



Birchanger Village Magazine

May 2017

Issue 172



UFOS OVER BIRCHANGER?



A mysterious flying object has been seen flying over Birchanger recently and caused quite a stir in the village! The UFO was seen flying over the rooftops in Harrisons and the surrounding area and then shooting up high into the sky seemingly disappearing into thin air! Well happily it wasn't a UFO. It was soon discovered to be one of those new fangled remote control flying drones that have been appearing a lot in the national newspapers recently.

Harmless fun?

Now of course most people would think this is just a bit of harmless fun with a rather cool toy but it does have a serious side to it. Is this a toy or is there something more sinister here?

Drones and the law

At the moment, there is nothing to stop you buying a drone and taking it out flying, as long as the drone weighs less than 20kg and you are not using it for commercial reasons. However, you must avoid flying it within 150 metres of a congested area and 50 metres of a person, vessel, vehicle or structure not under the control of the pilot. That's probably going to be fine if you're flying the drone in your back garden, but if you're in a park, for example, you need to be very careful about making sure you're not flying it within 50 metres of other people who are in the park. You will also need to fly the aircraft "within sight". This means you can't go above 400 feet in altitude or further than 500 metres horizontally. The rules governing use of drones are still evolving as more and more court cases are brought to trial.

What to do when your neighbour has a drone

Drones are not toys, not only can they be loud, but they sometimes are equipped with cameras and telephoto lenses. What do you do if you see that your neighbour is flying a drone over your property? Contact your neighbour by phone or email or knock on the neighbour's door.

Ask politely to please refrain from flying the drone over your property. Suggest that the neighbour fly it, perhaps, in a public park or simply hover it over his or her own garden.

Cause of action for private nuisance

What if your neighbour does not respond to your emails, calls, or reasonable requests to fly the new toy elsewhere? You might have a cause of action in court known as private nuisance. The nuisance in this case, you could argue, is the noise of the drone – the whirring of the engine or blades – disrupting your quiet use and enjoyment of your premises.

Cause of action for trespass

You could also make a legal case for trespass. The drone is flying over your property; you don't necessarily own all of the air rights above your property but generally, you do own the immediate air rights surrounding the top of your home. There is no unified answer to "how high" homeowners own. But any photographs that you take of the flying drone, to show a court how close the machine is getting to your yard or windows, would surely help convince a judge that the flight constitutes a trespass.

Cause of action for invasion of privacy

One of the more frightening aspects of personal drones is the possibility that they might include cameras. These cameras could be powerful, allowing a snooping neighbour to hover over your property and see people and activities that the neighbour shouldn't be seeing. Policymakers are still considering the implications of such snooping. Perhaps you have reason to believe that your neighbour's drone isn't just innocently flying, but is actually equipped with such a camera. Even without drone-specific legislation, you should remember that you have a cause of action against your neighbour for the common law tort of invasion of privacy. In court, you would be able to ask the judge for a temporary restraining order and injunction – essentially, court orders directing your neighbour not to fly the drone.

Toy or Menace?

Whether you think of them as a toy or a menace, there is no doubt that drones are here to stay. There are still many unanswered questions both legally and ethically and these will eventually be answered sooner or later. In the meantime, if you own a drone, be careful where you fly it and have some consideration to those of us who value their privacy and relative peaceful existence. After all, Birchanger is a small, rural village and has enough to deal with considering the noise coming from low flying helicopters and aircraft to and from Stansted Airport! (Source: *The Telegraph*)



A letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Normally I hear only positive remarks and sometimes even compliments about the magazine. However, of late I have received a few complaints from some of our readers that they receive their copy later than others. Now whilst I understand this can be a little annoying, I would like to point out to those readers that the magazine is managed and operated entirely by volunteers. Our team of voluntary postmen deliver the magazine to your doorstep without fail each month through wind, rain, ice and sometimes even snow and each one of them must find the time in their busy life to do so. I am sure you can understand that we cannot expect them to coordinate the distribution date and to deliver the magazine at the same time throughout the village. Normally the magazine is published and printed by the end of the month and if all goes to plan should be delivered to you by the 5th day of the following month. Should you experience deliveries consistently later than this then by all means let me know and I will do what I can to improve the delivery. Thank you.



Email tax refund scam

Many of us submit our HMRC tax return on line and are used to fairly regular acknowledgments from the Inland Revenue. On the face of it, an invitation to receive a tax refund by email may seem too good to be missed. On opening the scam email you will see what appears to be a correct logo and a convincing file number. However, if it asks for your bank details and or card number don't go any further! This is a very nasty scam and will empty your bank account in seconds. A number of Birchanger residents have received such scam emails so if you get one, bin it immediately and report it to the Inland Revenue fraud office at phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk



BSSC Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny came to Birchanger Sports and Social Club on Easter Monday and took part in the season's Great Easter Egg Hunt.

Mr Bunny had over 30 children hopping around the club field chasing his tail and hunting for the eggs. Great fun was had by all but after a quick munch of a lettuce and a carrot Mr Bunny was reported to have retired into his rabbit hole and was fast asleep by sunset.

"Pesky Wabbit"!



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 16th 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

Art Show update

As you are probably aware, the Art Show is to return this September in the newly refurbished Hall. It will be two years since the last show as the hall had been so badly flooded last year. The Art Show will take place on September 23rd and 24th, and as usual in addition to our own village artists, there will be well known local artists from outside Birchanger exhibiting again and Birchanger School will also play a part. Homemade refreshments will be available on both days. The Art Show does not just happen, but is the result of team work on the part of many local residents. Help is needed to set up the exhibition on Friday September 22nd and stewards are required on Saturday and Sunday until the exhibition closes on Sunday evening when everything has to be packed up and put away again. There are a large variety of jobs to be done; manual set up of the exhibition, listing the paintings and artists, stewarding and administering the sale or return of the paintings. If you think you might be able to spare some time on either of these days, please let me (Elizabeth Godwin) know on 01279 812793. Just a couple of hours on any of the three days would be very welcome.

New dog bins installed

There is even less excuse for failing to pick up dog mess these days, as three more new dog bins have just been installed. They are sited at; (1) the back of Harrisons, (2) at the bend by the thatched cottage (subject to permission) and (3) behind Birchwood where the main footpath from Stansted joins the rear of Birchwood.

With the amount of bins now in place, it is quite right that those who fail to pick up their dog's mess should face heavy fines.



Congratulations to Birchanger School

Birchanger School has a good rating according to OFSTED who praised the school and particularly the Head Teacher and staff for all they had achieved in the past two years. It is a school where working together, good team work and an ambition to succeed really shows.

Helping you to find a job

Job searching can seem to be a daunting task, whether you are just starting out, need a change or have been forced into the world of job seeking. Until the end of May, there is a support team based in Faircroft House in Saffron Walden which is available every Tuesday between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm. You can also contact them on 01733 200906.

When will our dustbins be collected?

That was what many people were asking last month. Our previously fairly reliable service hit the rocks badly in March. It seemed that strange vehicles went through the village picking up randomly at times, leaving the bulk of the bins lying around until the middle of the following week.



I called many times and was told on one occasion that we would have our food bins emptied on the Friday, one week too late and we would have to wait until the following week for the recyclables. This is not acceptable by any standards and my response

was unprintable. When this happens, we must continue to leave our bins out and complain loudly. The bins block pavements and that is just another cause to complain to the council. We are at the end of the collection round on a Friday and it is only too easy to leave us out, forget us completely and to carry on with the next week's collection! Above all we must all complain, ask for the bins to be emptied and continue to complain until they are. Sadly, it is the only strategy which appears to be working right now.

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:

31st May: A talk on 'Discovering your family history'

This event is open to non-members with £5.00 entrance fee

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



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Time Banking comes to Uttlesford

You may not have heard of 'time banking' but it is all about volunteering and receiving credits for the time taken by volunteering. It works on the principle that everyone has their own skill, which could be used to benefit others. With your own special skill you register to volunteer to use your skill to benefit someone else. You receive a credit for your own time, which you can then use on another team member with different talents. For example, if you were a decorator and spent time painting someone's house, you could use the time credits on the services of perhaps a plumber or another skill from the Time Bank Team. You can find out more about the scheme and register to join it. If this appeals to you, make an enquiry by calling 01799 510525, or email; volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk

Help from the council for domestic repairs

Not many people know that they can get help by way of a loan or in some cases by an outright grant for various necessary home improvements, disability access arrangements and home insulation schemes. There are many different schemes to suit a wide range of needs and circumstances; from straightforward loans, assisted schemes and a direct grant. There are even schemes which will help applicants to move to more suitable properties. All these schemes have the potential to be of benefit to many different people. The only way to find out if your requirement fits the grant scheme is to call Uttlesford District Council and ask for "Property Assistance Grants" to discover if there is anything which could benefit you.

Government pledge to preserve ancient woodland

This is potentially very good news for Birchanger, seeing that we have two ancient woods in the village in the form of Birchanger Wood and Digby Wood. In fact the ancient woodland at one time completely surrounded the small



clearing in the centre of the wood where the first habitations marked the settlement known as 'Billechangra' or a 'clearing in a wood'.

This is how Birchanger got its name and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Let us just hope that the government, whoever they may be, will have the same philosophy in future years as well as keeping the promises on the Green Belt.

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

We have been busy improving the planting in the gardens this year. In the Italian garden, the inner beds will be colour coordinated, pinks and blues, while the outer beds will be a riot of various colours. We have added some heritage roses, reshaped old shrubs and replaced the mini juniper trees where necessary, as they frame the beds as they were in Peto's original design.



In the walled kitchen garden we are filling borders with flowers and herbs. In due course we will be planting out squashes and pumpkins and trying to grow melons in 'hot beds'. In the glade, we have started populating the new stumpery.

More visitors to the gardens

We have been really pleased to welcome many visitors to the garden already this year, including groups from Germany, Kent and Chelmsford.

Butterflies

We have also started to welcome butterflies and indeed a hummingbird hawkmoth. So, come and see for yourself on May 21, when the gardens will be open at the usual time, from 11.30 to 5.00 and we will be serving bacon rolls and homemade cakes. Our Website and Facebook page provide our latest news. read our latest blog on Thursday's garden news <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>

Volunteers wanted

If you would like to contact us to volunteer or arrange a talk about the gardens and our restoration work, please email us on; enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk; or telephone us; 01371 876979. Jill Goldsmith



Emma Marks
Men and Boy's Haircuts

Tel: 01279 814273
Mob: 07527227943

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CM23 5RG

Tel: 07809879868
ChrisPhysiotherapist@gmail.com

What's on in the village...



May 2017



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Church hall: 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Nt	2 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	3 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	4 Garden bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	5 Re-cycle bin BSSC Bottle draw Treasure Chest	6 BSSC 13.00 Meat draw Cancer Research Race Night	7 St Mary's Church 11.00am Matins BSSC Sunday Carvery
8 Church hall: 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Nt	9 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	10 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	11 Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	12 Non re-cycle BSSC Bottle draw	13 BSSC 13.00 Meat draw Scorpio Rising - Live Duo	14 St Mary's Church 11.00am Holy Communion BSSC Sunday Carvery
15 Church hall: 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Nt	16 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors 10.30 Coffee at Moorswood	17 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots for Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	18 Garden bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	19 Re-cycle bin BSSC Bottle draw Treasure Chest	20 BSSC 13.00 Meat draw Car Treasure Hunt in the Afternoon Family Charity Race Night	21 St Mary's Church 11.00am Family Service BSSC Sunday Carvery
22 Church hall: 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Nt	23 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	24 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults	25 Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers Group 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance for advanced	26 Non re-cycle BSSC Bottle draw Wheel of Fortune	27 BSSC 13.00 Meat draw Repertoire Dogs Live 5 Piece Band	28 St Mary's Church 11.00am Holy Communion BSSC Sunday Carvery
29 Church hall: 10.00 to 15.00 Living with Dementia 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Nt	30 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	31 Church Hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 13.45 Lab Tots Science 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Dance for children & adults 19.30 BAGS meet		<i>Don't forget Curry Night every Wednesday at the Club!</i>		

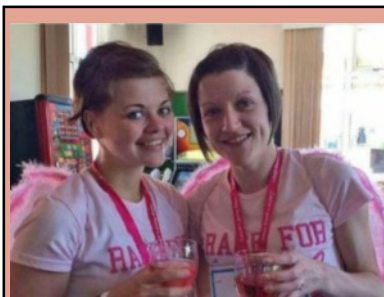


BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

Sports & Social Club News

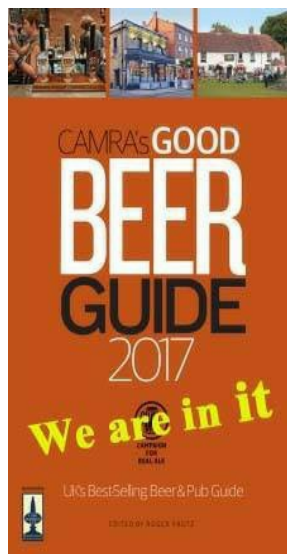


Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool - Football - Cricket - Bowls



Cancer Research Race Night

Hosted by
Katie Martin
&
Clair Jones
Saturday 6th May



Treasure Chest

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

5th & 19th May



Saturday 13th May

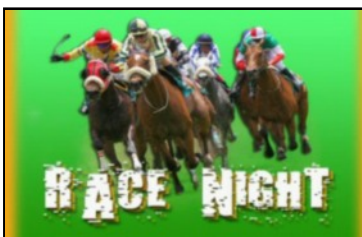
Back again by
popular demand.

This versatile duo will
keep you entertained
and dancing all night
long playing hits from
the 60's, 70's and 80's

A don't miss!

Wheel of Fortune

Don't forget to
come along and
spin the wheel
26th May

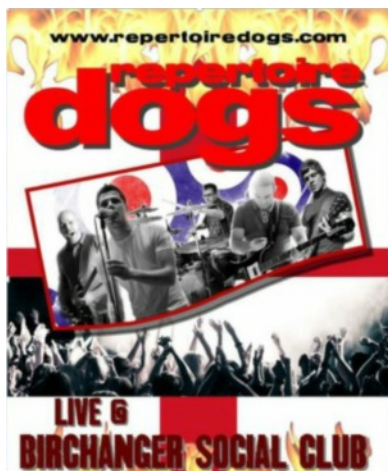


Family Charity Race Night

Saturday 20th May, 2017



First Race Starts at 8.30pm



Saturday 27th May

Repertoire Dogs are
the premier covers
band in Essex. They
perform material
ranging from classic
60's numbers right up
to 2017 current indie
hits. This 5 piece band
played to a packed
audience at the club in
January which proved
to be a great success.

Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday 5 th May	Treasure Chest
Saturday 6 th May	Cancer Research Race Night
Friday 12 th May	Bottle Draw
Saturday 13 th May	Scorpio Rising (Live Duo)
Friday 19 th May	Treasure Chest
Saturday 20 th May	Car Treasure Hunt - Afternoon
Saturday 20 th May	Family Charity Race Night
Friday 26 th May	Wheel of Fortune
Saturday 27 th May	Repertoire Dogs (Live Band)



**BSSC ANNUAL
CAR TREASURE
HUNT
May 20th 2017**

Sign up below to enter your team for this year's
Treasure Hunt which is being organised by club
members Ken and Rosemary Wheatley. It will
take place on Saturday May 20th 2017 and will
start from and end at the club. Full details and
rules will be provided to you before the event.

It costs just £10 per team to enter. Please pay any
member of staff behind the bar. There will be
prizes presented at the club on the same day once
all teams have completed the course.

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 www.birchangerclub.com

Birchanger Primary School



Planes Trains & Automobiles

Children in Years 3 and 4, Badgers and Squirrels Class have been working on a transport topic – Planes, Trains and Automobiles. Using maps, Google maps and Google Earth they looked at local transport links, identifying the main roads, motorways, train lines and the airport serving our area.



In history they found out about key turning points in transport including the invention of the railway and the developments of flight

and the adventures of Amelia Earhart. Science work also linked with this, exploring forces and magnetism.

As part of the topic, the children visited Aerozone at Stansted airport. This was a packed morning with children finding out about lots of different aspects of



the airport including baggage handling, air traffic control, airport fire service and the destinations planes fly to.

Although we are a Church of England school our curriculum ensures children find out about other religions and children



learn to be knowledgeable and respectful of other people's beliefs. As part of Religious Education the Year 3 and 4 children visited the Hindu Mandir in Neasden. This is an amazing building and we were made

very welcome. The children visited an exhibition about the history and values of Hinduism, we found out how the temple was built and then had the opportunity to watch a service and look at the amazing statues and carvings in the marble room.

A Good Report From OFSTED

In February the school was inspected by OFSTED and we are delighted that the school was judged 'Good' in all areas. The inspection took place over two days and was a very thorough process. The inspector visited lessons; spoke to children, staff, governors and parents; reviewed documents and discussed the progress and attainment of pupils in depth.

The last inspection was two years ago and this recent report shows the accelerated progress the school has made since then. The inspectors' comments identify these improvements and emphasise the effectiveness of leadership and management.

Leadership at all levels was graded good with recognition of the work of the governing body "Governance is a strength of the school. The knowledgeable and experienced chair leads a dedicated, insightful and well-trained governing body." The report recognises how "The headteacher has created a culture of high expectation that is embraced by the whole school community" and "a strong team of leaders who share collective responsibility."



The quality of teaching, learning and assessment was recognised in the report as being "good throughout the school". The report also recognises the children's positive attitude to learning and their good behaviour too noting that "Pupils feel safe in this inclusive and welcoming school. The personal development and welfare of pupils has a high priority and pupils' behaviour is good".

Achieving this 'Good' judgement has been a whole school effort and I am very proud of the hard work and commitment shown by the members of staff, school governors and the children. The full report can be viewed on the school website: <http://birchanger.essex.sch.uk/inspection-reports/>

Helen Coop, Headteacher



Village Church Hall Future Events



Summer Lunch at Moorswood

Sunday 25th June. A delicious buffet style spread will be served followed by dessert at only £10 per person. Book early to avoid disappointment. Please call Pam Lee on 07702171744.

Wednesday Tearoom

The Tearoom is open every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm so why not stop by for a cup of Rosy Lee and Sexton Blake (tea & cake). It's a nice way to pass the time with friends.



Easter Bunny

Well now, it seems we had Easter's second famous character turn up at the club on Easter Monday, a rare sight in Birchanger but nevertheless welcomed by the kids of Birchanger. A little bunny tells us that Evan Hill had something to do with it!

St Mary's Church News



Church services & events

7 th May	11.00 am	Matins
14 th May	11.00 am	Holy Communion
21 st May	11.00 pm	Family Service
28 th May	11.00 am	Holy Communion



Coffee morning
16th May
At Moorswood
10.30 am until 12.00 noon
Everyone welcome

New Dog Grooming Boutique in Takeley

In the Dog Shed, I am concentrating on grooming dogs in a calm and relaxed atmosphere. I only take one dog at a time, unless they are from the same household, so there is no need for crates or cabinet driers. The dogs have my undivided attention throughout their visit and are free to have a wander about and a sniff around.

I am City & Guilds trained and have experience of working in busy salons; I regularly attend seminars and grooming events so that I can keep up-to-date with the latest products,

techniques, equipment, etc. My own dog is a Westie called Molly. She keeps me on my toes with my bathing skills as she is very keen on rolling in unpleasant things and regularly needs a scrub on returning home from a walk! Please contact me, Fiona on 07484 673179 or visit my website: www.thedogshedtakeley.co.uk



Blooming Lovely

As yet, we have no idea who planted the mystery tree on the village green. However, there is a lovely new triangular plot in the village on Birchanger Lane, just opposite John and Liz McArthur's house which has been planted and lovingly tended in a joint effort by Liz and John including Jo and Al, Peter and Maria and Tony and Barbara!

They have really turned an unsightly mess into a little ray of sunshine! Well done guys.



The Three Horseshoes

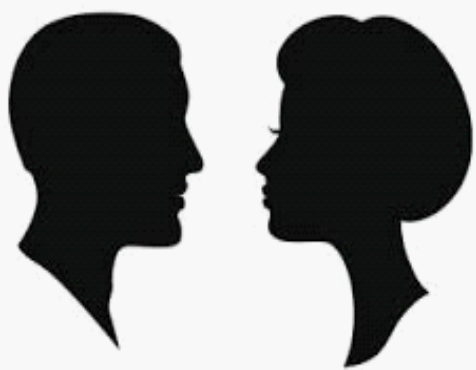


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The Village People

Who's Who In Birchanger!

Can you guess who this Birchanger resident is from the interview below?

Where were you born?

Worcester in a nursing home, I was in fact the reason my mother, a lance corporal, was discharged from the ATS in 1944.

Where & when did you meet your significant other?

We met in 1966 at the Cambridge Young Conservatives while canvassing for a local candidate.

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

Admiral Lord Nelson, a true British hero whose birthday incidentally I share.

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

The Godfather series, particularly part 1, it covers all emotions, family loyalty, jealousy, revenge and yes, heroism, the central character was a war hero after all.

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

World Champion racing driver! I did once get a nod from the great Jim Clark at Snetterton. Either that or opening the batting for England!

Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Where would you have them?

Breakfast in Scotland at the hotel overlooking Loch Ailsh, I would have an al fresco lunch in the competitors paddock at Silverstone and In the evening it would be at the Goodwood revival competitors dinner.

What has been your most defining experience?

Definitely the birth of my children because as every parent knows, it gives you a totally different outlook on life.

What's the best advice you have been given/or would give?

Sleep on a problem before you give a definitive answer!

Do you have a prized possession?

Yes I do, it's the Flying Horse of Gansu – a replica of the bronze found in the tomb of a General of the Han Dynasty.

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

It will be 44 years this year since we moved here and although we have enjoyed living in Birchanger, the time is coming when we must think about downsizing so, yes we will probably leave sometime soon.

If you haven't guessed yet, the answer can be found on the back page.

Health Matters

Our part in cutting back on waste in the NHS

We all know that we may have to face serious cut backs to our NHS funding if the NHS is to survive. Treatments are developing which are almost miraculous in some cases. We want them but resources are limited and we simply cannot have it all. Can we help the NHS? Are we just as guilty as the NHS in wasting resources? When was the last time you looked at your replacement prescription list? Do you really use all the medication on it all the time, every month? Have you got a big stockpile of pills in your cupboard which you are never actually going to use? There could be an awful lot of money going to waste in there. Some people never actually tell their doctor that



they do not get along with certain medicines, yet they keep on turning up on the monthly prescription list. This cannot be right, you could be harming yourself by not taking them, and you are also harming the drug budget. We all tend to do this at some time. We need to come clean and sort it all out to

everyone's advantage.

The drugs you do not use could benefit someone else, and save the NHS unnecessary expenditure. Nobody wants to see health rationing but if we do not do something, the threat of this is very real.

More hospital specialisation

In an attempt to keep within their budgets, hospitals are tending to specialise in doing what they do best these days leaving some specialities to other better equipped hospitals. This means in Birchanger that heart attacks will be treated in Basildon, strokes at Queens in Oldchurch, burns in Brookfield, and hospitals in Stevenage taking some patients. We will be taken there in fast ambulances with experienced crews. Might sound like a plan on paper but what will the reality be? No hospital in our area has consistently met their targets lately.

Things are looking up for the Stansted Surgery

Six months ago matters could not have been much worse for the Stansted surgery. There were far too few practitioners working in dire conditions and the staff were fighting a battle all the time. There will always be a challenge to see everyone when they want to be seen but things have been improving throughout the winter and regular patients have noticed a difference. More services are planned, but congratulations are in order for their performance through what has been a very difficult time.

Health Walks

Fancy a change from the gym? Why not try one of the regular Friday morning walks which leave from just outside the library in Stansted every Friday morning. You do not need to arrange this in advance necessarily, you simply turn up at 10.30 on a Friday Morning. The walk is planned and arranged in advance by a local volunteer and every walk is different. It often ends at a local coffee shop with an opportunity to make new friends and possibly put back all the calories you just lost!

Asthma alert

There is blossom everywhere, the countryside looks lovely but if you suffer from asthma it can be one of the most difficult times of the year. Everyone is raving about the bluebells but if you are a sufferer you cannot go near them. It makes sense to try to make things easier and you can



sometimes do this for yourself by stocking up on all your inhalers and making sure that you take them with you and that you use them regularly especially when you are out.

Check the pollen count; it is available on line and in newspapers. If it is high the weather forecasters will usually mention it. Dusting is infinitely boring but very important at this time of year, as is clearing the car filters where pollen can accumulate and aggravate the sufferer while driving. It may look lovely outside, but keep warm at all times and stay in as much as possible on really bad days. Use the website www.asthma.org.uk for further help and advice.

Good pub grub

Some may remember the Prince of Wales Pub at Broxted from the days when Stop Stansted Expansion used to meet there. It is situated at the crossroads in Broxted, and has an ample car park.

The pub is known for serving good homemade pub food at very reasonable prices in a warm and friendly

environment. On the day we visited

there was a homemade steak and mushroom pie, homemade chili con carne, steaks, fish, curry as well as the usual homemade burgers and much more. You get a friendly welcome from publicans Terry and Karen, generous portions and above average wine. There is a very reasonably priced carvery on Sunday where main courses cost £8.95. The pub can also cater for functions. The atmosphere is lively and friendly. Maybe worth a trip out on a warm summer evening!



Paperless parking comes to Jackson Square

From the beginning of April you no longer need to worry about overstaying your welcome at the Jackson Square car park in Bishop's Stortford, thanks to the new smart machines installed in the town's central car park. The brand new ticket machines, with leading-edge technology, offer a range of payment options



so the frantic dash back to the car will soon be a thing of the past. Simply enter your car registration and pop in your credit or debit card on arrival, then present the same card, when you leave and the smart

machine will calculate how long you've stayed and take the payment. You won't even need to display a ticket. The new machines accept most credit, debit and contactless cards, as well as Apple Pay and Android and have the highest level of payment card security clearance. Just don't forget to re-present your card on exiting the car park or you will be charged the full tariff. If you still prefer to pay and display or want to use cash, you can pay on arrival, just as before, you'll just need to display the ticket in your car.

Village Services and Activities

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Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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Birchanger Voices	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
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BSSC Club	Del	01279 813441
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Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973861268
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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

BSSC Car Treasure Hunt 2017

Don't forget to put Saturday 20th May in your diaries for this year's Birchanger Treasure Hunt. You'll enjoy a fun day solving clues while you drive around local villages and countryside and naturally, you will finish up at the Club, unless you get lost that is. Sign up now by adding your name to the list inside the Club and To make sure you always know the latest details visit and like the birchangertreasure Facebook page (www.facebook.com/birchanger.treasure). Good hunting!



Flower time in the Wood

The beautiful white wood anemone was indeed beautiful and flowered profusely in Birchanger Wood towards the end of March and early April. This was a truly gorgeous sight and a tableau of glory in the early warmth and brightness of the sun. In April, the English bluebell should have been blooming in the woods. However, the young green shoots have been quite badly eaten this year so the show may not be as good as previous years. Bluebell plants are in fact poisonous, they contain a chemical used in alchemy and which is being researched by modern day scientists for possible medicinal use. These fresh green shoots are appealing food to some animals and they are apparently eaten by sheep and cattle and the muntjac deer are very partial to the bluebell leaves. This all causes great damage and loss. Interestingly and sadly, it



would seem in Birchanger Wood squirrels are the prime suspects for eating the bluebell leaves even though poisonous, because owing to their large

numbers in the wood, their normal food is insufficient to adequately feed them all. It takes a bluebell bulb about five years to reach maturity and to flower. With the expanding tree canopy you are unlikely to see the local buzzards, yes they are about again, and maybe you will hear them. When their young start to fly, you will not only be able to see them but hear them calling to each other. 'My' swallows are also very noisy chattering on the telephone wires. The first arrived on the 31st March, and the second on the 1st of April.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Photo by Phoebe Taplin BSDFA
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