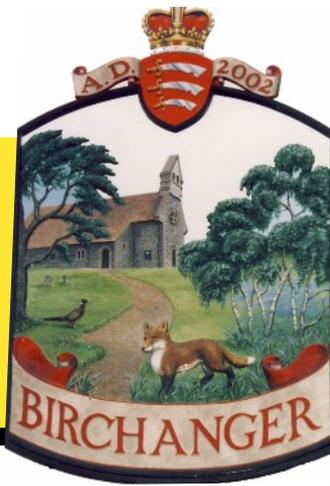


Birchanger

July 2014



Magazine

Issue 139

A CENTENARY NO ONE SHOULD FORGET

Next Month marks the centenary of the start of The Great War. All of the Cities, Towns and Villages of our country will be commemorating the first of the great tragedies of the 20th Century in some way.

In Birchanger there will be a simple ceremony at the War memorial at 11 pm on Monday August 4th that involves the lighting of candles at each corner of the memorial.

Our memorial bears the names of 37 servicemen who gave their lives for "King and Country" in The Great War, They were overwhelmingly volunteers and they ranged from the most ordinary of Men to the gentry including farm workers, nursery gardeners, household servants, clerks and clergymen.

It includes 12 names that we have no reliable information on or that have no known grave! They are:- Frederick Dancy, Frederick Blake, James Blake, George Banks, John Banks, John Green, James Hudgell, Arthur Hutley, Walter Hutley, James Forrest, William Munro Ross and Richard Willett.

The remaining 25 names have at least the dignity of a known grave, military history and established family links in the village.

Two servicemen are interred in St Mary's graveyard :- Capt William Holland and Gunner Harry Luckey.





PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Saving Money at the Expense of our Footpaths.

If you want your footpaths kept clear and weed free, the message from Essex County Council is loud and clear. You just have to do it yourself. Funding has been reduced to keep rights of way clear, so either let the paths become overgrown, or get out there with cutting equipment. It is just possible that we might get cuts by the end of the summer, but this is not guaranteed. Birchanger is usually fairly low on the priority list. Essex County Council is now suggesting that volunteers get together and do it all themselves. It also assumes that the groups will either have, or have the resources necessary to pay for tools to do the work.

The council suggests that it would be good for volunteers to clear the routes of vegetation, to build bridges and to gain valuable work experience in so doing, but just where and who are the groups they suggest for whom the "experience" would be good? It seems to point to those on Community Service or work experience, but has it not dawned on them that someone has to organise and pay to transport the groups to their work destinations, as well as to supply them with the equipment to do the job? Also what about insurance and health and safety, they usually feature prominently in all council works?

The only other way to volunteer and perhaps get properly equipped to do the job, is to join the Parish Paths partnership, which enables local volunteers to look after their own network. As to funding, it would appear that these groups would be on their own. Me getting out the secateurs will not make much of a difference to our footpaths I fear! However some people are doing their best to help to clear the mess. Thank you to them all.

The good news is that the verges were, well not exactly trimmed, but rather hacked about a bit. The bad, was that some of the road signs, including the one at Duck End, were demolished in the process. They say you can't have it all, but this is going a bit far? Perhaps the local landlords and farmers might help?

More of the Same Old Rant.

Yes I am sadly on about dog fouling again. I hate having to keep on about this, but at the time of writing owners with what must be larger sorts of dogs are permitting them to foul in a major way our footpaths, woods and open spaces. There is a great invention called the nappy sack or plastic bag which if these people were not so foul

in their habits, would actually use to pick up the offending and potentially dangerous mess. Having picked it up, it is not for chucking around the wood or foot path either though some people seem to think that is the right way to do it. Ignorant lot!

Last month someone wrote complaining that Sunday Afternoon grass cutting when so many were lunching with friends or trying to take a break before the start of another working week was antisocial. Is this not just the same or maybe worse, as it creates health issues as well?

Keep Safe When You are Out and About.

That is something we would all like to be, but if you are old and not quite so steady as you once were, safety is often the deciding factor as to whether you go out at all. There is now a scheme which is aimed at everyone who may feel vulnerable when they go out. The police last month launched the scheme which will provide a means of help and support should someone be taken ill, fall or suffer a panic attack, or other incident, a simple key fob will provide all the carrier's details.

The fob will be able to be added to a key ring, or have a ring of its own. It could be worn as well as carried in a bag or pocket. It will show the bearers name, address and contact details, all of which means that in any emergency, the wearer can feel confident that help will be sought quickly.

The more people who get a disc, the more well known and effective the scheme will be. For further information on the scheme call 101

Safeguarding the Right to Vote.

We have heard a great deal in recent years about possibly fraudulent elections, with people voting in elections more than once, or on a fraudulent Identification.

From this month a new system will try to stop this happening. New voters will have to supply their date of birth and National Insurance number. Where the electoral officer cannot match the details to the resident, they will be sent a form called an Invitation to Register, or ITR to continue to be able to vote, or to register on line. In certain circumstances it will be necessary a Household Enquiry Form or HEF to establish the number and identity of those in the property who are entitled to vote.

Most of the electorate in Uttlesford will match sufficiently to continue on the electoral role, so will not have to take

any action to be registered. Those who fall into this category will receive a letter confirming their status this month. If you have concerns regarding this process please call 01799 510430.

Is there Somebody Out There Trying to Wreck Your Holiday?

What with parents forced into taking their summer holiday in a narrow and an expensive 6 week band of school holidays, it is only too easy for French Air Traffic controllers assisted by their Belgium counterparts and others in the travel business everywhere to appear to conspire to take their industrial actions at a time when it will hurt the long suffering annual leave taker hardest. It happens at other key holiday times as well. You might well be wondering whether a peak time holiday is really worth all the expense, fuss and trouble, but if you are a parent of a school age child there is sometimes little choice. Being stuck in an airport when you should be relaxing on a beach is never going to be conducive to anyone's well being.

School holidays are plumb pickings for the industrial action vultures. Ok those vultures may have rights and a good case, but in the process of demonstrating this, they are striking blows at millions of others whom they have never met and who had never actually harmed them. There has to be a way to protest effectively without hurting the innocent, but there are so many involved in the transport industry and any one group is capable of causing complete chaos.

Sadly our own laws make this too easy to happen. Holiday makers are dependent on others for their holiday whether they like it or not. When it works it is fine, when it goes wrong it brings abject misery. The only hope is that this will benefit our own holiday industry as more Britons choose more and more to give the airports a miss and holiday at home.

Learning Tai Chi.

I never thought I would sign up for this, but Tai Chi is one of the most enjoyable forms of exercise I have ever done. Not only does this gentle exercise make me feel better, it seems to ease all sorts of muscle and joint pain as well. I do not know how it works, but on the day of the Tai Chi class I am more relaxed and positive about life.

The class runs every Wednesday from 9.30 until 11.30, with a refreshment break in the middle and a time to chat. There are both men and women in the class and the atmosphere is warm and friendly. You are not expected to be a brilliant mover or any kind of a gymnast, you can join at any time, and it is not difficult to pick up when you miss a week.

It would be a good place to go when you have taken the children to school or nursery and you have the opportunity to try something different for yourself!

Do You Need Help to Find Your Way Through the Benefit System?

The Benefit System defeats most of us, unless we have perhaps worked for the agency at some time. It is perhaps hardest for young families and the elderly who need the system most. Many have simply no idea what they are entitled to.

There is help at hand in the form of a free drop in service for help, support and advice at the Spangles children's Centre in Stansted. It will run from 10am until 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month. The centre is adjacent to the Youth Centre in Stansted, not far from the Dog and Duck pub.

Leaving School.

These days there are a lot of choices to be made for their future for those who are leaving school this summer. Not everyone either wants, or is prepared to go into debt to fund three years at a university. Major firms are becoming increasingly aware of this and are taking the opportunity to set up their own training in house and to create apprenticeship schemes.

Things people are considering are a visit to the airport employment office, there are apprenticeship schemes run by firms based on the airport. Currently there are some 60 jobs available across the board.

Some solicitors and accountants are returning to schemes similar to the old articulated clerk forms of training to attract young people in to their various training programs which result in a full professional qualification at the end. You can become a teacher through learning Assistants programs, or train to be a planner through a local authority. Degrees in other countries may be cheaper too.

Choose a university which is recognised internationally and as so many now do, run courses in English. Schemes can be researched on line, through the local employment office, or through the careers advisory service. £30,000 debt is a very large sum to owe when you are just starting out. Maybe it just does not have to happen.

BAGS

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 meetings:

Wed. 30th July – Barry Kaufmann-Wright ‘The Wildlife Man’ (Retired Wildlife Crime Officer for the Police Force for 22 years and Author)
Talking on ‘Wildlife in the Garden’

Wed. 27th August – Belly dancing demo with ‘Samirah & the Belly Belles’

Wed. 24th September – A Make up demo

Tel. for details: Angie – 817376, Michelle - 814481, Barbara - 813007

Tai Chi in Birchanger



Tai Chi for Health

Practised by millions of people over the centuries
Tai Chi is exercise for your whole body with real benefits for health

Interested? Then come along and watch a session!
There is no obligation and you will be made very welcome

Introduction to Tai Chi Six week course £30

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Wednesday mornings 9.30 to 11.30
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Classes commenced 21st May 2014

For further information phone 07914513263
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Or visit our website www.taichiacademy.org



News from Birchanger Social Club

BUILDING WORKS UNDERWAY!



Some thought it would never come, but in July we are officially embarking on the final phase of building works in the club. Over the coming weeks the team from Another Level construction will be moving in and starting the job of improving the club's layout. Those who experienced the toilet renovation last year will remember how far the building team went to ensure the minimum of disruption for members, boarding off different areas of the club as necessary. A similar approach will be taken this time around with the ongoing access to facilities for members being the club's number one concern when managing the build.

After Another Level have completed their phase of the works we will start the important job of renovating and refurbishing throughout the club, with the aim being to have a club everyone can be proud of completed by Autumn. Whilst we hope to keep disruption to an absolute minimum we would ask for members patience as we go through this necessary refurbishment, please keep an eye out for notices as we try to keep everyone informed of our progress.

CALLING ALL POOL PLAYERS



We're forming a Birchanger team for the local pool league and are looking for able players who are available on a Monday night. Please get in touch via our facebook page or email.

SECOND AWARD FOR CELLAR



At the club we constantly strive to give our members real value for money with our great value food and drinks. One thing we never want to do though is compromise on quality, which is why we have the highest commended cellar in the area.

Great work and care from the team under Graham has meant that BSSC has been awarded as the best club for real ales in the area. This follows on an award we received last year for the way we serve our Guinness. So if you fancy a pint that's below £3 but believe in quality then come check us out!

YOUR TUNES FREE SATURDAY



Listening to our members we have realised that on those Saturdays without music, people still want a little background ambience whilst they enjoy our great value food and drinks. As such we are reinstating free use of the jukebox on non-entertainment Saturdays. Just ask members of staff for details when next in.



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

SUMMER FETE – BACK 6th SEPTEMBER



Once again BSSC will be the proud hosts of this year's Summer Fete. This year is set to be bigger and better than ever, offering a great day out for all the family young or old. It is also the day when the club throws open its doors to non-members – so for those who've been too shy before, why not come and take a look around – who knows you might well be convinced by our own brand of great value food, drink and entertainment...

Andy Locksley – 19th July



With an uncanny ability to make you feel like Rod Stewart is in the room with you, Andy has a varied repertoire that will keep his act 'Forever Young'

**ENTERTAINMENT/
SPORTING FIXTURES:**

Wine Tasting – Wednesday 16th July – 19:30



Spit or Swallow You Decide – Only £5 for members

Treasure Chest Draw 18th July & 8th August



The prize keeps growing, but you got to be in it to win it

Poker Night – 15th August



Keep your cards close to your chest and you could be flush with success



Weekly events At the Club:

Weekly	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evenings

Plus Weekly Bonus Ball, Bottle Draws, Cash Raffles & Prize Raffles throughout the year.

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

Email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Letters to the Editor

Ed.

I write in response to the appeal to reason in last months magazine from Mr or Mrs X (You know who you are) and would like to point out that not everybody is so fortunate as them to have the whole weekend off after working hard all the week some people have to continue working hard into the weekend as well therefore only having afternoons or evenings to do our jobs at home. The chance to sit in our gardens with a beer or glass of wine sounds great but only possible for the privileged who have had time to do all there jobs in the morning. I would also like to point out that if the biggest disturbance in your life (you sad people) is the buzz of a lawnmower on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon then what a great place this is we live in.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the whole village to join me in **Birchanger Big Mow** at 3pm on Saturday 2nd August lets all mow away the afternoon together and maybe when we have finished can sit down in our gardens and have a beer or glass of wine or two.

Mark Lee

Last months magazine got me agitated to say the least.

Article "Thanks to Tom"

Tom needs congratulating and maybe he should apply for a reduction in council tax along with the rest of the village and most of Uttlesford. The state of the verges and the risk to life when trying to walk on footpaths and turning manoeuvres in your car on corners were you cannot see around clearly [Birchanger Lane off Stansted Road] is nothing short of a disgrace. We have had no street light working on the entrance to Birchwood Estate for months. The street light knocked down last year just passed the church has never been replaced, grass areas through the village look more like the African Savannah [watch out for lions], something has to be done. I know its not their responsibility but people living adjacent to these unsightly areas could take on the responsibility of cutting them if only to improve their outlook. Look at the difference with the church corner.

If the Uttlesford Council cannot cut and maintain the verges and paths why can't the council tax be redistributed so that the parish could become responsible for their own area and employ somebody through the spring and summer to keep the parish tidy. Sounds simple but it will never happen.

Article " An appeal to reason "

The message to whoever wrote this article is in the title. Just maybe the person mowing on a Sunday afternoon has little choice due to work and other commitments. Not everybody has a 9 to 5 job that pays enough to live on or has retired and has little to worry about, so spare a thought and be reasonable. Glad I got that off my chest, I feel a lot better.

Peter Booker Caring and reasonable person [sometimes]

School News

Sports Day is Special, but the Weather Decides.

Sports Day is keenly anticipated in Birchanger School. Mainly because it is not just Sports Day, it is a special occasion.

The children train for their races in the usual way, but Birchanger School makes the day rather different by traditionally holding the Annual PTA Summer Fair immediately after the races finish. In addition to all the usual attractions there are sausages and burgers available for everyone to enjoy, as well as a bar, tea with delicious cakes and treats galore. Except the weather had other ideas this year.

A light rain fell for a large part of the morning. This meant that the track was very slippery and the children who can be very fast, were at a high risk of falling. However the rain did stop and the fete began, about two hours ahead of schedule.

Sports Day fun starts the day before when the children have a non uniform day, in turn for a gift for the tombola. The theme this year was the World Cup, where children came in football gear and costumes from all the participating countries. Not everyone wore the English strip either, Spain was particularly well represented. The theme continued for the fair, as every stall and attraction represented one of the participating nations. This all happened before the children's top two favourites were eliminated.

Father's Day was not forgotten either, the PTA made sure that everyone went home with a bag of homemade goodies to give to their fathers. At least we think the Dads got them!

Ancient Greece Comes to Life at the British Museum.

SATS are over by the middle of May, but there is still a great deal of summer term left and for Year 6 it is a good time to catch up on things which have perhaps been on the back burner in the run up to the tests. In addition to a great deal of hard work on the school play there was time to study the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians and to complete the experience with a trip to the British Museum.

There they saw the Greek Pots and found out their varying uses. Different patterns denoted water or wine. There they could see a model of the Parthenon, while the boys were particularly interested in the weapons and the armour, the stories of the Gladiators and the many battles.

They also studied the Greek Mythology which is brought to life in the museum, with all the main characters such as Medusa, Argos of the 100 eyes, the Three Headed Chimea and much more.

They saw the many gods which the Greeks worshipped and were interested in the fact that they were worshipped at home, not just in the temples. They discovered how the leading athletes were made into heroes, perhaps reminiscent of the way certain footballers are treated now?

They learned about the 72 day process to create an Egyptian Mummy and the need to do this to preserve the bodies of the dead for their afterlife.

The children told their parents about their trip at the Friday assembly at the end of the week and it was clear that they had learned a great deal and the visit had brought their learning in class to a reality for them all.

Tea Room At the Church Hall



Every Wednesday

From March 5th
2.00 till 4.00



Everyone welcome

In aid of Hall maintenance funds

Summer Coffee Morning



In aid of Church funds

Tuesday 5th August
10.30 till Noon

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Everyone welcome



Church Hall Hire

For rates, availability terms and conditions and a description of the available facilities

Please contact

Mrs Trudy Revell
01279 812309

"Musical Director wanted!"

Newly formed male singing group in the village is looking for a musician/ musical director to help with rehearsals. 2 hours per week. Anyone with the ability to read music who has a bit of time to spare as well as a sense of humour and wishes to join us in a relaxed and easy going music session would be most welcome. Please contact Tony: 01279 813007

Painting Workshops.

Are you interested in learning to paint, sketch and try out your talents as an artist?

In Birchanger we have our own resident artist who is happy to help everyone to find their talents for art which they never knew they possessed.

All this in a comfortable studio, with people like you who never believed they could draw, paint or sketch either.

Heather Brown is running courses from her studio in Wood Lane again this Autumn.

Dates for The next few weeks are as follows.

Monday July 28th 10am to 12.30 Basic Drawing and sketching . Materials included £20.

Wednesday July 30th 10am to 12.30 Basis Watercolour materials included £25

Saturday August 16th bring your own subject and materials for instruction and advice. £30 pp

Saturday August 23rd 10am to 12.30 coloured pencils on salt paper, wildlife. Materials included. £25 pp.

Thursday 28th 10 am to 4pm. Landscapes in pastel. Materials included. £40 pp.

Don't Forget to Remember!

For those of us not on holiday on August 4th and allowed to stay up, there will be a special Remembrance gathering around the War Memorial in the Church Yard to commemorate the exact date and time when the First World War broke out that is 11 pm on the night of August 4th.

The commemoration will be short and simple and four special candles will be lit at each corner of the memorial.

Please join us if you can.

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THE THREE WILLOWS



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Village Diary

July/August

July

27th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Holy Communion

August

3rd 11.00 am St Mary's
 Matins

4th 23;00 St Mary's
 Commemoration of start
 of The Great War

10th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Family Service

17th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Holy Communion

24th 11.00 am St Mary's
 Matins

31st 11.00 am St Mary's
 Holy Communion

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