

NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTED

Democracy is alive and well and working in Birchanger School. The children elected their own School Council for the year, with a selection of candidates for each year group, a properly run secret ballot, where everyone's names were ticked off from a list, and a telephone voting service for those who were away from school that day. The candidates had designed their own special posters and manifestos to try to secure the votes of their classmates.

The winning candidates were announced at a special school assembly and were all asked what they hoped to do in their year of office when they were presented with their badges. At their first meeting the School Council will elect their officers for the year, and discuss just what they would like to do for the school. For Ashleigh Chaplin, Alex Roke, Eve Bottalico, Michel Earnshaw, Oona Bottalico, Daniel Crossley, Ross Chaplin, Naomi Bates, Monty Garrett, Briony Morfew, Cain Rogers, and Abigail Earnshaw it will be a year full of challenge and opportunity. Everyone wishes them well in their new role.



Hello everyone. It's time I wrote a word or two about content. This month there is a fair amount about young people. The school has been very busy with a concert performance at the Albert Hall and the children won some more friends by distributing foodstuffs to residents as part of their harvest celebrations.

There is an update from the Scout group to tell us what they did this Summer. Please take special note of the item from Trevor Stone. His working pattern does not allow him the same freedom to carry on running the Cubs and Scouts as he has been doing so if you can offer some help to the Scouts it could prevent the group from folding. I was fortunate to attend the remembrance day service at St Mary's and the attendance of the group on a cold day was very much appreciated. I have also included a poem by Paul Kadwill as a tribute to his grandfather Bert which may strike a chord with those who remember him.

There is an item from some of our young people sponsored by our district councillor Ray Gooding in which the question of a Youth Club has been raised. It raises several questions so some responses from the village might help alleviate the problem.

As a Social club member and former member of the committee I should explain the position of the club. Firstly the club is private property, it exists for the benefit of its members and is governed by rules that the members have agreed. Anyone over the age of 18 may join. Under 18s are permitted on the premises in the company of an appropriate adult club member. However they are restricted to the games room and their accompanying adult must remain with them.

I can understand that this will put off most under 18s but the club remains the property of its members and is not a public asset.

Ed

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Bad parking hinders rescue services

The most important thing when you discover a serious house fire is to obtain help from the emergency services as soon as possible. The emergency services are doing their utmost to reach those who need their help as fast as they can. It is frustrating for them and potentially devastating for those who need their services, when access to the site of the emergency is blocked by inconsiderately parked cars.

This is just what happened last month when firemen were impeded by badly parked cars in Highview. They have quite rightly complained about this. The fire victims must feel even more upset when they realise that had the fire brigade been able to make their way unimpeded, some of the

damage could have been less, and they might not have been made homeless.

Please, wherever you are in Birchanger, think about the access for the emergency services when you park your car. If you can use a garage or off street parking please do so. Many of the car parks in Birchanger are underused but the roads are clogged with parked cars. In Birchwood there is so little use of the off street parking that the District Council is giving very serious consideration to the use of two of the car parks for affordable housing, and will revisit the use of the other two. It could be a case of use it or lose it.

Another familiar face retires

Bryan Reed is a very well known figure in Birchanger. Not only is he well known for his

sporting activities in his younger days, but he was Clerk to Birchanger Parish Council, and a club committee member for over 20 years. He was the club treasurer for the past 12 years.

At last month's Birchanger Social Club's AGM Bryan decided that it was time to hang up the calculator. He hopes now to spend more time in Norfolk and to do all the myriad of other things for which there has never really been any spare time. It means that Gloria will start seeing far more of Bryan now as for large parts of the week he has been working up at the club.

The club's debt to both Bryan and Gloria was acknowledged by the club at the AGM, where everyone said a big "thank you" and wished him a happy retirement.

Night time flights to resume

Runway resurfacing at Stansted Airport is to resume this month. This will be a blow to many who, despite the resurfacing noise, have benefited from a better night's rest. If you have noticed the difference since night flying ceased, and are now being woken regularly, I would like to hear from you on 812793. The council is committed to ban night flights, but the government has left the limits as they currently exist. This is not acceptable, but we do need evidence that there is sleep disturbance in the community to start to make our case.

Switch off for Birchanger Lane?

Essex County Council has offered to install free switches on streetlights which are in the control of Parish Councils. In Birchanger's case this means all the lights in Birchanger Lane as these are the only lights in the village which are in the Parish Council's control. This could make the bends dangerous and the Parish Council would keep the lights in these locations on.

The Parish Council would like to hear from Birchanger residents as to whether they would want the lights switched off in the lane or not. Please call me on 812793.

Volunteer speed guns unlikely

There were insufficient volunteers in Birchanger to make the use of speed guns by village volunteers a viable project. A big thank you to those who did

volunteer, but it will not be happening in the foreseeable future. Speeders need not think they will be getting away with it scot free. All the police who are not usually involved with speed guns have recently been trained to use them, and can give tickets just as easily as a traffic policeman. I am told that they cannot wait to get out there and try out their new toys!

Energy saving very expensive

New ways of heating homes by environmentally friendly means for existing homes continues to be prohibitively expensive for many people, despite the provision of grants to householders. Small wind generators, sustainable fuel burners, solar powered electricity and underground heat pumps will all be costly for the average home owner to install, despite the available grants. These could still be useful to houses which do not have a gas supply, or to those who wish to invest in a new heating system. Many of these schemes are also better suited to new build, or for those planning extensions. However the renewable energy research opens up new possibilities all the time.

There are still many ways of insulating your home to cut your fuel bills and grants are available. The most effective way is to insulate your roof and to make sure that all draughts are eliminated. To find out more about available grants, renewable energy and heat regeneration, call Jake Vroos the District Council's Energy Efficiency Surveyor on 01799 510511.

Kamikaze kids

It seems that the teenagers in Birchwood are hell bent on a short life. Basket Ball nets are fine, in a proper place, but they are not fine when they totally obstruct the pavement, the players use the road to shoot at the goal, and passing cars have to date just managed to miss them. When the unfortunate motorists try to remonstrate with the youngsters, they receive a torrent of abuse. Do the parents and carers think that they should be congratulated on their parenting? This is an abysmal lack of care and control on their collective parts and indicates to the rest of us just how little they value their children.

School News

A Harvest production

The children excelled themselves at their own special harvest Festival last month. Not only did they entertain their parents and siblings with songs, pictures and harvest stories, they made their own bread and produced a vast array of Harvest Groceries, Fruit and Vegetables for distribution to some of the pensioners in the village.

The children managed to distribute some 36 odd bags and boxes throughout the day, calling in person, or leaving the groceries on the doorstep if the recipients were not at home. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Our lists may not be complete. If you do know of someone who should be included, or would like to be included yourself, please call the school on 812362.



A very new visitor

Birchanger School expects to have a very small visitor to the school this month. Mrs Ridgewell who for many years was the class teacher in the reception class gave birth to her daughter Freya on September 29th to the delight of her parents and her grandmother Mrs Howell. Freya weighed in at 6lbs 9oz is making good progress, even if she is making sure that her parents are not getting that much sleep at night. There are at least 100 people anxious to meet her when she does make her first appearance. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone!

A new date for the book week

Traditionally the annual book week has happened in March towards the end of the Spring Term. This year it has been decided to bring the book week forward, and this year it will start on November 13th.

It will be a week full of interest and activity relating to books. As well as the usual input from authors, the week will focus on traditional stories and these will be illustrated by a puppet show. At the end of the week the children will be invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character for a day when fiction really will be brought to life.

Learning to be a Roman

The children spent an interesting day at the Verulamium at St Albans. They saw for themselves how the Romans lived, and explored the Verulamium for themselves. Work on the Romans is continuing throughout the term, but there is nothing like going to see the sites for yourself. Again the children behaved impeccably and were a pleasure to take out.

Maths was never this much fun

Imagine going to the theatre for a Maths Lesson. That is just what some of the children did when they visited the playhouse for a play which actually turned out to be a maths lesson in disguise. The children loved it, and it might have helped the

many of us to whom maths is still a subject to be feared rather than enjoyed.

A Guy Fawkes day with a difference

November 5th this year turned out to be a very different day. There were not the usual fireworks but there was a very early start to the day as the bus taking Class Three and Four children to a day of singing in aid of Dr Barnardos, left the village at 8am to take them to the Royal Albert Hall. There they were joined by 800 other children from 27 schools throughout Essex for a day of intensive rehearsing interspersed with interludes in the sun in Kensington Gardens before the final performance to a busy Royal Albert Hall in the evening.

The children were joined by compere Julie Peasgood from the world of Brookside who is currently working in The Bill, and the Eclipse String Quartet. Birchanger children had pride of place on the front of the stage in the centre in their special blue tee shirts for the night which were decorated with shooting stars with a note of music in the centre. Their position meant that a great many of them found themselves being interviewed by Julie Peasgood between the musical numbers. This was something they had not rehearsed for, but which they all took in their stride.

The concert was deemed by everyone both audience and performers to have been a great success, as well as raising a considerable sum of money for Dr Barnardos. The music included songs by S Club 7 and items from Grease which most of the children already knew and liked. It was a very tired but happy coach load who arrived back at the school after 11 pm that night.

In the Pink

Birchanger children have a good reputation for making fund raising both fun and educational. Before they broke up for half term, the children raised funds for breast cancer by coming to school in pink and giving a small donation to charity for the privilege. Assembly was a very attractive picture, with everyone in various shades of pink including their hair. They learned about breast cancer, its treatment and how much more money is needed for research. Throughout the day the theme was pink and everyone enjoyed wearing the colour and the affect which it created that there were some

suggestions that they should change the colour of their school uniform!

Christmas Celebrations At Birchanger School.

There will be a great deal to look forward to in the school before the end of term. There will be a special visit from Puppets Galore, parties and the term ends with a visit to Snow White on Ice at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. It has been a long term with a great deal of hard work and the Christmas celebrations have been well earned. The children would like you to join them for-
School Christmas Bazaar at Birchanger School Sunday December 10th, 1pm to 4pm.
Infant's Nativity Play on Thursday December 14th at 2pm followed by tea and mince pies.
Carol Service on Monday 18th December 9.30 am in Birchanger Church.



News from 1st Birchanger Cub and Scout group

Summer Camp at Belchamps in Hockley

On Friday 30th June Birchanger Cubs and Scouts travelled by coach to Belchamps campsite in Hockley in Essex for their annual weekend summer camp. We stayed in the pack holiday center, which had its own kitchen and dining area. It was a glorious hot and sunny weekend with activities booked such as laser tag, archery, pedal carts, GATT guns and climbing. We also took along our own space hoppers, which were a great success with everyone including the adults.

On the Saturday evening we booked the local leisure centre pool and had exclusive use for an hour with rafts and floats.

This was a good way to make sure all the Cubs and Scouts got a wash for the weekend and it also tired them out so that they were early to bed that night. The only disappointment was for the football fans as England were knocked out of the world cup on Saturday. We had taken a TV with us so that those who wanted to could watch it and we ended up with quite a lot of other campers coming in to view our TV.

We returned home on the Sunday afternoon exhausted but all had a good time. Many thanks to the adults who came along to assist us that weekend.



Super Six Weekend

On Friday 16th September we took 15 Cubs away for a sporting weekend against other packs in the District, we had a fantastic weekend and were very successful winning 7 out of the 9 trophies. Also well done to Tom Baiss who won the overall individual trophy. I would also like to mention how well behaved all the Cubs were during a most enjoyable weekend.

Help Needed Please

Due to my work involving shifts, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to be available every Wednesday and Friday evenings when the Cubs and Scouts meet. I would therefore like to hear from anyone willing to help me with either running the Cubs on a Wednesday evening or Scouts on a Friday evening or both.

I can assure you that I do not intend to run off and desert the group, as I would like to still be involved with the overall running, but I would not like to see the group fold because I am not as reliably available as I have been over the past fourteen years.

Any one interested? Please contact me on 01279 812994

Many Thanks

Trevor Stone

Published on behalf of the people of Birchanger, and distributed free to each household in Birchanger. The views expressed herein do not automatically reflect those of the Editor or any of the organisations or institutions represented. Editorial team: Eddie Gilbey (816171), eddieb.gilbey54@virgin.net Elizabeth Godwin, Ken Wheatley. Submissions are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.

District Cubs Cup Competition Cricket 15th July 2006

Unfortunately there was a poor turn out from the 12 groups in the district this year, which meant that Birchanger, Dunmow Panthers and Takeley were the only entrants in this year's competition. It was decided to run this years cup as a round robin, which I am proud to say Birchanger won with Dunmow Panthers as runners up.

All the matches were played in very good spirit and I would like to thank all who took part. Lets hope we have a have a few more teams in the competition next year!

Cricket League Competition

Birchanger shared the League competition with Dunmow Panthers both sides winning 2 games and losing 1. Other teams competing were Dunmow Tigers and Takeley.

Birchanger's winning Cricket Team

Top row from left to right Callum Bates, Tom Baiss, Jordan St Hillaire, Will Robson

Bottom row from left to right Hayley Gould, Liam Dean, Tom Baker & Matthew Carter



Christmas entertainment at the Club

Saturday 2nd December Club Social Night with 5% Volume

Saturday 9th December Xmas party for member's Kids

Saturday 9th December Grand Christmas Draw

Friday 22nd December Christmas Panto

Christmas Eve Stonecold

Boxing Day Lunchtime Whisky draw

New years eve 5% Volume

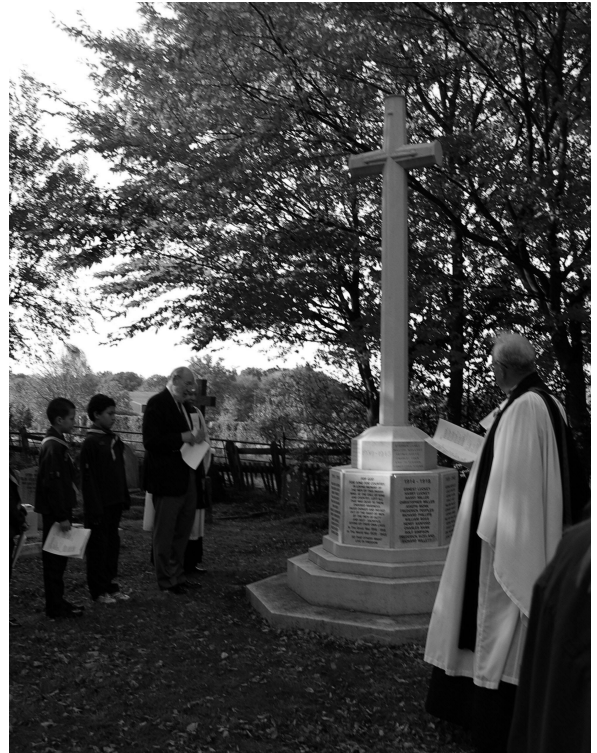
Vandalism at the Church Hall

When someone drives their vehicle through a hedge causing unsightly damage, it is irritating. You can at least assume that the damage was not intended. However when you have the damage repaired at some cost and the repair is then torn out by someone you have to wonder about the mentality of the perpetrator. So I would like to ask who ever it was. Who do you think was impressed by this?

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The newly refurbished war memorial in St Mary's churchyard was again the centre of the annual act of remembrance on November 12th. The memorial was first dedicated by the ever popular Canon Jackson while the main service was conducted by Revd Brian Birchmore. The service was more poignant this year, as a wreath was laid by Mrs Rene Kadwill and the act of remembrance was invoked by her son Christopher.

The service was well attended and enhanced by the presence of the Cub and Scout group who conducted themselves admirably. This was remarked upon by Revd Birchmore who called for a well deserved round of applause before delivering a very cleverly crafted address. Rarely have I heard so moving oratory in St Mary's. I hope it was a sign of better things to come.



Pim Godwin reading the names of the fallen

Let's Move For Youth.

It has been very hard in recent years to find anyone who is prepared to help youngsters in Birchanger. There has been too much vandalism in the village, and many feel intimidated when they are approached by crowds of youths sometimes with very good reason. This does not help the problem, even though it has been proved that drunken adults have been responsible for much of the damage. The stark fact is that many of young people feel that they have nowhere to go. Their parents are not keen on having a houseful of teenagers after a hard day's work so that teenagers feel forced to meet their friends on the street.

Last year the Youth Shelter project provided a place to hang out in summer. There can be no supervision, and there has been dangerous damage to the box housing the electricity supply. The youth bus, run by Essex County Council comes fortnightly, but there is a need for more provision than this and the equipment to go with it. There is also a greater need for the people to run the facility as well as the premises to house the club.

There are perhaps two possible existing sites, but these are already committed. The Scout Movement in Birchanger has been one of the biggest successes in the village in recent times. There are spare evenings on Mondays and Fridays at the Scout Hut, but are there any spare people to run a Youth Club?

Running a Youth Club is a challenge but it is certainly not insurmountable. There will be back up from the experts at Essex County Council. There are a variety of grants available for a project such as this which the County Council can provide the information and there is the enthusiasm for the project from many youngsters in Birchanger.

Think about it. It is not the intention that anyone should necessarily take on a project such as this on their own. There will be back up from other organisations in the village including the Parish Council. Funds will be needed, but this will be something which everyone including the young people and their parents will have to tackle. It is a village project, not one which will be allowed to go on alone.

Elizabeth Godwin

Youth Facilities in Birchanger

When we are asked to “Hug A Hoodie” many people recoil with a mixture of fear, and loathing. However, the following letter from the young people in Birchanger is an indication of the fact that the response youngsters get from many older people makes them feel just as bad and more importantly alienated.

In Newport, all be it a larger village and one which was suffering from more difficult problems than Birchanger, we have recently reopened the Youth Facilities and amalgamated the centre with the Scouts. It has so far been a real success, on the opening night 28 young people arrived and generally had a good time and more importantly new youngsters have joined the club over the period since it opened. They have arranged their own events and are engaging in a series of fund raising exercises to support their own activities.

No one would pretend that this is the answer to all of the problems, perceived and actual, with young people, but it is certainly a start in raising an understanding of the difficulties which afflict both young and old and getting them to work together. The hope is that we can do a similar thing in Birchanger and it is here that we are looking for assistance. We hope that we may have secured a venue for the proposed youth group to meet, but they do need adults to join in and we are appealing for people who may be interested in running the Youth Facility. Essex County Council would be pleased to give assistance, training and carry out the legal requirements (CRB Checks etc.) in order to get this off the ground.

Would those interested in helping please form a queue!

Ray Gooding

Letter from Birchanger Young People: -

To fellow villagers of Birchanger

We are a group of twelve young people in Birchanger we have established ourselves as a youth forum. we would like to open a youth centre but in order to do this we need help from adults.

The reason why we would want a youth club is because

- The weather is now getting colder and the nights are getting longer with less day light plus lots of rain in the evening
- We can't hangout at the reck because the girls feel unsafe and our parents will not let us go up there because there are no lights up there
- It might discourage young people hanging out on the streets, because we don't have anywhere else to go.
- The social club will not let us go in unless you are over 16 or a member and they will not let us even go in and bye sweets,snacks and drinks.
- This makes us feel that we are unwanted around the social club and village because, we are young.
- There is no transport out of the village in the evening there would be good to have somewhere safe and warm to go.
- it would be good for community relations bringing adults and young people together in one place
-

lois cox age 17
member of birchanger forum
4/10/06

A note of thanks

Could you please pass on Mum's and my own thanks to everyone in the village who have supported us over the past weeks since Dad's passing.

It is often said that the English way of life is no more, but I am glad and heartened to say that in some corners it still survives!

The kindness, thoughtfulness and support Mum has received has been heart warming to the say the least. I come to the village as often as possible but living 14 miles away seems like 400 sometimes, yet I know Mum is in good hands with the folk around her.

Thanks again Chris Kadwill.

St. Mary's Church Birchanger

Presents

SONGCYCLE

Choral Evening

In the Church Hall on
Saturday the 9th December 2006

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm Start

Wine and Cheese supper included

Tickets £10 per person from Pam Lee (07702171744)
or Joy Wright (01279813893)

St. Mary's Church Birchanger

EVENING CAROL SERVICE

Friday 15th December at 7pm

Everyone welcome

Refreshments provided after the service

Under the wooden arch

By Paul Kadwill

Under the wooden arch and up the path,
Past the fragrant roses of gold and red,
Amongst the hollyhocks erect like staffs,
Stands the giant of a man beside the shed,

How the summer days hung slow in time,
Sports on the lawn and tea on the patio,
Hastily disregarded by my naive mind,
Only to realise their worth late; they matter now.

We played for hours in the snooker room,
I: elevated with a miniature cue,
You: the loving man forfeiting the win,
Attired in shirts of lilac and blue.

Your Burmese tongue sounded alien to this child,
Stories of snakes reaffirmed my adoration,
Rarely spoken with your manner so mild,
The horror of war your silent proclamation.

You were the king of the village social scene,
With blistering wit you befriended all,
Shattered woods waged war on the bowling green,
Your accomplishments adorning the club wall.

Growing up amongst the hops and orchards,
To the end you were always a Kent man,
But although sporting allegiances never altered,
You loved Birchanger, Hybanks and of course, Nan.

Grandad you may have gone
but forgotten you shan't be,
In the time we shared you imparted immense wealth,
Of how to be a real man:
Wit, honour, grace, dignity
And above all else: service, not self.

Paul

St. Mary's Church Birchanger
Christingle and Carol family service

Sunday 10th December at 11am

All welcome

Refreshments provided after the service

Birchanger

Evening Carol singing
Around the village

A group of locals are planning to go around the village
on the 27th December to raise money for various charities
(to be nominated by those who take part)

If you are interested in joining us
please let Pam Lee (07702171744) know asap

Coffee Morning

In aid of St Mary's Church Birchanger

Moorswood 273 Birchanger lane

Tuesday December 12th 10.30 to noon

Everyone is welcome

Happy Hands

Arts and Crafts Classes for little hands*

Colours, Shapes, Numbers, Textures etc.

Birchanger Church Hall

Wednesdays 10 to 11.30 am

Ring Andrea 01279320265 or
Kate 079803370 for more information

***18months to pre-school**

Another letter to the Editor

Dear Sir.

Thank you for describing my letter as mischief, it has made my day.

However it does not disguise the fact that in every publication since October 2005 the names and telephone numbers of various organisations in the village, you have never included the name and address of the new secretary of the Over 60's club even though two members of you editorial team were given this number over the telephone.

The last paragraph of your "Editor's reply" states and here I quote "If anyone feels under represented, all they have to do is submit something for publication".

I therefore plead guilty to just that.

Yours sincerely

R.S.W. Brown.

Another reply

I must again thank Mr Brown for maintaining the entertainment level in our publication. It is good to know his typewriter is well lubricated.

As I do not have access to transcripts of the telephone traffic mentioned, I cannot comment on who said what to whom or when they said it. I can only confirm that the first time I was given Mr King's contact details was during October 2006. So I am printing them again this month in case anyone missed it last month.

The secretary of the Over 60's club in Birchanger is:-

Mr Bernie King
85 Northolt Avenue
Bishops Stortford
Herts CM23 5PS
Tel 01279 655479.

You will no doubt all be pleased to know that the Useful numbers feature has been updated and will appear when there is sufficient spare space to include it

Ed



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Parties	Arts and crafts

01279 648580



St Mary's and
1st Birchanger Cubs and Scouts

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 25th November 2006

2 pm till 4pm

In the Church hall

Admission 50p includes refreshments
Gifts, Cakes, Tombola and lots more!

'Short & Curlys'

Home Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

Ladies and Gentlemens hair Cutting/ styling/ colouring /highlights /lowlights/ perms

Beauty treatments to include: Manicure, mini manicure, pedicure, Eyelash /Eyebrow
tint, Eyebrow/ Lip /Chin Wax. (Other waxing available on request.)

Phone Helen on 07851 258100

Village Diary November/December 2006

November

26th St Mary's 11.00
Holy Communion

December

2nd At the Club 8.00pm
Social Night 5% Volume

3rd St Mary's 11.00

9th Church Hall 7.00pm
Choral Evening

9th The Club 8.00
Grand Xmas Draw

10th St Mary's 11.00
Christingle and
Carol Service

12th Moorswood 10.30 am
Coffee Morning

15th St Mary's 7.30
Evening Carol Service

17th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

24th St Mary's 11.00
Matins

25th St Mary's 11.00
Holy Communion

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