

"Bringing back Village Life is the most important community project ever undertaken in our villages"

Sponsored with kindness by Werrington Knit & Natter Group with special thanks to Barbara Hughes & Jean McNicol

Our thanks go to Year 5 at Werrington Primary School for our super new logo.

Village Life is produced by the Werrington Community Volunteer Action Group and is delivered free to Werrington, Cellarhead and Wetley Rocks.

World-wide circulation thanks to Werrington Parish Council through - https://www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/ - so click to go and enjoy anywhere - tell your away friends and family..

Our advertisers make this vital community contact possible so please support their businesses whenever you can.

St Philip, Werrington &
St John the Baptist, Wetley Rocks





Do you ever wake up amazed that you even exist? Perhaps that's just me. But many people at some point wonder, where did everything come from? Science can't take us any further than 'The Big Bang' – and we should wonder why did that happen?
The Christian answer of course is that God made us, and the whole universe. When I go into school and say this to the children, I often get a very good response: *Who made God?* It's a great question but it assumes that God was *made*: I don't think He was. If everything was made by someone or something else then how did the very first thing get made? The great theologians gave the answer that God is the one who was there in the first place, the only one not needing to be made.
You could just say that the whole world just happened to exist, for no reason. I've just learned a word for that: it's "incurious".
I believe that we have a Creator who is interested in us as His creations and as His children. If you'd like to know more, we will be holding "A Walk Through Creation" event at all the local churches 23rd – 26th July, 11 am – 4pm. St John's will feature the first day of creation in the book of Genesis – "Let there be light"; St Philip's will have displays featuring all 7 days. (wwrchurches.com for details.)

God bless,

Revd. Michael Follin

EDITOR AT LARGE

Village Life Rides Again – and again!





Village life – big thanks to all our volunteers, now more than ever and the magazines following is just great.

Not only have we got the show back on the road, but we have our super Sunshine Fund where Village Life self generates cash to help other volunteer groups.

But that not all - most important is the direct free delivery of a local dedicated news magazine. This is important as we can no longer rely on the media – newspapers are dwindling and dropping like flies.

VILLAGE LIFE IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION

The Sentinel which along with the Leek Post are both shadows of their former selves do not even list our village for circulation – the Leek News and Cheadle and Tean Times have already gone soyou can forget the papers. Radio wisewe only have Moorlands and that's about it. Life really does change.

But its not all bad as new technology brings benefits such as we are experiencing with Village Life which saves costs and makes life easier.

So, enjoy and count our blessings

David



PLEASE KEEP THE ARTICLES COMING

Village life is YOUR special magazine which you could Guest Edit and keep everyone up to date with activities and events in your group. Just contact david at – david@dsaimaging.co.uk or 01782 302019/07778 439693

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CONTINENTAL HOLIDAYS ON 4 WHEELS TO ENJOY

The long winter nights are at last shortening as I write and many of us will be thinking of holidays. The package holiday option is a favourite with the promise of sun, sea and crowded airport lounges, however, driving holidays abroad are becoming increasingly popular either with your own camper or at one of the existing set up camping sites.

Driving on the continent is happily less stressful with less traffic on the major roads (probably due to the tolls) but a little prior knowledge and preparation can again make things much easier. The 'motorways' are often subject to tolls and these can be an irritation with sometimes queues for the pay stations which are, of course, arranged for left hand drive vehicles so your passenger will be the one doing the transaction.



There are ways to avoid this using the Emovis tag. These are issued for each country but in essence you obtain a device which is stuck inside your car windscreen (by the mirror) and instead of going through the pay station lanes, you approach the lane with the large 'T' above it. As you pass through, the system detects your pass and the barrier opens automatically. Once you have your tag (there is an annual admin charge of about 10 euros) then any road charges are invoiced to you each month, e.g. August charges

are invoiced in September and payable at the end of that month. Each country has slightly different systems so, for France, the pass is retained as long as you want but for Italy the pass has to be handed back at the end of your trip. The Emovis website has all the info for all countries.

Another developing issue is the increasing number of cities and towns with 'clean air zones'. These again vary from country to country and for France there is a need to register your vehicle on their 'Crit-Air' system. Essentially, this covers a good number of cities, e.g. Paris, Strasbourg, Lille, Nice, for example, and to drive into these areas your vehicle must be of the required emission standard and display the relevant sticker on the windscreen. To obtain the sticker, is necessary to apply prior to the trip via the website.



The cost is again less than 10 euros including the postage and you will receive the sticker, appropriate to your vehicle, posted to your home to then display on the right side of your windscreen. Your vehicle is classified into one of 6 categories which then will guide you should you want to enter the area i.e. if the city shows entry restricted to Crit Air 2 vehicles then those in categories 3 to 6 are banned.

The sticker must be displayed but it is a one-off application. Once you have it for your vehicle it is for life and doesn't have to be renewed. It is a bit of a complication for your first visit but, like the toll road charge system, it is a one-time event. Both of these require early applications, and you cannot sort it once you are on the continent so it is worth getting these arrangements made well in advance.

These are just a couple of systems which will make your driving experience on the continent much more enjoyable. A little bit of preparation in advance at minimal cost and you can avoid problems and make the journey quicker and easier. Happy traveling and next time I'll give you some info on camping sites which are much cheaper than in this country!

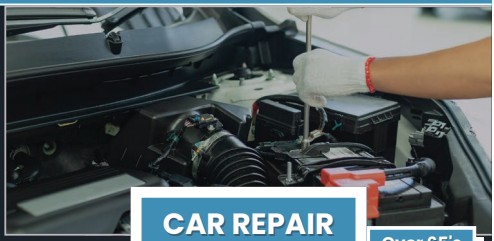
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David Gray

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Special Advertorial Feature

Suzanne's Helping Hands

Village Life featuring a special service to help our ageing population



SPICK & SPAN WITH SUZANNE

Suzanne's Helping Handsdeveloped in 2014 when a friend of a friend asked me to help her ageing parentsto continue to live independently in their home.

They lived in Werrington and she was based in another part of the UK. She needed someone caring, patient and reliable to check in on them on a weekly basis and assist with anything they needed doing.

From that moment to the present day I continue to help dozens of peoplewith one-to-one personal service on a weekly or fortnightly basis. I have many strings to my bowfrom companionship with a cuppa, it's always good to talk and put the world to rights!

To help with ad hoc jobs from sorting out a utility bill, to decluttering out your wardrobe, on-line shopping etc. Anything you are having trouble withI can usually sort, if not I know a man who can!!.

All my services are now home basedonly and 90%of my customers have a weekly or fortnightly slot during which I cando regular housework, laundry, ironing, internal windows, bedding or anything else you are having problems with we can try to sort out.My aim is to make a difference. I feel I do that not only for my customers but their families too.

The feedback I get from my elderly customers familiesis about the godsend I am to them. They are so grateful for the regular contact I have with their loved ones building a rapport and a solid friendship, that give them peace of mind that they have another pair of hands-on-board to help them.

By often taking on the domestic responsibilities,it frees up the families to actuallyhave quality time with their parentsinstead of them getting bogged down with the mundane household chores.

When I aren't working, I enjoy sewing, particularly freemotianembroidery, I love baking and recently I have taken up watercolour painting. My hobbies have a way of weaving into my customers livestoo. From sewing for them, buttons on clothes, simple clothes, repairs, alterations and if you have a special birthday, you are likely to receive one of my handmade cards.

So, take care, enjoy and give me a call if I can help –07870 728522

Suzanne

EDITORS NOTE

For more information onhow you could feature in our Advertorial to promote your business contact david@dsaimaging.co.uk



YOUR GLOBAL MAGAZINE **LET THE SUNSHINE IN**

No matter whether you are in Wigan or Timbuktu Village Life can be yours thanks to the wonders of the internet and Werrington Parish Council who join with us to feature an electronic version on their web. So just clickhttps://www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/

Youcan now tell friends or family who have moved away that they can get all latest local news.

OUR UNIQUE SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER FUNDBOOSTS AVAILABLE CASH TO £250AS VILLAGE LIFE JUST GETS BETTER

Our re-launch issue last time made £200 available to help local volunteer groups now as we progress the second issue has raised the stakes to £250 as we go onwards and upwards.

One of the things that makes Village Life special is that we understand that we are the only community magazine which raises its own funds to support other local volunteer groups. The pay-outs are administered by Werrington'sfamous Knit & Natter Group run by Barbara Hughes and Jean McNicole.

There are no long-winded forms to fill in so it is easy to apply – up to 100 words giving a description of your good cause, contact details, location, number of volunteers and your aims. E-mail to david@dsaimaging.co.uk which will be passed onto the ladies. This time we have £250 available and applicants up to an individual amount of £100 will be considered

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WERRINGTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

The Players are in the final stages of rehearsals for their July production to be held at the Village Hall on Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 July commencing at 7:30pm.

Pictured below are cast members Muriel Finney, Sue and Mike Deville, Rob Hill and Michael Fair rehearsing the one act play, What's for Pudding, a comedy by David Tristram who members of our regular audiences will know as the author of the very popular Little Grimley Plays.

The second half of the programme will feature a series of short playlets of park bench conversations written and performed by members of the group demonstrating the increasing versatility and creativity of the group



THE WERRINGTON SHOW GOES ON

"What's for Pudding"

Werrington Village Hall

7:30 Friday & Saturday 17th & 18th July

Tickets are available from our usual outlets, including the Community Library, further details can be found on our Facebook page.

Looking further ahead our November production on 13 and 14 November will be a festive occasion with a seasonal quiz, a pie and peas supper and a performance

Last Panto in Little Grimley

when the intrepid four members of Little Grimley Amateur Dramatic Society decide to put on their own interpretation of Dick Whittington and his Cat.More details of the November production will be announced in early autumn.

As ever the Players are looking for new members both on and off stage and you can be sure of a warm welcome any Thursday evening at the Village Hall at 7:30pm or contact Michael on 07943761964

KAREN BRADLEY MP



One of the greatest joys of my role as MP for Staffordshire Moorlands is being able to tell people about the beauty of the Moorlands and the unique nature of our towns and villages.

Staffordshire Moorlands is one of the most rural constituencies, and as such, our villages form an important part of the local area. Each one is different and, since June last year, I have been running my 'The Year of the Moorlands Village' campaign where each month I feature a group of villages on my social media and website. I was delighted to feature Werrington in month 2 of the initiative and highlight just some of the many organisations and places that make Werrington the very special village that it is. I wrote, for example, about my visit to St Philip's Church to meet Rev Follin and some of the volunteers as well as The Windmill, which is such a great, local pub and was runner-up in my Staffordshire Moorlands Best Pub 2025 competition.

I am proud of all our towns and villages in the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency and am pleased to be able to highlight them in this way and show the world all that we have to offer.









MAKE VILLAGE LIFE YOUR LIFE!

Your special community magazine has come back more needed than ever – and better than ever as it is thought to be the only free volunteer publication of its type to generate profits to donate to help other groups to benefit residents. Now we are going real community by invitinglocal residents to become Quest Editors – with plenty of help plus a full how-to-do-itcrib document.So give it a go – to start click onto david@dsaimaging.co.uk or ring 01782 302019/07778 439693

LOVE YOUR MOTORBIKE – LOVE YOUR LIFE

With speed in mind, you may be surprised to know that over 62% of collisions involving the death or serious injury of a motorcyclist in Staffordshire actually occurred on a 30mph road.It's important to keep in mind that the speed limit is a maximum and not a target.



VILLAGE LIFE IS A TRUE COMMUNITY EVENT

We want as many folks as possible to join with us to make Village Life as comprehensive as possible so Click the Quill and send in your news. Village Life is your only way of directly contacting our residents to promote your volunteer group or business. To know more contact – david@dsaimaging.co.uk or 01782 302019/07778 439693



LET THE SUNSHINE IN

Last time we had £200 available for local groups butthis time it is £250.Toget simple form for up to £100 contact david@dsaimaging.co.uk –

ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR VILLAGE LIFE

IN WARMER WEATHER KEEPITLOCKED



Community Safety Reminder – Warmer Weather As the warmer weather arrives, we know many residents will be enjoying fresh air and sunshine by leaving windows and doors open. Unfortunately, this can also create opportunities for opportunistic intruders. We ask everyone to please stay security-minded: Always lock doors and accessible windows when leaving a room, garden, or your home. Be mindful of ground-floor windows, especially at the rear of properties. Secure keys, wallets, and mobile phones out of sight. Consider using window restrictors, door chains, or alarms where possible.



OOOOPS – GOT IT WRONG

In the last issue we announced that the Knit & Natter ladies had produced around 550 Comfort Teddies for the emergency services – well we were a little out as they have PRODUCED THOUSANDS !!!! – the 550 was just for the kids of Ukraine.Well, done ladies and Barbara Huges and Jean McNicol for organising such a wonderful, good cause which will make kids happy in difficult situations.



Become a Parish Councillor – Make a Difference in Werrington

Werrington Parish Council is looking for enthusiastic and community-minded individuals to join us as Parish Councillors.

This is a rewarding opportunity to represent your local community, help shape decisions that affect Werrington, and work on projects that improve the area for everyone.

What does a Parish Councillor do? - Represent the views of residents -Help make decisions on local services and community projects - Work with fellow councillors to support and improve Werrington

Who can apply? - You don't need prior experience—just a genuine interest in your community, a willingness to get involved, and the ability to work as part of a team.

Why join? - Make a positive impact locally -Gain new skills and experience - Be a voice for your community

If you're passionate about Werrington and want to help shape its future, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact the Parish Clerk at: - Clerk@werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk





Werrington Methodist Church

I don't think anyone looking at our world today would consider it to be anything other than chaotic. We seem to have created a society based on greed, taking everything without giving anything. A society where solid friendships and alliancesare exceptional and expendable. A society with no respect, no compassion and certainly no affection.

Unfortunately this society breeds another emotion – fear. There are people in the retail sector who are afraid to go to work, people in their own homes afraid to open the door or even answer the telephone, good Samaritans who are afraid to offer help in case it is misconstrued but these are only the sort of issues that impinge on our daily lives. There is a much wider world with much greater threats and therefore the fear is ramped up accordingly.

When the"Cold War"ended I think we all thought that the world was on course for a calmer, happier and more prosperous world. Howwrong we were! We now seem to be on the brink,a point at which a slight over- balancing in the wrong direction could lead to a conflict that even the most power hungry will regret.

What a blessing it is to be able to turn to God in prayer,to knowthat we are listened to and knowthat no matter what happens to us,as true believers,God will never let us fall. We have that absolute certainty that God loves each and every one of us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us, in the parable of the vineyard workers, that no matter when we come to God the reward will be the same. So whether we live a lifetime of piety and prayer or whether we find God in old age, we will, on the Day of Judgement, be treated the same.

If you are looking for calm reassurance youwill find it by coming to church and getting to know God. Youwill be very welcome to join us at 10.40am for our Sunday service or if you're not quite sure perhaps a start would be to meet some of us at the Ash Café on a Thursday morning or the"Knit and Natter"group on a Monday afternoon.

John Smith

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ROLL OF HONOUR

Werrington Community Volunteers Action Group

Sincere thanks go to all those good folk who have helped with Village Life re-launch. All the right names – but not necessarily in the right order!

Hayley Goodwin is our new Associate Editor and has already organised for the Primary School pupils to design special front covers.

Deb Hefferon of VAST for suggesting advance payments which has worked like a dream and keeps us financially positive.

Carla Williams of Ash Bank Garage for sorting out the invoice design and payment plan which gave us a professional touch.

Trevor Latala for coming to my rescue and sorting advertising package and devising standard layout matrix for future issues.

Knit & Natter Ladies who have provided continuous support and who will be administering our Sunshine Volunteer Fund with proceeds from Village Life profits.

Werrington Parish Council for their help from day-one and for providing us with continuous support and organising Village Life on internet.

Well-Wisher Funders- now topping £910.00 in bank with more to come – thanks to Werrington Parish Council, Staffs Moorlands District Council, Young Persons Group, Ross Ward and anonymous friendsincluding one for £1,000 of seed-corn money which we have not needed to take up as Village Life is self-funding.

Friends of Village life – including Kenn Griffiths, Gemma Kieher-Knapper, Michael Fair, Barbara Hughes, Pat Hughes, Ross Ward.

Safe & Sure - advice for mature drivers

Driving is an important part of our everyday life, but our driving ability can change over time, especially as we get older. It's important to recognise changes in our driving so we can stay safe and protect both ourselves and those around us.



Renewing your licence - If you're 70 or over and want to keep on driving, you'll need to renew your driving licence – it's free and must be done every 3 years. You will automatically receive a D46P application form from the DVLA, or you can renew your licence online at GOV.UK.

Eyesight - Your eyesight can deteriorate over time, making it harder to see road signs and other road users, especially at night. Ideally, you should get your eyes tested every year – NHS eye tests are free after the age of 60. More eye health tips from the NHS.

HearingHearing can deteriorate as you get older, and around 40% of people over 50 have some form of hearing loss. You should get your hearing checked at least every 3 years, or if you notice any changes, to ensure you can respond to horns, sirens and other noises.

Medical conditions - Conditions such as arthritis, diabetes or Alzheimer's can all affect your ability to drive. You must inform the DVLA of any medical condition that can affect your driving. Before taking any medications, check with your doctor or pharmacist. Make sure you are aware of any side effects which may affect your ability to drive s - afely.

Find more advice for mature drivers here: https://staffssaferroads.co.uk/safeandsure/

Remember Highway Patrol?
Steer your car – don't aim it!



WHEN ARE DUSTBIN LIDS - NOT DUSTBIN LIDS?

The answer is that David Gray has created what has become Werrington's unique Poppy Display. It takes its name from soldiers in the trenches who to while away the time made all kinds of things from the material, they had available – bullet and bomb casings.

The items were not therefore usedfor there original purpose but had a new life as vases, cases ornaments etc – just like our Dustbin Lids which appear every November at the Washerwall crossroads.

This iconic display, which is enhanced each year, has become a special identity for the village which is added to by the Knit & Natter ladies with special Post Box topping and hedge display.Watch out for this years which will be the best yet.





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WERRINGTON SAFETY ANDSURVIVAL.



Water purifying tablets, have you got enough to save your life?

You may well wonder why I'm advising you to get a good stock of water purifying tablets, especially here in Werrington. Well, it's quite simple, they could save your life!

You have only got to look at the amount of times water authorities have had to resort to handing out bottled water in recent times due to contaminated water supplies and difficulties in delivering this essential commodity to realise that we need to make sure we can source enough ourselves for our everyday needs.

It has long been realised that the UK's water infrastructure is vulnerable to attack from terrorists and our enemies, as well as natural and industrial disasters. There is a growing number of experts who believe that we are already in a war with Russia, not in the usually accepted war like way, but by the use of thousands of cyber-attacks happening daily. Our water supplies and safety rely on computerised systems that are potential targets.

THE DRINK OF LIFE

For survival, it is vital that water is taken regularly. It is possible to go without food for 20 to 30 days, but without water you would be lucky to live for six, especially if you have existing health issues. I was once told that ten days was possible, but in my experience even three days without any water results in serious, adverse effects on the body's metabolism – causing severe headaches and lack of energy so profound that it is difficult to motivate oneself.

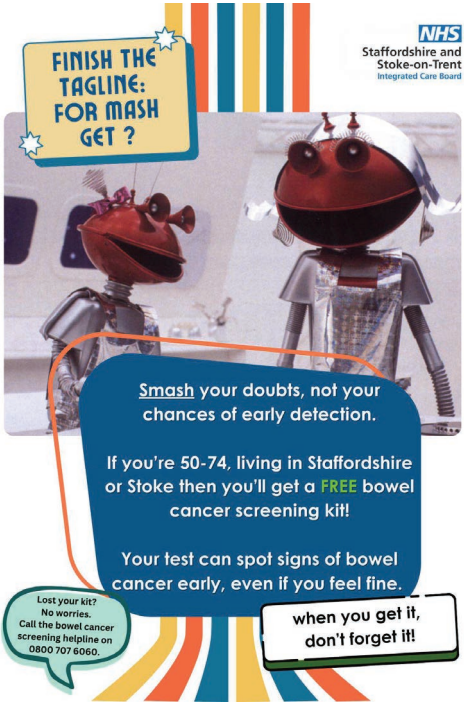
You should never assume that water (other than from a known source) is safe to drink; therefore, it must be purified. Boiling is one way but believe me boiling enough water for your health needs is not an easy task. So, water purifying tablets are the answer.

A GOOD HABIT TO GET INTO

The shelf life of purifying tablets differs but most will last up to 5 years some as long as 10. Even in temperate climates you need to drink a minimum of one-and-a-half litres (3 pints) in a 24-hour period to maintain body efficiency, and in hot climates this increases to a minimum of six litres (12 pints). It is possible to live for a limited period on as little as 250 ml (half a pint) but clearly this is not something you want to enter into.

Clearly you need to stock up on water purifying tablets. By stock up I advise hundreds not a couple of packets.

Kenn Griffiths



Werrington Village Surgery

We have maximised the use of our clinical rooms …. and now have 6 permanent Doctors and 5 Resident Doctors. Many of you will be pleased to know that Dr Oliver Van Der Linden has joined Dr Gubbi, Dr Muthumanickam, Dr Hebbar, Dr Juneteenth and Dr Ladejo as our permanent team Thank you to our patients for making the Practice such a great place to work. We are happy to accept new patients … registration form on our website.

Life is busy and we often forget to take care of ourselves. The team here would urge you to make sure that you are up to date on your NHS cancer screening. Cancer screening checks for signs of cancer in people with no symptoms, allowing for earlier detection and treatment. Key NHS programs are cervical smears, mammograms for breast cancer and bowel cancer home testing kits.

Breast Screening - women aged over 50 will be invited for breast screening every 3 years until their 71st birthday. Women over 70 are entitled to free, voluntary NHS breast screenings every three years, though they are not automatically invited. To book, contact the North Midlands Breast Screening Service on 01785 230861. Mobile units such as the one at ASDA Tunstall, Hanley and Cheadle provide convenient local access.

DON'T DELAY – TAKE CARE - Cervical Smears - woman aged 25 to 64 are invited for cervical screening every 5 years. If you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to get in touch with us here at the Practice and our friendly Nursing Team (Lisa ,Tara&Millie) will be happy to have a chat. 8 in 10 women in our area have had their smear test & most had a normal result. Join them to stop cancer before it starts.

Bowel Cancer Home Testing Kits - Everyone aged 50-74 will receive a free bowel screening kit every 2 years. The test can spot signs of bowel cancer early, even if you feel fine. If you wait for symptoms to appear, it may be too late. For a kit call 0800 707 6060.

Joy Brassington

LET THE TILLS RING - as your Village Life hits a new



milestone – not only has it been wonderfully well received by our residents our supportive advertisers are breaking records as this Autumn issue, thanks to Trevor Latala, is the most profitable ever so we will have more loot to dish out to help local volunteer groups. Village Life is good for us all so enjoy

STATE OF THE GROUP

https://www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/

thanks to Werrington Parish Council the up-date report on the Werrington Community Volunteer Action Group in now available online so read all about the many things we are doing to give Werrington a boost. with many volunteers helping. You can join in – just contact - david@dsaimaging.co.uk



SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER FUND



A variable percentage of our Village Life profits will be offered to local groups - £200 from Spring - £250 later from Summer. So far £100 each has been requested by –**On the Horizon Wellbeing Counselling and Tiny Tots at St. Philips Church** When this Summer issue is out, we can then allocate more donations to other local good causes.

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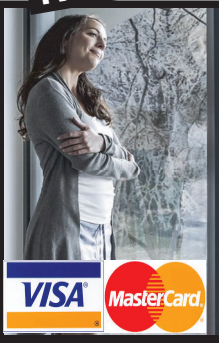
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