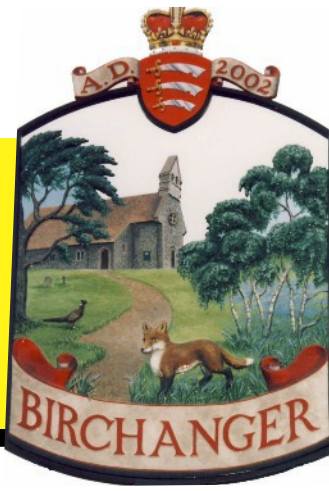


# Birchanger

Sept/Oct 2015



# Magazine

Issue 153

## CLUB STEWARDS LEAVE ON A HIGH

After 6 years of loyal service as stewards to the Birchanger Sports and Social Club, Kim and Graham have decided it is time to enjoy their retirement and make the permanent move to their home in France. Since joining the club back in 2009, Kim and Graham have become well-loved stalwarts of the village, presiding over one of our finest assets. Their stewardship has seen many changes and developments including the extension of food service, the complete refurbishment of the club as well as attaining accreditation as the best club in East Anglia. CAMRA recently renewed this award, which recognises the club as the best in Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. This is one of many accolades that this tireless working couple can be proud of. Over the last year alone they have been at the helm whilst extensive refurbishment works have seen the club move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a modern look that has drawn in new members and seen footfall increase by over 20%. I'm sure everyone would like to thank Kim and Graham for helping develop the club into what it is today. They leave to enter retirement in their renovated stone cottage in France, where we hope they can enjoy the finest roquefort cheese (one of Kim's favourites) fine wines (Graham's third love after his lovely wife and a pint of Guinness or real ale) and all that France has to offer. Hopefully they will drop in to say hello when back visiting the UK. If you or anyone is interested in filling their shoes then go to [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com) to find out more details.



### Birchanger Art Show Returns 3<sup>rd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> October - Village Hall

With the Art Show, you don't have to go to the London or pay through the nose to experience or even buy professional artists' work. Indeed, many esteemed artists have agreed to display and sell some of their finest paintings this year.

Over the years it has built up a reputation as an Art Show of excellence and there will be a wide selection of styles, subjects and prices to interest everyone.

It will be well worth a visit even if you haven't had much interest in art before just to browse and be pleasantly surprised by what you see. If you are tempted to buy a painting you could have a valuable investment that will also give you hours of pleasure. Furthermore fresh teas, coffees and cakes will be on sale throughout the Art Show so please give it a try and enjoy.



# a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

It is with much trepidation that I sit here to pull together my first edition of the Birchanger Magazine. I understand how for many people including myself it has been an important and much loved part of village life, keeping people up to speed with what's going on and helping to reinforce our village community spirit. Ed has left big shoes to fill, having led the team for over a decade, and I would personally like to thank him for the help and guidance he has offered me during our handover.

I hope to be able to honour Ed's legacy and help to continue pushing the magazine forward through the years. I have some ideas I would like to implement, but most importantly as a village magazine I am keen to provide the information, entertainment and news that you want to hear about, in a format that suits your needs. Over the coming months I would love to hear your thoughts, ideas and comments. I have already been informally asking around for what people are looking for from the magazine and a few points were sent my way, which I hope are reflected in this issue.

Firstly, people are interested in a strong mix of stories combining hard news and lighter entertainment. People have also requested that they receive the information in good time so that they can plan ahead. The more astute amongst you will have noticed the front cover of the magazine is titled Sept/Oct. Moving forward I plan to have the magazine and relevant notices issued a month in advance (hence this is the October edition coming out in September). I am also trialing a pull out centre calendar with all the Birchanger happenings in one place. In the coming months watch out for comments sections, a village agony aunt and many more things.

Let me know what you think,

Tom Granger



magazine@birchanger.com



816349



319, Birchanger Lane

## LOCAL HEROES

### Olivia Wright Does Harlow Chemotherapy Unit Proud



Back on August 9<sup>th</sup> Olivia organised one of the largest and most successful afternoon tea events in village history. Working with friend Lynne she raised over £1,600, which she duly donated to the Harlow Chemotherapy unit. Lynn and Olivia wish to thank everyone for their generous support and I'm sure we'd all like to thank them both in turn for such a sterling effort.

### Darren Trundle to Trek Sahara for Sister

This November Darren will be travelling into the Sahara to trek 100km in just five days. All of this is to raise money for a little-known cause, Mesothelioma UK. Darren's sister Lorraine was diagnosed with Mesothelioma (Asbestos Cancer) three years ago and has since undergone numerous chemotherapy treatments as well as two major operations. Despite the many setbacks, Lorraine remains positive and as strong as she can.

Darren and I would like to call on Birchanger to help where possible by donating to raise awareness of and funding for this terrible disease.

Simply visit [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and search for Darren Trundle.

Darren is also organising a Charity Golf Day at Great Hadham Golf Club on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a Four Ball with an entry of £180/team, which includes breakfast, coffee and an evening meal. For further information please contact Darren or Robert Trundle on 07976370176 / 07580524718 or email him on [robert.trundle818@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.trundle818@btinternet.com).



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Thank You Eddie

Eddie Gilbey who stood down as Editor of this magazine had been our editor for some 12 years and 8 months. During his time as editor the magazine expanded, developed many speciality areas in the village and served both as reporter and promoter of Birchanger life. We are more aware of events beforehand and can keep up to date with what happened afterwards. It has moved from a simple basic format, to one which is full of news from various village groups. People were encouraged to contribute and more people are still doing just that.

Editing the magazine does not just happen. It takes hours of work, type setting, proof reading, nagging contributors for their copy and trying to find photographs to support the items. The magazine has to be ready to go to press each month, no matter how tired Eddie may have been feeling, having to work round holidays and other team needs.

Eddie did all this unstintingly, and without him the magazine could have foundered years ago. I would like to say a very big thank you to Eddie, you will be a hard act to follow, and I have enjoyed working with you. It is over now to Tom Granger to carry the legacy forward.

We wish you both all the very best.

## Google Maps Blessing or a Curse?

The Google cameras came through the village this Spring. In the areas they visited the pictures are fantastic. Clear views of all the houses, roads, and gardens. Great for people who want to come and visit you, really good records for the home owners, but they also make a really good catalogue for those selecting a likely property in which to help themselves to the residents goods.

We have had a spate of burglaries and vandalism since these pictures went on line. Some in places not usually seen by the general public. Could the pictures of Birchanger in the Spring look just that much too tempting for the criminal element to resist?

## Should Parking Charges be Abolished?

The summer was a good one on the whole and a great many people were out and about in town centres. They were all relaxing, enjoying shopping or just looking and meeting up with friends.

How often did I hear someone say that they had to go as their parking ticket was about to run out and with the no return policy in some places, feeding the meter was not an option? How many sales opportunities were lost by this alone? Would the person ever return for another look at an item, or to actually complete a meal with dessert? Could a rise in sales justify car parking revenue lost? Councils claim to be out to help and encourage small businesses, but restricting their customers shopping time might not be the best way to go about it! Successful businesses bring increased employment opportunities meaning more money is flowing in the local economy.

Councils do rely on car parking charges for revenue, but having more successful businesses requiring less support would save money as well. There would be fewer benefits to administer, and less salaries to pay parking attendants and enforcement officers. Has anyone done the maths?

## Tea Party Raises Funds for Cancer Sufferers

Olivia Wright staged the best afternoon tea party in Birchanger in living memory, all in aid of cancer sufferers undergoing chemotherapy at Harlow hospital.

Some of these incredibly brave individuals were there to help and to make the afternoon an undoubted success. The hall was packed, as people of all ages came to enjoy a classic English Summer's Day Tea, with cucumber sandwiches, scones, and cakes accompanied by the traditional jam, cream and strawberries. They participated generously in the well stocked Tombola and bought tickets for an enormous raffle, full of lavish prizes. Children were not left out, they had their own Tombola with exciting prizes to win.

The chemotherapy unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital will be able to be refurbished for the benefit of everyone who uses it. The event raised an astonishing £1,600 and still counting!.



## Housing Survey For All Key Workers?

It could be argued that almost everyone could be classified as a key worker, as most of those in employment are vitally important in their various roles. However in this case it actually means everyone who works in the health services, all of the emergency services, education, and local government.

Uttlesford District Council is well aware that all the people who work in these categories need to be housed affordably near their places of work. It could be that you are one of those workers, forced into a long commute because you had to find a house well away from your work which was affordable. We do need a system where people are able to buy their own homes rather than have to rent them.

Uttlesford District Council are concerned about this situation and would like everyone who falls into this category to take part in a survey in attempt to find out how serious the issue of affordable homes is in this area as well as how people could be helped with easier access to mortgages and shared ownership schemes.

If you would like to help with the survey, which could help to make access to mortgages and home ownership easier please contact Stephanie Baxter, the Housing Enabling Officer on Uttlesford District Council on 01799510563 or on email: [sbaxter@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:sbaxter@uttlesford.gov.uk). You will also be entered for a prize draw, which could earn you a £25 gift voucher.

The District Council is currently producing a new Local Plan and wants to be able to provide for affordable homes where people need them to be.

## Do You Know Where Your Daughter Is?

When you first let your children out on their own, have you really equipped them for the realities of the big outside world?

Concerns have been raised recently over the finding of several helium sachets and small containers after teenage parties, as well as items of underwear which were unlikely to have been worn by an adult.

One girl was found, completely out of her head her clothing in total disarray, after one such event and returned to her horrified father. The worrying element was that several young men were seen running away from the area as she was discovered. Debris found in the Recreation Ground in recent weeks has also given cause for concern.

These youngsters do still need care. They sadly do need the realities of life explained properly, and how to deal with them. It is the parents responsibility to make sure this happens.

## Parish Plan

A big thank you to everyone who took time and a good deal of thought to complete the questionnaire printed in July Parish Magazine.

If you have not been able to do this, your views may just be able to be considered and act now.

Work will continue on the plan over the next few months.

## Watch Out There Are Travellers About

Many years ago travellers were welcomed to Birchanger. Now this may come as a complete surprise to many people as travellers today are associated with litter, noise crime increases, and general anti social behaviour, something the gypsies of old would never have tolerated, as they worked hard in the community, cleared up and moved on when their work was done.

There are concerns as there have been sightings of those with white vans towing caravans looking at various field entrances probably as possible sites. If you do see any suspicious activity of this nature, please call our neighborhood watch co-ordination, Alex Stewart on 07846 467575

## Art Show is Coming

The ever popular Birchanger Art Show returns on Sat October 3rd between 10.30 and 5 and on Sunday October 4th closing at 4.30.

There will be plenty of pictures to see, by local artists and the pictures will also be on sale.

There will also be a wide range of refreshment available throughout the two days.

It is a good place to come, relax and browse over the pictures. Perhaps even to buy one for that bare wall, or to replace something which you never liked anyway.

Come and Enjoy.

## Coffee Time Again

It is time already for the Autumn Coffee Morning at Moorswood.

This time it will be held on Tuesday October 6th. Come and enjoy between 10.30 and noon.

You will be very welcome

# What's On ...

## October

| M                                                                                                                                | T                                                                                                                                   | W                                                                    | T                                                                                                   | F                                                                                                                                                                   | S                                                                                                        | S                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>KEY:</b><br><b>St. M - St Mary's Church</b>                                                                                   | <b>VH - Village Hall</b>                                                                                                            | <b>BSSC - Birchanger Sports and Social Club</b>                      | 1<br>Garden Waste  | 2 <b>CHARITY GOLF DAY!</b> (See p.2)<br>BSSC - Treasure Chest Draw<br>Black Bin  | 3<br>BSSC - Rugby World Cup - England vs Australia - 8pm (big screen)<br><b>VH - Birchanger Art Show</b> | 4.<br>St. M - Morning Prayers                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                      | 5                                                                                                   | 6<br>Coffee Morning at Moorswood (from 10:30)                                                                                                                       | 7<br>VH - Tea Room 2-4                                                                                   | 8                                                                                                      |
| 9                                                                                                                                | 10<br>BSSC - Bottle Draw<br>Recycling          | 11<br>BSSC - Rugby World Cup - England vs Uruguay - 8pm (big screen) | 12<br>St. M - Holy Communion                                                                        | 13                                                                                                                                                                  | 14<br>VH - Tea Room 2-4                                                                                  | 15                                                                                                     |
| 16<br>Garden Waste                            | 17<br>BSSC - Treasure Chest Draw<br>Black Bin  | 18<br>BSSC - Live Act - Tequila                                      | 19<br>St. M - Morning Prayers                                                                       | 20                                                                                                                                                                  | 21<br>VH - Tea Room 2-4                                                                                  | 22                                                                                                     |
| 23<br>BSSC - Wheel of Fortune<br>Recycling  | 24<br>St. M - Holy Communion<br>BST Ends                                                                                            | 25                                                                   | 26                                                                                                  | 27                                                                                                                                                                  | 28<br>VH - Tea Room 2-4<br>BAGS - Meeting                                                                | 29<br>Garden Waste  |
| 30<br>BSSC - Poker Night<br>Black Bin       | 31<br>BSSC - Live Act - Rachel's Robot Army                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                        |

### Anything Important Coming Up?

If you have an important event you would like to publicise in the village magazine then just let us know and we can put it here.



### Tea Room At the Village Hall

Every Wednesday

2.00 till 4.00



In aid of Hall maintenance



### BIRCHANGER Sports & Social Club

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



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

## UNIQUE DOUBLE FOR BIRCHANGER CLUB

**Birchanger Sports and Social Club enters Good Beer Guide 2016 following CAMRA award as best club in East of England**



For the second consecutive year, Birchanger Sports and Social Club has been recognised by CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) as the best club in the East of England. Breaking with tradition, CAMRA has even gone as far as to put BSSC into the Good Beer Guide 2016, which is normally dominated by pubs. The award sees the club beating others from across the region which covers six counties and has a population of almost 6 million.

CAMRA has bestowed the awards in recognition of the tireless efforts undertaken to provide the perfect setting for some of the country's finest real ales. Having previously been recognised by Guinness as one of the best places in the area for a quality pint of the black stuff this reinforces the club's commitment to the very best in quality. Winning in the East of England puts BSSC in the running for the nation's best club 2016!

Speaking about the win, Chairman Peter Booker commented *"The club sits at the heart of the local community, with our members coming from miles around to enjoy our facilities. Whilst we offer a genuine friendly village welcome to all, we also pride ourselves on maintaining extremely high standards, which have once again been recognised by CAMRA. It is a great honour to receive this award and to earn a place in the Good Beer Guide. I must thank our great team of dedicated staff who are the ones who helped make this happen"*

Birchanger Sports and Social Club always welcomes new members. The club offers a great food service as well as regular entertainment from quizzes and bingo through to live acts performing on the clubs dedicated stage. For further information on what's going on or for how to join, check out our website at [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com).

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Rugby World Cup



Major matches will be shown in the Giant HD Screen in the club. The club is the best place outside the stadium to enjoy the game. Where else can you get great value food and drinks whilst sitting in prime seats as the action rolls out in high definition before your very eyes?

England vs. Australia - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 8pm

England vs. Uruguay - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 8pm

### 17<sup>th</sup> October – Tequila

Back by popular demand this trio will set your hearts racing with some incredible tunes



### 31<sup>st</sup> October – 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!



Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ  
Tel: 01279 813441 email: [club@birchanger.com](mailto:club@birchanger.com) Follow us at: [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)



# Seasonal Advice

## Seasonal Affective Disorder

As the summer comes to an end, the onset of autumn and winter can be very difficult on those people suffering from SAD or Seasonal Affective Disorder.

An estimated 7 per cent of Britain's population suffers from SAD, with a further 17 per cent experiencing a milder form of the condition, commonly known as the "winter blues"

The terms 'winter depression' and seasonal affected disorder (SAD) describe a form of depression that occurs in the winter months. The prominent symptoms are:

- low mood starting in autumn or winter - lack of energy - irritability - overeating and weight gain (there is often a craving for carbohydrate food) - lack of interest in socialising - Increased sleep and daytime sleepiness.

If you think that this is something you suffer from there are various things that you can do to alleviate the symptoms. Get out as much as possible, walking or exercising on brighter days. Make sure that general well being is good like a healthy diet. Even if it is difficult on those low days push yourself to socialise with others, limit sleeping during the day and do exercise. Light therapy in the form of a light box has also been found to be very beneficial.

**Christine Usher**



## Gardening Gold

As Summer has its final hurrah it is time to admit that autumn is now definitely here for real, and it feels colder.

Don't despair, however, it's a beautiful time of year, as Birchanger puts on its best display of autumnal colour. Sometimes it may seem pointless raking, when the wind blows even more leaves onto the lawn, but just think of all the lovely compost you can make!

It's also time to start preparing for early frosts. Here are our top 10 jobs for the month:

### 1) Shake and Rake:

Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly.

### 2) Trim your Bush:

Cut back perennials that have died down.

### 3) Divide and Conquer:

Divide herbaceous perennials and rhubarb crowns.

### 4) Protect Your Sensitive Bits:

Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into the greenhouse.

### 5) Grow Your Greens:

Plant out spring cabbages.

### 6) Grab Your Nuts:

It's time to harvest all your apples, pears, nuts and grapes.

### 7) Get Thorny:

Trim your rose bushes down to size.

### 8) Buy, Buy, Buy:

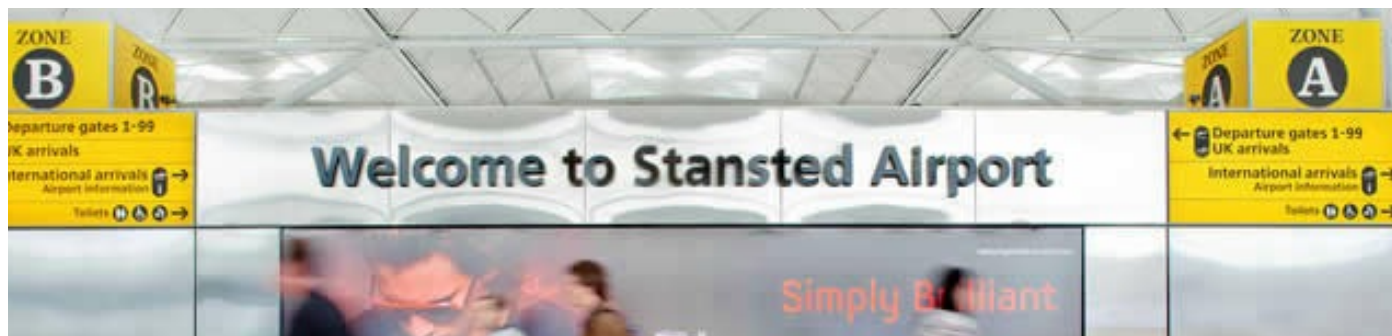
Place your orders for any 2016 seeds

### 9) Last Chance Saloon:

One last opportunity whilst it's warm to trim your hedges and mow your lawns

### 10) Patch Job:

It's time to lay down turf for any new or needing of repair lawns



## News, Views and Happenings at our Biggest Neighbour

Each month I will try to summarise the happenings from our controversial neighbour. Some people feel blighted by the noise, some rely on Stansted for travel and employment, so love them or loathe them it feels right we should be aware what's going on.

### Noise Relief?



September saw Stansted Airport launch a public consultation on a new take-off procedure that will effect up to 4,000 residents in the area.

The new procedure uses the latest navigation systems to ensure that aircraft taking off can follow more accurate flight paths, potentially reducing the number of households that suffer direct overflights.

The airport claims that initial trials have shown an 85% reduction in households directly affected by overflying aircraft. It is yet to be seen if the trials and amends will have any positive effect on Birchanger residents, and initial mapping shows that it is unlikely to directly affect us, but it is important that we remain informed and vigilant.

The consultation runs for 12 weeks until November 27, 2015, and people can find out more and take part by visiting the airport's website:

### July Traffic Figures

| July 2015                      | Monthly   |           |        |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                                | 2015      | 2014      | Diff   |
| <b>Total Passengers</b>        | 2,190,588 | 1,947,546 | 12.50% |
| <b>Air Transport Movements</b> | 14,432    | 13,152    | 9.70%  |
| <b>Cargo Tonnage</b>           | 20,732    | 19,853    | 4.40%  |

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## 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

**Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 for 8.00**

Nadia Walters, a Birchanger resident, will be talking about her amazing walk from Land's End to John O'Groats which has raised over £10,000 for Cancer Research

*Tel. for details:* Michelle - 814481,  
Barbara – 813007, Rosemary - 814678



# Highlights from the Fete

## From Dogs to Drag - a Day to Remember

The village fete is always a not to be missed event in Birchanger. Hosted at the Birchanger Sports and Social Club, the day starts before most of us are even up. Volunteers from across the village and beyond turn up from the break of day to arrange stalls, pitch marquees, not to mention those behind the scenes baking cakes, sorting out raffles and the like. After a damp morning the sun broke through the clouds and gave everyone the afternoon they deserved.



### DOG SHOW



The ever popular dog show returned for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Pooches from up and down the land turned out in force.

Highlights included a feisty runaway whose idea of obedience was to do three laps of the field. All the owners came and left thinking their dog was the best in show, indeed many left the ring in disbelief as former winners left empty pawed. The competition was definitely hair-raising, but

Best in Show went to Prettiest Bitch Akira and owner James (seen above). Other wins include; Handsomest Male - Harry - owner Hilary; Best Puppy - Sam - owner Pat; Best Rescue - Pixie - owner Tony and finally Best Behaved - Dante - owner Jo.

### DANCING TILL DAWN



The club threw on a great day of food and drink that went on until the wee hours. Birchanger was joined by favourite act Francisco Sommers, whose unique performances had many of us up on our feet.

Throughout the evening he gave us his take on everyone from Amy Winehouse to the King of Rock and Roll himself Elvis (pictured above).

A big thank you must go to Peter, Claire and all the fete committee who have been working behind the scenes to make the fete a reality. Also, hats off to the staff and stewards of the club who worked hard all day (and night) to make this a day to remember.



Original hand drawn version of the cartoon available for only £15

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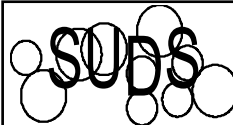
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