



Birchanger Village Magazine

October 2025 Issue 273



'Harvest Festival is different nowadays in the green belt'

"When witches go riding and black cats are seen, the moon laughs and whispers 'tis near Halloween" Unknown



Fifty Shades of Grey?



Birchanger and Stansted Parish Councillors, District Councillors, the deputy leader of Bishops Stortford Town Council and a representative from Birchanger Residents Association met with City & Country on Tuesday, September 9. City & Country (C&C) had obtained a pre-application report from The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). According to C&C in the pre-application report the inspector stated that parts of the *green* belt between Birchanger and Stansted were *grey* belt and suitable for development. When challenged on this C&C backtracked and said the sites were "potentially suitable for development". At the time of writing they have refused to share the Inspector's report with us. Four sites between the two villages are now being proposed by C&C for development. Sites A and B are in Birchanger and sites F and G in Stansted Mountfitchet.

Number of houses on each site: A = 75 B = 135, Total in Birchanger 210 (number may increase on site A). F = 28 G = 261. Total in Stansted: 289. Grand Total 499.

The local councillors and other representatives present at the meeting were unanimous in expressing their opposition to the C&C proposals. Discussion followed regarding various issues including:



- Encroachment onto the green belt
- The inevitable rat running through Birchanger Lane.
- Number of extra vehicle movements and impact on all roads.
- Accident "black spot" at junction of Birchanger Lane and B1383.
- A120 impact plus extra traffic from Bishops Stortford new housing.
- Construction traffic access onto all sites.
- Inadequate school places especially in Stansted primary schools.
- Access to doctors and dentists.

A further 2,000 new houses are to be built in Bishops Stortford in addition to the thousands already constructed. Bishops Stortford Town Council are extremely concerned about the extra pressure on their services which will undoubtedly follow if C&C get planning permission as Bishops Stortford is the nearest town which residents will inevitably gravitate to. C&C were unable to adequately address our concerns on these major issues. The Parish Councils and others are to meet with C&C again following their public exhibition on September 18. City & Country are aiming to submit their outline planning application at the end of October. The Parish Councils will keep residents updated. Angie Driscoll, Chair, Birchanger Parish Council

Inside this months Autumnal delight!

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The_Ed's InBoxBag ©

Dear Villagers,

Thank you for the kind words and emails I've received about my first edition. I hope to keep improving things, and keeping it light. As we move out of Summer and into the Autumn, October means Halloween and Trick-or-Treating (see page 9). When you see the bright faces of the kids in the village looking to collect sweets at your door, be kind and give them the E numbers they crave. It's wholesome to imagine the laughter and joy of the families as parents try to get them to sleep later, having run laps of the club or pub trying to catch them. This is what Jason's ski-mask was meant for. Just wake them later wearing one. They won't want to Trick-or-Treat ever again. *The_Ed*



Dear The_ "make-weight" _Ed,

I tried to make the Blackberry Jam from the last edition but it was cack. All the stupid references to drinking wine and removing scum. I suppose you think you're funny but you're driving a wedge through the professional fruit conservator community. Enough already. I burnt my fingers too and am typing this with my toes. Please consider your position. *Yours angrily, Mrs F Cradock.*



The third and final lazy inclusion of the Blackberry GIF

Dear Mrs Cradock,

I've considered my position but it doesn't sound nearly as funny as yours. I would suggest you sling your hook but as you are 'in a jam' and can't use your hands, I suggest you 'jog on' instead. Or try this months great punch recipe on page 10! *The_Ed*



Dear The_Ed,

I'm sure many villagers are wondering, what exactly is an 'InBoxBag' ©? You threw that right in last edition without explaining it and as a Gen-Z I need everything explained and a section saying "What to Expect". I've enclosed my picture when I auditioned for Harry Potter. I was never chosen but I tried and it's taking part that counts Mum says.

Yours sincerely, Master Charles & Lady Karen of Churton



Dear Master Charles & Lady Karen,

Funny you should ask because actually nobody else has. Consider my InBoxBag © as a way of expressing equality and fairness, e.g. I will accept emails (the InBox) or actual letters (the MailBag) - there is no preference or discrimination. Total Gen-Z. Think of it a bit like our carefully named Church-Village-Village-Church Hall, it's there for one, it's there for all. Oh, and taking part *isn't* winning. Is that picture your Mum or your Sister, or both perhaps? *The_Ed*



"Sign of the Times" makes a very timely and welcome return!

Rarely has the village needed a more symbolic uplift than the return on our village sign, which the observant would have noticed being re-installed this month. The unobservant majority of us possibly hadn't noticed it had gone for it's Summer holiday 'scrub and brush up'. It's a reminder of the longevity and status of this beautiful village we are all lucky enough to live in and must fight to conserve!

Thanks go to the Parish Council and Jay Leavers for arranging the telehandler.

Liz Godwin's News & Views



Another Development Battle For Birchanger

It is a sense of here we go again. It doesn't seem long since we fought and lost the battle over Rochfords. Now it is happening all over again.

There are perhaps more positives for Birchanger this time. Nobody should face living directly under a flight path. It poses a danger to planes as well as those living underneath the flight path. Stansted Airport has plans for a second runway which makes the problem even worse. Who in their right minds would buy a house with a flight path directly above it?

Last time there was a major development proposal of this size in Birchanger, almost all of Birchanger supported the Parish Council in their attempt to have the application dismissed. They met many senior officials from the company and gained the odd concession but certainly did not win the war. However we still had farmland between us and Stansted. This land is now under threat of development and this time we could lose the lot and become one continuous sprawl or perhaps just another district of Stansted. Birchanger is a very individual place and must be allowed to remain that way. It must not be allowed to lose its identity. It is an ancient village as mentioned in the Domesday Book.

(The_Ed: See Dive into the Archive, page 9)

So if you are against this proposal please make your opinions known to the District Council in a clear and concise way when the time comes. Whatever your thoughts are, they are important to the success or failure of the scheme.

Janet Bowser 1942 - 2025

On Wednesday 20th August I said goodbye to a friend and neighbour of over 60 years. Janet was one of eight of us that bought a plot of land in Bradley Common in the Spring of 1964 to self-build our homes. Janet and myself were engaged but not married so it was a big undertaking. Janet lived there until two years ago along with Jim when she moved to Saffron Walden. Jan was one of the first people to start the over 60's club, also a youth club in the church hall. Along with like-minded people in the village a drama group was formed, they would put on plays but more popular were the old-time music hall evenings. Many of the people who took part have now moved away. For many years Janet was a fiesty member of the Parish council. This is just a brief outline of her life in the village, some of you will remember her for other things she was involved with. She is a friend who will be missed.

Rosemary Saward



Stansted Assets

Have you noticed the white Touchpoint vans going busily about their errands in Stansted?

The estimable Paul Chambers, founder of Touchpoint, has galvanised an energetic band of 'assets' aka local volunteers to supply many different services to Stansted. At the u3a monthly meeting, he reminded, thanked, and impressed everyone with the project's truly dynamic work. Touchpoint was initiated by Paul after he carried out a number of street surveys and identified different needs in our community alongside a wealth of untapped expertise and willingness to help. With astute and creative planning Touchpoint now has 190 active volunteers, 9 Food Share points across the neighbourhood, a community radio station, kids' teatimes, Sunday afternoon movies, bereavement counselling, a memory cafe. It counters isolation and other serious issues through compassion. Unsurprisingly, the u3a audience was highly attentive, some departing the meeting intending to join in Touchpoint, all thankful such altruism is at work in our neighbourhood.

The next Monthly Meeting talk on Thursday, 16th October, will be "Make Do and Mend" given by Amanda Sutherland whose experience of Costume Design and working in Theatre and TV promises to inspire creativity in the re-use of those out-of-date clothes clogging up the wardrobe! Also, the Saturday Seminar on 4th October has a very intriguing topic in store; "Henry 1 - England's most formidable King", which will be delivered by Dr. Hugh Doherty, lecturer in Medieval History at University of East Anglia.

There are also three new Groups being added to the menu! A new Pilates class, a Musical Appreciation Group and Understanding IT.

Remember you can find out about such talks and all the classes and activities happening at u3a by visiting the website: <https://stansted.u3asite.uk/> or contact us on 07874 385541; please leave a message including your name and phone number if nobody is available to take your call.

Julia Cook



Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month in the village hall.

Next meeting:

Wednesday October 29th

A talk on the benefits of counselling from our local qualified counsellor

bags@birchanger.com

Rosemary: 01279 814678 - Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Puzzle Page

Hubble, bubble, puzzle trouble -
this month's theme:

HALLOWEEN



*The Hound of the Baskervilles
at a break in filming*

1. Find 10 references to
the theme in this grid.
Words can be in any
direction >>> >>



2. Unscramble these:

HALLOWEEN

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. LALSBYEE _____
2. RASCY _____
3. TRKIC OR RETAT _____
4. OPSKOY _____
5. WWRLEEFO _____
6. CDNYA _____
7. EISHWCT _____
8. HDANEUT OHEUS _____
9. RVGREAADY _____
10. MTOUSESC _____
11. CHNIDRL _____
12. SBEZMIO _____
13. AHWOLNEEL AISRETP _____
14. BCKALCTA _____
15. PDISSRE _____
16. ETKRNENSFAI _____
17. SPYEEL WLOHLO _____
18. MORSSENT _____
19. STHSOG _____
20. SIEPRMAV _____

3. Answer
these topical
questions of
the month



- A) What historical event happened on October 12, 1492?
- B) Which major world event started on October 29, 1929?
- C) Who was assassinated on October 31, 1984?
- D) On October 1, 1949, which country was officially founded?
- E) Which amendment was passed in the U.S. on October 28, 1919, initiating Prohibition?



Last Month's Answers

Wordsearch: Bradley Common, Tot Lane, Digby Wood, Harrisons, Three Willows, Churton, Duck End, The Cottage, High View, Wood Lane Word Game: Petanque

"You may be a puzzle, but I like the way the parts fit" Frank Sinatra

What are your favourite puzzles?
Let The_Ed know and we'll try and get them in! magazine@birchanger.com

Gordon Bleu

and his restaurant review



Sabrosa del Fuego

30 High Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2LX
sabrosadelfuego.co.uk

We arrived at Sabrosa on a Friday lunchtime, so a little unfair to compare against an evening trade, but for a long time it appeared we were the only party dining; although as we were leaving, a couple did tentatively pop in to worryingly maintain a one-in-one-out policy. Not even being seated next to the window next to a plastic cactus was enough to draw in passing trade.

Three of us today, so we could try a bit more and try it we did. As usual for me in a sharing / family style arrangement I'm keen to order as much as possible so having downed our delicious (perhaps marginally too sweet) cocktails, it was straight into the main menu, with excellent and hearty portions of tacos, burritos and quesadillas consumed. The fillings for each are essentially the same, so whichever you choose from chicken, beef, pulled pork or veg, it is only the form of carb that you choose that differentiates them. Other delights, served hot, nicely presented and at good intervals included patatas bravas and halloumi fries. Ok ok the latter may not be a typically latin dish but wrapped in panko breadcrumbs, they were delicious. Plenty of fish and chicken options as well as a peculiar artichoke arrangement which tasted pickled rather than fresh and was a somewhat mild and pleasing alternative to the other spicier offerings. I stayed clear of the paella, perhaps unfairly concerned that it would not be freshly cooked, especially given they do individual servings which would take a great deal of effort on their part.

The only real failure for me was the gambas. Perhaps they weren't particularly fresh as the texture was soft and they lacked flavour. Even the garlic, chilli, white wine and olive oil they were swimming in just didn't give it any punch. Oh and they were barely warm.

Kudos to the staff who are lovely, attentive when needed and engaging in conversation. Particular praise for the gentle suggestion to go for the smaller portion of nachos given all the other tapas we'd ordered. It was a good call.

The wine list is plentiful and very reasonably priced with largely European options. Catering for all tastes and preferences, they have both a set and tapas menu for lunch, plenty of gluten free and vegan options but for some reason they also have a sunday lunch menu.

My advice is to go and experience it while you can! 4/5

THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

And so we come to the last month of the season at the Gardens, with heavy morning dews and mists, lifting to glorious deeply intense blue skies (when the sun shines!!). Some leaves have already fallen due to the drought in the spring and summer - will the lovely autumn fungi have spread or retreated? The best colour in the Gardens is usually right at the end of October, but will it be early?

The Gardens remain open on Thursdays to the end of October, 11.00-3.00pm, and provide visitors with hot drinks and homemade cakes. The last Sunday Open Day of the year is on 19 October, and will be fun for all the family. Children will be encouraged to enjoy spooky corners of the woods, Halloween craft activity and garden games. Our Archivist is planning to focus on the history of the trees in the Gardens and the Archive Room will be open for visitors wishing to learn more about the Gardens' design and people. Bishop's Stortford Ukelele Society will get visitors singing along, to their strumming of popular tunes. The gate opens at 11.00, with last entry at 4.00pm. For more information go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Our volunteers work in October to make the most of the last flowers, by deadheading and tidying around them. It is also a month for planning the winter season's work. We look for sites to plant a few additional ornamental trees, to add to our range, and we plan changes to beds and borders. We will be giving further thought to trees and plants for dry areas of course, but in wet weather we also have boggy areas. And there is always room for new bulbs. There is maintenance work to plan too. The Trust welcomes new volunteers throughout the year and those interested can drop us a line on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk. Jill Goldsmith



UK Teens on holiday 2025 getting pics with the club DJ

THE INTERVIEW CONSISTS OF THREE QUESTIONS..



The King Charles one pound coin released soon

What's On In The Village?

Tell The_Ed about any event you want the village to know about and he'll drop it here.

OCTOBER

by Flossie Benton Rogers

October, with her black satin eyes, came flashing into autumn. Her midnight hair streaming behind by Zephyr's wildness, her long orange dress fluttering about her body, her lips singing Maenad songs to the trees. Thus she came, and laughed with the moon.

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE BEATLES BUT THEY KNEW HOW TO DEFEND A FREE-KICK.





Birchanger Witch?



Household Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. (Some exceptions)

Garden Waste Skip Outside the Club on Saturday Between 15.00-16.00: 11/10, 8/11

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.						
		1 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	2 Black Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45- 20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	3 Church Hall: 09.30 - 11.00 Apton Dance private lessons 15.30 Ellouise Dance	4 Church Hall: Apton Dance: 09.00 Apton Mini 09.45 Kids Latin 2 10.30 kids Latin 1 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	5 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
5 Church Hall: 09.30- 11.00 Ayatana Yoga 16.00- 18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	7 Church hall: 09.45- 10.45 Ballet Apton Dance: 17.30 Teen Latin 18.45 Teen Street 19.30 Adult Street 20.15 Rock'n Roll	8 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	9 Green Bin Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45- 20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	10 Church Hall: 09.30 - 11.00 Apton Dance private lessons 15.30 Ellouise Dance	11 Church Hall: Apton Dance: 09.00 Apton Mini 09.45 Kids Latin 2 10.30 kids Latin 1 BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	12 St Mary's Church: 10.45 Matins Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
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27 Church Hall: 09.30- 11.00 Ayatana Yoga 16.00- 18.45 Ellouise Dance 19.00 - 20.30 Apton Dance Latin/Ballroom	28 Garden Bin Church hall: 09.45- 10.45 Ballet Apton Dance: 17.30 Teen Latin 18.45 Teen Street 19.30 Adult Street 20.15 Rock'n Roll	29 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 16.15-17.15 Ellouise Dance 18.30-21.15 Apton Dance	30 Church hall: 12.00 Line dance 16.45- 20.30 Ellouise Dance BSSC: 20.00 Bingo	31 HALLOWEEN Church Hall: 09.30 - 11.00 Apton Dance private lessons 15.30 Ellouise Dance	"So, what's this Full-English thing you want me to be part of?" 	

For The Love of Dog - Birchanger Fayre Special

Please send in your snaps (any pet) and a short story or description. The winning picture each month gets an incredible FREE dog treat from the club.



Simply present this magazine to Terry at the bar and choose your tasty canine treat from the array of options. Note: If the winner is not a dog, you can choose a free (small) bag of crisps.

This month's winner is Brody, aged 4, owned by Steve and Hilary Austin quote - "over reacting to a mild assault by a local pooch". A brilliant picture and a well deserving winner! *The_Ed*



"Feigning the Pain" - He went down like he was shot Ref!

Some fantastic dogs were on show at the Birchanger Fayre in September. Shown below are a handful of the very worthy winners of the various dog show disciplines. The oldest, the youngest, the best bitch and 'best looking' gongs were awarded to the owners as the dogs looked on with envy. Fin and Fur were sponsors, but there were no fish evident.

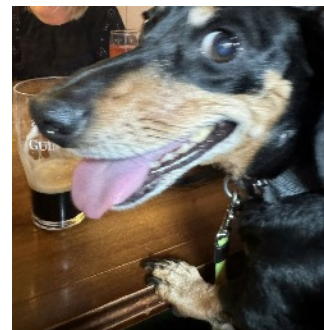


The weather held, and the 'ale it were fine'. Roll on next year and congratulations to everyone involved especially the club staff, stall owners and dog show hosts for such a well organised day!

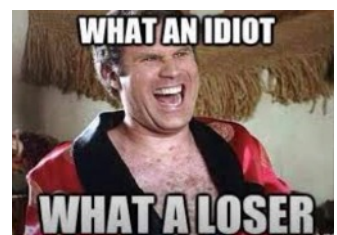


As a timely reminder that it's not ALL about dogs, here's Bagpuss!

For young readers, Bagpuss was a unique hand-knitted cloth puppet created for the 1970's children's show of the same name. If YOU love cats, and you have one that isn't made of dish clothes and stuffed with old tights, please send in your pictures so they can compete against these darn dogs, especially the disaster of an animal 'cat-fishing' below.....



After last month's failure, The_Ed's dog has gone off the rails and is caught 'splitting the G' down at the local. It even spun up some AI rubbish showing her in a rosette she didn't win, at a Fayre she didn't attend. It's all attention grabbing. Don't approach it.





The Village People. This month: Gary Sanders

Each month we will feature a person, couple or family from the village. If you would like to send in your picture and answer the questions below (or similar of your choice) just email The_Ed.



1. Tell us a bit about yourself and what and when was 'life before Birchanger'?

I'm 71 and am a local lad as born in Rye Street Hospital Bishops Stortford. I have worked in engineering most of my working life having left school at 14. I have run my own business and am now semi-retired. Gilly and I married in 1974 and have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. I am known in Birchanger for my Hot Rods and Motor Bikes and being very handy with a welder.

2. When did you come to Birchanger and what were your first experiences?

We moved to Birchanger in 1980. Having already many friends here we settled very quickly. Lots of young families like ourselves.

3. What do you like most about the village?

Great location. Sense of community. Great forgiving neighbours (I am not known for building quiet subtle vehicles).

4. What would you change if you could?

Not much, but a footbridge over the A120 by pass through to the other side of Birchanger Wood would be great allowing people to enjoy both sides of the wood and giving access to shops. Decent pavements throughout the village.

5. What's your best memory of the village so far?

The late 80s early 90s some great Fancy Dress/Themed parties were held in the field behind our house lasting most of the weekend. Most of the village attended making huge efforts with their costumes. Of course, many good nights in the club.

6. Any advice for people who have just moved here?

Join the club, you will make many friends. Know your neighbours.

Birchanger Cribbage Winners!

On Tuesday 2 September the Birchanger Cribbage team were awarded for their performance in the 2024 league. Captain Barry Trott won the Captain's Cup. Tony Wilkinson won the Singles Shield. The rest of



team won the Performance cup. The above photograph shows the evening's presentation held at The Takeley Social Club. Left to Right: Barry Trott, Tony Wilkinson, John Smith (sitting) Peter Booker, Victoria & Barry Perry.

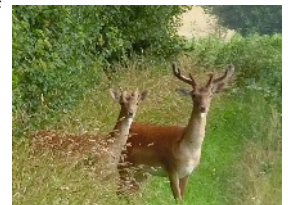
THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

Recently, I was privileged to watch two bats flying around my garden. They were so quick and acrobatic it was difficult to keep them in view. Bats and their roosts are legally protected so must not be disturbed.



Bats are mammals, giving birth to live young. It reminded me of how lucky we are in The Hundred Parishes to have so many wild mammals in our mainly rural area. There are several kinds of deer locally, mostly Fallow, Roe or Muntjac. Larger herds are usually Fallow deer which have

"palmate" antlers, shaped like the palm of a hand. The smaller Roe deer may be seen in smaller groups – they have a white rump and no visible tail. Muntjac are smaller still and tend to be solitary; they have horns and "tusks" - downward-pointing canine teeth.



Out enjoying our latest walk, number 188, my wife and I surprised two hares who disappeared at great speed when they spotted us. They can run up to 45mph over short distances.

We regularly see foxes in our garden, usually courtesy of our inexpensive night vision camera. In the spring, we enjoyed watching the young cubs playing. Foxes seem to be a more common sight now, even during daylight, and regularly venture into built up areas. The camera occasionally spots a badger; he is usually looking for peanuts.



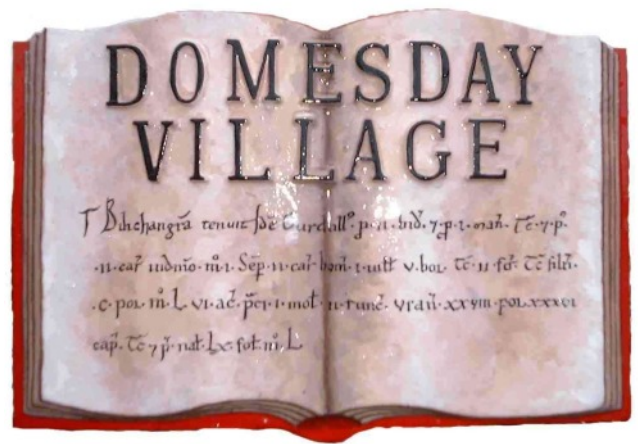
Anyone lucky enough to see hedgehogs in their garden should look after them as their numbers are in decline. They are nocturnal, so at dusk we should put out a shallow bowl of fresh water (not milk as it is bad for their digestion) and perhaps some dog or cat food. They may repay you by eating slugs and insects although our experience has been that they prefer commercial hedgehog food like Spike's Dinner. Enjoy them all.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

The Way We Woz - A (deep) dive into the Archive

A slight departure this month as we look at what we know about early Birchanger Residents (pre Facebook) as described in the Domesday book itself. So the deepest 'deep' part of any archive, by any stretch of the imagination! A translation of the contents shown on the right is as follows;

"Thorkell held BIRCHANGER for 2 hides, as 1 manor. Then and later 2 ploughs in lordship, now 1. Always 2 men's ploughs. 1 villager, 5 smallholders; then 2 slaves. Woodland, then 100 pigs, now 50; meadow, 6 acres; 1 mill. 2 cobs, 6 cattle, 28 pigs, 36 goats. Value then and later 60s; now 50[s]."



It was created 939 years ago - in 1086! But why?.....

When William the Conqueror conquered England, he had a limited knowledge of people's wealth and property in the country. He was concerned about potential invasions and attacks from enemies, and needed to raise money to fund an army. He needed to find out who owned land, and how much wealth every person had, so he could tax them accordingly and raise the necessary funds. To do this, he sent out his supporters to survey the country. This detailed record of England was called the Domesday Book. It gives historians a great source of information to find out what life in medieval England was really like.

What's that all about then? Trick-or-Treating

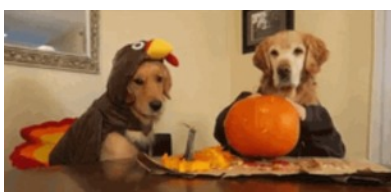
The history of trick-or-treating traces back to Scotland and Ireland, where the tradition of "guising", going house to house at Halloween and putting on a small performance to be rewarded with food or treats, goes back at least as far as the 16th century, as does the tradition of people wearing costumes at Halloween. There are many accounts from 19th-century Scotland and Ireland of people going house to house in costume at Halloween, reciting verses in exchange for food, and sometimes warning of misfortune if they were not welcomed.

In North America, the earliest known occurrence of guising is from 1898, when children were recorded as having done this in the province of British Columbia, Canada. The interjection "trick or treat!" was then first recorded in the Canadian province of Ontario in 1917.

While going house to house in costume has long been popular among the Scots and Irish, it is only in the 2000s that saying "trick or treat" has become common in Scotland and Ireland. Prior to this, children in Ireland would commonly say "help the Halloween party" at the doors of homeowners.



Trick or Treating in Birchanger 1950 ,maybe.



An unnecessary meme of dogs carving pumpkins, unrelated to this article but quite amusing.

Village Recipe: Halloween Punch

This month's delight comes from villager Dee and is right bang on trend with the theme of this month's mag - who could resist Halloween Punch! To say this is not a complex brew would be an understatement and The_Ed has had to increase the font size and add some unnecessary picture to make it fill even half a page. But, it is an extremely enjoyable drink, especially the 'grown up' version. So send your kids out into the dark, lock the doors, and get this down ya! This blood-red punch is perfect for a party. Just add a slug (*Ed - Def: A large measure times two*) of gin or vodka for the grown-up version.

- Prepare: Less than 30 mins
- Cook: Don't be daft - No cooking required
- Serves: 10 normal people or 4-5 liggers.

Ingredients

- 500ml/18fl oz cranberry juice
- 1.5 litres / 2.5 pints of lemonade
- 3 limes, juice only
- Large handful of gummi worms (*Ed: seriously??*)

Method

1. Pour all ingredients into a large glass bowl and mix until well combined
2. Drape the gummi worms over the edge of the bowl.

Yes, that really is it. Thanks Dee for the comprehensive definition put into this one!



Top Tip to make it even spooookier...

If you can really be bothered to do this then rinse a food-grade rubber glove and turn it inside out. Resist the temptation to blow it up and do that chicken gag. Fill it with water, tie the top with an elastic band and freeze until solid (the glove, not you). Turn the frozen 'hand' out into the punch (*I've bored myself even suggesting this-The_Ed*)



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB



60s NIGHT
Dave Ja Vu
Step Into the Decade of Style & Sound!
DEEDS
18th October 8pm



FREE QUIZ NIGHT
25th October

8pm

MEMBER £40.00
NON-MEMBER £30.00
CONTRIBUTOR £20.00



REMEMBER REMEMBER THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER

FREE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2025
GATES OPEN AT 7pm - FIREWORKS 8pm

FREE EVENT - ANY DONATIONS WELCOME



70s NIGHT

GET READY TO SING, DANCE, AND FEEL THE PUNK WITH

SKIN TIGHT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1st - 8pm



AGM 21st OCTOBER 7.30pm



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome new members. To join you can either complete the online application or speak to a member of staff at the Club.

For more information visit www.birchangerclub.com

For all general enquiries
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements




Village Services and Activities

Service	Contact	Telephone No.
Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814473
Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Beauty - HEH Nails	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Birchanger Magazine	John McArthur	07488 315349
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810800
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	07527 227943
Handyman	Charlie Grange	07514 783239
Holistic therapy/Reflexology	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Laundrette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Legal Services	Nockolds	0345 6460406
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814473
Pilates	Mandy Cousins	07713 272664
Printing Services	M&B Printers	01371 874695
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Soft Play/Bouncy Castles	Andy / Lucie	07956 622808
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628935
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815913

Children embracing the new school year at Birchanger C of E Primary School

The children have made a wonderful start to the Autumn Term and are already showing great enthusiasm for their learning. As we move further into the season, they have been exploring the theme of Harvest - learning why we celebrate this important festival and the



importance of thankfulness. It has also been a joy to welcome our new Reception children, who have settled in beautifully and are thoroughly enjoying being paired with their Year 6 buddies. The older pupils have shown such kindness and care in helping them feel at home. Across the school, children have been learning about our British Values and are currently practising democracy by voting for representatives in our school councils: Beliefs, Learning, Creative, and Belonging.

Finally, if anyone in our village community is interested in running a lunchtime or afternoon club at the school, we would love to hear from you! Previous clubs have included Netball, Construction Club, Book Club, Bible Craft Club, Gardening Club to name a few! Please contact Mrs Field on admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk.

Mrs Vessey, Headteacher www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

St. Mary's Church



Church News & Services

- 5th October Family Service with Pam Lee
- 12th October Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
- 19th October Holy Communion with Revd Colin Fairweather
- 26th October Matins with Hugh Mascetti

Last month I said it was rare nowadays for us to have special services in church and how much we had been looking forward to the baptism of Luca which took place on the 26th August. I have to say the service was beautiful and it was such a pleasure to welcome so many of his family and friends into St Mary's for that event.

Well, last month we had a pleasant surprise when at very short notice Revd Colin was asked to take preside over a wedding blessing for a couple who had married in America but wanted their marriage recorded here. I wish them much happiness in their future together.

Then there was the fete. Always a busy time for the church congregation preparing things for the tombola and making preserves to sell but all went well. As usual, the church stall was well supported by villagers helping to raise much needed funds for St Mary's, so I thank you all for that and particularly I thank my family and friends for all the help they gave me on the day.

Our series of History Talks in church ended on the 26th August but some people have said that they are sorry they missed them. All, being well I plan to repeat the talks next summer adding in any new information that I may have come across.

Remembrance Sunday is on the 9th of November this year. Please make a note in your diary and don't just turn up to the cenotaph, come inside St Mary's, feel the history of the place - you never know, you might learn something about those who lived here and then gave their lives so that you and I could live in peace.

Dates for your Diary

- 27th October Essex Organ association Visit
- 9th November Remembrance Service
- 11th December School Christingle Service

Prayer for the Month

Loving Lord, all your creation groans from the pain or conflict and oppression. Be in this world Lord shining your light into the darkest of places bringing harmony and peace to all the peoples of this earth.

Amen

Pamela Lee (Church Warden)

Tel: 07702 171744

pam.mark2@btinternet.com

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:
Manager: Cat Roberson
Telephone: 07475 092658
Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS



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