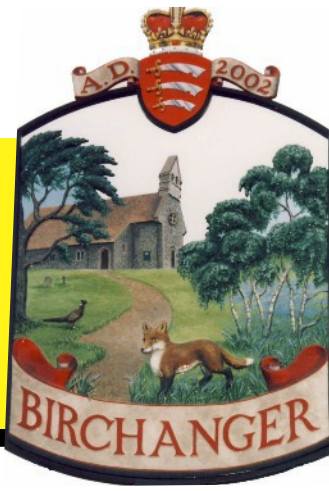


# Birchanger

July 2016



# Magazine

Issue 162

## VILLAGE FLOODS



Credit - Pam Lee: For the third time this year disaster has struck at the hall in the form of flooding so severe that the building has had to be closed.

The first time this happened was in January when many places around the country were affected by rising water levels. Unfortunately, the drain outside the hall was blocked and water flowed from the road, down the car park and unerring the hall doors. The problem was reported to Essex Highways - the department responsible for maintenance of the drains in Birchanger Lane - and debris was cleared away by Trudy and her team.

Two weeks ago the hall flooded again but this time the floors were damaged so it was necessary to call in insurance assessors. The problem with the drain was still there so Essex Highways was contacted again - no chance of actually speaking to anyone. You just file a report on line and get back an automated acknowledgement.

On the evening of Sunday 12th June we had a torrential downpour and, as you can see from the pictures, the hall flooded again. It has now had to be closed for major repairs to be carried out but these cannot even start until the sub floor has been dried out. A new floor can then be laid. Whilst most of the cost involved will be met by insurance, the hall will have to raise or borrow some monies to cover any shortfall.

In addition to damage inside the hall (New room, kitchen, porch, creche and main hall) there are problems with the car park. In some areas the tarmac has been washed away and a rather large pothole has appeared in the middle of the entrance closest to the allotments. This entrance is now closed until repairs have been done. Insurance will not cover this work but funds must be found quickly.

Professionals will carry out all repair work needed to get the hall back into good shape but you can help by making a donation towards the cost involved. Please speak to Pam Lee on 07702171744.

You can also help by remembering to slow down when they drive past the hall when the road is flooded.

## TELEPHONE TROUBLES

The floods have had another unlikely victim in the form of local telephone lines. If you have been affected then we'd love to hear from you. One couple who have fallen foul of the flooding are retired village stalwarts Ken and Xena Sturgeon. At the time of writing this article they had been without land line for over a week. This is due to a cable on Birchanger lane being damaged by flooding. This flooding is the same that has been repeatedly reported to Uttlesford and Highways, who have repeatedly ignored or shooed away the issue. It is disgraceful that a retired couple should be left without the safety net of a landline and communications. Whilst mobile phones are a great thing for many of us, let's not forget those for whom they remain a foreign and difficult to use item.



# a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I am forced to stand down from editing the magazine. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June saw the country vote in favour of a Brexit. For me, as a small business owner, the results are very damaging and close to home. My clients - mainly international companies - are reviewing their staffing levels in the UK, reconsidering investment and new projects are being mothballed. The next year will be extremely challenging for all. As such I must dedicate all my time to making it work to try and keep my staff in the employment that pays their mortgages and helps them raise their families.

I strongly believe that the vast majority of people who voted leave did with honourable intentions, and I would not want this to feel like a challenge or questioning of their integrity. Indeed many of my friends and family members voted leave. One very serious and unintended consequence, however, of this vote has been the legitimising of narrow minded and racist sentiments. As a minority myself, despite my many advantages and the respect most people show me, I can relate to the feeling of fear and alienation that many people will now be feeling. The legitimate immigrants who are being bullied at school because they are different, the horrific people calling for those of a different colour to go home. Britain is a country that has been made stronger because of the rich tapestry of different cultures that come together here. It is a FACT that with each intake of immigrants we have become stronger economically, they have not stolen jobs, but paid into and supported our economy. So I would ask that we are all vigilant, let's not lose the Great from Great Britain, let's continue to be one of the most progressive and caring societies in the world. Closer to home let's continue to make Birchanger the welcoming place I fell in love with when I first moved here.

I am sorry that I will have to hand over the reigns after such a short time, but would appeal to anyone who has the time to offer to step in and help keep the magazine alive. Please drop me an email or indeed speak to Ken or Elizabeth for more information.

Kind regards,

Tom Granger



[magazine@birchanger.com](mailto:magazine@birchanger.com)



816349



319, Birchanger Lane

## THANK YOU

Credit Jean Camp: A big thank you from the local residents & dog walkers to a group of local people who have taken it upon themselves (because the powers that be don't ever appear!) to make the approach & entrance to the farmers field between 61 & 61a Birchwood clean, tidy & presentable. I know that the " Rape" in the field has gone a bit wild this year but at least the surroundings are pleasant.(apart from the people that dump their garden rubbish round the back in the farmers field!!!) It is nice to take pride in where you live as most residents in Birchanger do, so all we need now is a couple of dog poo bins! & even perhaps the most ignorant of dog walkers might think twice about clearing up after their dog, we can live in hope!!! So a big thank you to Val, Keith, Cindy, David & Holly on behalf of us all it is much appreciated. Regards Jean, on behalf of the local residents.

## FIELD MARGINS: CLARIFICATION

Credit: Saville's Property Management: The May magazine appears to suggest that parishioners have permission to walk around field margins. I am afraid that this is not and has never been the case on Birchanger Hall Farm land.

I must therefore ask that walkers stick to the designated footpaths and bridleways. The field margins mentioned in the Parish Magazine are provided, at the taxpayers expense, as part of an environmental scheme to benefit wildlife, particularly pollinators and ground nesting birds. The presence of just one dog walker on a regular basis is enough to render them almost worthless for the latter.

In addition, whilst you state that access is at walkers own risk, the Occupiers Liability Act 1984 still applies and, whilst designated footpaths must be maintained, it would not only be onerous for my client to maintain every field boundary to the same standard but also a breach of the environmental scheme.



# VILLAGE NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Time to Recognise our Unsung Heroes

There have been several unsung heroes down the years in Birchanger, whose services, all freely given, have been recognised in the Uttlesford Community Awards.

These awards are not given every year, but it is time to think who should be rewarded for the services they have given to our community. It is a way to say thank you.

The criteria are simple. The nominees must have given service to the elderly, youth or the community at large for over five years without any pecuniary reward. They can be of any age, I presented one to a 95 year old who looked after those whom she termed the old folk in her village, and to teenagers who have fund raised and organized schemes to benefit their community in their own villages. Each time several young people receive special awards for things they have done to help others.

If you do know someone you would like to nominate, you can do this through the Parish Council. Nomination forms can be obtained from Sue Hayden at Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510563. I am happy to help to facilitate the process. The nomination forms must then be submitted through the Parish Council. The closing date is September 1st.

## Where to Walk?

We are surrounded in Birchanger by woodland and folds, most of which are in cultivation.

We now have a definitive on where you can actually walk in these fields, and as this is not Scotland, you can only stick to the footpaths and bridle ways, most of which are marked, although on many the signs are in need of some attention.

The areas which are causing confusion are the green strips around many of the fields. These strips once had notices on them telling us all to keep off, but most of these have disappeared with time. What they would have told us now is that we are not to walk on them at all times.

This will be hard to understand when the fields are dormant and wildlife is scarce, but we have lost many of the birds which used to nest here and it would be good to see some of them back.

The parish council will try to arrange for footpath maps to go on the website and on the notice boards to help.

## Do You Have Mental Health Issues?

If you do not, then you are one of the lucky ones, as at least one in four of us will experience them at some point in their lives.

Mental health issues are easily swept under the carpet. People do not openly discuss them in the way they talk about the latest virus going around. It is an illness people still seem to find shaming, although there is absolutely no logical reason why. The sufferers may think they are socially unacceptable, but so are a wide range of other illnesses which we can all suffer from just as easily.

Relatives of mentally ill people can feel isolated and access to help via the normal channels often results in a very long wait, when the condition is overwhelming now. There is now a new helpline which patients and their relatives can now use. This can be accessed by calling 0300 222 5943.

It does not help both sufferers of mental illness or their relatives to bottle everything up. If you are in this situation, you do need to talk to someone, be it friend, relative or a professional. Using the helpline could be your answer.

## Breakfast and After School Clubs

Many schools have been running Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs for several years, but these are mostly in schools which are larger than our school in Birchanger, but it is something which the school has been trying to establish here for many years.

Now an outside company, who has several schemes already elsewhere, is to open both Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs at the school. This it is hoped will greatly benefit working parents, who may now be able to contemplate taking a full time job again.

The trouble with school hours being shorter than a standard working day, is that some job opportunities have been impossible for parents to take, as many, even part time working, require an 8 hour working day. These clubs will be properly run on school premises and are expected to be open until 6.30 pm. They will only be available to Birchanger School parents. Now what about holiday clubs?

## Defibrillator

When a medical emergency strikes, it is often confusing and very shocking to anyone around at the time.

As well as calling an ambulance, try and send someone to get the defibrillator which is located on the wall in front of the club. It has been used already in the village, but it is easy to forget that it is there. After use, it must be returned to the club.

## A Warning Loud and Clear

Lock up your sheds and garages. Make them as secure as possible as the garden equipment thieves are back in town. Gardening tools and other equipment have been stolen from homes in Birchanger over the past few weeks and they are not all recovered.

It is believed that the thieves work in organized gangs. They use youngsters to actually steal the equipment, presumably because they are more agile than the seasoned criminals as a rule. The youngsters actually do the stealing, having been instructed to hide their loot, then tell the gang members where they have stashed it, so that the items can be picked up the following day.

On at least two occasions lately, these youngsters have demonstrated that they are not particularly smart. The loot is left in ditches and has been found by dog walkers on their morning walks. A lot of the goods have been reunited with their owners, but not all.

It is sincerely hoped that the perpetrators do not live in our village. Cars have been seen turning into the sand track from Harrisons, and goods have been recovered from sites near that entrance and other easy pick up places as well.

The police are too under resourced to try and stop this antisocial menace, so it seems it is up to us. Several residents are already trying by taking down the numbers of cars they see at the entrance to the sand track, which could be used to trace the culprits.

Birchanger is a good place to live for a great many people. We must all try to stop these criminals by our own security habits locking all our outbuildings and noting anything at all which is out of the ordinary or suspicious. It should not be too hard.

## Is Joined up Medical Care Coming at Last?

Joined up care where all the professionals could have access to your medical history, test results, and prescriptions are up to date and available to the health professionals was promised two years ago, but that promise was not fulfilled. Now it appears we are back to the drawing board all over again with a new scheme which will only be applicable to local surgeries, and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow. Addenbrookes and Broomfield hospitals are not at present to be included. In Birchanger we regularly use all three and others further afield.

Still it is a small step to improved contact between the professionals. We may not get too many incompatible drugs provided to us, our test results will be circulated more quickly, leading to faster treatment and a better understanding all round.

But what if you do not want your medical details to be available in this way? The site is supposed to be secure, but you may feel that nothing on line is secure these days. Do you have to be a part of this?

The answer is, no you don't. Every patient will receive a letter before the scheme comes into action, whereby patients can opt out if they want to. You only need to respond if you actually want out, no action will presume agreement.

It is a matter of personal choice. Hopefully it will save all the spoilt appointments for missing test results and lost notes, that is if the staff are able to manage the new technology

Would You Like To Join Birchanger Parish Council?  
It is nearly another three years before the next Parish Council is due to be elected, but there is an unexpected vacancy on the Parish Council now.

The term Councillor can seem boring to some, but it really is an opportunity to find out more about what is happening in Birchanger as well as being instrumental in making it all happen. You could have your own little area of responsibility, and be doing a very useful job in the community.

If you are interested, please call me for more information on 812793, or our Parish Clerk Keith Williams on 814473.

## A Private Beef








What has happened to men? They all seem to look the same these days. They just come in differing shapes and sizes with their shaved heads. In fact they seem to have lost their personality, as shaving your head before you actually lose your hair seems to me to result in the loss of an important feature which defines you.

They used to shave the heads of convicts and I am sure most men with shaved heads are not in that category, so what is the attraction?

Beats me, but like all fashions, it will pass.

# What's On ...

## July 2016

| Mon   | Tue  | Wed                        | Thu   | Fri  | Sat                              | Sun |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|-----|
|   |  |                            |   | 1<br>BSSC- Treasure Chest<br> | 2                                | 3   |
| 4<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing  | 5<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet  | 6<br>BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Ch  | 7<br>BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dan<br>  | 8<br>                       | 9<br>BSSC- Wesley Presley - LIVE | 10  |
| 11<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing | 12<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet | 13<br>BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Ch | 14<br>BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance  | 15<br>                      | 16                               | 17  |
| 18<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing | 19<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet | 20<br>BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Ch | 21<br>BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dan<br> | 22<br>                      | 23<br>BSSC- Bazooka Joe - LIVE   | 24  |
| 25<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing | 26<br>BSSC - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet | 27<br>BSSC- 09:30 - Tai Ch | 28<br>BSSC- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance  | 29<br>                      | 30                               | 31  |





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## 125 EVENT – CELEBRATION

**BIRCHANGER**  
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

A big thanks to everyone who supported the club over this popular 125 celebration weekend. There was a bouncy castle, magician and face painter on site all weekend. Furthermore, local entertainments and acts including the Birchanger Voices provided a real highlight of the weekend. Over the weekend we greeted a whole host of new members to the club with our 125 promotion to get your membership for the rest of the year for £12.50. If you haven't experienced the club yet, then come along and find out why we are the fastest growing club in the area.

## RULE BOOK CHANGE



Another thanks to those who turned out to unanimously vote through the essential changes to the rule book. As the rains poured down it was testament to those members resilience that they left their homes at all!

## VILLAGE FETE



As the 125 year celebrations continue, preparations for the village fete are coming along nicely. This is set to be the biggest and best fete for a generation, so make sure you keep September 3<sup>rd</sup> free in your diaries. The fete committee, ably led by Peter Booker, would welcome anyone looking to run a stall at the fete, or indeed any supporters who would be able to help set up the event. This year one of the highlights will be live music playing outside during the event as well as many other things. Don't worry though family favourites such as the dog show will be returning - so start pampering your pooches now if you want them to have their day in the sun!

## CLUB SAVES THE DAY



Following the unfortunate flooding at the village hall, the club has been pleased to be able to offer their Pavilion facilities to ensure the community events can continue to take place within Birchanger. An often forgotten facility the Pavilion with its built in kitchen, dishwasher and oven offers a great space for private parties, classes and events. If you have something coming up then get in touch to see if the pavilion could work for you!

## HAPPENINGS - JULY



**1st- Treasure Chest - #pleasenotthem** If you want to ensure no more committee members walk away with the money, then make sure to turn up in force and buy the tickets!



**9th - Wesley Presley - LIVE -** Come and see the area's premier Elvis impersonator deliver some of the King of Rock n Roll's classics



**23<sup>rd</sup> - Back by popular demand** Bazooka Joe will be performing live in the club for your aural pleasure.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

| Day        | 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    | Bottle Draw   | Evenings      |

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



## Gordon Blue Review: Bishop's Cave Bishops, North Street Stortford – 4 stars

As an antidote to the plethora of restaurants in Bishop's Stortford, you could do worse than try out a chirpy newcomer to North Street known as the Bishop's Cave. The absence of a website is slightly unusual these days although if you have a Facebook account, you can find out more about the offerings and events taking place and will usually receive a swift reply to any questions you have.

By day the place operates as a wine and cheese specialist, but it also has a range of craft beers and chutneys for sale for those looking for something different to that offered by the general supermarket. Our visit (a party of six) visited one evening, however, taking the last available places for a specialist cheese and wine evening which focused on a variety of unusual and varied French wines, which had been hand-selected by our Sommelier, Thibault.



Steve, our host and joint-owner together with his son, is affable and charming if appearing a little strained at times and he guided us through the night which involved a mix of wines including sparkling, white and red. At £20 per head which included 6 wines and a cheese board served half way through the evening, we felt as if it was good value for money, especially as some of the wines we tried were not widely available to the general public and genuinely interesting. Measures were sufficient to enable our party to grasp the flavours of the wine although we did end up purchasing another bottle (or two) in order to punctuate the gaps in the tasting.

The serving of cheese mid-way through the evening was a little strange and we would have perhaps preferred more of a matching of the cheese and wine pairings throughout the night to satiate our appetite. It was also a help-yourself style which detracted slightly from our otherwise positive experience as people ended up queuing for platefuls of cheese in scenes reminiscent to the school canteen. Nevertheless, the cheese was plentiful and delicious and the mid-way break enabled us to relax and question Thibault further on the wines we were trying.

I've been to the Bishop's Cave a few times now and given how different it is to other offerings in the area, it really is a great venue that I hope succeeds. The downstairs area is available for hire for parties and Steve is accommodating and happy to discuss your plans. We will certainly be back!

Bishop's Cave, 22 North St, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire County CM23 2LW  
Phone: 07900 263455







## New leadership team at Stansted unveiled

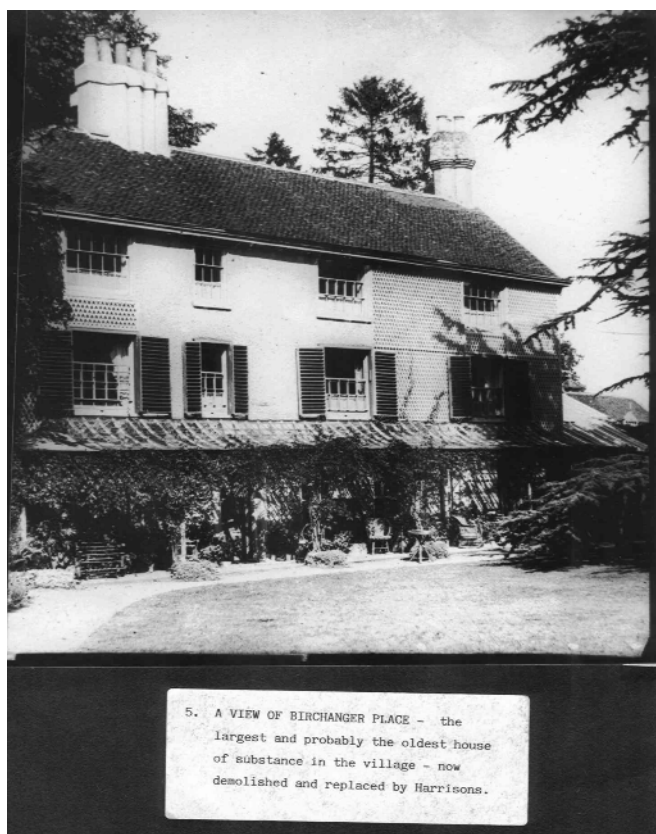
London Stansted today announced a number of changes to strengthen its senior management team and support the continued growth of the airport following the recent appointment of new CEO, Andrew Cowan.

Martin Jones has been appointed Commercial Director responsible for retail, car parking and business development. Martin previously worked as MAG Interim Retail Director having joined the business from M&S in 2015.

Daniel Gallo joins the Stansted team as Customer Service & Security Director having been MAG HR Director and takes over from Karen Smart who moves to the position of Stansted's Assets Management Director responsible for developing the airport's future infrastructure needs.

Martin Lyall, who previously held the position of Assets Management Director, is now Stansted's Transformation Programme Director while James Dix has joined as Finance Director from Drax Group plc, having worked in the USA for three years as senior vice president for finance.

It is clear that as the country focuses on Brexit, we as a village must be vigilant to ensure that the decisions about the future of Britain's airports and the need for expansion is not allowed to come back to Stansted.



## Birchanger All Girls Society

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# Letters From the Village

To all my dear friends and amazing neighbours in our leafy little village,

A big thank you for all your help and support to me when Peter passed away. Your kindness was over whelming, your cards and letters have been a great comfort to me. I've received over 100 plus lots of beautiful flowers and, of course, the cakes you kindly baked for me. My house was surrounded with love and thoughtfulness.

I am a very lucky lady to be part of this village and thank you once again for all your support.

Much love to you all

Olivia X

\*\*\*\*

As a gentle reply to Ms Godwin's piece in the latest Birchanger Magazine.....

A simple phone call to the farm's Managing Agent gained an apology as the hedges to the rear of the three properties in Churton are, in fact, the responsibility of those residents and not the farmer. The efforts of those residents to maintain a suitable environment for wildlife and keep the areas tidy was later appreciated.

Best,

John Warwick  
Chairman - Churton Management Company Ltd

\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

Can anybody tell us why the magnificent tree at the corner of Birchanger Lane and Harrisons has been so brutally destroyed? This majestic and ancient tree has been cut down beyond all recognition. Was this really necessary? We could understand if it was diseased or was a danger to people or houses but there doesn't appear to have been any reason for this completely and seemingly senseless destruction. Of course, it may be that ruthless pruning has been carried out in order that the tree will continue to flourish in years to come, although it certainly doesn't appear that way to our untrained eyes. Can anyone shed some light?

Peter and Cheryl Sampson

\*\*\*\*

Hi!

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of my University, the University of London Institute in Paris. We're a British University, with our campus based in Paris. This summer, six of our current students will be participating in the Tower to Tower Bike Ride. The journey begins at the Eiffel Tower and will end at Blackpool Tower, a ride totalling almost 600miles. As much as we are all thrill seekers, this ride is in aid of a far more worthwhile and wonderful cause; Mind charity, who we also supported in last year's bike ride.

Mind is a mental health charity who work to ensure there is a network of support for those experiencing mental health problems, and equally that those people are respected. We feel that Mind charity is a worthy and relevant cause for us, especially given as mental health disorders heavily affect young people. Statistically 1 in 10 children/young people have a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder. Thus, Mind strikes a chord with our student body, especially regarding their endeavour to tackle the taboo of mental illness.

## OUR APPEAL

We are appealing to you and/or your organisation to aid our bike ride. Any financial donation you could offer would be incredibly appreciated. If you are interested and would like to help us, or find out more, please contact [sophie.boyle@ulip.lon.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.boyle@ulip.lon.ac.uk); On behalf of all our riders and support crew, I'd like to thank you for taking your time to read our story.

Lizzie Da Costa - Birchanger Resident

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## CALLING ALL CLUB MEMBERS

BSSC is run by and for its members.  
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working hard on entertainments, drinks, food  
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succeed without you. If you have any ideas or  
have time to dedicate to sub-committees then  
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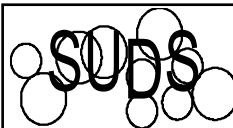
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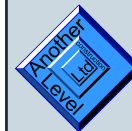


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