



A Welcome Return



It seemed a long while waiting but at last it's business as usual at the village church hall, and it is a very welcome sight to see the hall open once again.

It's not quite the hall you may remember from the past because apart from damage and utter devastation which two feet of water caused, just about everything has been replaced and repaired. The hall being without floorboards for a considerable time, meant that the opportunity to replace the old gas heaters with modern radiators and to renovate completely the ladies lavatories was just too good to miss.

The hall has been completely redecorated, blinds replaced, a new kitchen installed, and the floor completely replaced throughout. The floorboards are wider, and the dance class likes them better. The ladies toilets have been turned around there are theatre style mirrors complete with modern basins. Cold weathers should not be a problem in future as four new radiators replace the old gas ones.

Insurance cover provided for most of the repairs, but the new additional features have been paid for through some very generous donations and fund raising activities by Birchanger Residents. Pam Lee has been both the coordinator for the work and fund raiser extraordinaire. She has kept all concerned very much on their toes and the result is here for everyone to use and enjoy.

Many activities have returned already and others hope to be back in the coming months. The hall now has the best floor for ballet, ballroom and other dance groups and will be the envy of other venues for miles around. The new kitchen and preparation room make it an ideal venue for parties, while the meeting room is still the home of Wednesday afternoon teas and smaller functions.



It was well worth the wait so come and see what has been done for yourselves.

Just sometimes good really can come from catastrophe, helped by some very hard work and generosity from those who care. A big thank you from the rest of us. Enjoy the hall whenever you can.



a letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

It was a sad day when Tom Granger announced he would be standing down as Editor of the Birchanger Magazine due to heavy business commitments. Deeply entrenched in village life, Tom has worked tirelessly during his tenure adding his own brand of humour and innovation. There was almost a seamless flow when he took over the reins from long standing Editor Eddie Gilbey who gave Tom some big shoes to fill! Well fill them he did, and a bit more beside. I hope you will all follow me in thanking him for his unselfish dedication to the Magazine and wishing him all the best for the future.

After spending a couple of weeks touring beautiful Costa Rica with my wife Cheryl and celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary it was time to start acquainting myself with the job as fledgling editor of the Magazine. I spent some hours with Tom learning the rudiments of the editorial software and the trials and tribulations of editing and realise that the editors role is not an easy one. As the author John Lydgate said, "You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time"! Needless to say, I look forward to the challenge ahead and hope that I can continue to produce an interesting and informative magazine to the standard of my illustrious predecessors.

As you can imagine, a magazine is only as good as the content it receives therefore I look forward to receiving any news, views, concerns or even complaints from anyone in the village or surrounding area who has an interesting, funny or sad story to tell. All content will be happily received and considered. You can contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below.

Kind regards,

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



01279 813193



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

Letters to the editor

Friendly Dog Walker



Dear Editor, I have lived in Birchanger for 10 years and sadly recently lost my dog. Due to my current circumstances I am unable to keep another dog. However, I would like to offer a free dog walking service to anyone in need who finds it difficult to get out or due to winter temperatures. I really miss walking around the countryside in the peace and quiet so if you need a friendly dog walker, please contact me on 07971214723. By the way, keep up the great work with the magazine.

Aaron Haythorpe, Birchanger

Thought of the month

The Uxbridge English Dictionary is the silliest Dictionary in the world. This month's alternative meaning for an everyday word is - **Baltimore**: To ask for seconds in an Indian Restaurant

VILLAGE NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

No New Housing Developments For Now!

According to the recent exhibitions that have been made for the new local plan, all housing sites put forward for Birchanger village have been rejected. We will have to find out later in the year as to whether others agree with this. The council will not decide on the final sites which are likely to be in the frame at Dunmow, Easton Park, Stebbing, Newport or Great Chesterford until later in the year. There will be a final round of public consultation in January. We do not miss out on development completely though as there could be some at Parsonage Farm, which is now in Stansted, but which could impact on Birchanger. We will have to wait a bit longer to find out. Meanwhile, if you do have any comments to make on the plan, send them to the district council offices in Saffron Walden, marked local plan. You just have enough time to do this. The plan will be lodged with the Inspectorate in January and the inspector's decision is expected by the end of 2017.

The Big Christmas Light Up

Yes Christmas is quite definitely on the way. It already seems to have been Christmas in the shops for a worryingly long time already and the efficient ones, unlike me will have made all sorts of plans. Among the many events planned for the village over the festive season is the popular big Christmas light up due to take place at the Sports & Social Club on Friday December 2nd when the club lights and hopefully all the other lights in the village will be switched on that night. As last year, the winners will be chosen by ballot, and the winners will be announced after the annual Christmas service on Friday 23rd December

Travelling Further for Ulcer Treatment?

Most of us are used to getting our various ulcers treated by the nurse at the doctor's surgery. Apparently that is no longer going to happen. For us it will mean travelling to Saffron Walden Hospital, Harlow Hospital, where there is already an ulcer clinic, or to the Dunmow Clinic to access treatment. We will also need a letter of referral from our GP, assuming we can actually get an appointment! There we will be seen by a specialist treatment nurse or doctor. Our condition will be assessed and any minor surgery carried out as required. We shall also receive advice and tips to help us manage the treatment. Sounds ok if you have transport but not so good if you do not!

New Surgery - for Some of Us

The new surgery at Stansted is open from October 31st. It is part of a much larger building, to be known as Castle Malt-ing's in Lower Street in Stansted. The building has a large number of flats and several shops which are to be occupied over the coming months as the building is finally completed.

This was never the most ideal site for the surgery and it is feared that there may be huge parking issues for both commuters and the users of the site. Hopefully everyone who uses it will do so without parking problems, but how it is all going to work is not clear. It is something we shall be watching over the coming months.

The surgery has been very long awaited. The old surgery had appalling conditions for staff and patients alike, and those who managed to last the tough course of the last 15 years and more are to be congratulated. Let us hope the project will work for everyone.

Tea Room Returns

One thing that was badly missed when the village hall was out of action was the weekly Wednesday afternoon tea room, also known as the meeting room. The tea room is run entirely by volunteers who make a wide variety of home-made cakes and serve a pot of tea and a slice of cake for just £2. All this in pleasant surroundings and the strong possibility that you will meet a friend there.

There are also old fashioned sweets on offer, a great favourite with the children who pop in after school.

If you have yet to try it, you will find that you have been missing a regular Wednesday treat. The tea room is open every Wednesday between 2 and 4 pm and has something for everyone of all ages. See you there.

Continued on page 4

Christmas Coffee Morning



At Moorswood
On December 6th
10.30am to Noon
Everyone welcome



A Good Place to Eat in Saffron Walden

Many of us enjoy a trip to Saffron Walden. There are a great many smaller shops there, which offer a variety of goods which are very unlike the big chain store offerings, and there are also many small cafes and pubs offering a variety of food. The last two occasions have seen me in the recently taken over Cross Keys Hotel, centrally located in the high Street not far from the main traffic lights. This is very much an old world pub, with beams, big fireplaces with much from the 15th century era. There are 6 "boutique" bedrooms aimed at those away for a luxury romantic weekend.

We were just there for lunch, which is exceptionally good. There are also lunch time packages offering two courses between 12 and 4 pm at a bargain price. The food is varied and interesting with a constantly changing menu. Service is swift and friendly and as part of it remains a pub, beers and the wine list are both interesting and very quaffable. The restaurant is also open for dinner. Molly's Cafe and Cake Shop is open all day and on fine days you can use the outdoor terrace at the rear. You can see more on the website:

www.theoldcrosskeys.co.uk. To book lunch, dinner, or to simply enquire about the facilities, call 01799 522207. You need to be there early for lunch if you do not have a booking. On our two visits, we got the last table.

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Christmas coffee morning will take place at Moorswood on Tuesday December 6th. Come and enjoy mince pies and Christmas goodies galore. You are all very welcome.

Growing Up Doing Silly Things

This is something we have all done; we thought it was great fun at the time. We never meant to hurt anyone by our actions, but we never considered that they might.

We get groups of youngsters doing just this in Birchanger. They may be annoying, but they do not normally put people at risk. However, the latest group did just that when they turned several road signs around in Birchanger Lane last month. Strangers in the lane, of which there are many each day, thought that the lane had no speed limit and others took the bend the wrong way as the sign had been turned to show the bend going the opposite way. Something which was potentially very dangerous indeed!

A big thank you to other residents who spotted this and who turned the signs back as quickly as they could stopping a silly prank turning into a tragedy.

Lets hope the perpetrators see this and take note!



Ruby's Indian Takeaway - 4 Star*

The menu is expansive with specials and all manner of exotic dishes for every palette as well as Indian classics that will warm your cockles on any dull evening. The order was placed simply and efficiently over the phone with a very helpful gentleman who ensured he got everything right down to the required number of popadoms, flavours of dipping sauce and request for an updated menu. Being a Sunday night, we were pleasantly surprised to hear that our wait would only be 40-45 minutes. Being the more officious type Madam Blue confirmed to me afterwards that they did in fact knock on the door with our order some 43 minutes and 57 seconds later. Previously, when busy we have found that they can take up to an hour to deliver, but are always up-front when ordering about how long things might take.

The food was delivered by a friendly local face, monies settled and it was now time to get down to our meal. All the items come packed in a fine range of plastic dishes which seal well to avoid that loathsome oily drip so prevalent in some takeaways. I had opted for a chicken tikka jalfrezi which errs on the hotter end of the spectrum. Meanwhile Madam Blue had gone for a more temperate lamb dish. The descriptions on the menu of heat levels are fairly accurate so you are always forewarned if something of the killer variety is on its way. The dishes were well made, the sauces on point and the meat portions reassuringly generous. The popadoms were also crisp and not overly oily with sauces that complemented them well. It is also worth noting that the rice dishes were of a good quality (not drying out) and the naan was beautifully baked retaining it's unique bread substance (without being overly burnt or chewy). This is definitely the best takeaway the Blues have found locally. At £25 for two people to eat generously it is neither cheap nor extortionate, but the quality definitely merits the price. Why, therefore is this not another solid 5stars out of 5 you ask? Well I must admit to using the Indian takeaway as a proxy exercise in proving my manhood. I always therefore, err on the spicier end of the spectrum, something I silently enjoy on the evening, but which always sends me a nasty reminder of its intensity the next day.

Ruby's Indian Takeaway, 5 Newtown Rd, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3SA Tel: 01279 912929

The Big Christmas Light Up Birchanger Sports and social club Friday 2nd December at 18.30



What's On in the Village...

November 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 st Oct Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults	1 Church hall: 9.30 am Ballet for adults 11.15 am Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	2 Church hall: 09.30 am Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room	3 Church hall: 12.45 Line dancing for beginners 13.45 Line dancing for advanced	4 Re-Cycle Bin BSSC Treasure Chest	5 BSSC Francisco Sommers - Multi Tribute Artist	6 St Mary's Church Matins BSSC Children's Race Night and indoor Fireworks
7 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults	8 Church hall: 9.30 am Ballet for adults 11.15 am Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	9 Church hall: 09.30 am Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room	10 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.45 Line dancing for beginners 13.45 Line dancing for advanced	11 Non Re-Cycle Bin BSSC Football on the Big Screen - England v Scotland	12 BSSC Donna Sensational Soloist artist	13 St Mary's Church Remembrance day Service
14 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults	15 Church hall: 9.30 am Ballet for adults 11.15 am Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	16 Church hall: 09.30 am Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room	17 Church hall: 12.45 Line dancing for beginners 13.45 Line dancing for advanced	18 Re-Cycle Bin BSSC Treasure Chest	19 Church Hall: Re-opening gala night BSSC Karaoke	20 St Mary's Church Family Service
21 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults	22 Church hall: 9.30 am Ballet for adults 11.15 am Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	23 Church hall: 09.30 am Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room	24 Garden Bin Church hall: 12.45 Line dancing for beginners 13.45 Line dancing for advanced	25 Non Re-Cycle Bin BSSC Wheel of Fortune	26 BSSC Acoustic Mice - An Entertaining and Animated Covers Band	27 St Mary's Church Holy Communion
28 Church hall: 19.30 Ballroom and Latin for adults	29 Church hall: 9.30 am Ballet for adults 11.15 am Zumba Gold 15.45 Ballet for Juniors	30 Church hall: 09.30 am Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 19.30 BAGS Pre-Christmas social evening	1 st Dec Church hall: 12.45 Line dancing for beginners 13.45 Line dancing for advanced	2 nd Dec Re-cycle Bin BSSC 18.30 Big Christmas Light Up with Birchanger Voices	3 rd Dec Church hall: 19.30 BAGS Christmas Party	4 th Dec St Mary's Church Matins



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

AGM 2nd November



The club is going from strength to strength with rising levels of new members, a vastly improved food offering and continued great value prices behind the bar. This progress is down in part to our committee and largely thanks to the members. The AGM is the chance for members to find out what has been

happening behind the scenes, to review the finances and see where the club is spending your money or investing in the future. So if you're free on this Wednesday evening then make sure to come along, listen and of course have your point of view heard. Similarly if you are interested in joining the committee then make sure to get your name down in readiness for the vote which will take place that evening.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

It can't be avoided much longer, which is why the club is launching its new Christmas menu following the success of it last year. The club will be offering a high quality great value menu for members to sign up for to be enjoyed throughout December. The menu is perfect for enjoying a Christmas celebration with friends or family but without the headache of shopping, cooking or washing up. If you are interested then simply ask behind the bar or sign up in the club saying when and how many of you would like to turn up. When you can get quality this great on your doorstep, why pay more to head further afield and be disappointed?

HAPPENINGS - NOVEMBER



4th + 18th - 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!



5th - Francisco Sommers LIVE - Back by popular demand to ridicule and entertain, this master of disguise will have you on the edge of your seat. A consummate performer he will rock your world.

6th - Bonfire Night - CANCELLED - Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances this event has had to be cancelled by the organisers. We are however holding a **children's race night and indoor firework display.**

11th - England vs Scotland - come along and show your allegiance for this Great British Face Off!

12th - LIVE ACT - Donna ! This sensational soloist will blow your mind!

19th - Karaoke



25th - Wheel of Fortune - Spin the wheel and take your opportunity to win big in this game of chance



26th - Acoustic Mice - LIVE - An entertaining and varied tribute act that are brand new to the club! This is one rodent we want to see out of control in the club!

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

Birchanger Primary School



Kingswood 2016



Each year our older children take part in a week long residential activity visit. This year our September trip took us to the Kingswood Centre in West Runton, Norfolk. The week starts with a mix of excitement and nervousness as children arrive at school with enormous suitcases and say goodbye to mums and dads.

Once we arrive in Norfolk children quickly forget their worries about being away from home as they throw themselves into the activities – climbing, abseiling, caving, high ropes challenge, quad bikes, archery, fencing..... Each day is packed with activities from morning until evening – a mixture of physical activities, team building and problem solving challenges. There are also some more relaxing times with a morning on the beach, songs round the campfire and the last night disco.

Over the week children face new personal challenges and build resilience and determination as well as developing team work and communication skills. Everybody finds different activities easy, difficult, scary or fun and children are encouraged to choose their own level of challenge and achieve their personal goals. By Friday the children return to school with lots of stories, that suitcase now full of dirty clothes and a great sense of pride for what they have achieved. Here are some of the remarks made by the children:

Ben; *“My most memorable moment was when I got to the top of leap of faith”*

Poppy; *“My favourite activity was nightline because you had to be blindfolded and you had to work out what was ahead of you and how to tackle it”*

Keira; *“Going there is good and if you push yourself you’ll achieve great things and have a great time”*

Open Morning

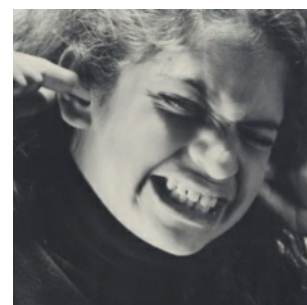
Our open morning for prospective parents takes place on 4th November from 9.30 am - an opportunity to look around the school and meet staff, pupils and governors. If you have children due to start school in reception in September 2016 we would be delighted to show you around the school during Open Morning or at another time. Please telephone Carolyn on 01279 812362 to arrange a visit.





Helicopter Noise

Once again, a number of complaints have been made concerning noise levels from helicopters flying over the village. Helicopters are permitted to land and take-off from London Stansted Airport and on average, they expect around 10 helicopter movements each day. In addition to these, there may be Police, Military, medical emergency or aerial surveying. The only way in which villagers can try to reduce this nuisance is to report each incident on a regular basis.



So how do I make a complaint?

According to Brian Ross from SSE, the simplest way for anyone to complain about helicopter and aircraft noise, is via the Stop Stansted Expansion website at http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise_complaint_form.asp. It takes less than a minute to complete the on-line complaint form and when a complaint is submitted via the SSE website it automatically goes to the Stansted Airport Flight Evaluation Unit (FEU) for investigation and response. It has the added benefit of enabling SSE to keep track of the number and nature of complaints.

People may sometimes feel that it's a waste of time complaining because the airport pays no attention to complaints but that's not the case. Numbers matter and the number of complaints are carefully looked at by both the CAA and the Department for Transport. It's in Stansted Airport's interests to minimise the number of complaints. Whilst it's important to complain about noisy aircraft and low overflying helicopters, it's in nobody's interests to make frivolous complaints. Furthermore, Brian suggests that you register on the SSE website as an online supporter at: http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/mailling_list.asp. It costs nothing and should ensure you get regular news updates as they become available.



Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last Wednesday of every month in the meeting room of the village church hall

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed. 30th November 7.30 for 8.00

A pre-Christmas social evening with mince pies and mulled wine

Sat. 3rd December 7.30 Bags Christmas Party (Members only) festive fiz and finger food at the Village Church Hall

A Warm Welcome to all Newcomers'

Tel. For details Michelle-814481

Barbara-813007 Rosemary-814678

Stansted Airport ramps up expansion plans

The company behind Stansted, London's third-busiest airport, is to call on the Government to lift restrictions on passenger numbers as it ramps up its campaign to expand and eventually build a second runway.

Charlie Cornish, chief executive at Stansted's owner, Manchester Airports Group (MAG), said the company was planning to apply officially in the coming months to have its so-called planning cap, which limits it to handling 35m passengers a year, raised. If approved, it would allow the Essex airport to grow by making full use of its single runway, and lead to between £400m and £500m of investment in Stansted to expand its terminal facilities so that it can handle more travellers. The move could also pave the way for a second landing strip.

MAG is Britain's second-biggest airport operator and owns Manchester, the country's third-busiest airport, East Midlands and Bournemouth. Stansted's cap was lifted to 35m from 25m in 2008. However, the airport is growing quickly, with passenger numbers jumping by 10.8% to 23.2m in the 12 months to the end of March.



The Kids are on the Ball!

After losing the 2016 Ryder cup 17 points to 11 to the USA it's about time we started thinking of training the next generation of professional golfers! As luck would have it Birchanger Primary School together with Elsenham Golf & Leisure recently started an exciting after school golf club for students! The Sharp Shooters Junior Golf Academy was founded by Elsenham Golf & Leisure Head Golf Professional Paul Ring and currently teaches 15 students at the school on a weekly basis.

The after school academy promotes first and foremost fun within the sessions, learning new golf skills, creating friendships, learning important life lessons whilst developing fundamental movement skills. At the end of each session the coach elects a "Sharp Shooter" of the week to recognise the child who performed the best, showed great teamwork and helped others where possible. The classes provide an introduction for the children before making the leap of joining the Sharp Shooter Junior Academy based at Elsenham Golf & Leisure where sessions are carried out Tuesday to Thursday and also on weekends. Within these sessions the children work to progress within their individual skills books by completing challenges, working in a team, practicing safely and again



developing fundamental movement skills. Each child's skills book is included as part of the Academy joining fee along with a polo shirt representing the Sharp Shooter brand. As the children progress they will be shown how to reflect on each session, set new goals, improve their fitness and even set their own skill challenges! Once they reach the end of their current level children can then upgrade to the next level earning a certificate highlighting their progress and a new polo shirt to wear with pride!

If this sounds like something your child would love to partake in then please contact the founder and Head Professional Paul Ring on 01279 812865 or email lessons@elsenhamsgolfandleisure.co.uk. You can find Elsenham Golf & Leisure on Facebook or on their website www.sharps shootersacademy.co.uk

St Mary's Church News



Village Church Hall

Most of you will already be aware that the village church hall re-opened on the 3rd October and that we are celebrating the refurbishment by holding a gala night on the 19th November. Tickets proved popular and sold very quickly. We hope that everyone has a great evening.

Tearoom

The tearoom has now reopened and will be open every Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the village church hall meeting room.

Church services:

30 th October	Matins
6 th November	Matins
13 th November	Remembrance Service at 10.45 am
20 th November	Family service
27 th November	Holy communion
4 th December	Matins
11 th December	Holy communion
18 th December	Christingle service
23 rd December	Evening carol service at 7.00 pm
25 th December	Family communion
1 st January	Matins
Wednesdays	Tea room 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
	Village church hall meeting room



The Hundred Parishes Society

Many settlements within the Hundred Parishes evolved alongside highways to serve passing traffic, initially farm carts, drovers with cattle and travellers on horseback, then passenger coaches and bigger farm wagons. The busiest routes radiated out from London. Roads did not have the luxury of a firm surface until the introduction of tarmac at the beginning of the 20th century. Since the Middle Ages, parishes had maintained roads, but increasing traffic meant that some could no longer find the necessary resources. Roads were badly rutted, muddy in winter and dusty in summer, often only passable by encroaching more and more onto adjoining land. Increasing vehicle size and volume of traffic, especially taking farm produce into the expanding capital, caused much damage. Parliament authorised the overseeing of key routes by surveyors, and later by boards of trustees, who were responsible for maintaining a given length of road from the proceeds of tolls. These roads were known as "turnpikes" after an old word meaning toll gate. The first turnpike road in England was established in 1663 on the Old North Road, known more recently as the A10, running from Wadesmill in the parish of Thundridge north to Huntingdonshire. The country's first toll gate was set up in Wadesmill. More turnpike roads and toll gates followed in the 18th century. The arrival of the railways in the mid 1800's took much traffic off the roads and spelt the end of economic viability for turnpikes. Main routes became the responsibility of county or district authorities and they were given road numbers in the 1920s. Much still survives of how things used to be..... if you take time to look!

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CALLING ALL CLUB MEMBERS

The Birchanger Sports & Social Club is run by and for its members. Throughout the year the committee work hard to provide the best entertainment, drinks, food and sports for their members, but we can't succeed without you. If you have any ideas or have time to dedicate to sub-committees then why not get in touch!

Speak to one of our staff at the club
Or drop us an email at
club@birchanger.com

Birchanger Village Church Hall



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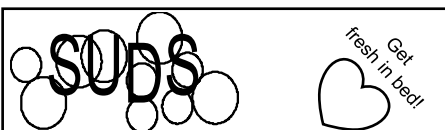
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Submissions for editorial content are welcome but may be edited depending on available space.