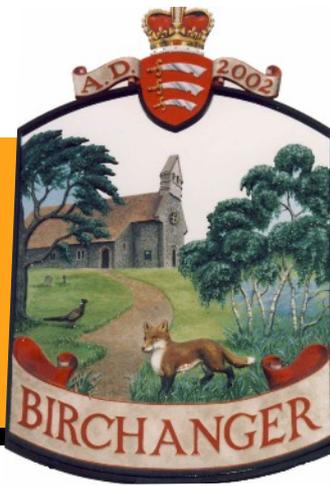


Birchanger

November 2014



Magazine

Issue 143

## The Bells are rung

Everyone in the northern part of the village is by now familiar with the sounds of the bells in St Mary's Church, and as the lovely autumnal day dawned on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October the bells became legitimately a part of village life.

This was the day that the new bell and the renovated old bell were dedicated by Bishop Roger Morris, the new Area Bishop of Colchester.

The sun was shining outside the church and its autumnal beauty spread inside the flower bedecked interior. There were arrangements in windows and on pedestals throughout the church – a glory of chrysanthemums and dahlias.

A special service of dedication was held within and outside the church and the bells were duly rung on cue. The organ sounded wonderful and the Benefice choir joined in the celebrations.



Bishop Roger Morris



Calling us to Church for 240 years

The service was followed by an excellent three course lunch in the Church Hall, which was enjoyed by nearly 50 people. Pam Lee and her team of helpers ensured that the hot meal was served promptly, wine flowed and a hum of gentle chatter soon engulfed the tables.

This was a very special occasion for Birchanger and what better way to spend a glowing October day than with beautiful music, good food and friends.

Appreciation and thanks must be given to all those who were involved in any way in making Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014 such a memorable day for St Mary's Church.

Sue Warr



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Noisy fireworks let vandals do their worst

There was a lot of noise on the night of Halloween. Not only were people out to scare each other, fireworks were going off, and there was a lot of noise around the village.

This provided good cover for the latest crop of vandals to do their worst. This they did by remodelling some of the garden scenes and smashing up the bus shelter, rendering it a no go area for anyone hoping to catch the bus.

Three panels were smashed, there was glass all over the seat and the floor was covered with highly dangerous glass fragments.

This is a direct and very cowardly attack on the vulnerable in Birchanger. No doubt the perpetrators feel very proud of themselves, but they will not stay unnoticed for long.

The wanton destruction mob continued with a cowardly attack on a car belonging to an elderly resident on the following night. What kind of imbecile does that?

## Where no helicopters fly?

A fragile wish for Birchanger I fear, but from the meeting with the leaders of the MAG Group who control Stansted Airport now, we learnt that there is a plan to avoid the village altogether which is to be put into operation.

Two helicopter firms only operate out of the airport and the management team claimed that there are only 6 flights a day. Many would disagree with this. All the pilots are to be shown the avoidance of Birchanger route and will be asked to co-operate. The proposal only asks pilots to avoid Birchanger, there is not to be a no fly zone as there is at Burton End. We shall try to persuade the MAG Group to try to change this.

They agreed that they did not monitor helicopters as they do other flights, unless there are specific complaints.

They cannot influence helicopters who are not based at Birchanger, but all helicopters are supposed to overfly at 500ft. The message is still, count your helicopters, complain when they are over your head and very noisy, but it seems that helicopters will still have free range for the foreseeable future. We intend to invite the MAG Group back to assess progress.

## Are you a young carer?

It is not easy being a young carer. You may feel you are not able to go out with your friends, have to rush home from school or college and you know that you are missing out from all the things your friends are doing. You may feel there is nobody out there to help you.

There is a young carers support worker. Her name is Julia Gray and she can be reached on 07535 793912 or email [Julia.@crossroadseastanglia.org.uk](mailto:Julia.@crossroadseastanglia.org.uk). She will be able to help.

If you do look after someone in your home and are 18 or under, you may be entitled to reduced price driving lessons if you choose to learn to drive with RED Driving School.

Not much but there may be more for you if you contact Julia.

## Forget the chemist, go to the Gym!

Well maybe, but the doctor must refer you first, so the pills may still be there for a while! There is a new exercise set of classes specifically aimed at those suffering from Stroke, Cardiac Diseases and COPD which might be of benefit to you. The classes will be run from all the Leisure Centres, including the Romera Centre. All you need to do is to see your GP to get his permission first.

You will meet others with similar problems and possibly find new solutions. Worth a try?

## The Travelodge is a tip.

At least that is how it appeared one day last month when the car park was full of every kind of used food or beverage container, which subsequently blew about and littered the surrounding area over the next few days. We moan about the lane which has more than its fair share of rubbish this was far worse. The mind just boggles at the management and careless attitude to this problem by those who are in charge of the Travelodge.

The problem is that there is nothing which remotely resembles a restaurant in the Travelodge, so rather than their guests eating in their rooms, they choose to eat in the car park! The result is only too plain for all to see.

Trouble is, nobody cleans up it seems.

It is the same story at the top of the lane where cars rendezvous and park. Sometimes the agencies move

these nuisances on, but they leave their unwelcome gifts behind them.

## Negotiating your way around the Supermarket

You may think you are getting a bargain, no price rise in your supermarket, but the contents of the packets do not seem to last as long. Maybe someone in your household is extra hungry. The food seems to be disappearing faster. Did you check just how much was in the packet in the first place?

You might be in for a shock. When you actually check the contents of the bag in the shop, you find fewer tomatoes, one less pear, one less kiwi and so on. The price looks the same on the packet, but you are no longer getting as much. They don't exactly advertise this do they?

## Time For Tea Time Treats?

The Wednesday Tea Room continues to be a huge success story. People are used to the weekly ritual of dropping in for a cup of tea and homemade cakes. For one day at least the diets are on hold.

The tea room is now stocking sweets in old fashioned jars and treats especially for the children. Mothers who park in the car park use it regularly, but there are a number of others who are quite unaware this is happening.

The tea room is open until 4pm every Wednesday, so if you feel your child deserves a special treat after school, why not pop in and see what the tea room has to offer?

## Driverless Buses in Birchanger.

Hopefully not until they get the technology right. In fact this driverless technology could be very difficult to imagine on any country road with rat running traffic, major bends and pedestrians with no footpaths. Our bends in Birchanger are notoriously bad, as everyone apart from strangers and inexperienced drivers all appreciate. It is this alone which protects the rest of us. There is not the fortune available to do anything about the bends and even if there was, the lane would become a much bigger rat run than it already is. Take care.

## Watch out for your neighbours

We have enjoyed a lovely warm and pleasant Autumn on the whole so far, but as we approach the winter season, the outlook is uncertain and we do not know just how bad things could be. What is certain is that in the colder darker climate, the elderly in Birchanger are vulnerable, and we all need to look out for them.

So if the weather is bad or you have not seen them that day, just check to see if they are ok. Winter can be a very lonely time when you are old or sick. A friendly face could mean a big difference.

## Free Christmas parking in Uttlesford

The free parking scheme which was operating successfully in all the Uttlesford District Council run car parks, will operate again this December.

This means that from December 1<sup>st</sup>, car parking will be free in these car parks from 3 pm, and parking at any time will be free all day from Christmas Eve until Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Grafton Green and the Lower Street car parks in Stansted, will be free all day on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> for the Frost Fayre.

It is hoped that retailers and their customers will all benefit from this. Some would like to see free parking in this manner extended throughout the year.

You can also pay for your parking by using your phone at all the council car parks. This will enable you to top up your parking if you are delayed by using the phone. Just follow the instructions on the parking machine in the car park.

The service is known as the Mipermit Service. You can also find out more on line by visiting <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/mipermit>.

## Parish Clerk

Julia Peachey, our Parish Clerk for many years, has left her post in Birchanger.

The Parish Council is in the process of appointing her successor, but until then, should you need to contact the Council for any matter, please call the Chairman Angie Driscoll on 817376, or myself on 812793.

# Poppies At The Tower

I ignored the warnings of overcrowding in the newspapers and went anyway. After all it was a kind of pilgrimage and a never to be repeated photo opportunity. So I boarded the 10:09 and headed for The Tower of London. Eventually I exited the tube at Aldgate East and walked the well sign posted route to Tower Hill. The pavements were full of people determined to carry out their mission as well. There were thousands of them and all walking the same way.

The object of this pilgrimage was to see the display of ceramic poppies called "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" by artist Paul Cummins that has been growing in the moat at the Tower of London. Each poppy represents a British or Dominion casualty of the Great War and have all been sold for charity.

Undeterred the pilgrims (me included) threaded their way to the slopes and park area that runs above the moat. By 11 am it was massively crowded, there were people six deep in a human river slowly shuffling along the narrow pathway, all hoping for that elusive viewpoint, they brandished their smart phones, Ipads, and cameras snapping anything and everything vaguely red! The visitors were representative of all things British, families with buggies, the old, the young, the disabled and everyone in between, overwhelmingly white but with a smattering of Black and Asian faces too. There were foreign tourists bemused at what they saw, not sure whether they should join in or not.

The atmosphere was reverent like a church service. The chatter in the crowd was muted there was a patient sense of calm with lots of "Excuse mes, please and thank yous, as the crowd meandered on its way and continued to grow!

Then there was the display itself. The poppies flowed from a window of the Tower spreading out over the entire surface of the moat. Tended by volunteers and service personnel, a sea of scarlet, washing the walls and ramparts of the ancient Fort. The lasting impression I had, was of the sheer scale of the thing, completely unimagined, vast but still growing.

In my case the photo opportunities presented themselves, so I took lots of shots. The sun was low in the sky which made some of the exposures difficult and must have spoiled a lot of the millions of photos taken that day.

The Saturday newspapers warned that it would be over crowded. Well it was, but I felt privileged to be there and see it for myself.



One photo does not do justice to the whole  
But I hope I've captured the spectacle and the crowds

Ed

## Remembering Bob Jennings

Bob was a very well known and much liked long term Birchanger resident for some forty odd years. His untimely death last month brought a great deal of sadness to all his many friends.

Bob was always ready to join in and to help with whatever was going on in Birchanger. He helped with innumerable fetes, village revues and was a big friend to everyone in the village. It was possibly his love of the community, socialising and his constant generosity to everybody, which led to the alcohol dependency that was to seriously affect his health in his later years.

His friends gathered last month for his memorial service in the Church. He would have appreciated the informal service, where Bob was truly remembered by his friends and he would have enjoyed the friendly wake which followed at the club.

He was one of the real village characters and always happy to support and to help everyone he came across. He will be greatly missed by us all.

# News from Birchanger Social Club

Before



After



**REFURB COMPLETE**

As many of you will have noticed over the past months we have undertaken some major works to the interior of the club. This has involved a major building project to change the layout of the club to make it more user-friendly and open.

This stage of the project was professionally undertaken, by Another Level Construction Ltd. whose workmanship has been universally praised. This was followed up by an extensive refurbishment of the entire club, with new curtains, carpets and hard flooring, repaint, new dimmable lighting, a stage light and sound system and all new practical and appealing furniture.

This second stage was undertaken by another local company, Lark Interiors is almost at its very end. This stage was particularly challenging as despite it covering the entire club, we insisted on staying open for our members during the whole time. Once again we must thank the patience of the loyal membership who stuck with us throughout the works. We really hope everyone is happy with the results, and agrees that this is now a space that even more people can enjoy. We would also like to invite those of our neighbours who haven't come in yet to come and take a look at what we've done – we really hope you'll like it! For members and non members alike we are planning a grand reopening on Saturday 13th December, with entertainment and many

**GREAT VALUE FINE WINES  
AS CHOSEN BY MEMBERS**



After a successful wine and cheese tasting event earlier in the year, we asked attendees to vote amongst a selection of wines as to which one was their favourite. Based on the votes received by members we have chosen a whole new selection of wines for the club. Whilst we still have the ever popular wines by the single serve bottle, we also have a new range to complement this. Our house wines are now only £10/bottle less than before and now of an even higher quality. We also now stock a range of more premium wines with a choice of three whites, three reds, two roses and a couple of sparkling wines all by the bottle. All of this is written up on our new chalk board to make it easy for members to make their selection. So if you're planning an evening out with friends and fancy the perfect plonk then bear us in mind.



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

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Quiz Night – 15th November



This charity quiz evening will be raising funds for the local Birchanger childcare centre and well worth a trip out for!

### Toni Lee – 22nd November



This blonde bombshell is the master of disguise pulling off numerous singing legends including the fabulous Karen Carpenter – a must watch in November!

### Poker Night – 28th November



Fancy yourself as a bit of a player? Well don't miss out on poker night later this month!

### Social Night with Tequila! 6th December



Old favourites Tequila, can get us filling our brand new dance floor

### Grand Reopening 13th December



Surprise entertainment to be announced, the grand Christmas Draw will take place – so make sure you have your tickets, and this day will be open to non-members

### Wheel of Fortune 12th December



As the club continues to listen to members and improve the entertainments package, we are introducing a new game to Friday nights. The wheel of fortune game will offer an alternative to the treasure chest for members, an opportunity to win big whilst enjoying our great range of good value food and drink.

### Treasure Chest Draw

#### 19th December



So far people have won over £6,000, so come along and you could be next!

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ  
Tel: 01279 813441

Email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com) Follow us at: [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

# George Edward Reeve



My mother and George became engaged when mum was 18 and George was 19. George subsequently volunteered for Bomber Command and began training on small/medium bombers at Ludford Magna in Lincolnshire 101 Squadron. He then took part in conversion training in preparation for Lancaster bombers. Once a crew had proved themselves they were assigned to a regular aircraft. George and the crew were assigned Lancaster W4324 SR-M (M Mother). This particular aircraft had been flown by many other crews previously before being shot up badly. Following repair it was given to Sgt Green and his crew:

The crew of W4324:

Sgt Cyril John Green (29) Pilot  
Sgt Jack Evans (19) Flight Engineer  
Sgt Roy Stables (22) Navigator/Bomber  
Sgt Blackmore Turner (24) Air Bomber  
Sgt George Edward Reeve (21) Wireless Operator/Air Gunner  
Sgt Arthur Davis (21) Air Gunner  
Sgt Gordon Richard Jourdan RCAF (21) Air Gunner

W4324 took off from Ludford Magna at 18:52 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1943 on a raid to Hanover. W4324 crashed at Geeste Munde in the northern outskirts of Bremerhaven killing all the crew. All are buried at Grave 11 Row A Plot 22 Becklingen War Cemetery Saltau.

711 aircraft took part in this raid: 322 Lancaster, 226 Halifax, 137 Sterling, 26 Wellington, and 5 B17s flown by Americans on their first raid.

26 aircraft were lost: 7 Lancs, 12 Halifax, 5 Sterling and 2 Wellington.

We are not sure whether W4324 was shot down or crashed due to aircraft failure. This would have been the crew's first mission.

Robert Johnstone-Ayliffe

There are unfortunately some gaps in our knowledge of the service men on our War memorial. I am pleased to report that one of these gaps has now been filled. George Edward Reeve lived in one of the Rochford Cottages at Stoney Common when he joined the RAF. There are many George Reeves on the CWGC website and we did not know which one was ours. That was until Mr Johnson-Ayliffe provided his second name Edward and the selection became easy. Mr Johnson-Ayliffe has done the research for me so here are the results of that research.

Historically 101 Squadron were part of 1 Group Bomber Command. They were unique in that they operated ABC (Airborne Cigar) Lancasters that were modified to transmit engine noise on the German Fighter control frequencies in order to confound their efforts to intercept the Bombers. Due to the fact that they were transmitting radio signals over the target area, 101 Squadron suffered the highest loss rate of any unit in Bomber command!

## Festive Coffee Morning



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday December 9th  
10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



## Tea Room At the Church Hall



Every Wednesday

2.00 till 4.00

Everyone welcome

In aid of Hall maintenance funds



# School News

## A Winning Team!

Congratulations to team PTA for the wonderful results in the past year. Not only have they put in place a fantastic program of events for the school, they have also raised and given to the school more money than ever before. Having raised £15,776.52 in total, they gave £4,517.11 directly to the school for equipment, then they bought Nativity Play costumes, £300 Was given to each class teacher for additional equipment specially for their class, they paid for transport of the children to cookery classes at Forest School, financed the Summer Ball, bought books for the school leavers, helped to fund transport for school trips and even bought the ice creams for the pantomime. All this and much more.

## Why does the school need a PTA?

Frankly without it, none of these extra things would happen at all. The school budget goes down, while the demands upon it go up, so every school in this country finds itself on a knife edge financially and the school could not afford to do and provide these things if it were not for the PTA. Many parents think that their responsibility for educating their children stops at the school door, but the school needs financial help if they are to make every child's school experience a memorable and a happy one. What would the experience be like without the plays, educational visits, Easter Egg Hunts, Pantomimes and Christmas lunches? It is these the children will be remembering in years to come, not the individual lessons and daily school routines.

What most people do not realise is that the PTA can be a lot of fun for those who join in and help out. Lifetime friendships have been made year on year. The PTA have shown over the years that getting together and planning events, perhaps over a glass of wine and then carrying them through, are events outside the daily routine as well as being enjoyable.

Nobody has to carry the sole responsibility for the roles which co-ordinate the group. Ownership is taken for individual events, such as Film Club, costumes for the school play and the discos, but nobody is expected to work on this on their own. It is a team effort in everything.

The Birchanger PTA is a registered charity and as such is expected to have leadership defined. The group currently needs a Secretary and a Co-ordinator, sounds scary, but nobody acts on their own.

There are plenty of people to help out and it is a situation in which it is ideal to job share. It is very easy to think that if you are the parent of a younger child, that the group is established and does not need you. It is the parents of the younger children who are needed the most. Children have this habit of getting older and when the child leaves the school, the parents

leave the PTA, but not the friends they have made while working within the group.

So if you are a new parent, perhaps not knowing many other parents, why not come to the PTA and find out what it can offer you? You will make new friends and if you do help in any of the activities you will find these friends will be there to help you.

To find out more, talk to the mums in the playground or contact Justine Doherty at [Justine.Doherty@lpib.co.uk](mailto:Justine.Doherty@lpib.co.uk)

## The School Has a New Magazine!

The new editorial team at the school have produced their first School Magazine, called The Birchanger Breeze. It comes in full colour and has been produced by a small editorial team, from years 5 and 6, who have been working through their school lunchtimes on every Friday this half term. This magazine covers the first weeks of the new school year and we can expect the second edition at Christmas.

The magazine costs a nominal 50p to cover costs, but all profits will be donated to the YMCA, which was also the recipient of the donations from the harvest appeal.

## Mid-day assistant.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic caring mid-day assistant and caring to join our highly dedicated team of support staff.

You will help provide support in the school dining hall and supervise pupils both inside and out during the lunch break. Applicants need the following:

- Experience of working with children

- To be a confident and caring person

- Patience, a good sense of humour

- Good communication skills

- The ability to work as part of a team but also to be able to use your own initiative

- A strong sense of commitment

- Ideally a willingness to undertake food safety and preparation training so that you can cover for our cook if she is absent

Hours will be 12.00pm to 1.15pm term time (plus training days if required)

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. As such, the post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

For an application form, speak to Carolyn Field at the school office.

# News from St Mary's

## Remembrance Tree

Names included on the tree will be read out on Christmas morning with a special prayer. Last year this was very popular and we have been asked to repeat it this year. Tear drops are available in church now - £2.

## St Mary's Candle Walk to Carol Service Friday 19th December at 6.45pm

Come along and join our candle walk from the Church Hall to the Church and then take part in our traditional carol service accompanied by the Benefice Choir. Electric candles and lanterns will be available for purchase on the night. Help us make this a truly special evening.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

## Christmas Day Service at 11am

I know everyone is busy putting together that special meal but just remember, Christmas is not really about presents and stuffing yourself with as much food and drink as you can manage. It is about the birth of a child that grew up to be a very important leader. Spare a few moments to come and celebrate his birth (and just have a little peace away from the hustle and bustle of it all).

## Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every Month  
Meeting Room in Village Hall  
*Doors open at 7.30. for 8 – 10 p.m.*

'A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'

Forthcoming Events

**Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> November** – Geoff Driscoll  
Talking on 'Winter Driving' and 'First Aid'

**December** – No BAGS meeting this month

**Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015**– Our A.G.M. Meeting (with drinks & Nibbles)  
*Tel. Angie – 817376, Michelle - 814481, Barbara - 813007*

### Thank you BAGS

A huge thank you to the ladies of "Birchanger All Girls Society" for their kind donation to the School.  
It was a thoughtful gesture from the ladies and very much appreciated by the School.

Helen Coop Headteacher

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# Village Diary

## November/December

November

- 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Service
  - 29<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm Church Hall  
Xmas Bazaar
  - 30<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins
- Birchanger Big Light UP

December

- 7<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins
- 14<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion
- 19<sup>th</sup> 6.45pm St Mary's  
Candle walk to  
Carol Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Christingle Service
- 24<sup>th</sup>
- 25<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Communion
- 28<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

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