

# Birchanger

August 2013



# Magazine

Issue 128

## ANOTHER HOLE IN THE ROAD

Birchanger's Own Traffic Calming?

Well it was after the irate rat runners had got used to the idea!

A sewer collapse in the Lane on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> brought some disruption to the village which was due to last some eight days

The first few hours of the emergency works saw lots of irate drivers, in their expensive cars, cursing all and sundry as their route through Birchanger was completely blocked. Having waived their fists at all and sundry, they then found it extremely difficult to turn. After this, the village was treated to a quiet lane, and a safer place for the children in the school holidays.

It was inconvenient, it was never going to last, but those living along the lane experienced a welcome relief.

The sewer had to be repaired, the hole was very deep, as when the sewers in the lane was constructed, that was the way things were done.

Apologies to all Birchanger residents who had problems, and as ever, normal service will be resumed.



A lot of kit for a small hole

### Remembering Ted.

Up to now the roads in Forest Park have been named after those who worked at the nursery and Birchanger was not originally consulted. The parish is now included in Stansted but until last year was mainly part of Birchanger. Alarmed that there was no trace of Birchanger, anywhere I requested, with the agreement of the parish council at the time, that there should at least be something to show for the fact that Birchanger had once been a part of the development. This was agreed and when we were asked for a name, the choice was simple.

The name Haggerwood has come to mean service to the community through generations. The last departed partnership of Ted and Dolly Haggerwood saw two people who had served Birchanger in so many capacities all their lives. Ted through his work at the club, his promotion of village sports, and his leadership of the Parish Council, and Dolly through her work at the school in many capacities, latterly as Chairman of the Governing Body. Dolly also served Birchanger as ward member of the District Council where her picture remains in the council chamber.



That is just to name of few of their long service activities in Birchanger. They contributed so much to the village all their lives in so many different ways. It is our way of saying "thank you" and recognising all the work they did for the community.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Ambulance Service Leaps into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Many of us remember the old ambulances, with bells instead of sirens, and a crew who managed just to hold their patients together while completing their job of transporting a seriously injured or very sick patient to the nearest hospital. Nobody had heard the term paramedic or even thought that the ambulance service was about to have a metamorphosis which would totally change the way the service worked.

Nowadays while ambulance times fall short of expectations, the service actually is more akin to a mobile first aid centre and the training of all ambulance staff has changed radically. True they do still transport patients to casualty and outpatients, but as a member of staff advances in the organisation, so also does their training. A young person entering the service today could find that they have learned advanced medical emergency procedures which will put them into a position where they have learned to treat people at the scene in all major incidents.

Instead of waiting outside the incident scene while the injured are brought out to them, ambulance personnel will be right at the cliff face of the incident, properly equipped with both knowledge and advanced equipment. They have the same equipment as the firemen have in the way of breathing apparatus, an amphibious vehicle which can be transported to the scene, and the capability to set up a tent or series of tents which can act as a mobile hospital or operating theatre. Had this new way of dealing with a major trauma scene been in place at the time of other major incidents, such as the Moorgate tube disaster for instance, it is possible that many more lives would have been saved.

There are highly trained Hazardous Area Response Teams throughout the country. They are mainly known by their acronym HART. We have one based at Braintree to serve South and West Essex. Another team at Melbourne covers the rest of the Eastern Region. They can travel to assist other Hart teams throughout the country. The Hart team have ambulances and support vehicles equipped with just about everything for a major incident. They can treat those exposed to radiation with a special water system and a fully equipped tent. They have four wheel drive vehicles, a minibus to transport additional personnel, supply vehicles as well as the more familiar

ambulances. They were at the scene at the tragic fire in Harlow last year.

They are so well equipped that they can transfer their patients to special units some distance away, which are better suited to the patient's needs.

We may be waiting longer for an ambulance to come, hopefully we will never need the services of HART, but we can be confident that the ambulance service and its paramedics really do know how to treat their patients when they reach them. After six weeks doing their shifts, each Hart ambulance team spends one week training. This keeps them at the cutting edge of major incident and trauma management. The good news for all of this is that some patients may never actually need to go to hospital at all. It has all been done for them expertly at the scene. For a service which has come under a lot of criticism lately, it is good to see the other side of the coin.

## Shedding Light on the Long Wait at A and E at Harlow.

We are not the only ones who are concerned with the long wait to be seen at Accident and Emergency Hospitals, followed by the undignified rush to get you out before the magic four hour period is up. Yes the box may have been ticked, but quite often the treatment has been rushed, the patient has been treated inappropriately and has to return or try to seek treatment elsewhere.

There are people out there who are concerned about the huge numbers seeking treatment at A and E hospitals. A survey team at Harlow have started work and their preliminary results have been surprising. Firstly it seems that there are large numbers of mid and far east Europeans coming to work in the UK. They do not have the GP system in their countries, so when they need medical attention they tend to come to A and E, no matter how trivial the complaint. Steps will be taken to rectify this, but it won't be a quick and easy fix. Secondly we are finding it increasingly difficult to access our GPs. A wait of 6 weeks is not tolerable in many cases. The patients were unhappy with the stereotyped responses from NHS Direct and the now removed 111 service, so they took themselves to A and E as a last resort.

It seems there is something radically wrong with our health system. Did the rot set in when GPs no longer

worked at weekends? Are the numbers of GPs and their premises adequate? Are the doctors contactable? There have been huge complaints about the expensive telephone numbers used at some practices, and the large bills incurred when the patient is put on hold for unacceptable periods.

There is no saying when the service will improve. It is hard on the committed staff who are at times at breaking point. There is more money needed, but it must be spent wisely and not just on a quick fix. The survey will continue to examine other issues.

Meanwhile, try to stay healthy and accident free if you can.

## Survey Results show Some Surprises.

Do you even remember the survey.? It happened in March 2011 and some of the results are available on line. Birchanger can be accessed, but it is by electoral ward, so that includes a large part of Forest park which doubles the households to 610 at the date of the survey. Between us we own 1036 cars and there are 36 no car households. Some 26 households have four cars and upwards. 11 homes are without central heating, but the bulk of us, some 506 use gas. Not everyone in Birchanger can access our gas supply.

There are 931 residents in work, 32 are unemployed, 124 are retired and 826 people rated their health as very good or excellent. A surprisingly high number of people in Birchanger as well as the rest of the district are unpaid carers. There are 145 people who offer some degree of care in Birchanger to the 201 people who did not rate their health as good or who were in some way incapacitated.

There are 997 people who put their religion as Church of England, there were representatives from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Seikh faiths, but 454 people said they had no religion at all.

There is more information on line and more will become available as it is collated in the months to come.

## Not Just Mid Summer Madness.

I hate to remind you, but September looms and with it the prospect of Christmas and all that brings. There is an idea which might get you planning ahead and cheer up the village at the same time and this is your very early warning.

It is planned to light up the village on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Residents are invited to take part in the big switch on at 6pm on that evening. Not only will it brighten up the Birchanger, it will be one more Christmas task managed and you might just win a prize as well. A team of judges of all ages will be walking through the village and there will be prizes in different categories.

This will not please everyone, but it is the Advent season, Christmas Fairs are in full swing and the great majority in Birchanger appreciated the efforts made last year.

There will be more on this with details of how to participate in the months to come. high number, although it appears that there are 201 people who have some

However 269 households experience some degree of deprivation and there are 145 unpaid carers looking after someone in our ward, which is a surprisingly degree of disability, again a higher figure than might be anticipated. 997 people put their religion as Church of England, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Sheikh were also represented, but some 454 people said they had no religion at all. More information can be accessed on line and further findings will be available in the coming months.

## How is Your Car Parking Experience in Uttlesford?

The District Council would really like to know how what your car parking experience is when you visit any of the main centres in Uttlesford and try to park. Can you find a space which is convenient to you? Is it close to where you want to be. Is it too costly? How could parking and car parks be improved?

These are all matters which the district council wants to find out. It is necessary to ask these questions now before all the new building which the government is trying to push through, actually begins. There will inevitably be a lot more people living in Uttlesford. There are already. How are the town centres coping now? Are retailers losing out as customers are forced to find elsewhere to shop?

Your response does matter. It will not take too long to complete and must be submitted by September 9<sup>th</sup>. An online form is available on

[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/parkingsurvey](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/parkingsurvey) . Alternatively copies may be obtained from the District Council offices in Saffron Walden, or at all the libraries including Stansted. If you are in difficulties trying to access the form, please call me on 812793.

## Squash & Racketball

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01279 652897

[StortfordSquash.co.uk](http://StortfordSquash.co.uk)





# A Royal Death, Human Horror and Home

Having no Visa to enter Cambodia, we had to stop at the immigration office on the Mekong river where their territorial border begins. However while waiting in the tropical garden attached to the Border post I noticed a group of Monks and several people crowding around a small Buddhist temple and chanting non-stop. When I enquired what was happening I was told it was out of respect for the "King Father" whose funeral was taking place that very day. It turned out that the present king of Cambodia's father had died 3 months previously and had been lying in state ever since. We were due to land at the boat quay in central Pnomh Penh where our guide would meet us, however due to the funeral, the government had closed many roads and, yes, the boat quay! So the boat actually tied up at a point 5 kilometres outside the city alongside a 15 foot high river bank.

Together with about 50 other tourists we started scrambling up the bank with our suitcases in 40 degrees of heat with no idea how we were going to get to the city! All at once a man came down the bank towards us bearing two things: 1) a huge smile and 2) a piece of paper with the words 'Anthony Wilson' printed on it. I have never been so glad to see my own name. He had somehow made his way out of the city to find us and we were soon in the back of an air conditioned car speeding towards our hotel! Oh the joys of travel.

The historic city of Pnomh Penh boasts a beautiful Palace, a Silver Pagoda, Museums and many other tourist attractions.....all of which were closed due to the King's death! So our first day tour being cancelled Barbara & I had to content ourselves with lying around the pool, eating a relaxed lunch and drinking the odd cocktail; what a disappointment!

No tourist visiting Cambodia can turn a blind eye to the horrors which were inflicted here during the notorious regime of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. It is hard to believe that what happened occurred less than 50 years ago and yet it is to the great credit of the Cambodian people that they have managed to put it all behind them and get on with rebuilding their country whilst keeping their recent history alive as a warning to humanity.

So it was that our guide collected us from the hotel and took us on what I can only describe as a most harrowing and emotionally draining tour. We went to the 'killing fields' where thousands of their fellow human beings were murdered in a most brutal way by the Khmer Rouge. Nobody was spared the horror, women and children too were shown no mercy. There were scenes there that are too disturbing to recount here, but nevertheless need remembering, lest a similar thing should ever threaten to happen again.

At the notorious S21 detention centre 20,000 people passed through on their way to the killing fields and only 7 people survived the terror. Five have since died and now only 2 remain to tell their story. We were fortunate that on the day we visited, one of the survivors, now a very old man, was there and agreed to meet Barbara & I. We were extremely impressed by the fact that, not only could he return to that place where he was so cruelly treated, but that he smiled the most wonderful smile despite all that he had gone through. His name was Bou Meng and his story is available to read online. I can understand some people might think this a strange thing to do on a holiday, but, like Auschwitz and the battlefields of the First World war, some things have to be seen to be believed.

As our time in the capital was so restricted due to the Royal funeral it was quite a relief to get to Siam Reap for the final part of our tour. A quite unremarkable town in many ways it would not feature on any itinerary but for one thing, the magnificent and awe inspiring, Angkor Wat. The guide picked us up at 8 am and I remember thinking they must be very proud of this place, because the image of it forms the centrepiece of their national flag. However nothing prepares you for the sight of these magnificent buildings as they rise up out of the land in the early morning sunshine. Angkor Wat is actually a vast collection of stone temples built over an area of 30 square kilometres. They were built in the 11th and 12th centuries by a succession of kings to honour the Buddha. As a builder myself I cannot imagine the challenge of constructing these marvelous buildings with the tools available at that time. The task was immense. We spent the whole day exploring the sites and even saw the temple that was used in the film "Tomb Raider" Many of these buildings had fallen into disrepair and had to be 'reclaimed' from the jungle which had threatened to engulf them.

The day was a fitting end to our time in Cambodia and as this was our last guided tour a fitting end also to our journey around these remarkable countries. Over the weeks we had some very early starts



(5am in one case!) We have travelled by plane, car, rickshaw, boat, cycle-rickshaw, hydrofoil, traditional junk boat, bicycle and Elephant. We have had some great guides including, Joi, Jun, Hung, Rasamei, Lei and others whose names I cannot even pronounce but they have all added to our knowledge of their countries with great pride and for that we thank them very much.

We have had great experiences and have not even mentioned the broken ankle, the fact that Barbara was tipped off a ferry boat by a freak wave, taking all our electronic equipment and cameras into the sea with her, or the time we got lost at twilight in dense jungle on a Vietnamese Island with no idea how to get back to our beach house by the sea. We had a great time and hope it has been enlightening.

To those who have been kind enough to speak to us about these travels both Barbara & I appreciate the interest you have shown.

Tony Wilson

## News from St Mary's

### Church Hall Manager Required.

Our long time manager is stepping down and we need to find a replacement. The person eventually appointed will need to have good communications skills (both face to face, by telephone and electronically) and be (or prepared to be) a regular church service attendee. They will also be required to join the Parochial Church Council which meets once a quarter and to produce a report on the hall including a financial statement. A number of people have already

indicated an interest and to be fair to all, we must go through a selection process. If you would like to be considered please contact either Peter Odrich at [peterodrich@fastmail.fm](mailto:peterodrich@fastmail.fm) or Pam Lee at [pam.mark2@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.mark2@btinternet.com), by not later than 31st July 2013, giving details of previous experience.

### There are People Who Care.

Sometimes it seems that we live in an age where nobody cares. People brush past you in the street, they drive too fast, they try to queue jump, and there are times when just about everyone has wished that they were on another planet.

Last month the chips were down for us. We were stranded on a busy dual carriageway after an axle broke, or a tyre on our car had burst. Whichever it was we will probably never know, as the car was written off in any event. The tyres had been brand new, the car was in excellent condition, but all that is gone.

What will remain is the memory of the kindness and consideration of those who, despite the road being one of the busiest carriage ways in the country, did not think of themselves. Despite the speeding traffic, they helped us to get the car off the road, called the police and stayed with us until they arrived. The police and the rescue squad were also very helpful, but they are the professionals.

The four men who stopped did not have to help us, but they did. I do not even know their names. They will never get to read this, but, thank you anyway. You restored my faith in mankind.

### And Another Thing.

It was a steep learning curve, never having had an accident of this nature before. We thought we had it all, hire car cover, recovery cover, it was all there in the policy. It said so. The only problem was that in actuality it was not.

The recovery the AA promised could not happen. The police moved us first as we were an obvious danger to other road users. The only problem was that this then meant that the AA would not come out to us. We had technically been "recovered". We were miles away from home, with a dog and a bag of items we had to remove from the car. I am not sure what happened to the "home recovery" bit.

The next bitter lesson was that no, we could not have a loan car. Yes our policy said we had one but apparently we had not paid the extra for this which nobody had told us about. Our entitlement to this was printed clearly on the policy document, with no supporting information to tell us this was actually an "extra". When you have had the accident it is not exactly a good time to discover this. Next time you renew your insurance, check exactly what it is you are buying, it may not be quite what you think.

# School News

## Pirates of the Curry Bean is a Hot Ticket.

It was more than a complete sell out for the performances of the Junior School Play this year. There were more children than usual in the cast and the successes of previous years meant that the school play was the hottest ticket in town.

Those who did come to the performances were not disappointed. The weather was hot, the hall even hotter but all eyes were on the performers who all lived up to their promise. It was all there, the catchy lively songs, the well thought out costumes and the set. The children as ever, more than rose to the occasion. Under the watchful eyes music director, Charlie Turner, they sang, performed comedy cameos, and mastered the comedy which started with the title.

There were many memorable performances. Riley displayed a real talent for comedy as Admiral Horatio Hornhonker, as did Connor and Ned as the two health and safety officers, as did all the supporting crew from the navy and the pirate ship. The mop dance was great fun. I never knew so much fun could be had with a mop. In all, it was a very happy and memorable performance by all the cast. The words were Mrs Channing, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Warbrick, while Mrs Culpin and Mrs Manning designed the scenery and made the props, while parents Mrs Sowter, Mrs Mussard and Mrs Roberts created the costumes.

## And So Farewell.

Leaving Birchanger School is always something of a bitter sweet experience, and this year was no exception. After the play there was the usual round of parties, the service in the Church, the last bitter sweet assembly and the presentations of books and awards.

There was also a sad farewell to the School Secretary who was retiring after over a generations service to the school. We would all like to thank her for all the help and support she has given all the children, parents, staff, governor's and visitors through the years.

## Leaving Can be Fun

This year's mystery treat in the now obligatory limo, was a trip to Gosfield Lakes. It was on the hottest , in the water and the barbeque. We wish them all the very best in their new schools.

## New Classroom Arrives at the School

There were no objections so the new classroom was delivered on time. The previous relocatable class room was in three sections, but the new model is larger and came in four sections. Each part was already kitted out with all the fixings, so all that was required was to join u p the sections and to connect them to the services already in place. The hardwork for the staff will be to get the new furniture in place for the new term.

So for September it is all systems go.

Fortunately the class rooms were in place just before the sewer collapsed!







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

## **BIRCHANGER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB NEWS AUGUST 2013**

### **Bank Holiday Opening**

The club will be open on bank holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug from midday until 11.00pm

### **Sorry No Dogs Allowed!**



In the interest of hygiene, the committee has decided that dogs (apart from guide dogs) will no longer be accepted inside the clubhouse premises. They are however allowed outside on the terrace & play area providing they are supervised by their owners.

### **New toilet facilities**

#### **Progress**

There is a slight delay on the toilet cubicles because they are not a stock item and have to be made to order. Work load and school holidays are to blame. Completion is expected to be around 16th Aug which is about one week over schedule, otherwise no major problems. The hot water is connected now and the showers are back in use.

### **Charity evening at the club 25<sup>th</sup> August**

As mentioned previously, Pam Lee will be holding her annual sale of produce to raise funds on behalf of the church at the club. Proceedings start at 7.00pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, so please come along and give her your support and buy something for a good cause.

### **Big screen on the way**

Sports fans will be happy to note that the new large video screen will arrive around the 17<sup>th</sup> Aug.



These popular nights are now run every two months and our next session will be held on the 6th Sept. They are fun nights and you don't have to be a serious card player, just make sure you come with a poker face and dark glasses!

### **Bowling 12<sup>th</sup> September**

"Bowls England president's men's team event". Non-members can try their hand at target bowls if they wish. People interested in joining the bowling club can contact Elaine Wright on 01279 813474. For further info please

visit the website:

[www.birchangerclub.com/bowls](http://www.birchangerclub.com/bowls)

### **Birchanger Summer Fete 14<sup>th</sup> September**

As stated in last month's issue, the Club will host this year's Summer Fete as usual on the club sports field. Starting at 1.00pm and ending around 5.00pm the Fete is combined with a beer festival and a sports and social club open day for non-members.



There will be plenty of arts and craft stalls and fun stuff for the kids and of course live entertainments in the evening courtesy of singer Mark Maddison. Attractions include; a Brass band, raffle, Hog roast & BBQ, a Dog show for local mutts, Gladiator joust, Bouncy castle, Fresh cake stall, Pimms drink stall, Children's stalls and games and much more.

### **Birchanger Dog Show 14<sup>th</sup> September**

The dog show and competition will be a friendly and light hearted event held at the summer fete. Open to all breeds including mutts, registration for entry is open until 2.00pm on the day and judging commences at 3.00pm. A small entry fee of £2.00 is required and the categories are: Prettiest bitch, handsomest dog, best rescue and best behaved. Further information can be obtained



### **Charity Race Night 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Another successful race night was held at the club recently with 8 races being shown on the big screen. The club raised £150 for Grove Cottage to. The next race night will be held on the 28th September.



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

## BSSC CLUB ENTERTAINMENT FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2013

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<b>August 24<sup>th</sup></b>	"Back In time" Featuring "Julie Nevada"
<b>September 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Poker Night
<b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Summer Fete & Dog show from 1.00 – 5.00pm
<b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Evening with "Mark Maddison"
<b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Mike & Beamy
<b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Charity Race Night



*Julie Nevada*



**"Back In Time" 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.    "Julie Nevada" 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.    "Mark Maddison" 14<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

### Other events & Amenities

Events throughout the year include Weekly Bonus Ball, Bottle Draws, Cash Raffles and Prize Raffles. The club also serves hot and cold food, CAMRA beers and offers amenities for; Football, Cricket, Bowls, Darts, Snooker and Cribbage.

### Free snooker, pool and jukebox

On Saturday and Sunday Evening's from 7.00pm to close, the club offers free Snooker, Pool and jukebox. Offer excludes entertainment nights.

### Pavilion Hire

The club has a small cricket pavilion suitable for private parties, kids' birthdays, meetings, book and cookery clubs, first aid training, chess clubs, martial arts training, computer and photographic clubs, band rehearsal etc. The pavilion can hold around 30-40 people and has tables and chairs, kitchen and toilet facilities. For details contact the club on 01279 813 441 or download and complete the application form from the BSSC website at <http://birchangerclub.com/news/pavilion> and hand it in to the bar staff at club.

### Join the club

If you would like to take advantage of the many sports facilities, entertainment and low priced food and drinks on offer at the club why not come along and ask about joining. Membership costs just £17.50 per year plus a one-time application fee of £5.00. Application forms can be obtained from the club or can be downloaded from our website at <http://birchangerclub.com/news/membership-page> Membership is available to persons of 18 years and over and once accepted you are entitled to bring two guests with you to the club. Visitors to Birchanger may obtain temporary membership which lasts for two weeks and costs £2.50. For further information you can call at the club in person or telephone during opening hours on 01279 813441.

Alternatively, you can contact us by e-mail; [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com) Please visit our website [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com) to see current information and all the facilities we have to offer.



# Birchanger Summer Fete 2013

1.00 – 5.00pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September



Brass band - Hog roast - BBQ - Dog show - Raffle  
Gladiator jousting - Bouncy castle - Fresh cake stall - Pimms  
drink stall

**Birchanger Sports & Social Club 229 Birchanger Lane,**

## Dog Show at Birchanger Summer Fete 14<sup>th</sup> September



The dog show and competition is a fun event for all ages and breeds including mutts! So why not bring your own best friend along and join the fun.

Entry registration by 2.00pm

Judging starts at 3.00pm

Entry Fee £2.00

**Categories:**

- Prettiest bitch
- Handsomest dog
- Best rescue
- Best behaved



Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ  
Information; Alex Stewart 07846467575. [compassdrifter@btinternet.com](mailto:compassdrifter@btinternet.com)

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## Village Diary

August/September

August

25<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

25<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm At the Club

Sale of Produce in aid  
of St Mary's

September

1<sup>st</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Matins

7<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Wedding

Time unknown

8<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

15<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Family Service

22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Matins

29<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am St Mary's

Harvest Festival

Holy Communion

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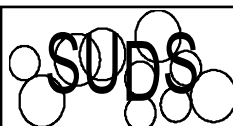
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