

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

OCTOBER 2016

ISSUE 162

VILLAGE DIARY

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Sun | 2 | All ages praise. 9.30, St Mary's Church |
| Mon | 3 | VILLAGE HALL AGM. 8pm, Village Hall |
| Tue | 4 | Black wheeled bin collection |
| Sat | 8 | Craft fair. 10.30 - 4.00. Meadow School, Balsham. See page 3 for details |
| Sun | 9 | Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Craft fair. 10.30 - 4.00. Meadow School, Balsham. See page 3 for details |
| Mon | 10 | Local History Club. <i>Suffragists in Cambridgeshire</i>. Talk by Andrew Westwood-Bate. 7.30pm, Village Hall |
| Tue | 11 | Blue & green wheeled bin collection |
| Wed | 12 | Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall |
| Sun | 16 | Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church
Deadline for items for the November issue of the Village Voice |
| Mon | 17 | Gardening Club. <i>Barks and berries</i>. Talk by Aubrey Barker of Hopleys Nursery. 7.30pm, Village Hall |
| Tue | 18 | Black wheeled bin collection |
| Wed | 19 | Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall |
| Sun | 23 | Holy Communion. 9.15, St Mary's Church |
| Tue | 25 | Blue & green wheeled bin collection |
| Wed | 26 | Carpet Bowls Club. 7pm, Village Hall |
| Sun | 30 | Joint parishes' service. 10.00, St Mary's Church |

Daisy Chains Pre-School meets

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30—2.30 (includes lunch club) in the Village Hall

THE VILLAGE HALL

is available to hire at the rates below, it also offers the following equipment: Badminton, Short Tennis and 3 Table Tennis tables.

Village Hall rates (for Village use):

Sport Hire	day or evening	£8.00/hour
Meeting Room	day (9.00 – 19.00)	£5.00/hour.
	evening	£7.00/hour.
Main Room	day (9.00 – 19.00)	£7.00/hour
	evening	£10.00/hour.
Complete Hall	day (9.00 – 19.00)	£12.00/hour
	evening	£18.00/hour
Children's party		£30.00 daytime
		£43.00 evening
Adult's party/disco		£60.00
Wedding reception		£150.00

To book the Village Hall contact Louise Salter
T: 01223 291226

**Email: bookings@westwickham.org
or visit www.westwickham.org**

The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

WEST WICKHAM BROADBAND

We have the following monthly update from Connecting Cambridgeshire: Residents may have seen that work has started on bringing fibre broadband to West Wickham. BT have confirmed that they expect the two new fibre cabinets to be installed *by the end of September*. Power is then due to be connected to these cabinets during October and will enable the cabinets to go live as scheduled by the end of December 2016.

If you would like to receive monthly updates via email, including notification as soon as the cabinets are open for orders for Superfast Broadband from your ISP, send an empty email to <broadband-request@westwickham.org> with the subject "subscribe" (remove quotes).

Alex Schuilenburg

WILDLIFE AREA SIGN.

The sign at the wildlife area is up and looking good. I have to thank many people for helping me with this. Firstly Sue Harrow and the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund. Sue, for applying for the grant which has enabled us to develop the area in a suitable way that the Pre-school children can experience nature at first hand, part of their varied curriculum, and the Community Fund for awarding it; Perla Arteaga for her patience and design & graphic skills; Lucy Cameron for her photographs and Steve and Tom Licence for digging holes and erecting the finished sign. Do go and look at it, and walk round the wildlife area.



Di Licence, on behalf of
West Wickham Parish Council

DRONE NUISANCE

We were sitting in our garden enjoying the quiet evening (6pm Sunday) when a noisy drone was flown intrusively right over our house, frightening our pets. It lingered right by the house flying low for a while before finally leaving. It was infuriating.

Anyone operating such a drone for recreational use is required to follow guidelines published by the Civil Aviation Authority. These state that the drone must not endanger anyone or anything; must be kept within sight of the operator; and must not be flown above 400 feet, in congested areas **or within 50 metres of a person, vehicle or building.**

Clearly the drone was in breach of the CAA code.

Name and address supplied

PARISH NURSE MEETING

Sadly the meeting on 5 September was poorly attended, with six people from West Wickham and Streetly End, and five PCC members. An introduction was given by Reverend Julie Norris explaining the Parish nurse concept and how the role benefits the whole community irrespective of religion providing support to vulnerable people from the ages of 0-90 yrs. The Parish Nurse is a Registered Nurse with added qualifications to meet the needs of all ages. The villages of Balsham, West Wrating, the Abingtons and Hildersham and Weston Colville have opted for a salaried post for three days a week, which for three years costs in excess of £68,000. Half this amount is funded by various grants. Theresa Letimer, the Parish Nurse, gave us an insight into her role and the huge amount of work she is doing for the six parishes. James Morrow, GP from Sawston, said the Granta Medical Practice supported and endorsed the scheme. West Wickham PCC was the only parish that did not agree to join the scheme in 2014 because of the financial implication. We didn't think we could justify the need as we already have a Community Warden, which the Parish Council support financially and felt West Wickham had a fairly good network of 'good neighbours'. However the PCC agreed to have this general meeting to discover if the community from West Wickham and Streetly End would support the scheme and carry part of the financial burden. As the PCC explained they were not prepared or able to raise funds for the Parish Nurse Scheme as they are already faced with escalating costs in keeping the church open. In conclusion it was agreed that the Parish Nurse scheme was an excellent innovation and the people attending were encouraged to show their support with a financial commitment, and for a representative to be involved with the Parish Nurse Management Committee. If you were not at the meeting and would like more information and to register your support, however small then leaflets and forms are at the back of the church and the church is open every day.

Nicky Cornish, PCC Secretary



AUTUMN CONCERT

**at Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham**

**Saturday, 3rd October 2016,
7:30 PM**

IN AID OF

ST. ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH

AN EXCITING PROGRAMME

**OF
CHORAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

TICKETS £12, CHILDREN FREE

INCLUDING INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS

Will be available from Balsham and Weston Colville Post Offices from 1 September

or Michael Gorman 01223-290653

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ORGANISERS:

Michael and Linda Gorman 01223-290653 Jeanette Job 01223-290706

FROM THE VICARAGE

In the parishes we are operating as normal as the vacancy progresses. There is much going on and Keith and I are working to ensure that communication is maintained. During the vacancy if there is anyone who needs Keith or I to visit just let us know.

We have arrived in the season of autumn. We are reminded of the words of John Keats when describing autumn as the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! Certainly, as I write this, we are blessed with an Indian summer. The fruits are plentiful and we can get outside to enjoy this wonderful gift of sunshine. We are reminded once again how we are dependent on the weather for our crops and God's goodness to us as we watch the farmers ploughing the fields.

The children have gone back to school and a new academic year begins. Normal routine starts again. Change is always there. The children go up to a new class and get to know their new teacher.

I would just like to say thank you to the churchwardens and those who help in all sorts of ways. I could not do what I do without their support. We are working together as a team. I also look forward to meeting people as I go around the parishes.

Rev. Kathy Bishop, 01223 892288.

THE JULIAN GROUP

When I first arrived in the six parishes just over five years ago I wanted to set up a Julian group because I had been involved with a similar group in my previous six parishes as a Curate. I found several people who were interested and we began to meet at Hildersham Church. Now we meet at Joanna Sander's house in Nine Chimneys Lane, in Balsham. The evening starts at 7pm with a piece of music and then a reading from the writings of Julian of Norwich. After the reading we have half an hour of silence concluding with more from Julian and then we can share what has happened or not as the case maybe. We finish with a cup of tea and leave by eight o'clock. We try to meet on the second Wednesday of the month but sometimes that has to be slightly adjusted.

Julian lived around 1373. She was very ill and saw visions given to her by God. She was able to get this written down and was the first English woman to have recorded anything. Her writing cut through the theology of the day and makes the relationship with God much freer.

What is totally amazing is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church accepted her writing about what she had seen. We all know that she is famous for saying

"All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well"

Also

"Everything that exists is contained in a hazel nut in the palm of my hand."

We will help you to settle into a quiet place and who knows what might happen in the stillness. Being prepared to be still is the first step.

Has this whetted your appetite for more? We would love to see you. For more details please contact Rev. Kathy Bishop, 01223 892288.

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

We start our programme of talks again on **Monday 10 October** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. **Vote 100** is the Parliamentary project to mark the 100th anniversary of the *Representation of the People Act 1918* which enabled all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time. There will be a number of activities in association with this in the lead up to a major public exhibition in 2018 and our speaker, Andrew Westwood-Bate will be telling us about **Suffragists in Cambridgeshire**. It should be a very interesting talk, so do come along – we welcome visitors (for a small charge) or why not make this the year you support us and become a member? Talks already lined up are a potted history of Streetly End (with an update on our Dig 3 excavations this summer) and the 1947 fen floods.

For further details please contact Janet Morris
21 High Street, Tel: 290863
Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Autumn Programme

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Monday 17 October | Barks & berries. Talk by Aubrey Barker of Hopleys Nursery |
| Monday 21 November | Plants, man & history. Talk by Peter Walker. |
| Monday 19 December | Christmas garlands. Talk & demonstration by David Holmes |

All meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Further details from Rosemary Yallop. T: 01799 584262

NATURE NOTES

Why did I say last month that wasps were in short supply? Predictably my words came back to haunt me when walking on the Devil's Dyke near the Rearing Stallion roundabout I spotted a magnificent wasps' nest set into a rabbit hole. I walked past and quickly became aware of a sharp stinging sensation on my side. I never saw my assailant, but the pain took 24 hours to die down. I had a feeling of injustice after expressing support for the much maligned wasp, but who said life was fair?

Di highlights the crane fly (daddy-long-legs) as the insect of the month. They are everywhere at the moment, particularly coming into the bedroom after dark when windows are open. Di reminds us that it is the unseen larvae that are the more damaging. As the fat leatherjackets they are the bane of the gardener, eating the roots of plants. As adults they make more visual impact with their gangling legs, hanging from ceilings, flying erratically about, or rising in numbers as you walk through the long grass.

Gardeners don't like leatherjackets but starlings do, probing the soil for them with their bills. We have had a nest below our thatch this year and the young birds have been a treat to watch, with their smartly spotted chests and frenzied behaviour at the bird feeders. Di also reports watching a group of starlings recently, and talking to Nigel about his memories of feeding starlings in Chesterton, where they came in large numbers to eat bread and then provide entertainment as they gathered in swirling flocks.

We are approaching the optimum time of year for starling murmurations, and there are other changes going on in bird activity. Di points out that, after a relatively short period of quiet, some birds have started to sing again, particularly the robin, with his weaker, but still plaintive winter song; and also the occasional willow warbler and chiffchaff as they prepare to fly south. Trevor showed me a photograph of a reed warbler that had stopped by at his pond, perched on a reed, also presumably southbound. Already small flocks of golden plover have been seen using West Wickham as their normal staging post during the autumn migration, and gulls have been active following the plough. It's remarkable how quickly they realise that ploughing is under way and the soil is being turned just for their benefit.

As far as mammals are concerned, Di sadly reports seeing some young rabbits with myxomatosis, an unpleasant disease introduced by man in 1950 to control rabbits in Australia. It is a disease which has lingered on. More sad news is that there have been two hedgehogs squashed in the High Street recently, a loss which is particularly regrettable as hedgehogs have declined so much. What can we do about this apart from asking drivers to take more care and gardeners to do as much as they can to encourage hedgehogs? The usual advice about checking bonfire sites is one aspect of this. One good mammal story is that Trevor found a harvest mouse and nest in grass he was cutting back, a tiny, beautiful rodent that is rarely seen.

I end where I began – with insects. At the time of writing temperatures have dipped, but only a couple of days ago I was sitting beside our pond in sweltering heat watching three pairs of common darters, each pair linked with the female at the back and occasionally dropping down to the surface of the water, presumably laying eggs to ensure the future for a creature that has inhabited the earth for aeons.

Peter Grieve. T: 290503, email: mail@petergrieve.co.uk

Meadow School Balsham's

Craft, Gift & Food Fair

8th & 9th October 10.30am ~ 4pm



This very popular craft fair now in its 27th year has over 40 stalls of locally handmade exquisite crafts & foods

Refreshments & cream teas available along with children's activities

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:



£2 per adult
(includes cup tea/coffee)
50p per child

balshamcraftfair@gmail.com

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[balshamfair](https://www.instagram.com/balshamfair)

Meadow Primary School, High Street,
Balsham, Cambridge, CB21 4DJ

Meadow Primary School PTA

Registered Charity: 1148295

THE BALSHAM COMMUNITY MARKET IS COMING

Have you heard the rumours of a community market coming to Balsham? Yes, they are true! Let me tell you a little more about it and what is in store. It was thought this was as good a time as any to set up a community market selling local, tasty, fresh, seasonal produce and other locally made food goodies to the residents of Balsham and her surrounding villages. This is a not for profit scheme and any proceeds will be passed on to local charities.

The first market will be on Saturday 12 November 2pm to 5pm in the Church Institute then running every second Saturday of every second month. At each market you will be able to find wild game, beef, lamb, pork, chicken, eggs, cheese, bread, local produce from the Balsham allotments, delicious chocolates, cheesecakes, cupcakes and other cakey deliciousness, homemade preserves, mouth-watering savoury foods such as sausage rolls, pies, pork pies, steak and kidney puddings, scotch eggs and pre-made meals. Greek oils and olives will also be available. Plumbs Dairy are also joining in the fun along with a few others. There is also an opportunity to become a member of the Balsham Community Market. For £5 per year you will receive text/email messages, e-newsletter describing what's in season, recipes, features on our stall holders. More importantly, you will also be entered into a draw to win £15 worth of vouchers to spend at the market on that day. Obviously the more members that sign up the bigger the winner's pot will be.

Please do come along and support our small local businesses, farmers: your local community. You can be assured you will be purchasing fresh, seasonal and tasty local foods. Sample some of what is on offer and meet the people behind the products. Cream teas will be available. Free entry and plenty of car parking space. The Balsham Community Market is on a trial basis for a year. If well supported and proves successful it will continue, but that is only down to you! Shop Local! Shop Fresh! Support our community!

If you have any other produce such as eggs, honey, etc that you would like to sell at the market or perhaps you would like to make a suggestion on what you would like to see, please get in touch via email: balshammarket@gmail.com or go to our website www.balshammarket.wordpress.com

Dates for 2017 are:

14 January, 11 March, 13 May, 8 July, 9 September and 11 November.

Remember to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/balshammarket) for regular updates

Debbie Paton

FOOTPATH MAPS

Cambridgeshire County Council has published new footpath maps and descriptions of all the public rights of way in the County. You can see and download the maps for West Wickham and surrounding parishes by going to: <http://westwickham.org/community/rights-of-way-in-and-around-west-wickham/>

EVENTS IN WESTON COLVILLE

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Many thanks to everyone who joined us on the walk in July, including two guests from West Wickham - we enjoyed a sortie to Carlton and back, the cow parsley taller than the tallest gent. Our next circular walk will be on **Saturday, 1 October**: meet at the Reading Room at 10 o'clock, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Weston Colville Cinema Club

Cinema Club returns after a summer break on Wednesday 5 October, with *El Baño del Papa*, a heartwarming and comic tale from South America. It was a hit at the London Film Festival, where Jacqueline enjoyed it, and is about how a little community tries to squeeze the most out of a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence: on his way to the next city on his tour, the Pope's coming through the village. Beautifully shot in rural landscape, it's been described by turns as a nutty farce and one of the sweetest films you're likely to see. Enquiries: Jeremy Newton newtonjed@gmail.com and Jacqueline Douglas, contact details above

National Poetry Day

We'd like to bring National Poetry Day to Weston Colville and hold an evening celebration in the Reading Room. It's on Thursday 6 October and you're invited to come along with a favourite poem to share, and to listen to our neighbours' choices. All welcome, no tickets necessary, refreshments provided. Jacqueline Douglas, contact details above.



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If you can't get your renewal done online then call the number printed on the back of your pass.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/concessionary

Sweet Talk News
Newsagents

01223 893480/07828279909
ajayndpkl@gmail.com

Newspapers for West Wickham are delivered to the Church porch

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have started the new term with a couple of new faces - we have been joined by Millie who has been a Brownie in Linton and also Matilda who lives in Horseheath. We've also said goodbye to Eliška.

This term we are concentrating on being safe whilst outdoors so we are working on our Road Safety badge. We are working through the clauses and will be practicing the Green Cross Code when we go on a night walk in October. The United Reformed Church in Castle Camps have invited us, again, to decorate a tree for Christmas. We have decided to try making salt dough decorations, hopefully I won't burn them in the oven! We will soon start our preparations for Christmas. In November we will be having a joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides and hopefully we won't get covered in too much glitter!!!

The exam results are in and Hera and Katie have definitely got places at university - Hera is off to University of Essex (Colchester campus) at the beginning of October so we will only see her when she is home in the holidays and Katie is starting at University of Northampton at the end of September; she hopes to get to as many meetings as she can. We all wish them well on their courses. Finally, Katie has now completed her Leadership Qualification and she was presented with her certificate and brooch recently.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested. If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop us an email at brownies@horseheath.info

Pauline, Katie, Hera and Laurene

WHICH TREES PRODUCE THE BEST FIREWOOD?

I'm occasionally asked this by people who know we have a wood burning stove, so I thought it worthwhile printing this old rhyme for those who can choose which wood to burn.

Andrew Morris

Beechwood fires burn bright and clear,
hornbeam blazes too,
if the logs are kept a year
to season through and through

Oak logs will warm you well
If they're old and dry
larch logs of pinewood smell,
but the sparks will fly

Pine is good and so is yew
for warmth through wintery days,
but poplar and willow too
take long to dry or blaze

Birch logs will burn too fast,
alder scarce at all,
chestnut logs are good to last
if cut in the fall

Holly logs will burn like wax
you should burn them green
elm logs like smouldering flax,
no flame is seen

Pear logs and apple logs
they will scent your room,
cherry logs across the dogs
smell like flowers in bloom

But ash logs, all smooth and grey,
burn them green or old,
buy up all that come your way,
they're worth their weight in gold

SYLVIA'S LIBRARY

On 22 September, friends and neighbours of the late Sylvia Norton were invited to join staff of Cambridge Botanic Garden for a tea party to celebrate her life, her twenty years as a volunteer in the Garden's library and her generous bequest to the Garden.

It was a lovely occasion. As a visible memorial a mobile bookcase and books have been bought and placed in the café for visitors to use and enjoy. Each book in 'Sylvia's Library' has a special bookplate with a *lathyrus* design (Sylvia had a National Collection which has now gone to Edinburgh Botanic Garden) and there is an information board about Sylvia on the wall nearby. If you are in the Botanic Garden (always worth a visit anytime of year) do go and have a look.

Many thanks must go to the Botanic Garden for organising the tea and inviting us and to Mary Stone and Andrew Morris for their liaison work.

Janet Morris

MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

The school year has started extremely well and we have welcomed one of the largest and most confident group of Reception children for many years, along with many new families spread across different year groups.

Bit by bit over the past 3 years it feels as if we have been rebuilding the school. Not just the feeling, reputation, results, curriculum and staff team but also the interior and exterior of the building too. This year we have a superb staff team who worked tirelessly over the holidays to prepare their classrooms, get displays up and make their learning environments welcoming so those first day nerves for the children were very quickly removed.

Our reputation grows day by day and partly this is due to the local community who sing our praises and support us every step of the way. With a growing reputation and great data and results for the past 3 years we seem to welcome more and more new families into our school with children outside of Reception.

The flood damage has all been repaired and we have new flooring in certain areas. We also have a new automatic fire alarm system and internal fire doors. We now have beautiful beech doors that have literally lightened the corridors and are making us even safer. The funding we received for the building improvement as an academy has enabled this work. We are hoping all of the doors will be fitted in time for Christmas.

Once again the teachers alongside the children have planned exciting topics to engage all learners. Our whole school topic this term is focussed around books. The infants have chosen 'Once upon a time...' focussing on knights, princesses and castles. Key Stage 2 have opted for 'Read between the lines...' with Year 3/4/5 studying a range of Roald Dahl books whilst Year 5/6 focus upon World War 2 and 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. The children are so excited by the topic and thoroughly enjoyed reading the books we gifted them for the summer holidays.

Trips to stimulate and offer a level playing field of experiences began with Year 5/6 being transported back in time as evacuees. They were dropped at Stibbington Railway Station and were treated to a day just as evacuees all of those years ago would have been. Lunch was rations (apparently spam is very tasty!) and the outfits they came in were superb. The consensus is life in 2016 is much easier (and the clothes are more fashionable)!

The Infants were very brave and took all four classes to Hedingham Castle. A day of dress up as knights or princesses saw them being locked in the dungeon, learning to sword fight and trying on medieval armour. They were superbly behaved and have produced some stunning work since they returned.

Not to be left out, Year 3/4/5 have been working hard looking at the stories written by Roald Dahl and the highlight was a private screening at Haverhill Cinema of The BFG. To have an entire cinema to yourself to see a blockbuster film was quite an experience!

We are still on the look out for people who may have the odd half an hour to fill to either come in and help in the classroom with the children or to hear readers. If you are interested, then please speak to the school office.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

SAVE THE CHILDREN Linton & District Branch

COFFEE MORNING
11am – 12.30pm, Friday 11 November
at Mulberry Cottage, Fox Road, Balsham

Christmas cards & wrapping paper & "Bring & Buy"

Raffle £1.00 entry

Look forward to seeing you

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Governors are the unsung heroes of school life. They play a significant role in the school's standards and success. They volunteer their time and energy to attend meetings, take part in reviews and interview processes and contribute to school policies and direction. They have a significant responsibility for providing school leaders with critical friendship, support and challenge.

The collective commitment and investment of governors to the school is substantial. If we were to calculate the cost of the contribution made by governance to the education sector the total sum would be vast. We are privileged to benefit from an array of different skills and expertise among our governing body at Linton Village College and the Directors of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.

It is really important that the school's governance reflects its local community and serves the best interests of its students. While there is no longer a requirement for schools to have parental representation on governing bodies, we feel that there is great benefit to be had from this arrangement. Another important element is that of community governors. Recruiting from Linton and the surrounding villages allows us to tap into professional skills and talents of the local area and sustain the school's unique character, ethos and values as a village college at the heart of its local community.

We currently have vacancies for governors at Linton Village College and are keen to hear from people that may be interested in taking up the position as a governor. From auditing our existing governance skills-base, we would particularly welcome additional expertise in relation to finance, law and business, in addition to parent governors. We also have opportunities on the Board of our Multi Academy Trust.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity and would like further information about what is involved, please get in touch with Tracy Coston, the clerk to the governing body, (tracy.coston@lvc.org) by 17 October.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

PRESS DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 16 October

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