



BRENTHAM NEWS

Brentham in Top Ten

As we look ahead to the AGM, it's a good time to reflect on the busy time we've had in Brentham in the last twelve months. Most important was our achievement in the competition to find the country's favourite Conservation Area: Brentham Garden Suburb came ninth out of 249 entrants. It's a great result and one we should all be proud of.



The competition was run by *Civic Voice*, a national charity for the civic movement in England. They promote civic pride and many civic societies (including Ealing's) are members. The aim of the competition was to draw attention to, and to celebrate, the extraordinary wealth of architecture and distinctive places in our towns and cities.

The Brentham submission, which included text, pictures and a video, won us a place in the shortlist of 18 Conservation Areas, only one of two in London.

A public vote then determined the top ten where we were in the company of heritage centres which have much bigger public profiles than us. Swindon Railway Village was the overall winner with more than 3000 votes, Port Sunlight in Cheshire came second and Lichfield City Centre was in third place. Brentham reached ninth place with 585 votes.

After the result, Joan Humble, chair of *Civic Voice*, told me she was fascinated by Brentham's history and said she'd be keen to visit us soon. (*More on Civic Voice on Page 2*)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the legislation that created Conservation Areas like Brentham so we can look forward to more events marking this milestone

in protection for England's heritage.

In the past year Brentham has been shown off in other ways. In May we had a full BBC Television unit filming Stephen Poliakoff's latest drama. That will expose to millions of viewers the charms of Vivian Green and the surrounding streets.

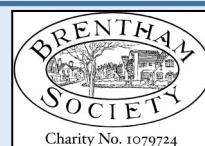
In planning matters, in 2018 there were 44 applications to the Ealing Planning Department and our Planning Advisory Group has helped many residents with their pre-planning queries, resulting in more honed and successful applications to the Local Authority.

One of our most important twittens which creates a link through the estate got a clean up in October with several locals doing an excellent job. One of the helpers, 10 year old Emmy Azimi, is the inaugural contributor to our new Children's Page, which also has an illustration from 6 year old Ellie Golding.

This marks the launch of our initiative for young people in Brentham, to share their enthusiasm for local wildlife and to take advantage of our superb environment to encourage both local and endangered wildlife to flourish. Our backlands and twittens are a natural haven and as they are protected under Article 4, we have the perfect opportunity for schoolchildren to take an active role in nurturing and learning about the natural world right here on our doorsteps.

As 90% of children in one generation have lost the freedom to roam, perhaps our kids here have the perfect environment to play, learn and foster their relationship with the natural world.

Gina Mallin, Chair of The Brentham Society



The Brentham Society AGM
will be held at 8pm at the Brentham Club on
Tuesday 26th February 2019

Featuring a talk on
“Pleasure in labour: Ruskin and Morris”

In the bicentenary of John Ruskin's birth, leading Ruskin expert **Robert Hewison** discusses the ideas and values of the founding fathers of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Why Civic Voice Matters

In a world when heritage can be overlooked in the rush to build new apartment blocks, *Civic Voice* helps to focus on buildings and spaces that make up the country's most valued traditional environments. They also promote regeneration that is in sympathy with existing architecture.

At the recent *Civic Voice* conference I was impressed by the passion and enthusiasm of the speakers and delegates. Fiona Reynolds, former Director General of the National Trust, declared that '*the fight for beauty is a moral imperative*' as she put the point for conservation.

Joan Humble, Chair of *Civic Voice*, pointed out that many problems are common across the country; for example how local authorities are losing conservation officer posts and how fewer planning officers means that pre-application advice can be harder to come by. But as Joan stressed: "The individual members of *Civic Voice*, who comprise the local civic trusts and societies add up to tens of thousands of people so there is a weight of numbers there that we can call upon and we can say to government and other agencies you really need to listen.

"When we decided to launch England's Favourite Conservation Area, we wanted to test the enthusiasm people have for the place where they live, and it has surpassed all our expectations. We received 249 entries from across the country and from announcing the shortlist to announcing the winner, there were nearly 16,000 votes in 14 days. People do care about where they live."

In the *Brentham Society* submission we stressed two unique factors – firstly, we are the earliest and pioneering example of co-partnership principles being applied to the building of an estate, and secondly, the architecture of our modest-sized suburb demonstrates the key moment of change when Edwardian Terraces gave way to Arts and Crafts styles. We also stressed the strong sense of community that has survived more than

100 years since Henry Vivian first planned the estate with his team of builders.

Joan Humble told me "As someone interested in the cooperative movement I found *Brentham's* history fascinating. The first civic society was in Sidmouth and actually predated the Rochdale Pioneers who founded the cooperative movement. But the way civic societies, with their concern for architecture, developed alongside the cooperative movement is brought together in *Brentham*." She thought that, considering our size, *Brentham* had done very well in the competition. Many other entrants are popular visitor centres with museums, cathedrals and famous buildings. "Swindon Railway Village, who were the winners, had interviewed me on their local radio station as part of a 90 minute programme so they were able to get publicity right across their local community".



Volunteers tackle the twitten

Joan emphasised, too, that small things matter as much as the big decisions regarding conservation. In *Brentham*, one of the small things is to keep the place tidy and that was the idea of the 'twitten tidy-up' in October. It's a small example of the community spirit that exists here.

Gina Mallin



Living with buildings – health and architecture

The Wellcome Collection currently has an exhibition on how the built environment contributes to our physical and mental health, in both positive and negative ways. The approaches of architects, planners and designers have a huge influence on individuals and communities.

The exhibition traces stories of those living in appalling conditions in overcrowded and unsanitary 19th century slum housing and the responses to this – garden cities, suburban developments and ideal utopian villages created for factory workers. It includes the vision laid out for postwar development, with plans for new towns and



the construction of high rise municipal housing – "streets in the sky".

Brentham was part of the response to 19th century slums, creating decent housing for artisans, together with a cooperative ethos to stimulate the mind as well. The design of our estate has stood the test of time, and our little houses (some considerably bigger now than when they were built) are still seen as desirable places to live.

The exhibition does not specifically mention *Brentham* but there is a section on garden cities, and in particular our near neighbour *Bedford Park*. The Wellcome Collection is on Euston Road (nearest tube station is Euston Square) and the exhibition, which is free, is there until 3rd March.

Brentham Membership Reminder

We can be justly proud of our position as 9th favourite Conservation Area in England; it reminds us of how special our village-in-the-city really is. It also reminds us that we must continue to guard what makes it special. In Ealing, the Conservation Officer post has been lost and the planning department is stretched. It means that the Brentham Society and its Planning Advisory Group have an important part to play in helping and advising residents with planning matters. Subscriptions for membership of the Brentham Society for 2019 are now due and can be paid by bank transfer or by cash to street collectors. Details on the flyer enclosed with Brentham News.



Disappearing Phone Box

One of Brentham's less welcome landmarks has finally been removed. The modern telephone box on Brentham Way, which disappeared in November along with the leaves on the trees, had been an eyesore for many years, and in latter times has not even contained a telephone. The rise of the mobile phone had left the box unnecessary.

At one time, the Brentham Society made enquiries, with the help of local Councillors, to replace the box with a traditional Giles Gilbert Scott style red box. However, BT told us that the cost would fall on the Society and this was prohibitive. BT also told us that maintenance of the box would become our responsibility and at our cost.

For a short time in the 1980s this box became famous. A fault in the box meant that callers were able to call overseas numbers for free. At the time, overseas calls were expensive, and news soon spread of this unexpected bonus. Queues built up day and night while people took advantage, but BT eventually realised that something was wrong and corrected the fault. The box fell back into obscurity, and usage gradually declined until by the end, the number of calls made was reputed to average only one per month.

Richard Costella



Notes from a New Resident

Finding an affordable home in Brentham was something my partner and I thought wouldn't quite happen in this decade. We used to walk through the Brentham and Pitshanger area during the summer as we lived quite close by and we dreamt of the cute area that seemed like something straight out of a quintessential English movie. However, in April this year, we settled on one of the terraced houses in Fowlers Walk.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the price was right for many reasons we were soon to discover. Our neighbours were friendly and introduced themselves quickly and pleasantly, some offering wine and some offering tips and tricks to the neighbourhood - which I think we can all agree, is very helpful when you first move to Brentham. Good thing we removed that illegal satellite dish from the front of the property tout de suite.

However, something our neighbours

all warned us about was The Previous Tenants. There's something to be said for people coming and welcoming you, but to engulf you with warmth and let you know they are *thankful* you've arrived. Why? We asked ourselves (very suspiciously).

It wasn't until we discovered a fatberg at the front of our property did the dominoes start to fall. I like to think it was the house's individual way of testing our resilience to living and committing to Brentham. The house had been a rental property for several years before our purchase, and had been patched up continuously. Now that was becoming alarmingly obvious.

Thankfully, our neighbours throughout Brentham have been kind enough to support a young couple bumbling along, discovering leaky taps, enormous holes in the back wall that had been "insulated" by a plastic bag, a surprising lack of drawers in the kitchen (we had to purchase a dining table with a built-in cutlery

drawer), and discovering a world of plumbing secrets living in our loft.

Despite this comedy of homeownership errors (now my number one tip to friends is to check the kitchen for drawers pre-purchase!), Brentham has become our home. We've painted our little gate blue, thrown out the old tiles, and are working on removing and replacing the (very) old garden shed.

Of course, with great homeownership comes great responsibility, and living in Brentham is synonymous with planning applications and abiding by the conservation guidelines. With the extensive help of the planning advisory group, Heather Moore and Pat Baxendale, we've now decided on our next step forward with the shed replacement.

We'll make this house a home yet!

Alex Settle

A sense of belonging

is one of many special aspects of living on the Brentham Estate. We want to encourage our younger residents to feel part of this community. As Brentham founder Henry Vivian said "I want each of us to say not that this house is mine but this **estate** is ours". Starting with this edition, we will be running an article about the area written by a local child. If you know someone who would like to do this please get in touch. They can suggest ideas, write the report or draw an accompanying picture. In this edition, we focus on nature. Conserving our natural habit is critical not only for the Brentham estate to preserve its special look and feel but also for the wider future of our ecosystem.

HEDGEHOGS by Emmy Azimi (aged 10)

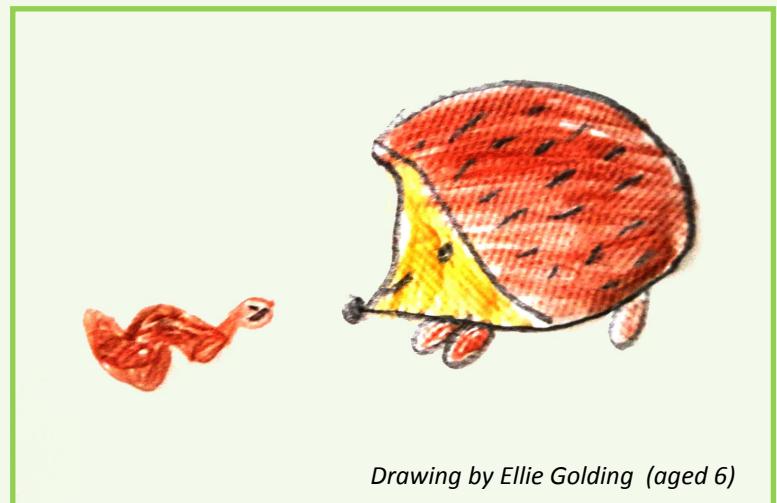


Hedgehogs are not all the same size. Some are big but some are small. They have up to 6,000 spines, long legs and a short tail. When they feel scared they curl into a ball and the spines will hurt anyone who tries to touch or eat them.

I'm going to tell you everything I know.

There are only one million hedgehogs living in Britain today, but in 1950 there used to be about thirty million. As you can see, the population of the hedgehogs in Britain has gone down a lot. One of the reasons is that people have destroyed the hedgehogs' homes especially in the countryside. Towns, and especially garden estates like Brentham are now very important for them to keep safe.

- Do you know the 'hedge' in hedgehog comes from where they live, which is under hedges? This is their favourite place to make a nest, as well as under bushes, logs and piles of leaves. This is why it is very important that we look after our hedges and don't replace them with fences, especially along our twittens.
- Hedgehogs travel 1 to 2 miles every night when searching for food. Upsettingly some hedgehogs can't get into our gardens when travelling because there is a fence or wall.. If you do have a boundary like this please think about replacing it with a hedge or cut a few small holes at the bottom which are 13cm by 13cm so the hedgehog can move from one garden into the next without getting trapped. Also cover any drains so that hedgehogs don't fall in and get trapped. Remove fruit nets when not needed or keep taut otherwise they will get trapped.
- It is also important we have areas in our garden that are not tidy so that the hedgehogs have a home, like piles of leaves, logs and brambles. They also like to live in compost heaps so you need to check these too before moving the compost.
- When you are cutting your hedges or bushes and plants make sure there isn't a hedgehog there before you start. During the daytime, when we're about doing things, the hedgehogs are normally sleeping. This means they don't wake up and move away from the noise of our dangerous garden equipment so can easily get hurt by our machines. (You should also try not to cut your hedges in spring so that you don't disturb nesting birds and their baby chicks who also live in our hedges). If you don't have a wild area in your garden you can build a hedgehog home. My dad is helping me make one, and if you want one too we can help you build one for your garden. Please email the Brentham News and they will let me know.
- The hog part of the word hedgehog is from the snorting noise they make, like a pig, when they root around looking for their favourite food. They are nocturnal and mostly search for food while we're asleep.



Drawing by Ellie Golding (aged 6)

- Hedgehogs' natural diet is berries, insects, worms, beetles, caterpillars and snails. This means that hedgehogs are gardeners' friends as they eat all the bugs that eat your plants! To help them, don't use snail or slug repellent because if you do when the hedgehogs eat the snails then they are also eating the poison and this makes them very sick and some die. It is also bad for the birds who also like to eat the same food. Instead use coffee grounds or crushed eggshells which stop the slugs and snails but are natural and won't hurt the hedgehogs. Hedgehogs also like cat and dog food and biscuits (not the fish ones, chicken is better). There is one thing that hedgehogs can't drink and that's milk - because they are lactose intolerant, which is the sugar in dairy products. They like water best.
- Do you know that some hibernate during winter (November until March)? They like to live on their own only finding other hedgehogs when they want to have babies.



These things are why it is so important to help Hedgehogs. The last thing I want to say is that they live in 5 different places and we are so lucky that one of the places is in Britain and that is where we live.

I love my home and friends on the Brentham Estate. I like the different hedges and plants and running through the twittens when we go to places and play.

This should be the best home for hedgehogs but we don't think many live here - though we don't really know how many do. Please look for signs to see. One sign is their tracks in mud or snow in winter. Their feet have 5 toes although often only 4 of their toes show up on the tracks. They look like little mini-hands! Their poo is dark brown, black and cylindrical often 15-50mm and normally you can see bits of snail and beetle bones in it.

Please can you email [Brentham News](#) if you see one so that we can find out if we have any? Also please consider registering as a hedgehog champion at www.hedgehogstreet.org. On this website you can more formally record if you see one and also make pledges about things you can do to your garden to make it hedgehog friendly.

Brentham Security

While the crime rate for the estate remains well below the average for both London and Ealing as a whole, the police warn that there is no room for complacency. Last November there were 18 reported house burglaries in the Hanger Hill ward which includes two thirds of homes on the Brentham estate. In October the number stood at 14.

There is police and neighbourhood watch advice on how to prevent these crimes. Apart from the obvious importance of installing an alarm and having efficient door and window locks, there are some key **dos and don'ts**:

- Plant prickly or barbed shrubbery along boundaries and fence lines which act as an effective and natural barrier.
- Most well-maintained hedges are thick enough to create a barrier. Where they are too thin, the Brentham Society recommends putting in chestnut palings alongside the garden side of hedges, making it more difficult for burglars to get through.
- Use an automatic time switch on internal lights to go on and off when you go away and even if you are just out all day. You can also leave a radio on a time switch.
- Keep handbags, keys and documents away from the letterbox or cat flap as burglars can hook them through even small openings.
- Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges because burglars know where to find them.

You can find more information from the Metropolitan police website below. Just put in your postcode when you get on the site.

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/ealing/ealing-broadway/>

And also from Ealing OWL (Online Watch Link)
www.owl.co.uk

Planning Drawings

One of the reasons people choose to live in Brentham is because of its beauty and charm. However, Article 4 conservation protection means that any alterations and changes to the outside of your property, front, back and side require planning permission. The most common reason that applications are delayed or refused is due to missing detail, poor quality drawing, or unclear dimensions. This is why there is a requirement for clear and detailed drawings when you apply.

For residents this can all seem difficult and costly but not all applications require professional drawings. If a professional is used, make sure they are properly briefed on the work before they start. It keeps the cost down and makes the process easier.

The Brentham Society is a Consultee in the planning process and has a planning sub-committee that considers and comments on how applications relate to the council policies for the conservation area. The Society Planning Advice Group can help residents with queries about conservation and planning matters. We have prepared the following points to help in preparing drawings.

1. Applications for garden alterations do not usually need professional drawings. You can make your own plans by using a CAD programme or by drawing on plain or squared paper if you prefer. Maps that show the ground plan of your garden are available for a fee from the council or on line but you need to add some dimensions or a scale bar. We recommend that you make sure your measurements are clear and correct before submission.
2. If you are buying a garden building or a gate, a manufacturer's drawing is usually available. When

creating the drawing, show the position of the ground in relation to the shed or outbuilding. Often this is not shown in the manufacturer's catalogue but it is important as the height of the top of a garden building from the ground is a requirement for an application and it can be easily added to the catalogue drawing. Ensure that any ground additions, such as a raised platform, is shown with dimensions.

3. Make sure you include details and colour of all the materials to be used.
4. Alterations or additions to the houses need to be very carefully detailed to include any features such as exposed rafters and the type of ridge tiles, brick bond etc. Sections of all joinery are needed. An accurate drawing of the existing house elevation will be needed for any addition or alteration that affects it. Photographs do help, but a drawing of an extension needs to include the correct details of the elevation it is to be attached to, so that the impact of the addition to the existing house is clear. This is important as some drawings have been so poorly detailed that the developments could not be built on to houses in the way suggested by the drawings.

Drawings made by a professional who understands conservation practice are needed for major alterations to a conserved house. However, whether you are commissioning drawings or making your own, the Brentham Society Planning Advisory Group can provide you with a checklist of all information required for the type of application you wish to make.

For more help, contact: planning@brentham.com and don't forget the [Design Guide](#) which is available online.

Alex Settle

From the Archive

Former resident and keen photographer Keith Littlejohn recently got in touch with us. Keith lived in Ludlow Road as a youngster and took up photography at an early age. One of his first photographs (circa 1957) was taken from his bedroom window overlooking what is now Denison/Ludlow Green. It clearly shows the allotments where the green is now.

We have added this photo to our extensive archive – much of which can be viewed on our website www.brentham.com/archive

If you have any old photos of interest, please contact archive@brentham.com or Alan on 07983 394408.



Front Gardens Competition 2018 - The Winners

ROSE BOWL AND SPRING AWARD

Winner: 111 Fowlers Walk - Tony and Hazel Heaven

We were so impressed with 111 Fowlers Walk last year that we awarded it the Spring Award and the Rose Bowl. This garden includes four hanging baskets filled with colourful flowers all year. Dramatic purple-leaved flowering cherry and a huge pink rhododendron dominate the scene in the spring. The garden is packed with trees, bushes and ornaments and includes a beautiful tree fern. Tony and Hazel have also done much of the pavement planting in the cul-de-sac which does a lot to enhance the estate. Congratulations to them for their wonderful garden which must take a lot of hard work to maintain.



Autumn Garden Winner - 26 Ludlow Road

SUMMER AWARD

Winner: 1 Ruskin Gardens - Colette Donovan

It was a pleasure to see this lovely, serene garden curving round her house during the heatwave in the summer. White and blue hydrangeas, white roses and clematis gave a sense of coolness in the heat of the day. The combination of leaf shapes, the variety of shrubs, including cloud pruning and perennials, is exquisite and shows a real artist at work.

AUTUMN AWARD

Winner: 26 Ludlow Road - Mandy and Peter Walker

This lovely garden was full of colour and interest against a background of evergreens. The theme was mainly red and white with beautiful white Japanese anemones, red sedum and dark and bright red pelargoniums supplying lots of colour. The garden was a joyful and beautifully composed picture.

Runners Up for the Autumn Award: 20 Brentham Way, 44 Denison Road, 46 Fowlers Walk, 91 Fowlers Walk, 33 Holyoake Walk, 58 Holyoake Walk, 11 Ludlow Road, 1 Ruskin Gardens, 27 Woodfield Crescent.

We had great fun touring the estate last year and look forward to another interesting and colourful year in 2019. Many congratulations to all the winners. The awards will be presented at the AGM on February 26th.

Vicky Snodin, Sue Hulme & Laura Mackiewicz



Ealing Flower Club

20 February: In the Depths of Winter with Eleanor Bracken. Try your luck in our raffle, and you may even take one of her creations home.

20 March: After the Olympics is the title of Pauline Martindale's talk, following our short AGM.

See top flower arrangers in action in the heart of the Garden Suburb.

7 pm for 7.30 start. St. Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane, W5 1QG

Visitors welcome: £5.50 per session, or become a member.

Enquiries:

Jenni 07772 975554 jennisworld48@hotmail.com
Christine 020 8998 8228 smtpearce@btinternet.com

Brentham Bees make Honey

In the last Brentham News we featured Donal McGinty's Brentham bees and we are happy to report they have now done what bees do. Jars of Brentham Honey are available from donalmcginty@gmail.com at £6 a single jar or 6 for £25.



Screenings are in St Barnabas Millennium Hall.

10 Feb	Giulio Cesare (E)	7 pm (supper 6pm)
13 Feb	Brief Encounter (PG)	8.15 pm
20 Feb	Oklahoma (15)	2 pm
3 March	Chocolat (12+) *	12.30 pm
13 March	The Breadwinner (12)	8.15 pm
16 March	Woman in the Moon (U) #	7 pm
20 March	Mildred Pierce (PG)	2 pm
27 March	McQueen (15)	8.15 pm
3 April	Lucky (15)	8.15 pm

*Showing as part of the Lent course at St Barnabas.

#Showing in the church with live organ accompaniment.

Brentham May Day 2019 Saturday 11th May

Enrolment of the children wishing to take part will be on **Thursday 14th March** from 4 pm until 5.30 pm, in the main hall of the Brentham Club.

For more information contact Pat Chapman on 077 4046 4137 or email patricia9@sky.com

The enrolment fee is £12 per child. The May Day committee welcomes any offers of help with this event, either during rehearsals or on May Day.



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The Brentham Club

38A Meadvale Road, W5 1NP Telephone: 020 8997 2624 www.brenthamclub.co.uk

A unique local resource, the Club offers sporting and social opportunities for all ages: Tennis, Cricket, Football, Bowls, Bridge, Snooker and Darts. It's a great venue and perfect for weddings, parties or special events.

Please come and visit us, we would really like all *Brenthamites* to become members. Membership fees are offset by low prices in the bar and café, as well as discounts on all events.

WHY NOT TRY...

TENNIS

Saturday Flagship 12.00–1.00pm:
coaching for adults & children, £5

BRIDGE

Wednesday 7.15pm: £2 members; £5 non-members.
Friday 9.15am: £3 members; £6 non-members

Weekly Yoga, Art and French classes (see website)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 15 February – Louise Marshall (Singer in the Hall)
Friday 22 February – Macmillan Charity Quiz /Dinner
Friday 1 March – Raccateers Quintet in Bar (free)
Saturday 9 March – Vinyl Night – *bring and play your own* (free)
Friday 22 March – Comedy Night
Saturday 4 May – Ska Night (free)

THE PERRY CAFE

Everyone welcome – current opening times:
Monday: 10.00–2.00pm
Tuesday–Friday: 9.00am–4.30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 9.00am–3.00pm

QUIZ NIGHTS are held monthly on Fridays at 8.00pm sharp. Come at 7.50pm to grab a table.

15 February 2019
15 March 2019
12 April 2019

See website for more details and www.ticketor.com/brenthamclub for tickets.

ENQUIRIES: For general enquiries, contact Mark Saggers on 020 8997 2624; email marks@brenthamclub.co.uk or go to www.brenthamclub.co.uk

For hall/room hire or to book an event, email events@brenthamclub.co.uk

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com

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