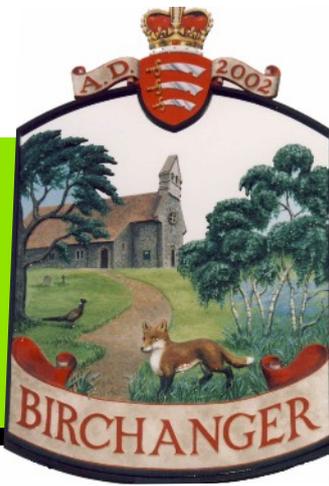


Birchanger

March 2015



Magazine

Issue 147

THE SELF FULFILLING PROPHECY

Last Month's call for traffic calming in Birchanger Lane obviously went un-heeded as there were two Road traffic accidents in the Lane in early March. In one, a reversing vehicle collided with a passing car and the other involved a motor cycle. I have had no reports of injuries relating to either accident. Does someone have to die before drivers slow down?

Other news is a wee bit thin this month but there are some notable submissions. Firstly the "Big Clean Up" that Elizabeth reports will need support and participation. It was fun the last time I did it but it needs a nice day to really succeed.

Nadia Walters is announcing her intention to walk from Lands End to John O'Groats for Cancer UK so I hope the village will respond with customary generosity.

We are also publishing the final part of Tony Wilson's excellent South African travelogue. I will be compiling this into one printable document with additional photos if any one would like it. Please let me or Tony know.

Ed

BIG CLEAN UP DAY

Did you know that 17 million pounds is spent every year in Essex to clean up the rubbish which we dirty people dump across the county, well some of us certainly do! That is seventeen million pounds which we really should not have to spend, and which could be used on much better things to benefit us all.

By the time you read this, the big clean up day March 21st may have happened, when members of the public have been invited to help clean up their particular patches, but there is always time for a clean up day, either organized, or as so many households along Birchanger Lane do already, just clear up the mess that is along their own frontage all the time. As they say, every little helps.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Airport passenger numbers Set to increase

The Manchester Airport Group, of MAG who are the new owners of Stansted Airport are clearly of the opinion that the airport can expand well beyond the 35 million Passengers per Annum which is the limit of the current planning permission, without the need for a second runway. Unfortunately with all the new technology now available, Stansted could grow bigger without an inch of new runway being laid. An application may shortly be lodged asking for just such a permission, so in yet another way, the relative peace of Birchanger is threatened again.

There may well be no new runway, but Junction 8 is at capacity now, so the application would contain new road proposals which will almost certainly take up yet more Birchanger Farmland and lead to the loss of more footpaths, hedgerows and woodland. In return there would be more noise, more car parks and ancillary developments such as terminals, hangars and such like. The uncertainty over airports has blighted the whole London area and the South East over recent years. Manston Airport in Kent, which was used by large cargo planes in recent years has closed, and guess where they are now going? Yes, you are right, it is here, so we have more large noisy plane disturbance at night and even more by day. You may have seen them in strange liveries in the last few months.

It is hard to understand why Manston closed. It seemed perfect, flat and with lots of space. Possibly it will be the site of a new "garden city"?

So our future and millions of others remains uncertain. There is one trend though which you may have noticed, even if you were unaware of the increase in passenger numbers. Planes are getting bigger and flights are fewer. New planes other than cargo are quieter, but there is a very long way to go before they will be tolerated. Blame it all on Hitler. If it was not for the war there would have been no extra long runway for American bomber planes and we might still have been surrounded by green fields.

When you need a little more help

Most of us might not like to admit it, but sooner or later we are all going to grow old. Our homes may no longer be suitable for our needs, too big, too much garden, and some support or care is now needed.

There are two different levels of the sheltered accommodation you feel you now need available in Uttlesford. The lowest level of support is known as Sheltered Housing. These schemes can offer you an individual self contained tenancy, where most have a communal area for socialising. There is a 24 hour Emergency Call system, and you can choose the level of support which you would like to receive. Gold Service where tenants are visited every week day. Silver Service where tenants receive a weekly visit. Bronze where the tenant has access to the 24 hour Emergency Call System. The rent paid is dependent upon the level support chosen, and tenants are free to change the level as they require, and as they become more frail can move to Extra Care Housing.

This level of housing is for those who do not need residential/care home support, but who want to live as independently as possible. In an Extra Care Scheme, residents have their own self contained one or two bedroom flat and there are carers on hand 24/7 to help with washing, bathing and dressing, shopping, laundry, cleaning and meals, as agreed in each residents individual support plan. Every residents needs will be different and emergency support will always be available. In addition there will be communal lounges, a dining room and cafe, treatment rooms, and even a hair and beauty salon.

In some cases shared ownership may be available, and charges for the level of support required will be paid separately. For rented properties the tenants will pay for the level of the support which they need all under one roof. There are various tenure options available. All tenants will be entitled to all the usual benefits such as attendance allowance, pension credit, winter warmth payments and council tax benefit.

Want to know more, call 01799 510 510

Are you recycling enough?

There is a great deal which you can actually put in your bin, by way of plastics, paper and cardboard, but did you know that you can also put in CD cases, plastic toys, crisp papers, and clothes as well?

Clothes must be put into plastic bags which are tied at the top, as they may be sent to charities or rag merchants as appropriate.

Shoes may also be put in, kept as pairs and again bagged up.

The Council has looked at other ways of recycling on Government advice, but the way we do it in Uttlesford makes us well up the league tables compared to other local authorities.

By the full state of some of the black bins seen in the village, it does appear that in Birchanger some people could actually be doing a lot more. check out what you could be recycling now.

Hate Incidents

Hopefully nobody in Birchanger has ever been a victim of Hate Crime, but sadly it is happening and so often, that Uttlesford District Council has trained 6 officers to help people deal with this.

Hate Crime is a form of bullying in many ways. slightly vulnerable or those who are different in some way are prime victims for these people. People are afraid to seek help, become inward looking and scared to go out and lives are completely blighted.

Hate Crime is exactly what it says it is, a crime, but victims are often too frightened to go to the police. They feel they may be wasting police time or that in going to the police, matters will only become worse. It might be easier to talk to someone at the council offices, or to contact the CAB in Uttlesford who have received the training as well. The council team can advise you and help you to report the crime to the police, if that is the best way forward. They can also issue ASBOs where appropriate and will certainly help you through until the situation is resolved one way or another.

So if this is happening to you, don't suffer alone. There are people out there who are trained to help you.

New Surgery in sight

Or so they say. The deal between all parties, doctors, developers and NHS quangos was finally signed last month and the new surgery will open its doors in Stansted along with an army of ancillary services, including dentists and other health practitioners, not mention all the shops, offices and flats which accompany the schemes, in the autumn of 2016.

At least, that is what they are saying, however with all the army of incomers, just where will they park in a car park already over crowded, never mind the unfortunate patients?

Personally, after at least 18 years of waiting, I can only believe it when it has actually happened, but the chaos may still continue in another form?

Make sure you don't miss this

There will be a party with a difference in Birchanger this year. We seem to be a village which is good at arranging big events, whoever is in charge, from the unforgettable Burns Nights as well as last year's Black Tie Event. This year's party will not disappoint.

Details of this will be given in future editions of this magazine, but the event will be both affordable and fun. You are advised to reserve your tickets early.

Details of the event will be published next month, meanwhile save this date,
AUGUST 1st.

10 K Run Is happening again

The now famous 10 kilometres Birchanger Run will be here again on Sunday May 10th, arranged as in the past by Birchanger School PTA. It is an eagerly awaited event in the running world, while those of us who are not exactly club runners can come along and enjoy a run through the countryside around Birchanger with their friends and enjoy a bacon breakfast or a burger at the end.

It is a fun Sunday Morning out for most people, and if you do not fancy running, you can take part as one of the much needed route marshals. It is a run for everyone, not just those connected with the school.

If you would like to find out more, please call me on 812793.

How Are We Caring For the Mentally Sick in Uttlesford ?

Will as far as I can see, caring for the psychiatric patients in our area barely exists. It seems that the powers that be would rather they all disappeared. Bed provision has been cut and home resources are so stretched, that many discharged from hospital patients believe they are simply myths.

This is not good if you are just discharged from hospital. It seems that unless you take matters into your own hands before discharge and insist that a support package actually exists and is in place for you, then you might be better off staying where you are. Some patients have waited six weeks for a care worker, some are still waiting. The focus is all on acute beds in our hospitals at the moment as we are coming out of winter. We have to time our illness for the summer months to get attention as well, it seems.

Dropping off or picking up friends and relatives at Stansted Airport?

Did you know that if you drop off or pick up people in the Express Set Down area at the front of the airport and live in Uttlesford, you can get a 75% discount from the £2.00 fee, meaning you only need to pay 50p a visit at the moment. However from 1st June the rules are changing to allow anyone living within 10 miles of the airport to receive a 50% discount meaning you will pay £1.00 a visit. Taxis will no longer be allowed the discount which will probably mean higher fares charged to the customer. I am sure many of you have friends and relatives who ask to leave their car with you when they travel by aeroplane, train or coach, leaving you to drive them to the airport, so it might be worth applying now before the summer rush.

Q: How do I apply?

A: You need to complete an application form and return that to Empark, who manage our car parks, together with proof of ID. Full details, including terms and conditions, are detailed on the application form. To request an application form email customerservice@empark.es

NADIA'S LONG AND WINDING ROAD

My Husband Kevin and I live in Harrisons, but have been missing for a while! We're not lost; we've been gallivanting around a bit and have some stories of travelling around the USA and Canada in our Motorhome to tire you of at some point in the future!

The point of this article is to let you know of my latest venture and to enlist any help anyone can offer please. I'm setting off on March 25th (my 60th Birthday – where did the years go?) from Lands End and intend to walk to John O'Groats. I'm raising money for Cancer Research UK because unfortunately, when you reach a certain age, you have known and loved many who have been touched by the disease; we lost one very dear and special lady. Science is at a turning point and marvellous advances are being made, but more is always needed, so my contribution will be well used I'm sure!

Here is the plan. The route I have chosen avoids big roads and travels lots of by-ways. I am well aware that this may be a little adventurous! It may be too isolated – I am walking alone a lot of the time – and I seriously don't think I'm fit enough to be battling anything but tarmac on some days so it may have to be adjusted as the miles progress. The total miles are 1,111 – yes, long way!!! My aim is to complete 100 miles per week; that would be ideally 17 miles per day, 6 days per week. Kevin has an almost equally challenging role in all this; he is driving our motorhome and having to find places to park each night so that I have accommodation.

So, there we have it – simple enough, just walk! The walking will be tough, the logistics are not easy, but the hardest thing of all will be the fund raising.

I've put out the request to friends and family to come and walk a little way with me – albeit 5 miles, a whole day or more. This invitation is open to all of you too. The idea is that all walkers would gather sponsorships from their friends and family and we would pool the totals and send the final amount to the Charity at the end of the walk – HOW ABOUT IT? Let me know if you'd be up for walking or cycling on Nadia Walters Facebook page OR at babybreeze2012@gmail.com.

I have a JustGiving page which is <https://www.justgiving.com/Nadia-Walters>.

I'll keep you all up-dated on progress and hopefully I will be unscathed and we will see you all soon to properly catch up again on the good Birchanger life!

What's on at the Church Hall?

REGULAR WEEKLY AS FOLLOWS:	THURSDAY
MONDAY 9:30 – 11:30 Birchanger Buddies Mothers & Toddlers 7:30 – 10:00 Ballroom Dancing	1:00 – 4:00 Line Dancing 8:30 – 9:30 Improvers Belly Dance In addition there are monthly meetings to be slotted in as follows
TUESDAY 9:30 -10:30 Adult Ballet 3:45 – 7:45 Junior Ballet	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1 st Tuesday of every month
WEDNESDAY 9:30 -11:30 Tai Chi 2:00 – 4:00 Tea Room 7:00 – 8:00 Beginners Belly Dance	BAGS (Birchanger All Girls Society) 3 rd Wednesday of every month.



BIRCHANGER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB MARCH 2015

FOOTBALL TEAM IN CUP FINAL:



Whilst Wembley may not be in our sights just yet, the Birchanger Sports and Social Club's Sunday football team managed to get through to the final at the weekend. They will be playing in the Senior Inter-divisional Cup Final on Sunday 29 March at 2.30pm. The game is to be played at Woodside Park (home of Bishop's Stortford FC) and we're calling on as many of you as possible to come along and cheer us to victory. The football side is just one of many successful sporting sides who are always open to new members, so whether you can bend it like Beckham, pot like O Sullivan or deal like Matt Marifioti get in touch and get involved.

receiving its finishing touches as we speak. It's really important, however, after such a period of change to check in with our members and see what people liked and disliked. We are going to be putting questionnaires in the club for members with a few areas to get your feedback and see if there's anything further we can do to improve the club. So if you're a member please make sure you fill out your responses, and if you're not a member yet – why not join and see what we've been up to!

PRINCE OF POP WOWS BIRCHANGER:



TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS:



As a committee we have been rather busy over the last year working on a number of significant improvements to the club. We've increased the space, changed the décor and furniture, incorporated new dimmable lighting as well as feature lighting and a sound system for entertainment, and our all new bowls pavilion is

February 28th saw the club packed to the rafters with people eager for an evening of high-class entertainment. Luckily Rory Jackson didn't disappoint, with an evening of iconic hip grinding and signature Jacko moves. A big thanks to Claire and the entertainment team for organising the evening, which was as busy as our infamous New Year's disco. This year we're trying out a range of new and exciting acts as well as some of our favourites, so why not come along and check us out – you won't get better value entertainment (free for members) or food and drinks on a Saturday for miles around!



Don't forget to follow us on facebook for all the latest news and information! Just search Birchanger Sports and Social Club



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

ENTERTAINMENT

28th March – Rachel’s Robot Army



Rachel's Robot Army - A cover band like no other! Formed in the deep, dark recesses of Space (Ok so it was Essex) R.R.A guarantees to have you rocking out like no other!

April 4th – Francisco Sommers



Back for a well-earned second appearance Francisco blew us away with his versatile performances last time, whether he was rocking Tina Turner or giving us his very best Amy Winehouse!

April 4th - Grand Easter draw



Make sure you come along on Easter Saturday, there will be some eggcellent prizes available on offer, but as always you have to be in it to win it!

April 25th – Colin Mc Gregor



Colin is a British performer with a total of 20 years experience within the entertainment industry. Most recently, along with his solo shows, Colin has performed in the UK tours of 'The Buddy Holly Musical', 'The Blues Brothers Musical' as well as many others.

RUGBY

21st March - England v France 5pm

**Treasure Chest –
20th / 27th March + 17th April**

Wheel of Fortune – 27th March

EASTER OPENING HOURS



Good Friday
1200 - 2230

Easter Saturday
1130 - 2330

Easter Sunday
1200 - 2230

Bank Holiday Monday
1200 - 1430
1900 - 2300

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

NEWS FROM BIRCHANGER WOOD TRUST

So, you will be receiving this write-up in April... In Birchanger Wood, the wood anemones will, or may still be still flowering, but the green foliage of the English bluebells is sitting there waiting to show its amazing dark blue bells. Look at them....the English bluebell is a deep blue, has all the flower-heads almost only on one side of the stem, it has a scent, the petals are 're-curved' and there is a creamy pollen. This distinguishes the native species from the Spanish (garden) bluebell. Check them out!

Are the buzzards back in Birchanger Wood this year? Can you hear their high-pitched call? If not now, should they nest and produce young, then you will hear them later this year as the family flies and calls to one another way above the tops of our very tall trees. On the Birchanger side of the Wood where it is easier to exit the Wood into the open fields this is a wonderful sound, and of course sight, with birds wheeling together learning to fly the thermals under instruction from their parents.

Last year, I saw two Red Kites fly over Stansted (High Lane), and again recently (February), in the sky over in Furneux Pelham. They are distinguishable from the buzzard by their forked tail. the kites are scavengers whilst the buzzards are predators. Over in the reaches of Reading, where the Red kite is a familiar sight, very little road-kill remains owing to their rapid attention and clearance.

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'

£5.00 for annual membership and £2.00 subs. each month
Come and give us a try £2.00 for the first two meetings before becoming a member

Forthcoming Events

Wed 25th March The Birchanger Voices are performing

Tel. Angie – 817376, Michelle - 814481, Barbara - 813007 Rosemary - 814678

Tea Room At the Church Hall



Every Wednesday

2.00 till 4.00



Everyone welcome

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Please contact

Mrs Trudy Revell
01279 812309

School News

Pancake Breakfast Treat.

Over 80 Birchanger Children enjoyed a Pancake breakfast at school on the last day before half term. The hall was buzzing as the children sat down to a very lively breakfast with all their friends. I think they may just have started a new tradition as everyone pronounced it a hit! A very good way to get ready for day 2 of the Inspector's visit. He seemed to enjoy the fun as well.

School Tiles Project Completed.

Visitors to Birchanger School will have a new piece of Art work to study when they come to visit the school, as the tiles which were made by staff and pupils at the school have been finally completed, fired and mounted on the wall outside the entrance to the school.

The funding was by the the PTA, and the whole project was put together and mounted to the wall by school governor Peter Davy.

Look out for them at your next visit to the school, they feature all sorts of aspects of school life, from cleaning to the link to the Church and learning.

Birchanger School's Five Star Kitchen

Sadly not everywhere we go to eat can boast five stars for a clean safe kitchen, whose staff always follow the highest standards of food hygiene and good practice at all times. At Birchanger School there are no such worries, as the Five Star rating is firmly in place. This was confirmed at last month's annual inspection.

Mrs MacArthur has made school lunches so popular at the school, that a kitchen assistant to help in the kitchen started work at half term.

You can find the star rating of any restaurant or place where food is served to the public somewhere around the door to the establishment. You might be surprised!

Mid-Day Assistant /Playleader Leader Required for Birchanger School

We would like to appoint an enthusiastic, caring Mid-Day Assistant to join our team..

You will supervise pupils during the lunch break, encouraging a range of games and activities. You will also provide support in the school dining hall.

Hours will be 12-1.15pm Monday to Friday. fewer days considered, term time only.

For further details please contact Mrs Carolyn Field in the school office.

Telephone 01279 812362.

Heather Brown's Art Classes

Winter has gone and Spring is really on its way. Time to think about trying something different again, or improving your skills as an artist perhaps?

Here is a list of the popular art classes which one of our local artists Heather Brown is running this Spring.

Sat March 14th, 10am to 12.30 Watercolour techniques.

Thurs March 26th, 10am to 12.30 Sketching

Sat April 18th 10am to 4pm, Pastels Landscape step by step

Sat May 9th 10 to 4 pm, bring your own subject for specialist guidance.

Sat May 16th 10 to 4pm, textures and special effects with mixed media.

Thurs May 21st, 10am to 12.30, Sepia ink and Watercolour step by step.

Wed June 3rd 10 to 4 pm, bring your own subject.

Thurs June 11th 10 to 12.30 Gouache on mount card, wildlife step by step

Mon June 29th 10-4pm, Oil or Acrylic on canvas step by step,

Wed July 8th 10-4pm, Bring your own subject

Thurs July 16th 10 to 4 pm, Different effects with watercolour step by step.

To find out more with prices and availability, please contact Heather Brown on 01279 815453, or email her at heather.highview@googlemail.com.

Discovering South Africa

The Kruger and Home

“Don't forget to negotiate!”, the words of a fellow traveller rang in my ears as we set off from Johannesburg for the Kruger National park. We had been speaking about one of the hazards of driving in S. A. namely the little groups of policemen & women who sit at the side of the roads under a giant sunshade or jump out from behind a tree with their speed cameras trained carefully on you when you least expect it. Anyway more of this later.

We had already enjoyed all of our trip so far, but were looking forward with great anticipation to the climax, a stay in the most famous wildlife sanctuary in Southern Africa, Created in 1926 Kruger National Park is an area of over two million hectares .



There are strict rules on arrival. First of all you must be there by 4.30pm , after which the gates are closed. We made this with about 10 minutes to spare! Next you have to get to your rest camp by 7.30. this left us with a dilemma as we were 200 km from our camp and you can only drive at 50 km per hour. However we pushed on, and it wasn't long before we were rewarded with our first sight of the animals. Herds of Zebra, grazing in the evening sun, Water Buffalo ambling across the road and magnificent Wildebeest drinking cautiously at a waterhole. As a general rule, if you are travelling behind another vehicle and its brake lights come on, it is safe to assume that they have seen something. So it was with anticipation that we slowed up behind a car stopping in front of us. To our astonishment out from the bush came a magnificent fully mature male Lion! The beast walked slowly and deliberately past both cars without a glance. To see such an

animal so close up in it's natural environment took our breath away, not least of all Barbara who was driving at the time and whose hands were frozen to the steering wheel! After that a turn of speed helped us make to camp in time!

Morning saw us breakfasting high above the Oliphants River where our 1st camp was located. The long winding river was visible in both directions from the lookout point but you have to be up pretty early to spot the elephants coming to drink! After a day spent exploring the many gravel roads surrounding the camp and seeing numerous birds and animals we took an evening safari. The view from the open sided truck is better than the car as you are up high. The guide pointed out the various game, antelope such as: Kudu, Impala, Steinbucks and Starbucks! (I didn't even know there was a species called Starbucks!) We got a close up view of some Hyena pups left by the roadside as their mother was off hunting! As darkness fell Hippos came out from the water and hauled their enormous bulk past us to feed.

The following day we drove to the second camp at Lower Sabie. Our accommodation in the first camp was a “Rondavel” typical African round house. This time we had a Tent! Albeit a very fancy tent with all mod cons including an outside kitchen. Though your food has to be stored in a locked fridge inside a cage due to those devious monkeys, who will rob you if they can. The final 2 days in the Kruger were some of the most enjoyable I have ever had. To see these magnificent animals in this beautiful setting is humbling. There is nothing quite like sitting in your car while a family of 18ft tall giraffe pass by, eyeing you from on high. Or pulling up at a dried up river bed to suddenly see a Rhino basking in the mud. We were lucky enough to see 4 of the big 5, Lion, Buffalo, Rhino and Elephant, it was only the elusive Cheetah we missed. We shall have to come again!

The long drive back to Jo'burg was luckily all on dual carriageway with 120 km speed limit or so I thought! Suddenly at a moment when my mind was on autopilot I was aware of a khaki clad figure waving me down and pointing to the side of the road. Clipboard in hand he strode up and said “ You were doing 105 sir in an 80 kmph zone! Consulting his paper he said “that is going to cost you 1500 rand (about £90) I was about to pay when the words of my friend came back to me. “I haven't got enough on me” I said (which was true as Babs was carrying our remaining money) “ So how much have you got?” After much haggling we settled on a fine of 500 round about £30 with no ticket and no receipt.

When I started this journey I called it “Discovering South Africa” and it has been a journey of discovery. I have found a country so naturally beautiful and rich in heritage that I am certain it will draw us back again. A country whose people are coming to terms with a modern world where old superstitions still hold great sway. A country where the ‘haves’ still have a lot and the ‘have nots’ are trying to get a little more. Mainly by education and hard work, but still with a small amount of guile like inserting a pointless lower speed limit on an otherwise fast road so as to fleece the unwary. But nonetheless I am optimistic for South Africa. Once it “discovers” its true self and frees itself from corruption I believe it will be a force for great good in Africa and the world.



Tony Wilson

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12th 11.00 am St Mary's
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Holy Communion

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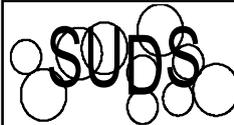
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