

Birchanger

November 2013



Magazine

Issue 131

The Bells of St. Mary's

On Friday November 1st four parishioners from the village accompanied our Rector to witness a moment in history which was of importance to our Church and village.

The story starts many years ago when the church bell tower was found to have space for two bells. However it is widely believed that the parish could only afford one bell and so it was that in 1774 a bell was cast and installed. However it had always been anticipated that one day the money would be found to have a new bell to complete the work that the church builders had intended. Due to the tireless fundraising and residual monies from the Forest Hall development grant, that money has now been found.

So it was, that we found ourselves driving to the East End of London where, tucked in between the kebab shops and Indian takeaways, and in the shadow of famous buildings such as the Gherkin and the Shard was The Whitechapel Bell Foundry where our new bell was to be cast.

As we entered the building it was like going back in

time,
indeed the
building
itself dates
from 1670,

just 4 years after the great fire of London. The foundry is listed in the Guinness book of records as the oldest manufacturing company in England and has cast such famous bells as 'Big Ben', the 'Liberty Bell' in the U.S. and many others. So our bell was to be in great company and was to be made in the same traditional way by the founders using the time honoured methods employed for centuries.

As we watched the molten bronze being poured into a mould with the word Birchanger emblazoned on its side,

a great sense of pride welled up in us at what had been achieved. The making of a bell requires great patience and there are technical refinements such as tuning and installing the clapper and hanging gear and all this work has yet to be done. Our existing bell is also in need of refurbishment so it is hoped that all the work will be completed by April next year, just in time for the new bells to ring out the good news of the resurrection on Easter morning.

From then on the bells will be there to ring out on the many joyous occasions to come, whether they be weddings, village events, church services or national celebrations.



Birchanger's Bell



The Whitechapel Bell Foundry



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

So we are not doing too badly

Regarding our Health Profiles, that is. Our general health is better than the average for the rest of the country. Our life expectancy is better, although women are expected to outlive the men by about 2 years.

Generally mortality rates have fallen, for all diseases in the past 10 years with heart disease and stroke patients in particular showing an improvement. We are also above average for our healthy eating habits. Our children are slimmer than the rest of the country and teenage pregnancies are down, as are teenage admissions to hospital for consumption of too much alcohol. Consequently our GCSE results are better.

Adults are not doing so badly either, but far too many of us are being injured on the roads. The incidence of malignant melanoma is much higher than average, and that simply cannot mean that too many of us are jetting off to Spain from this part of the world. There must be other factors but what? In comparison to the rest of the district however, we are slightly more deprived, so too is Stansted. I just cannot help but wonder whether the motorway and the airport with their collective emissions, have something to do with this?

Our bus services are under review

Essex County Council is responsible for most of the bus services in our area, and the County Council has to save a great deal of money to balance its books. They are examining several of their services, and the subsidised bus service is definitely included.

It would seem very likely that the least used routes will face cut backs and in the worst cases could be axed completely. We do not know when the county council will get around to looking at the service in Birchanger, but we can make a much better case for keeping it if we are actually using it.

It was not very reliable during the recent road works in Birchanger Lane, and it does seem sometimes that the bus company just does things without reference to anyone, but the outcry this provokes just proves that the service is valuable to some of us, and for those people to lose it, would be a disaster.

So we really do need to keep the service, please use it where you can. We might never get it back again should the bus provision be lost.

Partying in the recreation ground

Well ok for some you might think, except those who are partying have no consideration of the people living nearby, or the park users the following day. The whole aim of these parties seems to get as drunk as possible, be as aggravating as possible, to throw and smash as many bottles as possible, then to leave the subsequent mess for someone else to clean up.

Sadly the perpetrators are very young. They are possibly well under the legal age for alcohol consumption and are very likely to live in the village. Their parents may have some idea of what

is going on. It is up to them to stop it before the police get involved, or a child gets hurt.

This problem has not happened in Birchanger for some time. It was dealt with some years ago, and will, one way or another, be dealt with again.

As for the burger wrappers, which depict various stages of a full fast food meal, and are scattered down the lane, there are ways and means of dealing with this menace too.

Speeders strike again

The animal assassins are back. This time it was a young cat which was hit by a speeding motorist as he shot off down the lane. The victim was a very much loved family pet and the incident has left the owners traumatised.

This is just one in a long line of missing and injured pets in Birchanger. The accidents are caused almost entirely by the selfish few who think it is ok to drive at speed through the village and thereby endanger everyone's lives, animal or otherwise.

When will these idiots ever wise up to just how selfish they really are? They must have families or the odd pet between them somewhere. How would they feel if something they cared about was needlessly killed?

Speeds in the lane are being measured again. Maybe there will also be some names and numbers taken as well. Sadly someone lost their life in Stansted last month. Please do not let this happen to someone in Birchanger as well.

Local development framework plans grind on

It must be the longest planning saga yet, but the report from Highways as to the effect of the proposed developments in Uttlesford is finally in. It has also included in the mitigation suggestions, some of the proposals which East Herts has put forward in its development plan.

It seems hard to see that the mitigation proposals could be called anything other than minor tweaking. While admitting that their proposals might not be effective they do not seem to have any alternatives readily available. If they do we have yet to see them.

Highways are proposing changes to the layout at the roundabout at Junction 8. The exit from the services will be moved to a point on the A120 between the Junction 8 roundabout and the Birchanger roundabout. Little consideration appears to have been given to the build up of traffic at this spot at peak times. The carriageway will be widened to three lanes in both directions. All very well but they will all end up as single carriageways whether they are heading to Bishops Stortford or the A 120. Traffic heading back to the motorway will also have to use this exit. We shall never be able to get out of Birchanmger.

The scheme had a very lukewarm reception and at least the members of Highways staff who presented the report were not exactly over enthusiastic about the scheme either.

Unfortunately despite all this, there is no guarantee that the scheme will end up where it belongs, in the waste paper basket.

Our own Development Plan for Uttlesford has been unveiled and this really does need your comments.

A big thank you

It has not been an easy time for anyone who has any association with the Village Hall in Birchanger. The hall needed to improve the facilities on offer and finally the money became available in the form of a Section 106 Community Fund. Then there were the rigours of the Planning process, putting the work out to tender and finally beginning the process and seemingly much more. Unfortunately nobody has found out a way of making an omelette without breaking an egg, so the whole process has been very disruptive to hall users and management team alike. The builder who won the contract, George Markwell has tried to make the building project as pain free as possible for everybody. Hopefully now everyone will enjoy using the large new kitchen and holding meetings in the new smaller extension with the benefit of improved heating and insulation. The hall can be hired in separate parts, small room only, original hall only or the hall as a whole. The improved car parking arrangements will mean that more people will be able to park safely. To find out more and to make a booking, please contact Trudy Revell on 812309. To everyone who suffered disruption during the process we say sorry, but now please enjoy.

Our name stays.

The Boundary Commission has relented. Our electoral ward is not going to be known as Stansted South. The commissioners have recognised the importance of our historic village and we shall be known as Stansted and Birchanger. Of course it should be the other way around, but at least Birchanger is not completely subsumed!

Christmas Coffee Morning.

Come and join us for a Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood on Tuesday December 10th between 10.30 and noon. A time to meet friends and to perhaps find the odd Christmas gift.

The thieves and vandals are back.

Not something positive to write about I am afraid, but the sports changing rooms at the pavilion at the back of the club is the latest victim of the mindless vandals who bring only aggravation and heartache to the rest of us. At the time of writing the identity of these idiots has yet to be established, but if you do see or hear anything suspicious or just someone hanging about where they should not be, please tell the police on either 999 or 101. Your prompt action could prevent further criminal acts. The police would rather hear your concerns than deal with the aftermath of a burglary or vandalism.

It is nearly time for the big switch on

There is still time to participate in the Big Birchanger Switch On. November 30th is the date and we hope that for four weeks at least the village will brighten the winter gloom with the brighter than ever Christmas Illuminations.

To find out more, please call me on 812793.

Well the leaves are turning and the nights are drawing in, but don't be downhearted as we will soon be in the season of mulled wine, mince pies, carols and Santa. Yes I know it's still a taboo subject to discuss Christmas this far in advance, but we're calling on all Birchangerites to embrace their inner creativity by putting on the best ever display of Christmas lights!

On **Saturday November 30th** we're hoping that as many as possible will get involved, whether arranging with Mother Nature for real snow to fall or simply switching on your car indicators. To add a little spice to this year's proceedings, we're asking each and every one of you to help us judge Birchanger's best offering. We have provided a handy voucher that you can cut out and fill in stating which house you believe deserves to win the coveted 'Best Bulbs in Birchanger' prize. Just drop off your vote before December 13th at Moorswood and you will learn of the winner at the Social Club after the Carol Service on December 20th.

Best bulbs in Birchanger



My vote goes to

School News

It is not easy to cope with the long term sickness of any work colleague. It is particularly difficult when that colleague is a much respected Head Teacher.

The staff at Birchanger School have done their very best to ensure that the school continues to function in the same way during the Head Teacher's absence through illness. They have maintained the standards and principles which govern the school and which give the school that special ethos. They have welcomed 26 children into the reception class as well as two new members of the teaching staff. In the main all those who use the school have shown their appreciation and understanding of the situation, although sadly there are a very few who have not understood all that is being achieved and who have made life difficult for the staff in the past few months.

The school has been helped greatly by a temporary Head Teacher, Mr Slide who works with the school for four days each week.

The school would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has appreciated all the school is achieving and to say thank you to all the staff for all their hard work, as well as to the children who, by their successes and their uniqueness make everything worthwhile.

New school council acts swiftly

One of the first things the school does when classes are established in the Autumn Term is to appoint a new School Council for the year. Every year group takes part in the process and the successful candidates will meet frequently throughout the year. They are properly constituted with their own Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The School Council takes responsibility for many things ranging from looking after the interests of their class mates, to taking on projects of their own choosing and fundraising for them. This also includes choosing a charity. This year they chose Children in Need as their particular charity. By the time you receive this, the frantic efforts for the main fund raising day will be over, but the projects will continue throughout this school year.

The School has already raised £150 through the Bag to School Project where everyone fills bags with unwanted clothes which are then collected from the school.

The school is a private place

It may seem to many that the school belongs to the community and they would not be wrong. However there are young children who use the school who need to know that it is a safe place to be, as do their parents. There is a gate at the bottom of the school playground. Whilst it can be used by parents bringing and collecting their children from school it is not a thoroughfare for the public. Unfortunately there are many people who use it as a cut through from Birchanger Lane, disrupting classes as they walk past the classrooms and frequently neglecting to close the gate after them.

All this poses a safety problem for the school when the children are in school and a security problem after dark. To this end the gate will now have to be locked at all times, possibly with the exception of school drop off and pick up times, although if the abuse of this entrance continues, the gate will have to remain permanently locked.

The school regrets having to do this, but given the current situation, has no choice.

Birchanger Bowls Team Champions

After several tough matches, members of the Birchanger Bowling Club won the final of the Essex county fours bowls competition 2013.



Left to right; Birchanger Bowls Team Players; T.Ward, C. Ferbrache, R. Smith and J. Law with President Gordon Barrett



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

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary of the Chairman's report

The Club held its annual general meeting to a packed audience in the Regency room at the club on Wednesday 23rd Oct where 81 Members attended the meeting.

Chairman Peter Booker stated that the club has had a good financial year, a little down on last year but still a good achievement considering the current economic situation and financial pressures on people and businesses. This has been achieved by the continuous hard work of all the officers, committee and staff. The club is constantly looking at ways of reducing costs from all suppliers, for wet sales, food, utilities and other expenses. You can see from comparisons with the previous year expenditure that our treasurer has worked hard in this area. We also changed the gaming machines when needed to keep the members interested and this is shown in a reasonable income figure for the past year.

Supporting the local community & Sport

The sports activities at the club continue to be well supported with teams in football, cricket, bowls, local darts league, snooker and crib league. This year our cricket club first team won promotion to the first division thanks in part to their hard work and determination. The club helps promote all the sports with financial help and excellent facilities, spending a few thousand pounds on improving the football pitch and changing rooms in the last year.

To enhance the appearance of the club we have made a big effort in setting up a regular regime for grass and hedge cutting and during the summer we display hanging baskets. We pride ourselves on being part of the community and to this end we have supported a local charity The Grove Cottage in Bishops Stortford and we are also looking at the viability of being a postal delivery / drop off address for members.

Club refurbishment

We have completed two of the three building work projects we set out to achieve; Renewing the flat roof and refurbishing the toilets, installing a new disabled toilet and replacing the heating system. I would like to thank the hard work of all those involved and special thanks to Liz Godwin who helped us obtain the grant and to Mark Lee who liaised with the builders on behalf of the committee. This still leaves the third phase of work which is to improve the seating and viewing area by incorporating the bowls room into the main

body of the club. This will be raised with the bowls club and later with the members at a special EGM in the near future.

Promotion of the club

We have continued to improve our club web site thanks to John McArthur and have increased our marketing activities, thanks to Peter Sampson, utilising the Village magazine which now publishes two pages of club news, information, forthcoming entertainment and special events each month.

Appointed Committee & Officers

All three officers; P. Booker (chairman), K. Robins (Secretary) and D. Woods (Treasurer) were unopposed and were therefore re-elected.

There were eight committee vacancies available this year and the following members were elected; John McArthur, Tom Granger, Katie Martin, Pauline Mascall, Alex Stewart, Claire Jones, Natasha Williams and Lorraine Wright.

Outgoing committee members were; B. Stewart, P. Sampson and C. Roberson who resigned.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing committee for their contributions and hard effort.

Finally I would like to thank the Treasurer, Secretary, committee, steward, stewardess and the staff for all their hard work which has helped make this a successful club, a valuable asset to the village and surrounding area, something which we should all be proud of.

Treasurer's Report

Financial accounts which were accepted and made the following observations; the average pint in local clubs for standard lager and real ale is £2.75, our club standard lager and real ale on average is sold at £2.45! The majority of local clubs charge membership fees of between £20 and £25 with life members paying £5 per year.

Bar and food sales prices held

Interesting to note that our last bar price increase was in April, 2011 over 2.5 years ago and our last membership increase was 2 years ago. However, a word of caution, one of the major brewers has already announced a 6.2% price hike effective from January 2014. We would like to thank the members for supporting their club in these financially challenging times.

Proposals

A proposal was made to raise the annual membership fee to £20. Proposed by J. Leavers and seconded by R. Hayward. The proposal was Carried by 48 votes for and 24 against



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

CLUB ENTERTAINMENT FOR DECEMBER 2013

November 30th Tequila - Popular trio performing a range of popular covers from the Sixties

December 7th Social Night with **“Blow Up”** – New to BSSC, 4 piece band live on stage

December 14th Childrens Christmas Party (See club noticeboard for details)

December 14th Second to None – Julie Nevada & Andy Loxley + **Grand Xmas Draw**

December 24th Ruby Groove - professional female duo offering the very best of live music

December 27th Poker Night

December 28th Special Treasure Chest Game – Win the money in the box on the night!

December 31st Music through the ages – Great Music Disco returning from last Newyear



Tequila 30th Nov



Second to None 14th Dec



Ruby Groove 24th

Weekly:

Day	Event	Time
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask at bar
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Tote Draw	Evenings



Christmas Period Calendar – Food & Opening Times

Day	Open	Close	Food	Entertainment / Function
23 rd Dec Monday	19.00	23.00	No Food	Quiz night
24 th Dec Christmas Eve	11.30	24.00	No Food	Entertainment – Ruby Groove
25 th Dec Christmas Day	12.00	14.00	No Food	None
26 th Dec Boxing Day	12.00	17.00	No Food	Whiskey draw
27 th Dec Friday	11.30	23.30	Food lunchtime	Poker Night with buffet
28 th Dec Saturday	11.30	23.00	Food Lunch & Evening	Special Treasure Chest Game
29 th Dec Sunday	11.30	23.00	Food Lunchtime	Free pool, snooker & Juke box
30 th Dec Monday	19.00	23.00	No Food	Quiz Night
31 st Dec New Year's Eve	12.00	00.30	No Food	Entertainment Disco Night
1 st Jan New Year's Day	12.00	17.00	No Food	None

The Officers, Committee and Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813 441 Email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Christmas Events

Birchanger Club

Christmas Party
For Members Children
Saturday December 14th

From 12.00 pm



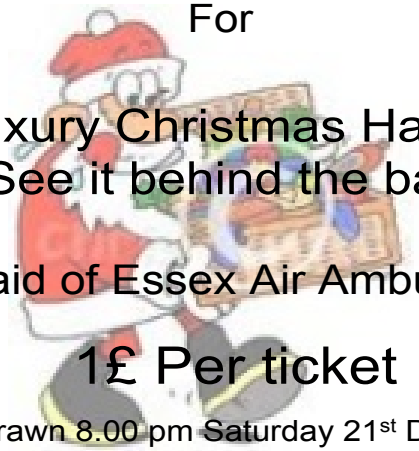
Three Willows Christmas Raffle
For

A Luxury Christmas Hamper
See it behind the bar

In aid of Essex Air Ambulance

1£ Per ticket

To be drawn 8.00 pm Saturday 21st December
See Staff for more details



Birchanger Club Grand Xmas Draw

Saturday December 14th

From 8.00 pm



St Mary the Virgin

Carol Service

Friday December 20th

From 7.00 pm



St Mary the Virgin

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 30th

In the Church Hall

2 pm till 5 pm



Christmas Coffee Morning

In aid of St Mary's

Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane

Tuesday 10th December

10.30 am till 12.00

Everyone is Welcome



Three Willows New Years Eve Party Menu

Welcome Drink 6 — 6.30pm

• Kir Royale

To Start

Pan Seared king scallops on a pea pancake garnished with a curried cream

Leek onion & stilton pasty with an endive & walnut salad

Terrine of duck & apricot served with red onion marmalade & toasted brioche

French onion soup with cheese crouton

Amuse bouche

Paupiette of lemon sole stuffed with a salmon mousse garnished with a lobster sauce

To Follow

Beef Wellington with mushroom duxelle wrapped in puff pastry, dauphinoise potatoes, seasonal vegetables & madeira sauce

Roasted rump of English lamb served on a bed of rosemary infused fondant potato with red cabbage & port jus

Breast of free range chicken stuffed with ricotta basil & sundried tomatoes wrapped in pancetta. Accompanied by crushed new potatoes vegetables & a white wine sauce

Fillets of fresh Sea Bream with a mussel & clam chowder served with dill infused mash potato & baby witted spinach

Spicy five bean cassoulet served with a saffron rice timbale

Palate refresher

A fresh raspberry & banana sorbet

To Finish

Trio of desserts. Belgium Chocolate Torte, Vacherin, Champagne Jelly

*Fresh filter coffee & petit fours
£44.45 Per Person.*

£20 Deposit Per Person in Advance. Booking Essential.

**All the Staff at the Three Willows Wish You A Very Happy New Year*

Birchanger Wood Trust Update

Well now, The Trust has completed all its major current capital schemes. It has been an amazing 3 years of extreme fundraising and work to achieve 6 Km of winding all-weather, wheelchair-friendly woodland paths, the conservation of the flora, and the construction of our compound and store.

THANK YOU ALL.

Birchanger Wood is here for you to use. It is held in trust for YOU THE COMMUNITY. It is a FREE leisure facility and green lung, a green barrier saving and protecting Bishop's Stortford and the village of Birchanger from the devastation of the Developer, the noise of Stansted Airport, and providing 69 acres of ancient woodland and conservation for the environment.

The Trust would welcome your thoughts as to this facility and how you would like to see it develop, be retained, or form volunteer groups to enjoy this facility.

What's New:

The Trust will be installing the QR trail signs gradually over the next few months. These have been provided by Stort Valley Rotary and will provide information and knowledge via an

electronic 'App' as to items of special interest within the Wood - Yes this Wood dates back to Roman times!

Art in the Wood was held again this year and was supported by Essex Life. The paintings, pictures and drawings were amazingly varied and conceptual. WELL DONE you pupils of our local community and primary schools.

The Wood

Fallacy: You do not have to have a dog to use Birchanger Wood.

Just come along - look at the birds, Walk, talk sit down and enjoy the calm. Run, see how fast you can get round!

Noise: Yes the A120 does run through the Wood but think how much more noisy it would be without the barrier of trees. How do you cross the A120?: With extreme caution. Is there a demand for a crossing?

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Secretary and Trustee, the Birchanger Wood Trust. Tel: 01279 812259
daphnewj1944@yahoo.co.uk
www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

Canine Corner



Where the dogs of Birchanger can have their say

When I moved here to the village back in July I thought it was going to be difficult to settle in, you know, make new friends, find interesting walks and generally make my mark so to speak. Of course my 'humans' were very reassuring "don't worry Pixie just because you come from an urban environment, doesn't mean you won't like it, you will love the countryside!" Well I had my doubts but thought I'd give it a go.

The first few days were great, lying about in the sunshine. They even bought me some 'toys' to play with: a tennis ball (eaten within ten minutes!), a squeaking toy (whistle disabled immediately) and a respectable sized bone called a 'postman's leg' which I duly crunched up and swallowed after which I had to sleep for the best part of the day.

Then came that Monday when they told me I had to go to the "Dog Doctor" just for a little check up! Humph, first thing that happened was a thermometer placed in a most undignified place, then being poked and prodded all over after which they bought some stuff to put in the. 'barth', I think they called it. Now I've had one of them once before and I did not like it; don't they know I am a Bull Terrier and we do not like water, thank you very much!

Anyway Summer marched on and I thought, well, they certainly seem in need of the long walks I take them on and it gives them such pleasure to fuss over me so I may as well stay to enrich their little lives!

By September I had made quite a few friends, Chester the giant Schnauzer, Lola a Jack Russell, my neighbours, the border terriers, Gordon and Lulu, plus, Suki the Salouki, Flossie the B& B dog, the Labrador brothers Eski and Malbec and my best friend Wiki who lives in the big house at the end of the village. Some of us led our humans out into the ring at the village fete, what a hoot! Plenty of treats, and all we had to do was: "Sit", "Walk", "Heel" and generally let them look like they were in charge. Oh, and, most important, 'Not do a Poo in the parade ring', though why that spoiler of a rule was invented I do not know!

I must at this point thank Millie 'Gilbey', my French Bulldog pal, for squaring it with Ed. the..... Ed.! for us to have this small portion of the magazine to indulge in a bit of Canine gossip.

There will no doubt be plenty of opportunity for others dogs to air their views on village life, complain about human behaviour and generally show our 'owners' we are more than their dumb best friends, WE care about Birchanger too!

After all, look at humans, they can't bark or fetch things using only their mouths and they can't even lick their own bums! How they ever got to be the dominant species I'll never know!

Pixie 'Wilson'

Oh. Oh! just heard, on the casualty list, Sam 'Lee' had a slight argument with a car in Hatfield Forest, currently on the mend. Millie also had a collision with a van in the lane. Be careful out there!

On that note I really must thank the van driver who saw Millie coming and by driving safely and braking hard he saved Millie's life for which I am extremely grateful. Thank you sir!

Ed

Paul Davall
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THE THREE WILLOWS



01279 815913

More than just
your village Pub!

Village Diary

November/December

November

24th 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

30th xx Church Hall

Christmas Bazaar

December

1st 11.00 am St Mary's

Matins

8th 11.00 am St Mary's

Family Service

15th 11.00 am St Mary's

Christingle

20th 7.00 pm St Mary's

Carol Service

22nd 11.00 am St Mary's

Holy Communion

29th 11.00 am St Mary's

Matins

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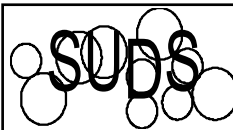
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