Birchanger

June 2016



Magazine

Issue 161

BIRCHANGER'S WINNING MONTH



It seems May was a lucky month for many in the club with two treasure chest wins as well as a popular treasure hunt happening. Within the month Roy Brown walked away with a tidy sum only to see fellow committee member John McArthur walk away with a further wad of cash having selected the correct key in the treasure chest game. Many in the village may question how two committee members could win in such quick succession, but despite the dubious enquiries it is without doubt that proceedings were conducted with the utmost of fairness and all protocol followed. Furthermore, both John and Roy have been pillars of the club community over the years, propping up the bar in a way that goes above and beyond the call of duty. We can only now speculate as to what Elaine and Liz will be spending the money on...

Another great 125 celebration event took place at the start of the month, with the Wheatleys winning one of the most complicated treasure hunts in living memory. The editor's (somewhat bitter) experience was of a great day out in the local area discovering, pubs, places and scenery that could rival anywhere in the world. The route and quiz were expertly put together

by Brian Ross. Some might have disagreed with the strict and controversial marking scheme he put in place that penalised accuracy of response to the written question vs. some innate understanding of the desired response. One thing that is not in doubt is the impressive 99/100 score from the Wheatley family, who well deserved their win. On another serious note a big thank you to Brian for a great day and the weeks of hard work that must have gone into making it such a success and to helping raise much needed funds for local charity, Grove Cottage.

YET ANOTHER SCAM

Most computers have their problems and we have our own ways of dealing with it and our own particular support, so when a call comes from someone who claims to be calling on behalf of a computer support team, you could be tempted to listen. They have your correct name, they know you have a computer, and for some they may seem plausible.

If you allow them to continue, they side step the issues as to who they actually are and which company they represent. They will tell you that they have identified some problems with your computer, then ask you to go and turn it on. Whatever happens, do not do this.

On the latest call I hung up almost immediately, then I dialled 1471. I actually was given the callers' number, which I then rang, as I was curious to see if anyone answered my call and to perhaps find out who they were, but the number was unobtainable.

Apparently recent government legislation has made it compulsory to make a caller's number known on such calls, but it does not stipulate that these calls cannot be made on lines registered for outgoing calls only. These scammers take advantage of this, they cannot receive any incoming calls on that number.

Never ever get involved with any caller who wants you to turn on your computer, unless it is someone who you know and trust.





Dear Birchanger,

It's June and the sun is coming out! Last month I gave a shout out for Brexit articles to come in to try to represent the implications for Birchanger of an in/out vote. Unfortunately, you were all far too coy to disclose your personal views which is to be expected, although disappointing given people's vocal disclosures after a few beers. Hopefully though despite both sides of the argument throwing out scaremongering tactics, and campaigns of misinformation, you will all take the time to think about this important issue and head to the polling station. As the controversial Saatchi ad recently said - every vote counts equally - so have your say.

On a lighter note, here at the magazine we would really appreciate your contributions and ideas. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone or drop me an email with any thoughts or concerns. This is YOUR village magazine, and my job is to help put together information and content that I think you might like and be of use, I can only do this with your help and feedback.

Tom Granger



magazine@birchanger.com



816349



319, Birchanger Lane

OIL TYCOON

Credit: Sue Gilbey: During a recent cold spell our boiler ceased to function. We rang our usual plumber who services it each year, to be told the guy who dealt with oil boilers was on holiday, but they would see what could be done. (We mentioned my mum of 89 was in the house) We then got a phone call from the guy on holiday who said he'd be there that morning. He duly arrived and repaired the boiler. What service! The name of the company is SMITHS LTD and the hero is Justin. Tel 01279861370 mobile 07785545591. Thank you Justin.

WALKING INSPIRATION

The Hundred Parishes Society http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk/walks, is a large, attractive, gently-undulating area, around 450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire that is largely unspoilt and is richly endowed with many fine examples of agricultural and built heritage. For example, it has over 6,000 listed buildings. As a proportion of total housing stock, there are five times as many listed buildings as in England as a whole. In particular, there is a very high concentration of pre-1700 architecture, Grade I-listed churches, village greens and conservation areas. In addition, there is an exceptional depth of visible agricultural heritage with ancient field patterns, ancient woodland, winding roads, sunken lanes and ancient hedgerows. The area also enjoys a wide variety of wildlife and long-established cultural activities.

There is no better way to explore this lovely and interesting area than on foot. The Society encourages "sustainable tourism" and is pleased to offer a series of walks from railway stations. Some of the stations are just outside the Hundred Parishes.

It is advisable to check rail timetables before setting out—see www.greateranglia.co.uk or www.nationalrail.co.uk. Some walks start and finish at different stations, when it is usually cheaper to buy a return ticket to the more distant station than two singles.

If driving to a two-station walk, it is suggested that you park at the finish and catch the train to the start, thereby avoiding the possible pressure to finish the walk at a certain time.

Walks range from 2.5 miles to 17 miles. If you are an inexperienced walker, do start with the shorter options!

The listing shows the parishes through which each walk passes. You may wish to download introductions to those parishes as an additional source of information.



Do you Know the Spanish Invaders in the Bluebell World?

The Bluebells in both Birchanger and Digby Woods have never been so good as they have been this year. Digby Wood was almost completely carpeted in blue, while in Birchanger Wood a good show of anemones meant that there were patches of both hire and blue flowers at either end to admire.

Well, you might not as from first glance they appear very much like our own native species. It will come as a shock to discover that most of the bluebells resident in our gardens are the invading Spaniards, probably sold to us by garden centres who were not too fussy, or simply did not know what they were doing.

Yet if you start looking at the bluebells you will find there is quite an appreciable difference. What hits you first about Spanish Bluebells is that they have much bigger leaves and the plant is generally larger. Then you realise that the flowers are bigger too and unlike their British counterparts, the flowers grow all around the stem. Native bluebells only have flower growth on one side only. There is no doubt about it, they are beautiful and certainly you would wonder why they are frowned upon so much.

The problem is that they spread like wild fire. The pollen is born on the wind, fertilises our own native species, before they can be fertilised by their own kind, as on the whole they flower slightly earlier. This hybrid then develops into the full larger version.

The reason why they are so successful is that they get going earlier and they are very strong plants.

Our native bluebell cannot compete with these lusty foreigners and botanists claim it is in danger of extinction. They are urging gardeners to uproot the foreigners and try to find native bulbs instead. This is not that easy. I have bought several plants in the past, guaranteed to be British, but one year later, they were clearly not. Try explaining that one to the garden centre! I seem to have a few British bluebells, lots of hybrids, and an increasing number of Spaniards. They are beautiful, but in the interests of our native species, they should be ripped up. The flowering season may be over, but the large fat leaves are still there.

Our natural woods are mainly untouched, yet.

Footpath Obstructions.

There may not be that many footpath users in Birchanger in comparison to the number of cars which race through the village, but those who do use them are finding it increasingly hard to do so on certain days and in certain places around the village.

It is very important that all the users of the footpaths are able to do so safely and without obstructions.

The main reasons for the obstructions are dustbins or over grown hedges. I know it is not the householders fault if the bin men leave their bin obstructing the footpath, but is it really necessary to leave the bin to be emptied on the footpath overnight? It is hard to see them in the dark. The bin men are usually very good at picking up from the end of entrance paths. This would stop people tripping over the bin in the dark, or someone falling into the path of a car, not realizing the bin was there.

It is the main growing season, and that includes hedges. Not a good time to cut them back now as birds are nesting, but several hedges around the village have grown out across footpaths, causing partial blockages. The best time to cut these is towards the end of the summer or in the winter, but if you do think that your hedge has grown more than it should have done, it would help if it was trimmed now.

Finally, many of the footpaths are not exactly in the best state of repair, although some are supposed to be scheduled to be mended. Until this is done, take care.

Difficult to Know Just Where to Walk?

Birchanger is well served by footpaths which are free for everyone to use. What is not free for us to use are the strips around the fields, which have been grassed and are actually the areas which have replaced set aside. They are supposed to be there to encourage wildlife back into the countryside. The farmers are paid to maintain them by DEFRA, and are not generally open to the public, particularly in the nesting season.

They are certainly not places for householders to commandeer, furnish with paving stones, plants and seating for their own particular use., thereby inviting a somewhat unpleasant letter, not only to the individual concerned, but all the neighbours as well.

Farmers will be in danger of losing their allowances for maintaining these areas, and have to stop misuse, or suffer the consequences. Set aside led to ugly fields full of weeds. Encouraging a green swathe around the hedgerows, most people find a pleasant alternative and our wild life is increasing. These paths may just have something to do with this.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

You may not have realised it, but last month was bowel cancer awareness month. Of all the cancers, this is the one which is most often swept under the carpet, yet early detection can ensure a 100% survival rate in women and a 95% total cure in men. Delay and the odds of successful treatment diminish as the years go by.

If you are aged between 60 and 74 you should have received an invitation for a free screening test. If you did not, a test should be arranged through your GP. Classic signs are bleeding from the bowel, often mistaken for piles, swollen abdomen, and extreme tiredness. Any of those should warrant a visit to the doctor anyway. Not a happy subject, but prompt action really does save lives.

Are Your Children Safe on Line?

We all know our children are mostly well ahead of us when they go on line. They know all the latest sites, and how to access them, but they are probably totally unaware of the dangers that could lurk in some of them.

There is help for parents from two sites, which parents can use to check the suitability of the sites their children are visiting. They are www.net-aware.org.uk/ and http://parent info.org.article/staying-safe-on-mine craft

Hopefully a good way to find out what is not safe for them and to take action. There is too much bad stuff out there which it is very easy to stumble into by mistake.

More Queen's Birthday Celebrations

The actual day be long gone, but the celebrations continue. It is now the turn of the Day Centres to hold their own parties. Stansted Day Centre will host a Tea Party on Saturday June 11th. It is expected to be a popular event and in order to be able to cater for everyone, admission will be by ticket only. To obtain yours, please call 815091.

Anyone who has their 90th birthday this year, will be made a special fuss of on the day of the party. If you know anyone who is 90 this year, the council would like to celebrate this and to make all the ninety year olds VIPs for the day. If you do know someone, please contact the District Council on 01799 510510.

Finding Your Way Through the Asthma Peak Season

It is at this time of year that many people who suffer from asthma and hay fever find themselves more affected now, than at any other time of the year.

Severe attacks can lead to extreme breathing difficulties and an uncomfortable stay in hospital. However there are things that sufferers can do to make the summer an easier season. It does involve taking matters into your own hands. Take your preventer medication regularly as prescribed, even if you think you don't need it. You do not know that it is working most of the time, but it does stop your body's reaction to what is triggering off an attack.

When you do have an attack, try to think what might have triggered it off. If you do that, you might be able to avoid attacks in future and your medications could be better tailored to your needs. Keep a diary, so you can note the circumstances when a severe attack occurred, where you were, and any things which you might not normally come into contact with.

Inform the practitioners providing you care and make sure that family, friends, and colleagues are aware you have asthma and know what to do if you have a bad attack. Hay fever may not be as potentially dangerous as asthma, but it is a struggle to cope with for sufferers and can make their lives very miserable. The same guidelines apply.

Time for Tea

Everyone enjoys an afternoon indulgence at some time and the tea room in the new extension of the hall, provides delicious afternoon teas every Wednesday between 2 and 4pm.

There is a range of freshly baked delicious home made cakes to choose from to enjoy with a pot of tea or a cup of coffee, all served on pretty China with your own individual tea pot. The company is friendly and lively. There is a special range of sweets for the children to buy on their way home from school. All ages use the tea room and are all very welcome. If you are around on a Wednesday, come and try it for yourself. You might even get to buy a cake to take home for the family as well.

Are You Fit for Summer?

We all like to think we are fit and healthy, but are we really summer exercise ready? The sun shines, the tennis courts, cricket pitches and the early morning run may seem a good idea. You are mentally ready to go, but just how ready is your body?

It is easy to do too much too soon and acquire a sports injury which could have been avoided with just a little preparation. Before any energetic sport it is a good idea to have a warm up first, and just as important to cool down properly afterwards. The last thing you want to experience is A and E on a Saturday afternoon.

If the worst happens, you could treat minor sprains yourself, with a combination of rest, elevating the affected limb, ice and compression bandages. The pharmacist can provide you with over the counter remedies which could be cheaper than any prescriptions.

Soft tissues can take up to a month to heal, but if you find that the injury is not showing improvement in the early days, call 111 for advice.

What's On ...

June							
М	Т	w	Т	F	S	S	
		14:00 -	2 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	3 BSSC- Treasure Chest	4	5	
3VH - 09:30 - 3irchanger Buddies Vother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	7VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet VH - 20:00 -Parish Council Meeting - Come hear what's happening and give your views	14:00 -	9 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	10 BSSC- Bottle Draw		12 BSSC- Rule Book EGM 7pm	
13VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	14VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	16 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	17 BSSC- Treasure Chest	18 BSSC- Euro 2016 on big screen	19	
20VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Vother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	21VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	23 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	24 BSSC- Wheel of Fortune	BIRCHANGER SPOR VA SOCIAL CILIB	BIRCHANGER MOR. S & SOCIAL CIUB	
27VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Vother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	28VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	30 VH- 12:45 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance				



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



Following the success of the Queen's 90th and the Beer Festival.

BIRCHANGER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

at the end of June we will be hosting the official 125 celebrations which marks the

actual anniversary of the founding of the club. This will be another weekend of celebrations around with club, including live acts, official ceremonies and some great 125 offers for our members!

JOIN OUR TEAM



We are currently a victim of our own success and looking to fill a number of positions to bolster the staff levels in the club to ensure we continue to offer great service and quality as more and more people join and discover our great value food, drink and entertainments. So if you know anyone looking to join our incredible bar team or a culinary whizz with chef experience to

come along and support our Steward send them our way.

RULE BOOK CHANGE



As a club our rule book has been added to and amended over the years as time goes by. As we enter our 125th year we have decided to renew our rule book to ensure it makes sense and covers us and our license properly to function and continue to serve our RULE BOOK members properly. The last few months have seen a number of

consultations with members over proposed changes, which mostly address linguistic and grammatical errors, but also ensure we are compliant with our licensing regulations. The committee is now proposing a new rule book, which will need to be ratified by members and so is calling an EGM on Sunday 12th June 7pm!

HAPPENINGS - JUNE



Chest 3rd 17th-Treasure #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!



10th - Bottle Draw - an easy way to walk home high-spirited. Enjoy a relaxed Friday evening with the opportunity to walk home heavy handed.



11th, 18th - Euro 2016 LIVE on the big screen



12th - EGM regarding RULE BOOK CHANGES



24th - Wheel of Fortune - the kind of spinning class where it'll be cash rather than sweat pouring out



25th - Acoustic Mice LIVE Don't let bespectacled appearance put you off. This foursome will blow you away with incredible vocals, as well

as unparalleled personalities



25th - 26th: 125th Celebration Date!: Official Celebration events throughout the weekend



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 Follow us at:www.birchangerclub.com



Gordon Blue Review: Carluccio's Bishops Stortford, Stansted Mountfitchet – 4.5 stars

Curiosity got the better of me and Ms. Blue on a warm afternoon in Mid-May. Can a restaurant be a café, and a café be a shop? Carluccio's teases the eye with being just that. We had to explore...

On entry to the diner-café-shop the eye is immediately drawn to the layout. Very impressive and impactful. The sights and smells of Italy are in abundance.

Lots of aromatic coffees, some very striking pictures, interesting trinkets for sale at the counter and a plentiful range of different seating (corner areas, open plan, formal dining) were all there for us.

A very eager waiter met us promptly and courteously, offering us any pick of the available seating. Ms. Blue in particular hates attending any restaurant which is devoid of atmosphere and people and I'm happy to say this was neither. For myself, I always ponder how so many people can find themselves the time to have a lazy lunch. We walked into a pleasant environment with a nice 'buzz' about it.

The drinks list we were handed was sufficiently robust. We choose a fruity white wine (I don't actually recall which) and a jug of tap water (all the Europeans do of course) as we contemplated the lunch menus. Yes Menu's.

One was the specials menu – very decent. The other was the 'normal' menu. Equally decent. Always a good sign when you just cannot decide, and a nice touch that you can mix and match from both of course.

I plumped for a mixed Antipasti starter and Ms. Blue the Calamari. My main was a lasagne (dyed in the grain I am) and Ms. Blue the Tuna Nicoise.

Our waiter had now morphed into a waitress who had a very shrill voice. I cannot overly criticise this but to say that the whole place knew what we ordered would be an understatement. I have a feeling the nearby HSBC also recorded this event with ears covered.

However, she was prompt and polite (if a bit 'foghorn' for me).

When the starters arrived, we were not disappointed. They were excellent. We ate both and cleaned the plates (metaphorically of course). The waiter/waitress combo appeased our 'will they check on us' thought – yes they did, very politely. I don't recall which as they had become amorphous. The wine was kicking in.

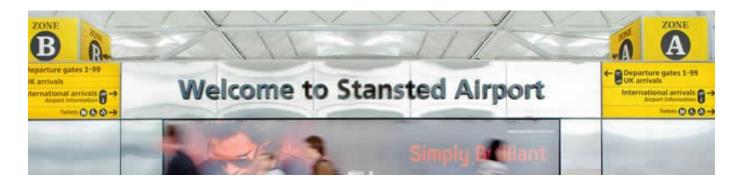
I began to paint a vivid picture to Ms. Blue of the Italian waterways, the gondola's, the smells and sounds of Italy wafting through the air. I gazed into her eyes. She was checking in on Facebook and the moment died a forlorn death.

Anyway – next! Plates cleared, mains delivered. Again, superb. My green salad accompanying my lasagne (dyed in the grain) was perfect. Ms. Blue cooed about her Tuna Nicoise. I felt she could have cooed about Italy and my Venetian romanticism – but hunger and Facebook are compelling distractions even in such a perfect environment.

Bill arrived – very reasonable. Overall, our hunger was satisfied, our experience was a solid 9.5/10 (I just dropped half a mark due to FogHorn girl which may be a little harsh). Ms. Blue would go again, as would I. Next time I will engender her attention with a few Italian phrases…having first confiscated her iPhone.

Magnifico!

Carluccio's, 16 North St, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2L 01279 504 630



London Stansted wins national CSR award for innovative community project

London Stansted Airport has won Best Individual Community Project at the 2016 National CSR Awards for its pioneering community partnership to reduce aircraft noise for over 4,000 people living close to the airport.

The judging panel awarded the coveted prize to Stansted in recognition of the innovative new take-off procedure, Performance Based Navigation, that uses modern Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to enable aircraft to fly flight paths more accurately when departing from the airport and reduce the number of people overflown.

The airport worked on the unique initiative alongside its consultative committee (STACC), easyJet and NATS (air traffic provider) for a total of five years from design to introduction of a concept previously untested in the UK. The results show that up to 85% fewer people are directly overflown by aircraft using this new procedure.

Andrew Cowan, Stansted's CEO, said: "I'm very proud and absolutely delighted Stansted has won Best Community project at the prestigious National CSR Awards. This is a great achievement against stiff competition and a fantastic endorsement of the innovative and unique work we have undertaken in partnership with our consultative committee, local community and industry partners to reduce noise impacts in the areas closest to the airport.



This project it seems has reaped rewards but was only ever put in place due to community pressure and people power. Currently, in Birchanger we are being increasingly overflown and facing noise issues from helicopters. It is a tiresome thing to do, but if we are to get some peace over our barbecues and enjoying our gardens this summer we should start now noting the time of every low flying helicopter and going online to send in a complaint through Stop Stansted Expansion http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/

Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every Month

Doors open at 7.30 for 8 - 10 p.m.

'A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed. 29th June, 7.30 start An Evening Ramble

Tel. for details: Barbara – 813007,

Michelle - 814481, Rosemary - 814678

News from the School

Forest School at Birchanger CofE Primary School



We have been running forest school for a number of years. Each week throughout the year children in Reception Class walk to the woods for a forest school session. Every other class in school has a half term of forest school. This outdoor learning gives children an opportunity to explore the natural world - developing skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. Activities and opportunities are given that support children in becoming resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

Learning from Forest School is used as a stimulus for learning in the classroom. This week Year 4 children wrote a recount of their visit and then emailed their work to me as part of their ICT lesson. Here's what the children in Squirrels Class had to say about their visit to the woods last week:

All of Squirrels Class went to the woods and built an Anglo Saxon house for a few of us to stay in just in case it started to rain. Then, when the Anglo Saxon house was ready, Isabelle made a seat for the house and she was first to go in. Then I went to get a spade and tapped the dead tree to get bark and the barks dust for the bark and clay shop.

After that I went to the swing made out of rope. I did some really fast swings and some standing up that was really hard. Then I went down the ditch and went down and up on the rope Niamh made for all of us.

Squirrels Class (Year 4) went to the woods with our woods teacher, Laura who teaches us how to make fires and things we need to know about nature. Once we got to the woods we sat down on the logs and Laura passed around the twisty talking stick and we all said what we were looking forward to do. I said I'm Amariah Acorn and I'm going to be digging for clay to build little characters with.

Amariah

On the 4th of May 2016 I went to forest school with the rest of my class and Laura. When we got there we sat in a circle on logs and said what we wanted to do.

Next we went and played, me and Alfie got to light the fire (which took some time.) We finally did it and after that I got to hand out the crisps. The crisps were made out stinging nettles. I thought that they tasted very nice but others weren't that keen.

Ellie

I saw a hut being built so I helped and got loads of sticks, which were long, lying around in the ditch. I tried to put half a square log as a window but it didn't work so Tom gave me a log and I put it next to the window for support. Ellen said that she wanted the logs in the ditch so I went down in the ditch and found the biggest logs I can find. I put them where all of the other sticks were and then Laura said '1,2,3 where are you.' Alex

At last Laura shouted: "ONE TWO THREE WHERE ARE YOU??!!!! We replied: "ONE TWO THREE WE'RE HERE!!!" And then we walked back to our circle of logs. I noticed that I had lots of mud on my hands so I made a warrior face on myself which was funny! I LEFT IT ON THERE FOR THE WHOLE DAY! On the way back to school, we walked past a log that looked fairly like a crocodile. It was just me, Alex and Laura at the back of the line so, sneakily, we drew eyes, a nose and a mouth with teeth in it! It was hilarious yet nobody would notice it!!! HA! HA! Tom

Helen Coop

Headteacher

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CALLING ALL CLUB

BSSC is run by and for its members. Throughout the year the committee are working hard on entertainments, drinks, food and sports for the members, but we can't succeed without you. If you have any ideas or have time to dedicate to sub-committees then get in touch!

Drop us an email at club@birchanger.com or speak to one of our staff

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