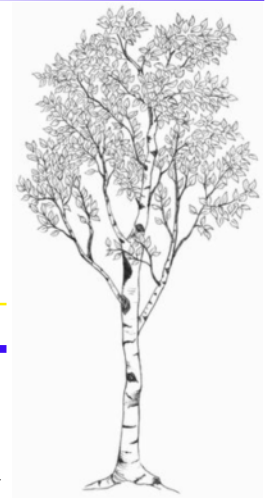




Birchanger Village Magazine

October 2017

Issue 177



Birchanger Fete 2017

Another successful fete hosted by Birchanger Sports and Social Club was held on a wonderful sunny September day. There were more attractions than ever seen before including; stalls, games, children's rides, a gigantic bouncy slide, a carousel, cars and lots more. Entertainment during the day and evening was supplied by local group 'Trax'. (Photos by kind permission of BSSC)





A letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

It was nice to see that the traditional dog show was once again a major part of the Birchanger fete this year. The dog show was organised by Alex Stewart and professionally judged by Mr Frank Groves. Thirty three dogs were entered competing for 5 disciplines, plus best in show. The results were as follows:



Best in show was Oscar, owner Dave Woods (Shown Left)

Handsome dog was Oscar, owner Dave Woods

Prettiest bitch was Pointy Nose Bella, owner Ruby

Best rescued dog/bitch was Indie, owner Auntie Sue

Best puppy was Louis, owner Paul and Lucy Ferret (Shown Right)

Best behaved dog/bitch was Enzo, owner Grace Massingham-Lamprell



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

A Bridge Too Far?

My son has just started Birchwood High School and I have been looking into options for home to school travel. A quick and inexpensive way to school would be to walk through Birchanger woods, over the A120 and into the village. However, the A120 is extremely busy and I would not like my 11 year old son to risk his life crossing it on his own. Then the idea occurred to me about a small pedestrian bridge crossing the road. I'm really just looking for signposting as to who to approach with this idea and what to do. I expect there will be objections from all sides but I have no idea about who to approach or how difficult and time consuming it will be. Can you help in any way?

Jill Willetts, Birchanger

Editor's response

Dear Jill, this is an old issue and you are not the first person to ask for this facility. Indeed I cannot understand how the bypass could be built in the first place without a bridge or tunnel enabling pedestrians to walk safely between Birchanger and Bishops Stortford. Even for an adult the journey by foot to Bishops Stortford is a nightmare! I have been informed that the major issues against building such a bridge is the cost and secondly the effect on nature and wildlife on Birchanger wood. I would suggest you contact the parish council in the first instance. In the meantime, the alternative I am afraid is the bus or car.

Dear Ed,

High View garages broken in to

On Friday night August 25th several garages in High View were broken into and tools and car parts worth several thousands were taken. Residents need to remain vigilant as this was unlikely to have been carried out by a couple of kids messing about, it would have taken a van and several people to carry out this operation. Please keep a look out and make sure your garages and outhouses are locked.

Aaron, 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 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchanger/

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Family in fear of losing home

It is bad enough losing someone close to you, who has always been there for you, but to lose your father then to learn that you will have to lose the home you have always lived in as well is something nobody should have to face. It is especially hard when you are only just over 18.

This is what the Martin family were told just a month after their father died by Uttlesford District Council. It is apparently a law that tenancies can only be reassigned once, even if the reassignment is simply the removal of a name from the tenancy. It seems grossly unjust, especially for a family who have never been in arrears and are justifiably proud of this.

The family will be served notice to quit a year after their father's death.

The council has a duty to re-house them, and they do want to stay together but according to some very harsh rules, they have to move and to start their own new tenancy. They want to live in Birchanger, where they have lived all their lives. However, even if a suitable property becomes vacant in the village, the council will have to redecorate or renovate it before the family can move in. The same thing will happen to their existing home should they have to leave. A totally unnecessary expense for re-decorating two homes if the family was allowed to stay in their own home. This makes no sense and where is humanity and common sense in this?

The Ice Age comes to Saffron Walden Museum

Saffron Walden Museum has won awards and praise for being the best small Museum in the south of the country. It now has a new exhibition which will run until January and features life in the ice age complete with glaciers, ice sheets, ice age man complete with ice age creatures. You can get a very good idea of what life was actually like back then, even if it was not the place where you would ever want to be, well not for long anyway.

Where no helicopters fly

Could Birchanger ever become a helicopter free zone? After the somewhat noisy summer we have just had it would be nice to think so. Helicopters seem to have been above us at all hours of the day and night this year and it seems that a lot of people in Birchanger would like to see something done about this avoidable noise nuisance. Consequently, over thirty residents and the Parish Council packed into the extension at the Village Hall to hear the Flight Performance Manager from Stansted Airport, Duncan Smith and Group CSR Director, Neil Robinson talk about their proposal for a new route for helicopters flying in and out of the airport avoiding Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet.



The route they propose would run in a straight line between Hazel End Wood and the gap over fields between Stansted and Birchanger, avoiding most of the houses. This presentation will be given to Stansted next month and

if they are in agreement, as the Birchanger meeting was, the CAA would be informed. The bad news is that the required consultation process could take up to two years. However, helicopter operators, including military operators, would be informed of the proposal before this.

An ongoing problem would be 'visiting' helicopters, although the proposed route will be published to all helicopter operators and would be advised on approach. Nothing will happen quickly, but the Parish Council are determined matters must improve, so there will be representatives from the Airport at the Annual Parish Meeting in March to update us on any progress which they may have made. To date there are no signs that the government is prepared to regulate helicopter flights in the same way that other commercial aircraft have to be. What is proposed is essentially a voluntary measure and it will take time to come into effect.

Birchanger All Girls Society

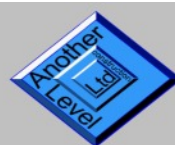
A warm welcome to all new comers on the last Wednesday of every month in the meeting room at the village church hall

Forthcoming Meeting:

Wednesday 25th October 7.30 for 8.00

A Crafty Evening - creating Christmas cards demonstrated by Viv

Liza-815444 Telephone for details
Rosemary-814678
Barbara-813007



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The M11 services are still after that second exit

A few years ago an application for an exit from Birchanger Service Station onto Birchanger roundabout for the A120 / A1250 was turned down. Now the service station is back with a second proposal, to create a second exit just behind the hotel on the services site, onto the A1250. Their excuse is that HGV's are always having to queue to leave the services, something which the service station users are not over keen on it seems. Well I have news for them, the rest of us are not exactly happy about this application. They propose to exit their big lorries via traffic lights onto the A1250 which is constantly grid locked in the mornings and at other busy times during the day. Traffic from this exit will either join the queue into town or will attempt to access the roundabout which will also be grid locked, as anyone who tries to use it at almost any time these days, knows only too well. The lorries will be scurrying back to their old exit soon enough. At least they can access the M11 directly there. Never mind the fact it is in the Green Belt.

Is the M11 the most dangerous motorway in Britain?

Every time I use the M11 I try to build extra time into my journey, in the knowledge that there is a high probability that I will get stuck on it somehow. These days the cause is not usually roadworks but some kind of accident or incident which frequently includes injuries or fatalities.

There was a particularly nasty incident in August, made worse by faulty reporting but it could have been true, when it was thought that a motorist had been killed by an object thrown from a footbridge in Birchanger. Sadly the only factually correct piece of that bit of reporting was that the motorist had died. It turned out that the incident happened near a footbridge in the Hallingbury's and the piece of concrete came off another vehicle. It could have happened from a footbridge as it has happened before on the A12 several times. Even small objects can become lethal when dropped from any height onto fast travelling vehicles. We must take care when we use our own pedestrian crossing over the M11 making sure that nothing however small is dislodged and report anything that might be deemed concerning or suspicious to the police as soon as possible.

Free help and advice

We all go through times in our lives when we need help and support when we come up against situations which we had not foreseen and in which we need advice without knowing where it can be found. There is now a one stop shop which may help which is operating from the Rowena Davey Centre, Chequers Lane in Dunmow on the second Monday in each month. The agencies who will be there for you include

the Department for Work and Pensions, Uttlesford District Council, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Mind, Family Mosaic, Adult Community Learning, Open Road, and Uttlesford Credit Union, to name some of the main players.

New Youth Council gathers momentum

They have been talking about a Youth Council in Uttlesford for more years than I care to remember. Now we actually have one up and running in Saffron Walden which is attracting members from all over the district. Anyone who lives in Uttlesford and is aged between 13 and 19 is entitled to take part. The members of the Youth Council meet regularly with officers and members of the District Council. They discuss matters which are important to their age group and what they can do about them alongside the people who are best placed to help them to put their ideas into action. If you are between 13 and 19, and would like to get involved, John Starr is waiting to hear from you on 07973 409566.

Coffee Morning time again

Summer, what there was of it, has been and gone and it is time to have a Coffee Morning again. The Autumn Coffee Morning will take place at Moorswood on Tuesday October 10th between 10.30 and Noon. As usual there will be plenty of tea or coffee, treats to go with the coffee and there might also be the odd item there you might like to buy. What is guaranteed is good company and a warm welcome.

Playground pooch poops still a problem

It was good to see so many youngsters using the playground this summer. However, what was not so good was the number of pet owners who simply couldn't be bothered to clear up after their dogs. Dogs are the responsibility of their owners and it is the owners in some cases who appear to be too lazy or too inconsiderate to clear up after their pets. If a dog is seen to be fouling any area and the owner chooses to leave the mess for someone else to tread in or to clear, then the owner should be reported to the dog warden on 01799 510510 so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Is your child using illegal substances?

By the look of the fields and woods around the village, the amount of drug paraphernalia that can be seen would suggest otherwise. Small piles of discarded drug material have been found in woods and fields surrounding the village during the holiday period. Most of these fields are privately owned and the land owner's do not take too kindly to people abusing their land in this way, leaving the mess for them to clean up. Much more of this kind of behaviour will mean that they will be fenced off and nobody will be able to use them which would be very unfair on the 'clean' majority. All it needs at this stage is a strong parental warning and there is still time to stop this becoming a life wrecking habit.



Emma Marks
Men and Boy's Haircuts

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Health Matters

Publicity helps those with Dementia

It was the norm not so very long ago to try to sweep dementia under the carpet. Families trying to cope with an afflicted family member received very little help and support from anyone. Those with the illness suffered in silence, often confined to their rooms for most of the time. The condition was embarrassing. The family never knew how the victim might behave and tended to keep them out of sight as much as possible. The community at large did not understand and simply did not want to know.

Now Dementia is starting to come out of the closet. Perhaps this is because we are living longer and the disease is affecting more people as survival ages rise. Most families can expect to have to deal with it at some time. Dementia groups are setting up everywhere; we have them now in our own village hall.

There is now a movement to forge links between these groups in the certainty that everyone can start to learn from each other and to develop general good practice. There is a wealth of support to be had from linking with others in similar situations, whatever they might be, not to mention much highly valued support. The message is there. If you have someone in your family suffering with dementia help is closer than you might think. To find out how you or your group might be able to link up with others call 01799 510585.

The war against Cancer continues

Cancer is a disease whose horrible affects have been felt by far too many people in Birchanger.



For those who have been involved with this horrible disease, it is good to know that scientists are discovering new methods of treating the disease other than by radiotherapy or

chemotherapy using some surprising substances. This is the case with the latest discovery using formaldehyde. Most of these treatments are discovered by accident. This means that as one treatment becomes ineffective, miraculously nature, with the help of humans, finds another one and which will hopefully have fewer side effects on patients than the first one. Expect to hear more about formaldehyde in the months to come.

Lung Cancer can be beaten

Lung Cancer is a very devastating form of cancer, but like most cancers, the chances of a complete cure are far more likely if the disease is diagnosed in the very early stages. It is also closely associated with breast cancer. Now a new development has shown that it is possible to detect the metastasis of lung cancer with new technology before they become visible on a routine scan, just another small victory in the war against cancer.



Playing catch 22 with our health

It seems that now the government are playing catch 22 with our health. Sometimes people who are discharged from hospital require ongoing care which the local councils are expected to provide. Not an easy task as suitable accommodation for patients can be very hard to find. The government then cuts the funding available to the councils, accusing them of bed blocking, making it even harder to find the right accommodation. The hospital meanwhile fines

the council for delaying the patient's discharge. The patient has no alternative but to stay in hospital and everyone loses out. The sensible answer is to build more of the right accommodation. That is an expensive investment but could perhaps prove cheaper in the long run!

Stay well this winter

A programme of interactive health and well being events will be coming to Uttlesford in October.

The 'Stay Well This Winter' events include informative talks from pharmacists and specialist health advisors, as well as entertainment from local singer-songwriter Joanna Eden.

Sessions run from 9.30am to 1.30pm on:

Tuesday 3rd October, The Rowena Davey Centre, Great Dunmow CM6 1EQ

Wednesday 11th October, The Crafton Centre, Stansted CM24 8AG

Friday 20th October, The Garden Room, Saffron Walden CB10 1EH

These events are free to attend but booking is required. Please call 01799 510585 to confirm your place.

Ensuring your shared medical records are secure

Many people are concerned that their medical records are shared between the health professionals.

It may help to know that unauthorized access to your records by staff not concerned with your case is a criminal offence and will be dealt with accordingly.

what's on in the village...



October 2017



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #						
30	31					1 St Mary's Church 11.15 am Mattins BSSC Lunch Carvery
2 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	3 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba for Kids 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	4 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	5 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance studio	6 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC Treasure Chest	7 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Lisa Hammond Live	8 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Special animal service BSSC Lunch Carvery
9 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	10 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba for Kids. 15.45 Ballet for Juniors. Coffee at Moors Wood 10.30 am	11 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 1 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners	12 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	13 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC Bottle Draw	14 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Lee Rivers Live	15 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC Lunch Carvery
16 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	17 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba for Kids 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	18 Church hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance 19.00 Ballroom & Latin for Beginners BSSC Life members lunch	19 Green Bin # Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	20 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC Gin Festival Treasure Chest	21 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Gin Festival Main Offender Live	22 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion BSSC Gin Festival Lunch Carvery
23 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults BSSC: Quiz Night	24 Church hall: 9.30 Ballet for adults 11.00 Zumba for Kids 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	25 Church Hall: 09.30 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 18.30 Apton Dance Studio 19.00 Ballroom & Latin For Beginners 19.30 BAGS	26 Black Bin Church hall: 10.00 Alzheimers 12.45 Line dance for beginners 13.45 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	27 Church hall: 9.00 Baby Glows for toddlers BSSC Wheel of Fortune	28 St Mary's Church Pilgrimage to Canterbury BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw Bazooka Live	29 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Mattins BSSC Lunch Carvery



BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club

Sports & Social Club News



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

New Head Chef

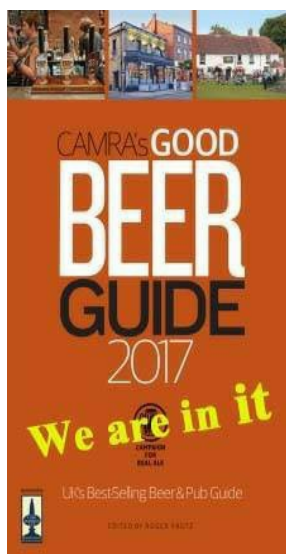
We would like to warmly welcome Dan Rosu to Birchanger Sports & Social Club. Dan joined the team at the beginning of September to fill this vital role. He has over 7 years' experience as a professional chef and has managed teams and produced highly acclaimed food wherever he has worked. He was a semi-finalist in the 2015 'Chef of the Year' competition involving the famous '4-course challenge'. Dan aims to establish himself and his own unique food offerings at the club over time, for the enjoyment of all the members. Good luck Dan, we all look forward to sampling your dishes in the weeks ahead!

Gin Festival 20th to 22nd October



**Lee
Rivers
Live
14th
October**

Main Offender 5 Piece Classic Rock Band 21st October



**Family Race Night &
Fireworks
5th November**



**Fresh Carvery
Every Sunday
From 1st October**



Treasure Chest

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

Friday 6th & 20th October

**Wheel of Fortune
Friday
27th
October**



Club Calendar at a Glance

Friday	6 th October	Treasure Chest
Saturday	7 th October	Lisa Hammond Live
Saturday	14 th October	Lee Rivers Live
Friday	20 th October	Treasure Chest
Friday	20 th October	Gin Experience
Saturday	21 st October	Main Offender Live
Saturday	21 st October	Gin Experience
Sunday	22 nd October	Gin Experience 12-4 pm
Friday	27 th October	Wheel of Fortune
Saturday	28 th October	Bazooka Live

Weekly Events

Day	Event	When
Mondays	Quiz Night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Curry Night	Evening
Thursdays	Bingo Night	8.30pm
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evening
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Sundays	Fresh Carvery	Lunch

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

Birchanger Primary School



A new start at the school

Autumn is a time of new beginnings in the school calendar. At Birchanger C of E Primary School we welcomed back our children and staff that came back well rested from the summer break and ready for the excitement of the new school year. Already there has been lots of learning with different topics being taught to our classes and our older children are getting ready for their Residential trip to Norfolk.

Most of our new children have joined Dragonfly class, starting school for the first time and already they are important members of our school community.



Miss Marshall-Spence has also joined us to teach our Year 4/5 children in Squirrel class and I have joined the school as headteacher, taking up the role after many years teaching at Takeley Primary School. I have been very busy getting to know the families and children of our school and during the summer holidays I have spent a time in the school and the village getting to know the community. I look forward to an exciting year ahead. Birchanger C of E Primary School focuses on educating the whole child providing learning experiences inside and outside the classroom. Recently we were fortunate to hold a 'Roots to Food' event, sponsored by our caterers TCS, where the children had the



opportunity to try a wide range of foods and learn more about the food to help them to make healthy choices about what they eat.

During the morning session two groups were given the challenge of creating a dish from a set of ingredients (rather like Ready, Steady, Cook). One group made a salmon fishcake recipe with pasta and a tomato chutney and the other group made a coronation chicken recipe with rice and Bombay potato. The children had an opportunity to sample the dishes during lunch time and everyone thought that they were delicious! If you would like to try out these recipes for yourself then please check out our website. The afternoon session was devoted to our younger children and they all had the opportunity of making Stromboli, including rolling out the dough.



These were then cooked at school and given to the children to take home, although I think many will have been eaten before they got there! The children had a great day and here are some of the comments that the children made about their experience;

"Thank you so much for teaching me more about food, it made me realise that I should eat healthily all the time. There were new things that I learned about food today, thank-you" (*An Owl class pupil*)

"We haven't made stromboli before- we liked learning something new." (*A Dragonfly class pupil*)

As we engage in lots of new learning experiences this year we shall keep you up to date with our progress as we appreciate the support that we get from our community. We are looking to extend our links within Birchanger because as an old African saying goes "It takes a village to grow a school". *Claire Berry (Headteacher)*

Birchanger Nursery News

We have welcomed the children back to a refurbished nursery following a lot of work through the summer. Thank you to all that helped to make this possible. All the new children have settled well into the nursery and with our theme; 'All about me' we are getting to know them quickly.

The children have drawn pictures of themselves, looked at who lives in their homes and considered their own likes and dislikes, as well as those of others. Following our refurbishment, we organised an open day on Saturday 30th September 2017 between 10 and 12am for all Prospective parents and their children. We look forward to showing you the nursery. You will have an opportunity to meet the staff and find out how we can ensure your child has the best start to their Early Education at Birchanger Nursery. Information will also be available about our Forest School session that is run weekly. If you are interested in a place at our setting please contact us via email; admin@birchangernursery.org or call us on 01279 810 800. *Clair Rava (Administrator)*





The Village People

Who's Who In Birchanger!

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

Where were you born?

Leytonstone in East London during WW 2, while the bombs and doodlebugs were falling all around and growing up we played on 'bombsites' without the faintest idea what a bomb site really was!

The upper branches of your family tree?

My mum worked at Unilever for many years and my dad was somewhat of an entrepreneur, he had a greengrocer's and at one time he had a shop selling bric- a-brac though he never priced anything up, so nobody knew what anything was worth if he was not there.

The lower branches of your family tree?

I have four sons, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Where and when did you meet your significant other?

In 1960, he was a friend of my brother and we were married for 39 years.

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

I love everything by Daphne du Maurier but especially Frenchman's Creek. It has it all, a Cornish landscape, pirates, love, danger and glory! On a different note my favourite film is On Golden Pond with Henry and Jane Fonda and the wonderful Kathryn Hepburn.

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

I have enjoyed all of my working life whether it be in motivational research, publishing or working for a building and architectural company. I particularly enjoyed the corporate days out where we did things like tank-driving or driving a reverse steering car! I never had a yearning to do anything else but if pressed I would have to say horticulture as I love anything to do with plants & gardening.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner - where would you have them?

My best breakfast was at the Yunos Hotel, Dalyan in Turkey. Lunch would be on the riverbank in Reims with provisions from the local Boulangerie; bread, cheese, pate and of course, local wine. Some years ago I attended a medieval banquet in Peterborough, authentic to the point that there was no cutlery we had to eat everything as best we could. great fun but a bit messy!

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

I like to think people could talk to me in confidence I would never break a promise of trust. I am not aware how others see me but I hope they recognise that quality of discretion.

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

Endeavour not to criticise others and cause unnecessary hurt feelings.

Is there a challenge you wouldn't take on?

Yes lots! wing walking, mountain climbing, anything others find adventurous I am a bit wimpish about!

What's been your most defining experience?

Getting married, though it was not a posh affair. We made our own food and the reception was in my parents' front room.

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

30 years, and though my first impression of my house was not favourable, as soon as I walked inside I knew it was the house for me I think I'm here to stay!

Don't know who it is? See back page

ABC – 123 - They all sang together in Harmony!

August in Birchanger saw the Courtyard Quartet perform in the Parish Church and as an acapella vocal group they certainly sang in perfect harmony. On the 19th August the Courtyard Quartet treated the audience in the church to a dazzling selection of "Songs of Summer" and everyone was wowed by the virtuosity of Sara Brown – Soprano, Jan Robinson – Alto, Geoff Blyth – Tenor and Paul Durbin – Bass. The range of songs they performed included pop classics from Stevie Wonder (You are the Sunshine of my Life) and Lennon & McCartney (All You Need is Love); jazz songs from Cole Porter (I've got you under my skin) together with traditional melodies some dating back to the 17th century (Weep no more thou sorry boy – Thomas Tomkins 1572-1656). Our own favourites were Mr Sandman (Pat Ballard) and Fields of Gold (Gordon Sumner of Sting) and if all this weren't enough we were also treated to Kate McPherson who played the Church Organ brilliantly. We understand that the Courtyard Quartet will be coming back later this year for another seasonal performance and we will certainly be clamouring for tickets. *Cathy and Ray Gooding*

New Calendar from SSE

The 2018 Community Calendar is now available by mail order and at outlets across Uttlesford and East Herts. A regular favourite, the calendar once again highlights many stunning locations in the shadow of Stansted Airport's operations which would be impacted by expansion plans. The calendar makes an important contribution to SSE's fundraising efforts, as well as raising and maintaining awareness of the special quality of the region, and we hope you will continue to support the initiative as you have done in previous years. The A3 format calendar is priced at just £7 and is available in sixteen outlets, as well as from our office in

Molehill Green and from our volunteer sales team.

Mail order and gift copies (including for overseas addresses) can be organised using our online form here.

<http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html>

For further details call; 01279 870558

Email info@stopstanstedexpansion.com



Last month I talked about ancient woodland. Birchanger Wood is an ancient wood and, as with all living woodlands, we do have fallen trees. When some of the larger fallen trees, whether victims of old age, disease or high winds, are dismembered, they often display timber

of unusual grain and colour - too good for simply using as firewood - and so some of this wood is put to one side with the hope that we can find alternative uses for it. Two of our woodland volunteers are keen wood-turners, so some of the 'interesting wood' finds its way into their hands to be turned into bowls, goblets and other items, but there is too much just for two people and some is taken along to the local club (East Herts Woodturners) for sale or for use as raffle prizes. On Saturday, 19th August 2017, the Trust invited the East Herts Woodturners to the Compound at Birchanger Wood for an Open Day. The turners were able to select their own timber from our wood-piles and we cut it to size for them. This year, to broaden the appeal of the Open Day, we set up a couple of lathes (running off our generator) and two members of the club demonstrated the techniques of wood-



turning to visitors. The resulting Harry Potter wands were a great success with the younger visitors and several small wooden bowls also found new homes. There was additionally an extensive display of previously turned items, made by one of the turners offered for sale. All of

this activity and expertise combined to make a most enjoyable and successful day which we hope to repeat next year, perhaps with some added attractions. In addition to all the wood-turning going on, some lucky visitors were able to see one of our rescue hedgehogs, although only briefly as it is not good to disturb them too much during the daylight hours when they are sleeping. I am most grateful to Roger Wilmot, Trustee and Treasurer to Birchanger Wood Trust, and a regular Birchanger Wood woodland worker, for this article and photograph. *Daphne Wallace-Jarvis*

The Gardens of Easton Lodge

Can it be the end of the season already? Halloween is upon us and October 15th will be our last open day of 2017 and will showcase our pumpkins! The pumpkins have taken over one end of the Walled Kitchen Garden and are swelling so should be a good weight for our traditional guess the weight of the pumpkin.

Our Saturday volunteers have done us proud this year, also growing a range of vegetables, which we have been picking and selling at our open days. And at our Apple Day we featured our herbs as well as our apples. Children's activities will be Halloweeny! We have croquet for those wanting to play - did you know that the game probably dates back to the early 17th Century? Samuel Johnson's 1755 dictionary referred to the game of "pall-mall" as "A play in which the ball is struck with a mallet through an iron ring".



Croquet then became fashionable and current rules were set in Victorian times, so we are still very much playing the game as the Countess of Warwick and her guests would have done on her lawn. The treehouse will of course be open and will provide a good vantage point for autumn colour in the lime wood. Gates will open from 11.30, with last entry 4.00pm, and there will be warming soup (should that be needed!), locally sourced bacon and cheese rolls and homemade cakes. For more information go to our website or Facebook page, where you can see more about what our volunteers have managed to achieve recently. *Jill Goldsmith*

Post boxes still alive and well

We are in an age of texts and emails but we all use the local post box from time to time. What a lovely sight those bright red boxes are.



Britain's first roadside pillar boxes were installed in 1852 in St Helier in the Channel Islands following a recommendation by Anthony Trollope, then clerk to the surveyor of the South West District of the Post Office. Since then there have been many different styles. Wall boxes were introduced in 1857 and boxes attached to lamps in 1896 to serve more rural communities. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to have her royal cipher, VR, displayed and each monarch since has had their own design. Even during the brief reign of Edward VIII, 161 pillar boxes were cast. Many are still in use but, as far as I'm aware, there are no ER VIII boxes in the Hundred Parishes. At least fifteen VRs are still in service around the Hundred Parishes, all in our Essex parishes. As far as I know, we have no round, standalone Victorian pillar boxes. All are wall boxes, built into a wall, including a tiny one at Roast Green, Clavering. *Ken McDonald Secretary*

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Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet	Wendy Mitchell	01992 812781
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	01279 813193
BAGS	Liza Clarke	01279 815444
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	The Manager	01279 810800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
Builders	Another Level	01279 814273
BSSC Club	The Steward	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	Lucy Creask	01279 799377
Dog Grooming	Fiona	07484 673179
Essex Tai Chi	Mary Dann	01376 342416
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Lab Tots	Sophie Mitchell	01763 274405
Men/Boys Hair	Emma Marks	01279 814273
Over 60's club	Jean Camp	07843 707249
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814773
Physiotherapy	Chris Lansdowne	07809 879868
Public Safety	Alex Stewart	07846 467575
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	John	01279 815913
Village/Church Hall	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Zumba Gold	Tam Coxall	07783 421311

Village Church Hall Future Events



Tea Room

The 'Tearoom' is open every Wednesday offering lovely home-made cakes including gluten free choices, takeaway teas and coffees. Open from 2.0pm to 4.0pm.

For bookings or enquiries please contact Pam on 07702171744

St Mary's Church News



Church services

1st October	11:15 am	Matins traditional service
8th October	11:15 am	Special animal service
15th October	11:15 am	Family Service
22nd October	11:15 am	Holy Communion
29th October	11:15 am	Matins traditional service

Church News

Stop press!

All Services will start at 11:15 am from the 1st October.

New Email

St Mary's Church now has its very own email account! Please contact us at stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com Let us know if there is someone in the village who needs our prayers, or help. Email us if you have a query or just want to know what's on at the church.

Church open day

The Church opened on the 11th September and welcomed a gathering of local people for a cup of tea and coffee. The conversation was flowing as well as the opportunity to buy items from our bric-a-brac stall. This will be a regular slot the next one being 13th November, 10:30 – 12.00. Come along and see what it's all about! Who knows this could be a regular slot in your diary!

Special animal service 8th October at 11:15 am

St Mary's church will be celebrating the life of St Francis of Assisi by holding a special animal service at 11:15 am. All animals are welcome, as long as they are well behaved, poop bags supplied. If you're animal is not able to attend then please bring a photo to receive a special blessing. If this is successful we hope it will be a regular service in future. Let us all thank God for all animals. They mean so much to us all and provide unconditional love and companionship.

Coffee morning at Moorswood

10th October 10:30-12.00 all are welcome.

Pilgrimage to Canterbury 28th October

The three parishes of Birchanger, Farnham and Stansted will be joining together for a day trip to Canterbury Cathedral where we will be given a special tour of the Cathedral as well as take part in the evensong service. There will be some time for lunch and to explore the city. The cost for the trip by coach will be £30-£35 if you wish to book a place please contact us via email; stmaryschurch.birchanger@gmail.com Or call 01279-813474, we hope you can join us.

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The Birchanger Village Magazine is published on behalf of the people of Birchanger and distributed free to 450 households in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the magazine or any organisations or institutions represented. Material sent to the editor will generally be printed as received providing it is considered suitable by the magazine team. The editor reserves the right to edit content if considered unsuitable or where insufficient space is available. All material should be submitted by the 16th of the month to be published the following month.

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