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Issue: 180
March 2018

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IT is good to see Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council singing from the same hymn sheet on the subject of major employment area proposals in neighbouring districts.

Both councils are opposed to plans being forward at Haydock Point, Florida Farm, Haydock and on the site of the former Parkside Colliery at Newton-le-Willows. Both, understandably, fear the consequences in terms of heavy traffic pounding their narrow, village lanes.

And both have come up with the same, common-sense solution – that the traffic implications of major developments like these should be considered together and not separately, as invariably seems to happen.

Unfortunately common-sense and highways planning do not always seem to go hand-in-hand. In fact, it would not be inappropriate to suggest that they seldom do.

Again, unfortunately, the views of small parish councils do not often seem to be heeded by the planners, so it may well be that they – and the various residents' groups also opposed to the developments – will turn out to be voices in the wilderness.

We hope not – but we are not holding our breath.

The price one has to pay for being close to so many motorways and other major roads is that you attract what are these days somewhat laughingly called "logistics" companies, but are really just haulage under another name.

Given the dictionary definition of logistics- "the careful organization of a complicated activity so that it happens in a successful and effective way" – we think some thought should be put into it BEFORE rather than after these developments are built.

Deadline for the April issue of Culcheth Life March 13

Lowton WI



THE next meeting of Lowton WI takes place on Thursday, March 1 at All Saints Social Centre, Golborne, at 7.15pm when new members would be welcome. Further details are available from Lin Hayes on 01942 2076764.



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Parish council launches appeal to keep villages clean and tidy

CULCHETH & Glazebury Parish Council is appealing to local residents and business owners to help ensure the local area remains as attractive as possible.

They believe it is important for residents to have clean green areas to walk their dogs and for children to play in.

They also believe it is important for visitors to see that they are in an environment where they feel comfortable and for businesses to thrive it is essential that both visitors

and residents come into the area to shop and use the facilities.

Members of the parish council have been surprised to see a proliferation of advertising banners and "A" boards, presumably exhibited without planning permission, that change the visual character of the village centres.

There is also the issue of dog fouling. There are still a number of dog owners who think it is acceptable to allow their dogs to litter streets and lovely green areas.

Cllr. Peter Holmes, Chairman of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, said: "We appreciate that businesses need to advertise but would ask them to consider the impact on the area and if they are adding to or detracting from the attractiveness of it. We also send out a plea to dog owners to clean

up after their pets."

"The Parish Council spends a considerable amount of ratepayers money employing staff to keep, particularly the green, areas of the parish free of litter which is currently being done to a very high standard. However, we are experiencing great difficulty recruiting sufficient staff and our concern is that we may not be able to maintain these standards going forward."



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War memorial funding secured - after just one month



JUST a month after an appeal was launched for money to pay for repairs to the war member at Newchurch Parish Church, the funding has been secured.

Chairman of Culcheth Village Club Paul Campbell, who made the appeal, said he had been "amazed" by the response.

He said: "It is only four weeks since I put out an appeal for financial support to help in the repair and upgrade of the war memorial at Newchurch Parish Church.

"It was while attending last year's Remembrance Sunday service and wreath laying that I noticed the names on the WW2 section of the memorial were beginning to fade due to the weather.

"I then made enquiries regarding the cost of repair and after receiving a satisfactory tender I followed this up with an appeal to help complete the work.

"I have been amazed with the response and I can now report that we have the necessary funds to complete the work which will be carried out by the stonemasons before the end of summer."

Mr Campbell said the appeal had been made with the support of Newchurch Parish Church, the Culcheth branch of the Royal British Legion, the Village Club,



local residents and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council – who had made a substantial input.

This meant the whole of the memorial would be upgraded and cleaned in time for this year Remembrance Sunday which would be on the 11th day of the 11th month exactly 100 years since the end of World War One.

"This shows what our community can do when we all pull together. Once again we will have a fitting memorial to those from the surrounding district who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

There will also be a Quiz Night in Newchurch Parish Hall in the village on April 6 and any funds above and beyond that needed for the repair of the memorial will be evenly divided between the church and this year's Poppy Appeal.



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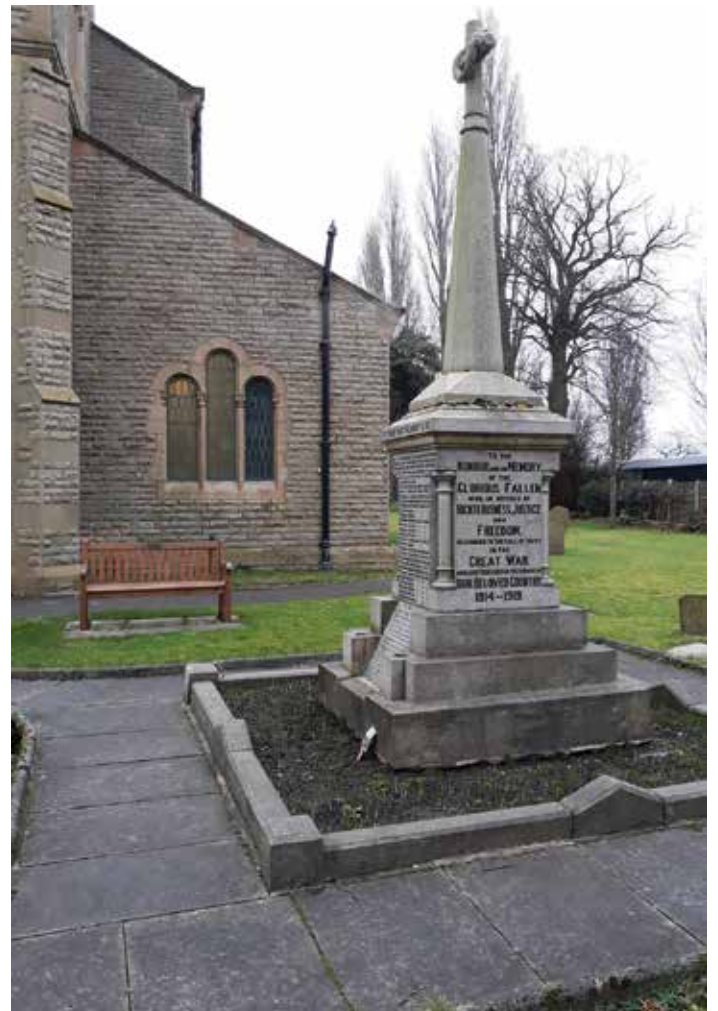




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Well-being hub to open soon

PLANS are well underway to open the proposed Well-being Hub at Culcheth Library.

One end of the computer room has been decorated, with lovely, tranquil murals and restful furnishings designed to promote relaxation and well-being and reduce anxiety and isolation.

A group of volunteers from Friends of Culcheth Library are currently being trained by Penny Moon, from A Quiet Place, in mindfulness and related well-being areas.

The trained volunteers will then be able to lead others. The project

is supported by Awards for All Lottery Funding.

The volunteers are all ages including some pupils from Culcheth High School who want to help others and pass on their knowledge to other teenagers.

The Hub will be open for free use by residents and volunteers. It will also be available to be rented out by library operators LiveWire for related uses to raise income to help the library.

To join Friends of Culcheth Library, email the secretary joan.grime@hotmail.co.uk or fill in a form at Culcheth Library.



MP hits out over HS2 "white elephant"

MP Helen Jones has again hit out over the controversial HS2 high speed railway.

She attended a debate on the West Midlands to Crewe proposals for the line and called for "a proper, integrated hub at Crewe".

This, she said, would make the proposed spur line through the Culcheth area "absolutely redundant."

After the debate, the Warrington North MP, who lives in Culcheth, said: "I have always maintained that the Hoo Green to Bamfurlong spur is the whitest of white elephants.

"Sadly, if it goes ahead it will devastate two villages and inflict serious environmental damage.

"The case for the spur has been seriously undermined with rising costs and crucially the provision of a transport hub at Crewe which would make it redundant.

"A proper integrated hub at Crewe would also enable many more towns in the North West to benefit from HS2."

If the spur line is built, the villages of Culcheth and Rixton would be badly effected, and there would also be an impact on Lymm.



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Bents Garden a best in U

BENTS Garden & Home has been presented with the title of Best Destination Garden Centre in the UK 2017/2018, beating off competition from over 200 other centres and GCA members.

It is the fifth occasion Glazebury based Bents has held the award which recognises quality standards within the industry.

Bents, which is based at Glazebury, were presented with the title by the Garden Centre Association (GCA) following an extensive annual audit which records scores from all member centres. The award comes at the end of what has been a celebratory 12 months for Bents as the family owned and run business marked its 80th anniversary during 2017.

Says Matthew Bent, MD of Bents Garden & Home: “There are many awards available within our industry, but this really is the big one. It is not one that requires a written submission or paid for entry; instead the audit is something that is a requirement of our GCA membership.

“It is based purely on quality standards throughout the centre, not only

Scouts embark on busy

SCOUTS at Culcheth are embarking on a busy period of fundraising this year – with the twin aims of further improving their headquarters and providing a new mess tent.

The 3rd Warrington 1st Culcheth Scout Group are in a race against time to raise money for the tent which will be needed when they attend the International Scout and Guide Chamboree at Tarporley in July.

Their existing tent is years old and urgently needs replacing.

Last year, the group carried out major improvement to the scout centre in Jackson Avenue.

Secure fencing was erected around the activity area at the rear of the building, the interior of the building was redecorated and the toilets were upgraded.

Now it is proposed to resurface the activity area, marking out an eight-point compass and an 3x3 meter outline grid which will provide the scouts, cubs and beavers with a more challenging area in which to improve their life skills.

Volunteer fundraiser Daphne Eastburn said: “We are passionate about



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of our products and departments, but also our people and service, which makes it all the more special to receive again this year. We have a great team who work extremely hard and this award is a fantastic way to thank them for their input."

As with all GCA member centres, Bents received an unannounced spot visit by the GCA auditors in Spring 2017 and recorded one of the highest scores in the country, which saw them awarded Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West. The Centre then received a further spot check to be re-audited resulting in the UK's highest result and presentation of the prestigious industry award.

Other national awards to be presented following the audit included: Best Plant Area; Commercial, Creativity & Innovation Award; Catering Excellence Silver Award and Customer Service Silver Award.

The award also sees Bents being acknowledged as a Garden Centre of Excellence, one of only ten in the country.

season of fundraising

our young people and want to provide a safe environment that enables them to improve their life skills.

"We are an active group, providing an active programme of events with weekly meetings, weekend camps and getting ourselves involved in community events."

"We are doing fund raising on Culcheth Community Day on May 7, doing a 'bags for cash' collection towards the cost of the mess tent.

"As in previous years, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will be keeping the field free of litter."

The year has already got off to a fun start, with parties at the Scout Centre for the Beavers and Cubs and an evening bowling for the Scouts.

Any girls or boys who want to join the group can just turn up at one of the weekly meetings or call 077297 84121 or email gsl@1stculchethscouts.org.uk

More details are available on the website www.1stculchethscouts.org.uk

The Gardening Guide



“ This is the best month to plant strawberries to get them established in their first season. ”

Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

- Lawns should be swept and raked before having their first cut and then given a spring feed towards the end of the month
- Early spring is an ideal time to plant herbaceous perennials e.g. Geraniums and Oriental Poppies
- If tender bulbs produce new shoots quickly, protect them with fleece or mulch until the weather improves
- Weeding should start in earnest! Weeding now will save you so much time later on in the year

Bents Garden & Home, Warrington Road, Glazebury, Cheshire WA3 5NT. 01942 266300. Check online for seasonal opening times.

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Helping people to cope with bereavement

PEOPLE coping with bereavement may benefit from a service which takes place every two months at Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth.

It was launched just over a year ago to offer greater support to people who have lost loved ones and in that time a small congregation has grown.

The service is shared between Newchurch and Christ Church, Croft although it is always held at 3.30pm in the small family room at Newchurch.

Rector, the Rev Chris Jones, said: "It is a short service – about 40 minutes – and is a quiet and reflective service with readings and prayers offering time for individual reflection and prayer and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones lost."

"Refreshments are served after the service and people

are encouraged to stay to share together in the giving and receiving of support and encouragement."

Regular attenders have found the service of great assistance.

One said: "I enjoy the music which is the time to pause and remember. Another commented: "I know some of those who have attended here very much appreciated the quiet time to reflect and it gives them courage to face the future".

After the most recent service another person said: "This is such a beautiful service, it was lovely just to be still and have time to remember".

Anyone who thinks the service might be helpful to them or someone

they know is invited to attend.

Next service is on Sunday, April 8 at 3.30pm, church open from 3pm and after that services are on June 3, August 5, October December 14.

More details are available from the Rev Jones Tel. 01925 766300 or rector_ncandcc@hotmail.com or lay reader Suzanne Quick 01925 764233 or suzannequick7@gmail.com



Councils join forces to oppose employment area projects

CULCHETH and Glazebury and Croft parish councils have joined forces to object to plans for a major employment area at Haydock.

Members of the two councils are worried about the traffic implications of the Haydock Point scheme, on land north east of the A580 East Lancs Road near the A498 Lodge Lane, Haydock.

They are particularly concerned because of two other major employment schemes in the area – the Florida Farm scheme, which has already won planning approval – and the controversial proposals for the former Parkside Colliery site at

Newton-le-Willows.

Councillors fear all three projects will result in hundreds of heavy lorries flooding the narrow roads of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Cllr Jaqui Johnson said: "We are particularly concerned because these scheme are being considered separately.

"We believe they should be looked at together, rather than as three individual schemes.

"Only in that way can the traffic implications be considered properly.

"Our roads are frequently gridlocked as it is and this hampers residents and businesses.

"When there is an incident of some kind on one of the motorways – the M6, the M62 or the M56 – it can cause chaos.

The two councils have suggested that the traffic issues connected with the Haydock Point scheme should be considered alongside the traffic issues of the Parkside development.

As yet they have not submitted an objection to the Parkside scheme, but one is likely.

Another possible course of action is to ask the Secretary of State to "call in#" both schemes so they can be considered together.



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'Proud to have been at Culcheth Secondary Modern'

A WOMAN who went to school with Culcheth's Liverpool soccer legend Tommy Lawrence has spoken with pride of their old school.

Sylvia Wood – formerly Sylvia Gibson – spoke up after reading of the death of the former goalkeeper in last month's **Culcheth Life**.

She said: "It upset me to see that it was reported that Tommy went to Culcheth High School.

"In fact, like myself, he went to Culcheth Secondary Modern School. I know it became a high school later, but I am proud to have been a pupil at Culcheth Secondary Modern and would not like to see it forgotten.

"It was a good school and I'm sure everyone who went to it was proud to do so."

Mrs Wood, aged 76, lived at Mee

Brow at the time but later moved to Leigh, where she still lives.

"I visit Culcheth regularly and have attended quite a few reunions of former pupils of the secondary modern school. The last one I went to was just before the old, original school building was demolished.

"I had the chance to go to Leigh Grammar School, but I didn't want to. I stayed at Culcheth Secondary Modern and have never regretted it.

"I didn't know Tommy Lawrence when we were both at the school

but of course I got to know about him when he became a famous footballer."

Tommy Lawrence's funeral took place at St Elphin's Parish Church, Warrington, on January 30 and was attended by a number of football legends, including Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish, Robbie Fowler and Culcheth's own World Cup hero Roger Hunt – who also went to Culcheth Secondary Modern before moving on to Leigh Grammar School.

Cricketers start training

MEMBERS of Glazebury Cricket Club have started training for the coming season - with the start of a 10-week programme of indoor nets.

The club has booked the sports hall at Culcheth High School on Saturdays between 2pm and 4pm

Senior and junior members can attend – and new members are welcome.

The cost is £4 per session for adults and £2 for under 18s.

Any enquiries about junior sessions should be made to junior co-ordinator Nupal Bansel on 07761 824698 or email at nbansel@yahoo.com

Glazebury's season in the Cheshire Cricket League starts on April 21.



Tommy Lawrence in his Liverpool days.

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Special Valentine's Day for care home residents



CHILDREN from Croft Early years pre-school and nursery wanted to make sure their friends at Holcroft Grange care home, Culcheth, knew they were not forgotten on St Valentine's Day.

So they got busy making Valentine cards – and then delivered them. The cards were warmly received by residents at the care home.

"We just wanted to let everyone know we were thinking about them on this special day," said Bev Swindell, from the pre-school.

Holcroft Grange and Croft Early Years have been working together for some six months to enable the children and the residents to join in a variety of activities and events.

If it is hoped to develop the friendship further and, to this end, Croft Early Years have recently applied for Lottery funding.

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WI members learn about 'gilt on the gingerbread'

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI travelled back in time to learn about "Gilt on the Gingerbread".

Speaker Janet Bradshaw took them to medieval Tatton after a very quick change from a trouser suit to peasant costume.

Janet worked with school groups for nearly 30 years in historic re-enactment at Tatton Old Hall and described many aspects of life in those far-off days, such as the Manor Court, deer-hunting, washing, cooking and herbal medicines. The washdays (twice a year) sounded exhausting and chilly and cookery was a major undertaking since kindling and logs had to be found and arranged in "fire-baskets". Cauldrons were packed with meat, vegetables and other things and boiled for a very long time - even lettuce!

Janet then demonstrated a special treat – gingerbread made from bread crumbs and honey and galingale - not ginger. This hardened slowly and was decorated with leaves and spices and even little pieces of copper. This copper was the "gilt on the gingerbread".

Doreen Procter thanked Janet and after tea was served by Rose Collins and Joan Evans members were able to examine the medieval kitchen equipment and handle the fine examples of stag and roebuck antlers, from Tatton Park. Lesley Lloyd and Margaret Harrop had brought their own entertaining gingerbread exhibits to accompany Janet's talk.

The earlier part of the meeting involved Newchurch's plans for the year ahead. President Eileen Griffiths and secretary June Cope passed on greetings to two "birthday girls" and announced details of the Spring coffee morning on March 21. Eileen also thanked June for the February table flowers.

Three Newchurch trips were to be arranged - to Llandudno in May, to the Brindley Theatre in July and to Skipton in September. The Mosslands Group hoped to have its own trip to Trentham Gardens in June. Members were very relieved to hear that the Quenching Trough at the Library was still to be cared for, thanks to Jean and John Riley. At the next meeting on March 14, Zoe Chaddock will speak about Culcheth's Workhouse.

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Schools celebrate "Wise Up" awards

TWO Culcheth schools are celebrating after picking up awards in the annual "Wise Up" awards organised by the Warrington Hate Crime and Incident Partnership Board, the borough council and Cheshire Police.

Newchurch Primary school won a Platinum award while Culcheth Primary School collected a Gold award.

The Wise Up initiative was launched in 2014 and is an annual award that looks to recognise and celebrate the excellent work local schools are doing to tackle the issues of bullying and hate crime.

Amanda Dodd, head teacher at

Culcheth Primary School, said: "We were delighted to be recognised for the work we do throughout the year on preventing bullying and raising awareness.

"Children have lessons, assemblies and circle time in class.

"We invite special visitors into school to promote the anti-bullying theme through plays, workshop and specially-themed assemblies."



Village café plan gets the thumbs up

CROFT Parish Council's imaginative plan to convert the village's disused toilets into a café has been greeted with enthusiasm by many local people. Chairman Cllr Keith Bland said: "A number of people have come forward and expressed an interest in getting involved.

"I think this could be a goer – a lot of people have said they think it is a good idea."

The toilet building at the villager play area has stood empty and boarded for some time since the decision was taken to close it because of vandalism.

But now the parish council is considering bringing it back into use – as a café.

Cllr Bland said: "It would need some adaptation and conversions, of course. But it would be in a good position, next to the play area and the playing fields where we have quite a few football teams playing.

"The area facing the play area could easily be made into a terrace where you could sit and have a cup of tea or coffee. There could also be a demand for refreshments when football matches were being played.

"A number of people have expressed an interest in volunteering – making tea and coffee, etc.

"I think we could make a go of it – other people have done similar things in other areas, so why not in Croft."

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Business Park fully occupied again!

TAYLOR Business Park are celebrating being fully occupied again.

Managing Director, Paul Taylor, said, "I usually say this is a rare occasion but it seems to be happening more often these days, despite us having around fifty properties to keep full!"

"We signed the last lease in November and the outlook is good for the next year or two as well. It's great to have a waiting list on

the go. We're still getting enquiries and people seem to be happy to wait for something to become available."

When asked why the site was so popular he responded, "It's all down to the staff. They manage the site so well. It looks great. Security keep on top of things and have even turned away travellers on

more than one occasion recently while they've been in the area. There are much easier targets for them around here than us."

"Throw in high speed internet and the ability to connect tenants within 24 hours and there's not much else anyone could ask for in a business premises. 2018 looks like it should be a great year. Long may it continue!"



Opposition growing to nursery housing plan

ANY plans to build houses on the site of Kenyon Lane Nurseries at Croft look set to spark vigorous opposition.

Croft Parish Council has already resolved to fight plans for 11 news

houses on the site in Kenyon Lane – and now nearby residents are also gearing up to oppose the scheme.

They say the site is in the Green Belt and that the develop would lead to traffic hazards on Kenyon

Lane.

The developers have already met the parish council and put forward the argument that the nursery is previously developed "brownfield" land.

But the council argues that there are only temporary structures on the site – and that a nursery is a greenfield site anyway.

It has yet to be considered by the borough council.



Schools' awards for sporting achievement

CULCHETH Primary School and Winwick CE Primary School were among 29 borough schools who received their National School Games Mark for their achievements in school sports and PE during the year.

The awards were presented by Warrington School Sport Partnership at a ceremony at the Halliwell Jones Stadium – home of Warrington Wolves.

Culcheth Primary won a gold award while Winwick CE Primary

received a bronze.

There was also acknowledgement for six apprentices from last year who were employed by local primary schools and tutored at Priestley College on behalf of Asset Training and who have passed

their NVQ Level 3 in PE and School Sport.

They included Lewis Perrin from Winwick CE Primary, and Nathan Taylor from St Lewis' RC Primary, Croft.



Lucy makes a splash at water polo

A 15-year-old Culcheth girl has been selected to play for England at water polo.

Lucy Mills, a pupil at Culcheth High School, will travel to the Czech Republic over the Easter Weekend as a member of the England Under-17 team to play in the European Nations Cup.

It will be a dream come true for the youngster who has been swimming since she was five, playing water polo since she was 10 and has played for her club – Tyldsley Swimming Club – at regional and national level and has also represented the North West.

Proud dad Chris Mills – himself a former water polo player – said: “Lucy is very committed. She’s in the pool almost every day and training all the time – but at the same time she is also working very

hard in what is a big GCSE year for her.”

It’s hardly surprising Lucy took up water polo. In addition to her dad being a former player, her uncle, Dennis Price, is her coach and her cousins, Megan, 25 and Hayley, 19 both play – in fact Hayley was the Great Britain Under 17s goalkeeper.

To cap all that, Grandad Peter Mills, who also lives in Culcheth, was a water polo referee and former team manager.

When she’s not in the water or studying, Lucy finds other ways of keeping active. During the last year she has completed her Duke of Edinburgh’s Award bronze medal programme and she is also involved in a young volunteers programme at Wigan.



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