> April

The lane will be closed for water mainworks on the 9<sup>th</sup> April from the junction of Birchwood for a distance of approximately 474 m in a south easterly direction. An alternative route is via Stansted Road, Birchanger roundabout, Bishops Stortford bypass, Birchanger Lane and vice versa.  
Pedestrians will have access at all times.



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# Health Matters

## A&E or the local GP Surgery?

Years ago, nobody would have gone to casualty with a simple dose of flu. Nowadays there are just too many people turning up at hospital A&E departments when they have a sore throat or a routine chesty cough. Years ago, we would never have dreamt of attending A&E for a simple illness but then you didn't have to wait two or three weeks or more to see a GP doctor! What is to be done about this? There are a few emergency GP appointments available each day if you sit on the phone long enough first thing in the morning; otherwise it is a simple matter of turning up early at your GP and just waiting, and waiting.... Could it be shorter than the time waiting in casualty? Probably but who knows! We need more GPs but nobody wants to do the job these days and those who do are approaching retirement age. I am not sure where we go from here. The best plan is try to stay in good health and keep away from Doctor! Sadly, easier said than done!

## When is a Doctor not a Doctor?

Did you know that some hospitals are training and using



physician associates to relieve the pressure currently experienced by all doctors in the NHS system? These new staff members first complete a year of study at an approved college, before completing their second year on the job. They will take notes and clinical histories and work in all the departments of a large hospital before taking their final exams. After taking these they will be out and about in all the

medical specialities, and hard to distinguish from the actual doctor. Apparently they have been operating successfully in America for many years.

## Dandelions could be the death of you!

Some people would say that dandelions are definitely not good news in the garden, while a growing number of us appreciate their colour and value them as a flower. However, in some hospitals it is definitely not good news if there is one hanging about your bed. An increasing number of hospitals are using a dandelion symbol on charts on or around a patient's bed to denote that the occupant is receiving end of life care. For the staff it means that the patient may be on a restricted food and fluid diet, for the rest of us the symbol is asking that we are quiet and respectful around this bed, so that the patient is disturbed as little as possible. Most of us have yet to see this symbol in use, but the practice is spreading.

## Green Bag Scheme for Medicines

Some of us are on far more medicines than we would like to be and it may seem that new ones are being added all the time with even more hard to remember names. One solution might be to carry your prescription around with you at all times, on the other hand, the ambulance service is starting to offer a new solution in parts of Essex. When they take a patient to hospital, they will present the patient, or their friends or relatives with a green plastic bag for them to place all the patient's current medicines in. This means, that not only will the patient's medicines be readily available to staff and patients alike It will also mean that the staff will be able to make sure that any additional drugs the patient may require are compatible with the ones they are taking already. When the patient returns home, the bag with the updated medicines will go with them. If the patient attends hospital for a planned procedure, they are always asked to bring their pills with them in any event.

## Focus on Fitness on Saturdays

We all have our different ways of getting fit, and even if we don't actually do it, we probably have a very good idea of what we might try if we ever got around to doing it. The 9 am run has started up again in Hatfield Forest.



It is a bit more than just a run in the park, as it is against the clock and you can see how your running skills develop as the weeks go by. You will also meet up with others who could be at the same fitness level as you, as the event aims to cater for all abilities. Because it is against the clock, you will also have your own personal challenge. It is not a competition, unless you make it your own personal one.

**Large bundle of keys found** in the church yard last week. The owner should contact Rosemary Saward or Elaine Wright



# Airport Night Noise



Birchanger Parish Council has called for night-time aircraft noise restrictions to be tightened in its response to the Department for Transport's (DfT's) consultation on how night noise at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted should be restricted for the next five years.

They demand that the protected night-time period should be extended to become a full eight hours; that helicopters are included within the restrictions, and that noise caused by aircraft using reverse thrust should be banned at night.

The rules proposed in the consultation are similar to those in place now, which limit disturbance by two means. The first is a noise quota, which governs how many noisy aircraft can use the airport at night. Each type of aircraft has a 'QC' rating ranging from 8 (very noisy) to 0.25 (least noisy), and the airport has a limit on the total QC count that may occur. So, if the airport has a QC count of 8 for a given period, two movements by very noisy QC 4 aircraft are allowed, or eight flights by quieter QC 1 aircraft, 32 by QC 0.25 machines or any other combination so long as the total QC count is no more than 8.

There is also a movement limit, which is the maximum number of take-offs and landings that can take place by those aircraft included in the noise quota scheme. In the consultation the DfT concedes that there is evidence that lower levels of noise than previously thought can disrupt sleep, so they propose adding a QC 0.125 rating, bringing quieter aircraft into the noise quota.

They also propose that all movements, including those that are not noisy enough to warrant any QC rating, count towards the movements limit. The Council welcomes these changes. There was, however, a sting in the tail. The DfT provided figures showing that, unlike Heathrow and Gatwick, Stansted already has many night flights by quieter aircraft that fall outside the current rules.

These are mainly operated by low-cost carriers. The DfT argues that as we already have these extra flights they should be allowed to continue so they want to increase our movement limits accordingly. The Council considers this unreasonable, and has demanded that any uplift in Stansted's movement limit for this reason is temporary, and phased out over the next five years. The DfT said that it expects Manchester Airports Group, the owners of Stansted, to apply during 2017 for planning permission to handle more passengers than the 35 million per year it is allowed at present.

As part of the planning process it is expected that an agreement between the airport and the local community will be reached that includes a new noise quota. Birchanger Parish Council, while supporting in general the idea of local agreements, feels that the DfT should still impose a noise quota that may only be negotiated locally in a downwards direction. *By Ken Wheatley*

## New Professional and Technical Skills Centre for Stansted Airport

Thanks to a government grant the first establishment for Further Education is to be built at Stansted Airport and is scheduled to open in September 2018. The centre will teach professional and technical skills and should attract both school leavers and those seeking further professional technological education. The centre is a further development of Harlow College and will offer courses in engineering, business, finance as well as airport related studies. This could be a big advantage for a great many here in Birchanger and not just school leavers.

## Day Centres Offer Good Lunches

There are five well established Day Centres in Uttlesford, all offering value for money lunches or just a quick cup of coffee to the over 55's on several days each week. Costs are kept to the minimum and are around £5 at each centre for lunch.



Stansted is our nearest centre at Grafton Green. It is open from 10am to 1.30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. You can just drop in for a cup of coffee, but if you would like lunch you will need to book by 11am on the day; Telephone 815091.

There is also the Rowena Davy Centre in the centre of Dunmow. This is open for morning coffee and homemade cakes from 10am every weekday except Wednesdays. They need to know by 10.30am if you would like lunch. The number to call is 01371 872874. Another Day Centre can be found at the Garden Room in Saffron Walden which is open on a daily basis. Other alternatives can be found in Takeley and Thaxted. Day Centres really do have role in the Community today.

## 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
Dog Grooming	Fiona	07484 673179
Essex Tai Chi	Mary Dann	01376 342416
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	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

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## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE



By the time you read this we will have had our  
Snowdrop Sundays with a fabulous showing  
right across the gardens. The first opening of the  
main season will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, St George's  
day, with dragon themed children's activities  
where visitors will be able to see lots of new  
restoration work. The walled kitchen garden has  
now been fully cleared and more fruit trees  
planted. We will seed it for grass as soon as the  
weather allows and then set to work on flowers,  
herbs, fruit and vegetables returning it to a  
productive and tranquil haven. Over the winter  
we have found another overgrown Peto feature,  
a spring feeding a rill to a pond. We have cleared  
it and within no time the spring filled the pond.  
For the latest news and more information about  
volunteering and visiting the gardens why not  
look at our weekly Thursday Garden News on  
our website <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>; or  
email us on [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk); or  
leave us a message on 01371 876979

Jill Goldsmith



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