

# Culcheth Life

Magazine

ISSUE 209 | JANUARY 2021  
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## Call to save leisure facilities

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# Editor's Comment



**I AM sure many of us will be glad to see the back of 2020 - a year none of us could have predicted and one which has certainly impacted on all our lives.**

As we entered 2020 the hot topic was Brexit - and while it is looming large again, it was certainly out of the headlines for much of the year as we dealt with the consequences of a pandemic.

For the first time in more than 20 years of publishing, we had no choice but to suspend publishing Culcheth Life and since our return in September, it has been pretty tough producing and distributing a free community magazine that relies on advertising.

With many of our clients and potential clients forced to close or operate with reduced capacity, it has been an uphill battle.

But thanks to a strong loyal client base and the support from local community organisations we managed to return in print.

Meanwhile what 2021 will bring is still uncertain.

At the time of writing there is light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, although how successful these will prove is still an unknown quantity.

Add to that the complexities of Brexit and uncertain times lie ahead.

During these tough times, Culcheth and the surrounding villages have shown a fantastic community spirit with the volunteers at the Helping Hands group doing

some amazing work ensuring those in need were not forgotten.

During the past year, we have reported on some remarkable people of all ages who have gone above and beyond.

We also love promoting positive news stories in our local villages so please keep them coming in the New Year.

Meanwhile, let's all hope that 2021 can be a year of promise as we can hopefully return to some kind of normality and the return of our fantastic community events like Culcheth Community Day and the Culcheth Christmas Market.

Finally, I would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a

Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year - and whatever it throws at us let's focus on what we can do and not what we can't do.

Take care and stay safe!

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# Call for Council to do more to save leisure facilities

**A CONCERNED councillor is calling on Warrington Borough Council to do more to save leisure facilities at Culcheth which are under threat of closure.**

Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Councillor Val Allen MBE has called on the Borough Council to "do more" to safeguard leisure facilities in the facility based at Culcheth High School.

Cllr Allen's comments come after LiveWire announced that it had suffered a drop in commercial income of £3.2 Million since lockdown.

LiveWire operates leisure facilities on behalf of the Borough Council including the Culcheth Community Campus.

Cllr Allen also sits on Croft Parish Council and has described that a loss of the facilities would be a "tremendous blow" to the local area.

She said: "I am concerned at the announcement about the possible closure of the Culcheth Community Campus. The Council must do more to safeguard the future of the Community Campus."

"In the rural communities of Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft and surrounding areas, these leisure facilities are not only one of the only offerings for fitness, health and wellbeing but the Community Campus facilities are also a lifeline for local communities."

"If the Community Campus was to close, it would be a tremendous blow for the community and the sports teams who use the facilities, including the sports pitches."

LiveWire has launched a consultation about the future of Culcheth Community Campus.

Cllr Allen added: "I have been contacted by a number of concerned residents and I would encourage everyone to engage with the consultation survey and have your

voice heard. It is simply unacceptable to close our community facilities."

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins, said: "We understand the concerns of the Culcheth community and we are committed to fully engaging them in the discussions over the future of leisure provision in the area."

"The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial loss of income for our leisure and library services, and we have not received a sufficient level of funding from the government to mitigate this. The last thing we want to do is change or reduce services, but the unprecedented challenges we are facing mean we have no choice but to consider cost-saving proposals. This is essential if we are to protect the future of our wider leisure, libraries and lifestyles provision."

"Culcheth Community Campus faces specific challenges. The small size of the site means that to operate it under socially-distanced conditions would not be financially viable. At the same time, the site has operated at a loss for some time. While we have always sought to maintain the site in the community through the absorbing of this loss by our other sites, we are no longer in a position to do this. The huge financial pressures we are now facing mean that it is the right time to reassess the future direction of the site."

"Our consultation runs until early January, so please have your say. All views will be taken fully on board."

The survey can be completed by visiting [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbclivewireculchethcampus](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbclivewireculchethcampus)



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# Fifty-fifty chance "The Datan" will not survive the pandemic

**THERE is a 50-50 chance that Culcheth Sports Club – still known by many local people as "The Datan" – might not survive the pandemic.**

That's the view of club secretary Stuart Nightingale as the Charnock Road club faces an uncertain future following the end of Warrington's second lockdown.

He said: "If Culcheth wants to keep what is a magnificent sports and social club, local people are going to have to use it. It could be a case of use it or lose it."

The club has been struggling for some time – even before Covid-19 struck. A number of sections have closed – some of them blaming what they have described as a hard-line taken by the club committee.

There was particular anger of the closure of the club's long established, 80-strong bowling section which led to the superb, floodlit bowling green being taken over for five-a-side football.

One bowler said: "The club was demanding a £4,500 fee upfront when, for years, we had been paying it off on a monthly basis. We could not raise this – but we offered to pay £2,500 up front and the balance monthly. But the club committee would not agree so we had no alternative but to leave."

He said he understood other sections were considering leaving because they could not agree terms with the committee.

"We have in effect been kicked out – the club seems to have been taken over by the football section."

But Mr Nightingale said: "I don't know if the bowling section couldn't pay or wouldn't pay. But we could not reach an agreement. We offered the bowling green to the croquet section and the tennis section but neither wanted to take it on. In the end we let the five-a-side football take it over. And it was a member of the former bowling section who kicked the first ball."

"We realise the various sections have not been able to function during the lockdown so have not been receiving income from their members. But the main club has also lost its income. The bar has been closed and we have not been able to take bookings for weddings and other functions. But our monthly outgoings have continued – and it costs a lot to keep the building going. The heating alone is expensive and we have all sorts of specialist equipment to maintain."

"We cannot reserve parts of the club for people who may not come back when things return to normal – particularly when there are other people prepared to move in now."

The Datan Club, as it was originally known, dates from

around 1946 when it was built by the UK Atomic Energy Authority as a social club for their staff. It was purchased from the UKAEA in 1998 for £203,000.

But in the event of the present club failing, it will revert back to the UKAEA who would decide its future.



## Rotary kept busy supporting the community through COVID

DUE to Covid 19 the Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee have been active in various ways delivering PPE equipment and assisting the International and local Community wherever possible.

The Rotary Club's Christmas Tree appeared at Newchurch Parish Church for their annual Christmas Tree Festival which was extended until 4th January. Various local Organisations did the same.

Wire Young Carers had an early Christmas present with two touchscreen Chromebooks at a cost of £300 each. They will use them to deliver crucial 1 to 1 support calls via Zoom/Teams between their schools and home.

The Warrington Open Door Charity which provides safe shelter, food, companionship to the homeless, lonely, and vulnerable has received a donation of £200.

Donations of £500 were also made to the following: - Warrington Food Bank, 'Helping Hands' covering Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft and Hope Centre Food Bank incorporating Newton Family Community Centre & Earlestown foodbank hubs.

The club also supported the Fairy running around Culcheth, David Smithson who was raising money for a charity called Whizz-kidz with a further donation of £250.

Finally, to help get Warrington East Scouts in Culcheth meeting again they are looking to fund a set of resuscitation dolls as part of their First Aid Training. The training will be carried out by their trained Scout Leaders.

Members from 40 Rotary Clubs in the District collected over 6,000 pairs of shoes, making the footwear poverty campaign extremely successful. It is estimated that 200,000 homeless people in the UK lack proper footwear.

The collection of coats to charities has been put on hold until a National Launch this coming Autumn, due to Covid19 and the storage of them.

For further information about the club's work, they do in 'Making a Difference in the Local and International Community', plus future Meetings please call: - Les Blackburn on 01925 763577 or Mike Wilson on 07799 888 629.

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## Police warn residents to be vigilant

CULCHETH residents were warned to be extra vigilant by local police following reports of three "carol singers" aged between 7-10, claiming to be collecting for the homeless in the village.

Local officers received a few reports of the "very young Carol singers" on Pendle Gardens, Culcheth in the run up to Christmas.

Described as 7-10 years of age the three young lads claimed to be from Leigh, Lowton and Golborne. They also said they were collecting for the homeless.

Police advised residents to check their vehicles and ensure properties were secure.

The three youngsters were seen to be collected by a vehicle on Hobhey Lane and left the area.

# Rawwater appoint national nuclear laboratory director to head up new technology company

**Former National Nuclear Laboratory Account Director Kat Lennox has been appointed to head up a new technology company at the Culcheth based Rawwater Group.**

Kat, previously employed as account director with the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), has joined Rawwater Applied Technology Ltd as managing director.

A new company within the Rawwater Group, Rawwater Applied Technology Ltd has been established to further exploit the capabilities of the group's specialist metal alloy seals and application techniques for use in nuclear decommissioning, as well as in other industry sectors.

"This is an incredibly exciting time at Rawwater," comments group managing director, Professor Robert Eden PhD. "Having successfully created the world's first 'anticipated' 3,000-year-life Bureau Veritas-certified metal seal for oil and gas reservoir plugging and abandonment, we identified further opportunities for our proprietary, low-melting-point bismuth alloys in nuclear decommissioning. Through a programme called Molten Metal Manipulation (M3), we went on to develop a range of alloy classes and application techniques for a host of sealing challenges.

"Such an important technological development required an individual with the necessary skills to convey the capabilities of our M3 programme to both the nuclear sector and wider industry.

Having worked with Kat Lennox over a number of years, I knew immediately that she was the right person to take up the mantle and lead Rawwater Applied Technology Ltd."

Commenting on her appointment Kat said: "I am delighted to bring my knowledge of the international nuclear industry to Rawwater.

"At NNL, I worked with organisations from around the globe on a range of waste management and decommissioning activities. I believe I offer a unique perspective into the requirements of those involved in nuclear decommissioning and the challenges they face. As managing director of Rawwater Applied Technology Ltd, I will apply my nuclear industry expertise to the development, commercialisation and exploitation of the Rawwater Group's innovative and inspiring sealing technologies for the energy, nuclear decommissioning and high-risk industrial sectors."

Rawwater's specialist M3 alloy seals are being adapted to support decommissioning challenges at the UK's Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria. Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) is also exploring their use across its nuclear facilities. Rawwater M3 alloys can seal large openings or fill micron-sized cracks or pores, preventing fluid leakage. Applied underwater or in the air, M3 alloys can stabilise structures, pipework, flanges, gaskets and other seals. They can

be tailored to expand, contract or remain neutral upon solidification, offering reduced recovery costs and extreme longevity.

Rawwater made the transition into the nuclear sector through Sellafield's Game Changers programme. Game Changers is an innovation programme designed to find solutions and develop technologies to overcome some of the most complex challenges facing the nuclear industry. The programme is delivered by NNL and FIS360, specialists in supporting innovative technologies from concept to commercial production.

From its UK-based technology centre in Culcheth, the Rawwater Group provides solutions to oil & gas, nuclear energy and defence sectors. The group offers contract research and consultancy in the fields of materials science, well technology and water management, and combines engineering with reservoir microbiology to deliver solutions for facilities design, oilfield souring, biofouling and microbial corrosion. The Rawwater Group's engineering division is well known for its expertise in the development and application of molten bismuth alloys as a specialist alternative to cement for ensuring oil and gas well integrity onshore, offshore and in subsea applications. As experts in the simulation of complex systems and operating environments, the division is also developing special purpose alloy compositions and in-situ metal casting tools and techniques for the emergency and long-term isolation of leaks within high-risk environments.

[www.rawwater.com](http://www.rawwater.com)



*Kat Lennox, newly appointed managing director at Rawwater Applied Technology Ltd.*

## Christmas lights switched on early to beat the COVID blues!

COVID-19 meant the annual Christmas Market at Culcheth, and the formal switching-on of the festive lights, had to be cancelled.

But after a number of residents requested that the lights be switched on earlier than usual to provide some festive cheer, the lights at both Culcheth and Glazebury were switched on simultaneously.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council chairman Peter Holmes and parish clerk Tina Rogers-Smith were able to organise the switch-on early, even though a schedule for the switch on had already been agreed.

Cllr Holmes said: "It is hoped the lights will have a positive psychological effect and boost every in the villages, as our residents had suggested."

It is anticipated next year there will be a return of the Christmas

Market event in which the switch-on plays an important role.

Cllr Holmes added: "The market plays an important part for local businesses, and it is hoped that we can have a large and successful Christmas market in 2021 in order to make up for the loss of the 2020

event."

The council has sent its wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to all residents – together with a final request to "stay safe, think of others, and look after your neighbours."







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# From pubs to selling it's a family business

**AFTER growing up in the pubs' trade two sisters have branched out with a new online family business Seas Bath and Body making bath bursts, soaps and soy wax melts, with the help of local web developers Morgan Branding.**

The locally based new business Seas was born after a random conversation between sisters Emma and Amy Holland one lunchtime at work.

The girls from Culcheth explained: "Ever since that initial conversation we have been working tirelessly to perfect our range and brand. You

may wonder how the name Seas came about.....

"A family business from the start Pase Management Ltd was set up by our Dad, Peter in 1995 to support the licenced trade. The company name Pase is a mix of our initials of Peter, Amy, Susan (Our Mum) and Emma.



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# ing soaps online - ily affair!

"So back to our random conversation we were keen to keep the family tie with the next generation. Seas is a mix of Sophie, Emma, Amy and Sam. Sophie and Sam are Amy's kids that love to come in and help (make a mess!).

"The girls added: "We are the perfect team, Amy is the crafty design one, Emma is the official paperwork and organised one!

They added: "We are still very much family orientated so much so our workshop is based at the back

of our parent's house. Very handy for tea, cake (Mum makes the best lemon drizzle) and free packers when we are busy!"

Their new website, created by Morgan Branding is now live!! Please visit [www.seasbathandbody.co.uk](http://www.seasbathandbody.co.uk)

The girls added: "Big thanks to Callum Morgan and the team for all the support and hard work on this project! We couldn't have done it without them!"





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- Now is a good time to sharpen, clean and oil tools ready for the new season and check whether any of them need replacing

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# Helping Hands helps brings some sparkle

**THE Helping Hands community group has helped bring some sparkle to Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft residents at Christmas time.**

Founded by Wendy Maisey OBE, Helping Hands Culcheth Glazebury & Croft community group has been providing essential hampers since April to support local residents in the response to the onset of Covid-19.

Wendy said: "I founded the Culcheth branch in April 2020, it seemed the right thing to open in Culcheth and serve the WA3 area to take pressure off the Orford hub.

"We've really got to know our regular clients over the past 8

months or so, and we wanted to do something special for them at Christmas.

"We reached out to residents in November asking for hamper donations and were totally overwhelmed by their generosity, receiving almost 90 hampers to distribute.

"None of this would have been possible without our volunteers, especially Diane Eastburn, Joan Hughes, Val Allen and David Beechy. Huge thanks also to the

Bibby family who gave us free use of The Village Club to use as our hub.

"Lastly I need to mention the founders of Helping Hands Orford, Carol Kilgannon and Ste Murphy, they were the inspiration to roll this

initiative out in Culcheth.

"It's been a true community effort and the feedback from recipients has been humbling. Knowing we made a difference to people in our villages who had a tough year makes it all worthwhile."



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## Man ordered to pay £2,000 after fly tipping in country lane

A MAN who dumped rubbish in a country lane at Warrington has been ordered to pay more than £2,000 for fly tipping at Winwick.

He was convicted in his absence after failing to turn up at the court in Warrington.

The court heard Matthew Howe, 47, of Halliwell Road, Prestwich, Manchester, advertised waste disposal services without a licence and then dumped waste at Waterworks Lane in Winwick.

Howe was unable to produce the relevant licence or documentation to carry the waste when contacted by the council, but at first pleaded not guilty to fly tipping offences at an earlier hearing after an arrest summons was issued to bring him to court.

He then failed to attend Warrington Combined Court on and was found guilty in his absence after magistrates heard the council's evidence. He was fined £1,760 and ordered to pay a £170 victim surcharge and costs of £500 – a total of £2,430.

After the hearing, Cllr Judith Guthrie, Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for environment and public protection said: "This is another example of an unlicensed individual offering a waste collection service for money – then irresponsibly dumping it with total disregard for the local environment and community.

"Residents should always ensure that anyone who takes their waste away is authorised and certified by their local council to do so. If not, residents are also at risk of receiving a fine for improper waste disposal.

"It is important that people check that anyone who offers to take their waste away is authorised and certified by their local council to do so, as they are legally responsible for the disposal of their waste and we don't want them to fall victim to these unlicensed operators and to face the possibility of a fine".

Residents can provide any information in relation to fly tipping incidents via the council's website at [warrington.gov.uk/flytipping](http://warrington.gov.uk/flytipping)

For more information about licences and permits, visit [warrington.gov.uk/licencesandpermits](http://warrington.gov.uk/licencesandpermits)



# Local councillors delighted with highway improvements

**Local Councillors are delighted with the recent completion of Warrington Borough Council's Highways Investment Programme which resulted in the resurfacing of local roads and pavements in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.**

Residents who live on Ellesmere Road, Kirby Road, Withins Road, Lansdowne Road, Walton Road, Queens Avenue, Duke Avenue, Sandfield Crescent and Fowley Common Lane have seen improvements to the carriageway in their locality. Work has also been carried out on Broadhurst Avenue, Poplar Avenue, Kaye Avenue, Downham Avenue and Bent Lane to improve footpaths for pedestrians.

One resident commented "The work was done quickly, efficiently

and we hardly experienced any disruption. We are pleased with the improvement made to the look and safety of our road."

Warrington Borough Councillor Matt Smith said: "This work is part of the Council's five-year investment plan in local roads and pavements. The Labour led council are committed to developing the built environment for all residents, particularly when it improves the safety of both the roads and footpaths."



## Neighbours celebrate sharing lottery win



FIVE Lowton residents are celebrating after winning £1,000 each thanks to their lucky postcode.

The Maple Avenue, Lowton, neighbours netted the windfall when WA3 2DB was announced as a daily prize winner with People's Postcode Lottery.

People's Postcode Lottery ambassador Judie McCourt sent her well-wishes to the winners. She said: "Congratulations to all of the winners, what a fantastic way to round off the week! I hope they have fun spending their winnings."

A minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities

and players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised more than £600 million to date for thousands of good causes in Britain and beyond.

This draw was promoted on behalf of the Postcode Community Trust which provides funding in Great Britain to improve community health and wellbeing, increase participation in arts & physical recreation and reduce isolation.

Many good causes close to the winners have also benefitted from players' support, and local charities can apply for funding next year.

## Two teenagers questioned following hoax bomb threats

DETECTIVES investigating a series of hoax bomb threats at various schools, including Culcheth High School, have questioned two teenagers.

The boys, aged 14 and 15, were both questioned under police caution on Thursday 17 December in relation to hoax bomb threats at Culcheth High School, Golborne High School and Bedford High School as well as two schools in Barnstaple, North Devon.

The two boys, who are both from the Greater Manchester area, have since been released pending further enquires.

Their questioning forms part of a joint ongoing investigation by detectives from Cheshire Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police and Devon & Cornwall Police.

Detective Sergeant Alison McLoughlin from Chester Constabulary said: "I know that these incidents caused considerable concern to both the pupils and parents at the schools involved and I hope that this development will provide some reassurance."

"Enquiries are continuing and I would like to thank the schools involved for their support along with our colleagues at Greater Manchester and Devon and Cornwall Police."

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# First baby born at Hospital's new midwifery-led unit, The Nest

**THE first baby has been born at Warrington Hospital's brand new £1.2m state-of-the-art midwifery-led unit, The Nest.**

Miles Edward Haslam was born on December 1 at 17:28, weighing 9lb. He was born into the water of the birthing pool, to parents Holly and Simon who are from Lymm.

Holly said: "It was such a calming experience, the pool was amazing. I definitely think it helped with a quicker labour. It was more relaxing and the whole team were lovely."

"I went from 4cm to delivery in

less than two hours and think it was because I was so relaxed with the water and calming music.

"The pool definitely helped, it was a really good experience and I'm feeling really good and think it is down to the water birth, which has aided not only in delivery, but in recovery."

Lead Midwife Sarah Fitzsimmons said: "This was a great first experience of birth in The Nest,

and exactly what we hoped to achieve with this new suite. We are so excited to welcome baby Miles, and it was a delight to help support his parents to bring him into the world. We wish them so much happiness and health for the future."

The Nest provides a home-away-from-home birth experience. It is a relaxed, less clinical environment to create a truly special labour and birth experience for all women. Warrington and Halton Teaching

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH) invested in this new facility to provide more choice for women and their families.

Evidence highlights that Midwifery-led units (MLU) have proven to be beneficial to women and their families. Labour is often shorter and there is less intervention required when birthing in the MLU.

For more information on The Nest, contact 01925 662043 or visit <https://whh.nhs.uk/services/maternity>



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# Farm seeks permission to grow pick-your-own fruit business



**A PLAN to increase the number of Spanish tunnels at Kenyon Hall Farm, Croft, has been submitted to borough planning chiefs – to meet a growing demand for pick-your-own soft fruit.**

The farm – which has long been selling direct to the public – already has seven poly tunnels used for soft fruit and is struggling to meet demand.

The tunnels have extended the season for picking soft fruit to 5-6 months, compared to the traditional method of growing in the open which is still practised on the farm but has a season of only 6-7 weeks – less if the weather is bad.

Demand has grown to the extent where picking has to be rationed, resulting in many people having to leave disappointed.

The family-run business has continued to invest, adding a farm shop, café, car parks and sales of ornamental plants.

As a result, it has become a destination in itself – but is challenged to meet demand.

The farm also produces arable crops, including potatoes and cereals, but the current uncertain future for agriculture means direct sales to the public provides better resilience.

It also enables visitors to enjoy the open air and the experience of

visiting a farm which encourages wildlife through hedges, trees and ponds. It is home to a number of endangered species, including the grey partridge and the lapwing.

The farm is also involved in the community and runs several events that involve local youngsters, including being taught how to grow crops as an introduction to farming.

And the farm has also helped in the development of other farms by hosting training events and sharing technology with others.

During the Covid19 lockdown the farm was able to continue to supply fresh fruit and vegetables safely for the local families to access.

The tunnels used are only clad with polythene from March to September, so are not a permanent fixture and they will allow the farm to take production forward into future years and continue to provide good fresh produce with a day out on a farm for the visitor.

Borough council highways and environmental protection chiefs have no objections to the scheme.



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# DISCOVER YOU IN 2021



As we head into the new year, full of hope for what the next 12 months will bring after a challenging 2020, you may find yourself pondering your future and what that looks like.

Perhaps you want to aim for a promotion, but need to improve your management skills? Perhaps you are considering a change of direction and would like to study something new to help move towards that change? Or perhaps you would just like to learn some new skills? Whatever your thinking, take some time to **discover** what's on offer at your local college.

With courses due to start in the **first two weeks of January** be sure to **apply online** as soon as possible to secure your place and start your studies in 2021. We have courses planned across a variety of subject areas including: accountancy,

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