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MAGAZINE



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APRIL 2022
Issue 120

Monthly Business & Community magazine delivered across Wirral



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WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS LOVE WIRRAL MAGAZINE



This month in history



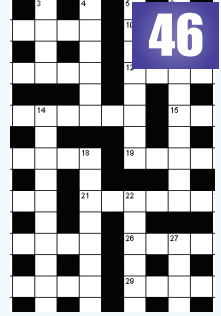
RSPB



Rotary Club of Birkenhead



Yesterday's Wirral photos



Puzzle page

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Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung!
Is it just me or are there a lot more people with smiles on their faces - funny how the sunshine has that effect.

Again, we have a great variety of editorials for you, we must thank all our advertisers as we couldn't do any of this without them!

Our advertisers are all local, reliable people, who provide excellent services at realistic prices. If you are in business you may want to advertise with us and/or in our Love Chester or Love Wrexham magazines - contact details are on our front page.

All magazines are available online - as well as the answers to our puzzle page :o)

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter and lots of Easter eggs and flowers!

Best Wishes

Maxine

Cover Photo: Lady Lever Art Gallery with the Diamond Jubilee Sundial forefront in Port Sunlight Village

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DO YOU KNOW?

1. The World Trade Center's most famous survivor and president of its support group, Tania Head, was later found to be a fraud: she wasn't even in NYC on 9/11.

2. It only takes 6 minutes for brain cells to react to alcohol.

3. Every Apple iPhone ad displays the time as 9:41 AM, the time Steve Jobs unveiled it in 2007.

4. Drug possession and trafficking are punished in Singapore with the death penalty.

5. Demand for quinoa in Western nations has pushed up prices so much that poorer people in Peru and Bolivia, where quinoa is from, can no longer afford their staple crop.

6. Scientists can turn peanut butter into diamonds.

7. California contains both the highest point (Mount Whitney) and the lowest point (Death Valley) in the contiguous United States.

8. In 2001, Argentina had 5 presidents in 10 days.

9. There are more English words beginning with the letter "s" than with any other letter.

10. Michael Jackson wanted to do a Harry Potter musical, but J.K. Rowling said no.

11. In some European countries, children are given gifts on December 6 rather than in Christmas Day.

12. Christianity was the main religion in Egypt between the Fourth and Sixth Centuries.

13. Dogs have 13 blood types, horses have 8, cows have 9 while Humans only have 4.

14. Of modern countries currently independent, New Zealand was the first to allow women the vote.

15. Due to its isolation from the European mainland, Ireland lacks several species common elsewhere in Europe, such as moles, weasels, polecats or roe deer.



16. 100 million people come to India's Kumbh Mela Festival, the world's biggest gathering of humans.

17. The invention of Glow sticks was based on the work of scientist Edwin Chandross. He didn't know his work was being used for parties until 2013.



18. The inventor of roller skates first demonstrated them by hurtling into a party while playing the violin and crashing into a huge mirror.

19. Traffic in central London moves at the same speed as horse-drawn carriages a century ago.

20. An educated female population increases a country's productivity and fuels economic growth. Some countries lose more than \$1 billion a year by failing to educate girls to the same level as boys.

21. You can change your language on Facebook to "Pirate." (on web version only)

22. Before trees were common, Earth was covered with giant mushrooms.



23. The Simpsons holds the Record for Longest Running Primetime Animated TV Series and Most Guest Stars Featured in a Television Series.

24. A Father's Diet Before Conception Plays a Crucial Role in a Child's Health.

25. Earthquakes turn water into gold.

26. "Happy hours" are banned in Ireland.



27. Over 90% of American movies made before 1929 are lost, no copies are known to exist.

28. Paraguay and Brazil's Itaipu Dam is the hydroelectric plant that produces more energy in the world, setting a new world record in 2016.

29. Researchers are debating on adding Internet addiction to the list of mental disorders.

30. The word "mafia" is never mentioned in the film version of The Godfather because the actual mafia demanded it.



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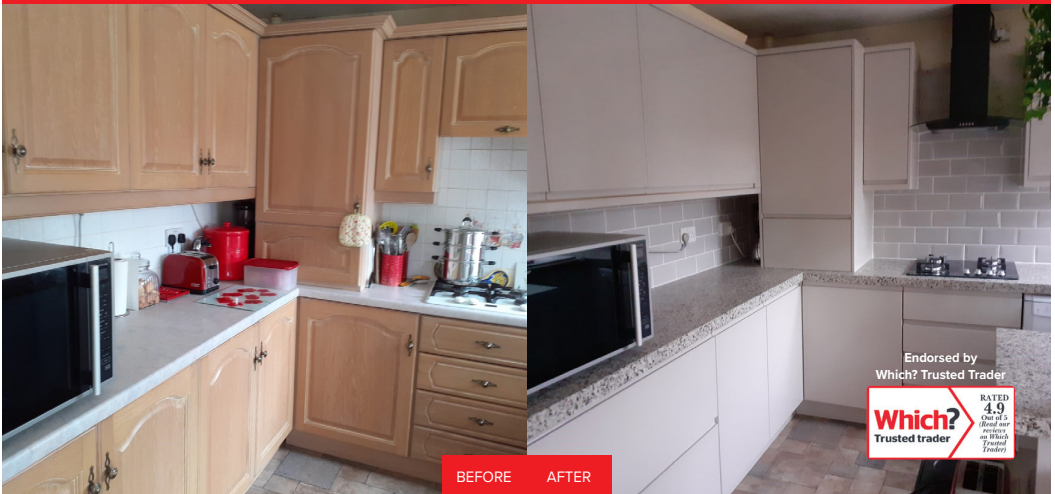
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THIS MONTH'S HISTORY

This feature each month will give interesting facts from years gone by. See what you remember that happened in your lifetime.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

4th April 1964

The Beatles hold so many records in music history, but one record is likely never to be touched.

On April 4, 1964, The Fab Four owned the Billboard charts, as they held the top five spots on the Billboard Hot 100.

After only two weeks on the charts, "Can't Buy Me Love" hit No. 1, while "Twist and Shout," "She Loves You," "I Want To Hold Your Hand" and "Please Please Me" round out the top five. In all, they had 12 spots on the charts that week.



Chart Number:

- No. 1 - Can't Buy Me Love
- No. 2 - Twist And Shout
- No. 3 - She Loves You
- No. 4 - I Want To Hold Your Hand
- No. 5 - Please Please Me
- No. 31 - I Saw Her Standing There

- No. 41 - From Me To You
- No. 46 - Do You Want To Know A Secret
- No. 58 - All My Loving
- No. 65 - You Can't Do That
- No. 68 - Roll Over Beethoven
- No. 79 - Thank You Girl

14th April 1983



Do you remember seeing the first cordless telephones on the news? Can you believe they first went on sale in Britain in 1983, let alone almost everyone has one.

These phones made telephone calls only.

Today's telephones have come such a long way, who would have imagined we could hold not only a telephone, but an amazing quality camera together with a high powered computer with the ability to browse the internet, play games, read books and so much more in the palm of our hand!

17th April 1969

This was the day the age at which a person was eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18.

With the passing of the Representation of the People Act In 1969, the UK became the first democracy to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 for national, regional, and local elections. Beyond the UK at that time, the lowest voting age was 20, in Australia, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland. Most countries quickly followed the UK, to the extent that 18 became the standard international age of democratic enfranchisement.

**VOTING
FOR
18
YEAR
OLDS**

22nd April 1969

In 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace, to first be observed on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equipoise was later sanctioned in a proclamation written by McConnell and signed by Secretary General U. Thant at the United Nations. A month later, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the idea to hold a nationwide environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970. He hired a young activist, Denis Hayes, to be the National Coordinator. Nelson and Hayes renamed the event "Earth Day". Denis and his staff grew the event beyond the original idea for a teach-in to include the entire United States. More than 20 million people poured out on the streets, and the first Earth Day remains the largest single-day protest in human history.



The first Earth Day was focused on the United States. In 1990, Denis Hayes, the original national coordinator in 1970, took it international and organized events in 141 nations.

On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and 120 other countries. This signing satisfied a key requirement for the entry into force of the historic draft climate protection treaty adopted by consensus of the 195 nations present at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

On Earth Day 2020, over 100 million people around the world observed the 50th anniversary in what is being referred to as the largest online mass mobilization in history.



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'THE WOODCUTTER'S DAUGHTER' by David Edwards

The shaft of morning sunlight came through Sarah's bedroom window like the beam from a very powerful torch. She woke suddenly, not by any noise but by something passing her window and breaking the beam of light causing a shadow to pass over her eyes. Although she'd had another restless night she was instantly wide awake, throwing back her quilt she jumped out of bed and ran to the window. Standing next to the small panes of glass set into the old wooden frame Sarah looked out over the lush green fields and could see nothing but a clear blue sky and five or six cows that stood grazing around the old well in the corner of the field. Resting her elbows on the windowsill she still wasn't sure about the move to their new house.

She loved her room though, her mother had decorated it just the way she wanted it and the carved initials on the old wooden bedroom door were just brilliant. Her mother had said they'd always been there, just waiting for her to arrive but Sarah knew she was replicating the plastic ones from her old room and was just trying to make it easier for her to settle in.

Her constant restless nights were due to disturbing dreams that although when asleep were quite vivid, were never clear in her mind when she awoke. She knew that in her dream, a young girl was the sort of 'central character' and was very unhappy, but that was all she could ever remember. As she looked at her reflection in the window she recalled it had been six weeks to the day since they'd moved from the city and although she'd settled in at her new school, she missed her old friends.

Sarah loved the weekend, there was no school to attend and as it was now half term, no homework either. She dressed in her scruffy jeans and multi coloured top before walking across the landing towards the bathroom, the old floorboards creaked as she passed the grandfather clock that read five past nine. After washing her face and brushing her teeth she returned to her room. Lying on her bed she slid her hand underneath the silk covered pillow and found her mobile phone. She was disappointed there were no new messages, at first her old friends had sent text messages every day but over the last week or so they hadn't been returning her messages as often as they used to. Rolling onto her stomach she typed, 'see you in the coffee shop at ten' and sent the message to Jenna, her new best friend. Slipping the phone into her back pocket she took some loose change from the moneybox that sat on her bedside table. Picking up the silver backed brush from the vanity set that stood on her dressing table she quickly brushed her shoulder length blonde hair, the few knots that had formed during the night from her restless sleep were soon brushed out.

Throwing the brush onto her bed she ran down the stairs to the kitchen to find her mum sitting at the breakfast table with a cup of tea. 'I'm off to meet Jenna in the village' she said as she grabbed her coat from behind the kitchen door.

'Sarah Carpenter, you should have some breakfast before you go out,' her mother's words faded as the heavy door closed. Sarah unfastened the safety helmet from the crossbar of her new bike and clipped the strap firmly into place under her chin before starting off down the long drive for the ten-minute ride to the village.

She felt the warm sun on her back as she rode down the quiet lane and started to pick up some speed as she freewheeled down the steep hill. Suddenly, a dark shadow passed directly in front of her and she felt as though she'd ridden through an ice cold shower. Pulling hard on her rear brake she lost control and skidded off the path. The front wheel hit a large stone and she was sent hurdling over the handlebars, crashing heavily into one of the old oak trees that lined the country lane.

She was cold, very cold and although she knew she was lying down she had the strangest sensation, it was as though she was coming out of her body, floating through the air. Opening her eyes she was surprised to see that she was facing her bedroom door, staring at her carved initials. The letters S C were clearly visible and as she continued to look an even stranger thing happened, water began to run from the bottom of the letters. It ran slowly at first and then started to come out of each letter like a shower, soaking her from head to toe, making her feel even colder.

A black shadow appeared beside her, it was similar to the one she'd seen as she cycled to the village, it moved towards the wooden door and passed straight through it. Sarah was frightened; she'd never been so afraid but leant forward and opened the door just in time to see the shadow disappear through the window. She tried to run but found herself slowly floating towards the window, when she finally got there the shadow had gone; it was nowhere to be seen.

Her eyes scoured the sunlit landscape but saw nothing untoward but then, almost magnetically her gaze was drawn to the cows, chewing the cud close to the well in the corner of the field.

'Sarah, Sarah', she heard her mothers voice as she slowly opened her eyes, 'oh thank God' her mother said as Sarah realised she was lying in a hospital bed. People in white coats were all around her, machines beeped and the mask that was over her mouth and nose hissed as it forced air into her lungs.

She was no longer cold, in fact she felt rather warm as her mother gently caressed her forehead. A doctor restrained her as she tried to sit up, 'not just yet young lady' he said in a firm but friendly voice, 'your chest is bruised and you've had a nasty bump on your head, it's a good job you were wearing your helmet.'

Three days later she was sitting on her porch with Jenna, telling her things that she hadn't even told her mum, trying to explain about the bad dreams she'd been having and the weird experience she'd had after her accident.

'My initials are carved on my bedroom door, water sprayed from them and when I looked from the window, I couldn't stop staring at the well. I need to have a look down there, I just know it has something to do with my dreams.'

She spoke in a voice that Jenna thought sounded really odd but she was her friend and would stick with her. 'OK,' Jenna said, 'it can't do any harm, lets go and take a look.'

Cautiously they peered over the small wall that surrounded the old disused well and their eyes strained to see into the black depths. Jenna picked up a large stone and let it drop into the well, three seconds later they heard a faint thud as the stone hit the dry floor.

'I want to go down there, we're going to need a rope and a torch.'

'Do you think you should,' Jenna replied in a rather nervous voice, 'it could be full of snakes or anything.'

'Don't be silly, there are no snakes here,' Sarah said.

As they turned around to head for the barn they both screamed, a typically loud, girly scream. Four cows had silently moved to within six feet of them, the cows ran off probably more scared of them than they were of the cows.

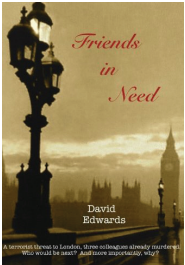
Ten minutes later the rope was secured around Sarah's waist and having wrapped it around the wooden support set into the wall of the well, Jenna took the strain.

'Don't let me fall,' Sarah said as she lowered herself over the edge and started to climb down the steep damp walls. Jenna slowly lowered her friend and as she disappeared into the darkness Sarah turned on the torch.

The story made front-page news in the local paper when the remains of the girl's body were laid to rest. Sarah Carpenter, the thirteen-year-old daughter of a local woodcutter had been sent on an errand to the village over thirty years ago and had gone missing, she was never found. The police interviewed Sarah and Jenna and came to the conclusion that cows had always grazed in that field and had probably frightened the young girl as she stood next to the well, just as they had frightened them, and tragically the girl must have fallen to her death.

Jenna slept over that evening, keeping Sarah company. Sarah didn't have any bad dreams that night; in fact she had the most restful nights sleep she'd had since they'd moved.

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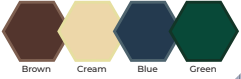
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Watch Your Step in Merseyside to help the RSPB protect ground nesting birds this spring

People have been noticing nature much more during lockdowns, as garden birds and other wildlife have helped lift spirits and connect us to the world outside. A recent survey commissioned by the RSPB showed that 41% of participants reported seeing wildlife near their homes that they had never noticed before between 2020 and 2021.

Almost half of the UK population have said they have tried to attract nature to their gardens but the RSPB is keen to highlight that many of our threatened species don't use gardens and nest boxes when raising young.

Over half of England's most threatened breeding species nest on or near to the ground, including curlew, little tern, nightjar and lapwing.



Skylark - photo by Kevin Sawford



Curlew - photo by David Tipling



Ringed Plover - photo by Kevin Sawford

"If you ask a child where bird's nest, they are likely say a tree, hedge or nest box. It's an image we've all grown up with but for some of our most threatened species it's simply not true. Almost every natural habitat in the English countryside can be home to ground nesting birds and these threatened species are under increasing pressure due habitat loss, predators and climate change. Yet we can all help protect them from disturbance by simply following the Countryside Code and keeping to footpaths." Sara Humphrey, Communications Manager

Around Merseyside, coastal areas, including saltmarshes and beaches are often home to ground nesting birds too. Little tern and ringed plover often nest near the tide's edge on shingle beaches and birds like oystercatcher and redshank create small nests hidden in the short undergrowth on marshes. As vulnerable chicks are easy prey for predators, dogs running through nesting sites can be very stressful for breeding birds. By sticking to paths, watching out for signage or alarm calls and keeping dogs on leads in these habitats, you can help give chicks the best chance of survival.

Uplands and moors are also vital homes to ground nesting birds including curlew, dunlin and golden plover. The hen harrier, one of the UK's most threatened birds of prey, also nests at ground level in some upland areas.

As birds nesting on the ground are at higher risk from predators; the nests and eggs they contain are often extremely well camouflaged, making them very hard to see and avoid.

“A skylark egg can be as small as 17mm, that’s around the width of a 5p piece. And when those eggs hatch, chicks can be just as well camouflaged and vulnerable. When scared, a chick’s instinct is often to stay quiet and avoid detection, so if you see an adult bird calling out in distress or trying to catch your attention, back away carefully to help protect nests from harm.” Mike Shurmer, Head of Species for RSPB England.

The RSPB’s conservation scientists have developed methods to help protect nesting birds from environmental threats including climate change, wildfire and sea level rise, which can be delivered through managing landscapes for wildlife. They have seen fantastic results for species including roseate tern and stone curlew, but to protect ground nesting birds across the countryside, everyone can play a part by watching where they step. To find out more, search #WatchYourStep on twitter or Facebook.

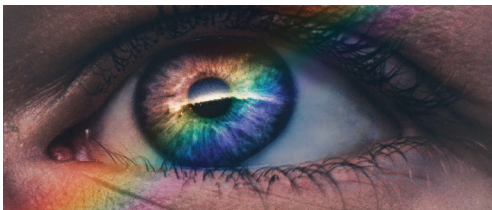
The RSPB works closely with partners and communities to protect wildlife across their network of over 300+ UK nature reserves and in the wider countryside. To find out more about RSPB reserves near you or to help fund the vital work the charity does to protect wildlife, visit www.rspb.org.uk



Stone Curlew - photo by Chris Knights



Hen Harrier - photo by Mark Hamblin



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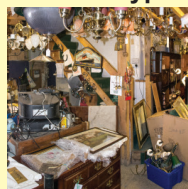
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TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE COLLECTION



Thanks to TESCO'S BIDSTON Store, Birkenhead Rotary Club set up a collection for Ukraine on Saturday 5th March, raising funds that will directly assist Ukrainians in and around Lviv, with medical and other urgent items.

Birkenhead Rotary's President Elect Lionel Bolland, set up email contact with the President of the Rotary Club of Lviv in Western Ukraine, at a time when the area was free from attack. Lviv Rotary had set up a way for cash donations, sent via clubs in Poland and Germany, to fund the purchase of equipment and its distribution across to Ukraine.

The amount raised at Tesco's was soon added to by other donations and may now reach £6,000. Birkenhead's President Graham Connolly commented; "I am so proud of our Rotarians and family members, who very quickly set up this collection within 2 days, including making the flag of Ukraine and other items. Sadly, this is a very fast-moving conflict but the public support was amazing and these funds will greatly assist those in peril in Ukraine."

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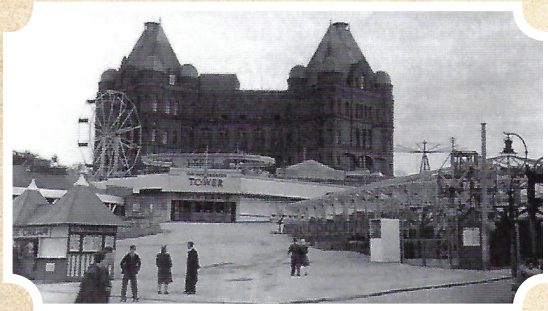
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These two photographs were taken post war (circa 1947) in New Brighton.

Left : looking across Egerton Street to the Tower Ballroom ground entrance.

Below: The Pier is seen from the Tower entrance

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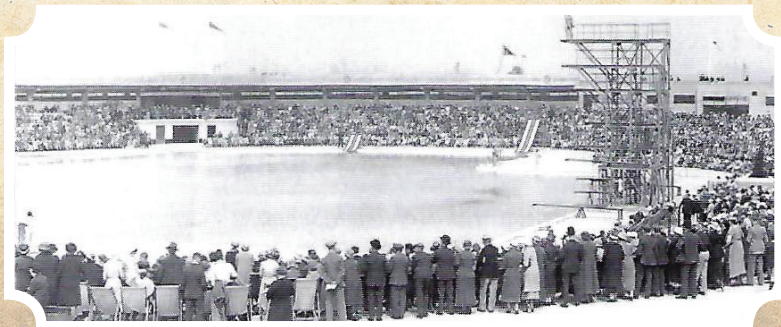
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New Brighton open-air baths were opened by Viscount Leverhulme on the 13th of June 1934, they were considered the largest outdoor swimming pool in Europe. The pool could accommodate over 2,000 swimmers and 1,000 sunbathers/spectators - at the time it was considered a place to be seen, with many people driving there, using the newly opened Mersey Tunnel. Between June and September 1934 almost one million people went through the turnstiles!





This photograph was taken in 1910 - Tutty's Stores on the right hand side at numbers 17-21 Oxton Road, Birkenhead started trading here in 1904 until 1937 when Rostances took over until they closed in 1977. The Grand Hotel in Charing Cross can be seen in the background.



This is the original miller's cottage at the junction of what is now Mill Lane, Irby (right) and Hillbark Road (left). It was purchased by George and Bertha Lumsden in 1919 and this was taken when they opened it as The Old Mill Cafe and Stores. Known locally for many decades as Lumsden's Cafe; they held dances here two or three times a week. Higsons Brewery purchased the land and buildings in 1938 but couldn't get planning permission until the 1970's on the condition that the cottage should be saved and any extensions would be in keeping with the property. The Mill Pub opened in 1980.



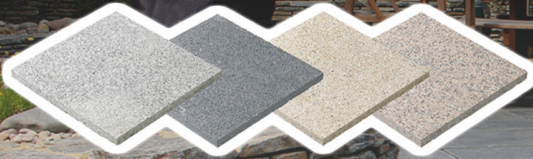
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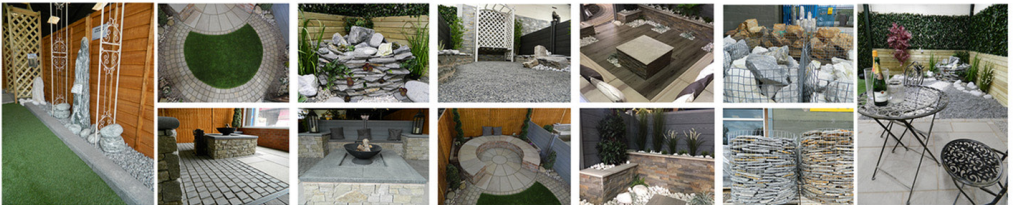


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It was lovely to see everyone again when we commenced our 2022 pop-up cafe opening on 27th February. The weather was dry and the morning was a huge success, and exceeded all expectations.

Apologies for not been able to have toasted teacakes later in the morning, but unfortunately there was a load balancing problem with the electricity supply to the toaster, and it cut off when overloaded! We are looking to have the electrical load supply re-balanced to resolve this issue.

Many thanks to The Liverpool Ramblers Walking Group for their kind donation, following a talk by Chris Hampshire to their group on Friends/Hadlow Road Station. Other FHRs talks to different groups on the Wirral are planned although FHRs is always open to enquiries for additional talks for a donation that goes towards maintaining and developing Hadlow Road Station.

The next gardening day is Wednesday April 6th from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Thank you to all who come to help, and everybody is welcome to join us for a cheerful morning for a free “cuppa” with a biscuit (or two) at 11:00. You all make the Station gardens and surrounding area look attractive for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to Sue for litter picking at the Station.

The next FHRs pop-up cafe dates are:

Sunday 27th March,
10th April and
24th April
from 10.00 am to 1.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you all there again. Fingers crossed for sunshine.

Hilary Booth



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CELEBRATING SENSES PROJECT



Ancora Interiors and Funky Vibes Marketing are the proud project sponsors of an exciting community project in support of the Wirral Society of the Blind and Partially Sighted (WSBPS) being held on 30th April 2022.

The WSBPS have been supporting the Wirral blind and partially sighted community since 1989 and continue to evolve the help they provide to their members.

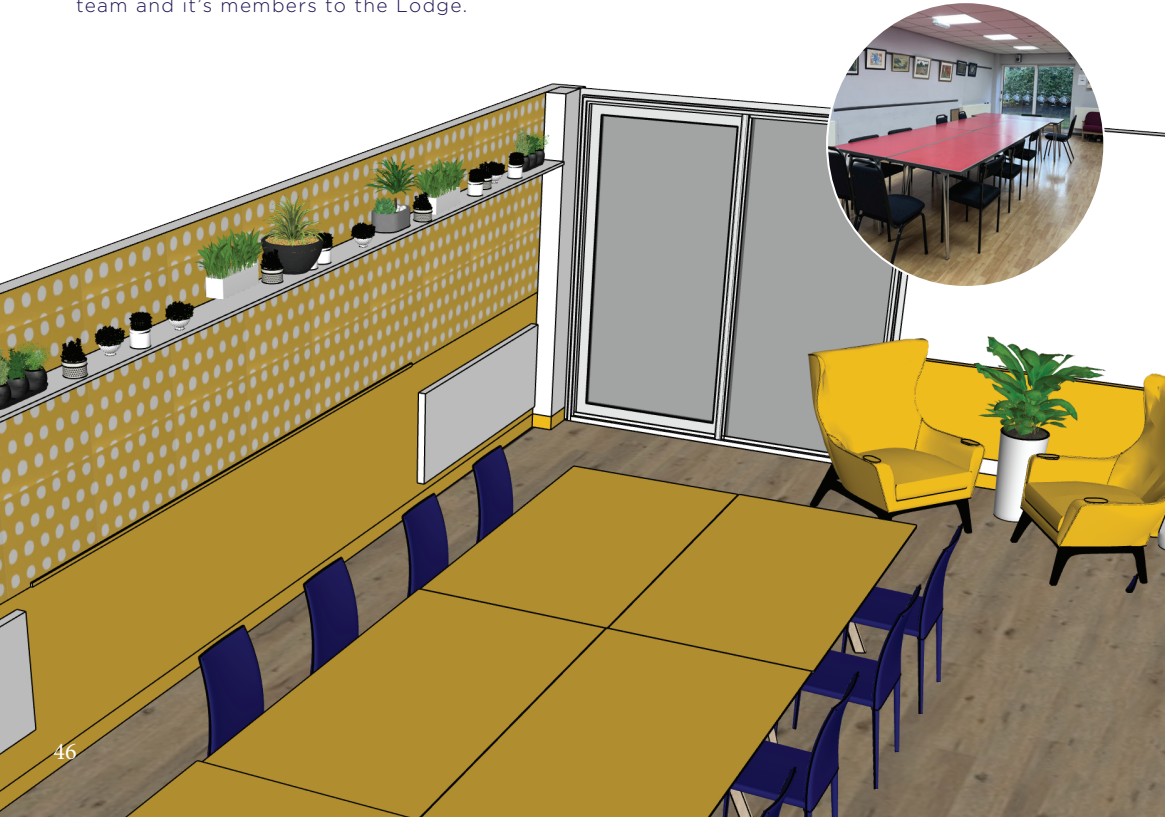
The Celebrating Senses project will involve a day where local business leaders and members of the community will come together to do an interior makeover of two rooms at the Ashville Lodge site, in celebration of the charity welcoming the Merseyside Society for Deaf People (MSDP) team and it's members to the Lodge.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of these two important charities whilst also improving the aesthetics & utilisation of the spaces.

In preparation for Makeover Day, the project team are looking for any Wirral based business owners and trades that can offer their free time on the day to help out. In return, the charity are offering a range of commercial promotional packages.

If you would like to be a part of this community project, then please send an email to lynne@wirralsociety.org.uk confirming your interest.

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Wirral Bird Club

“Hilbre Bird Observatory” - An insight into the work of our local Bird Observatory.

An illustrated presentation by John Elliot

**Thursday 28th April 2022,
from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.**



Hilbre Island Photograph courtesy of John

John's illustrated presentation will examine change and how it affects the wildlife on and around Hilbre. What impact has COVID19 had and how does 2020-2022 relate to other years in the recent past. Is the more distant past relevant or worth considering when examining the present day.

Rare birds will be a feature, but changes and insights into more common species are important and worthy of consideration.

This illustrated presentation will take place at St Bridget's Church Centre, St Bridget's Lane, West Kirby, Wirral, CH48 3JT.

Visitors are very welcome, and the cost is £4.00, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

This is not a ticket event - please just come along.

Details of further illustrated presentations and field trips can be found on our website at www.wirralbirdclub.com or by ringing Bill on 07795 148140



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Turnstone



Brent Goose

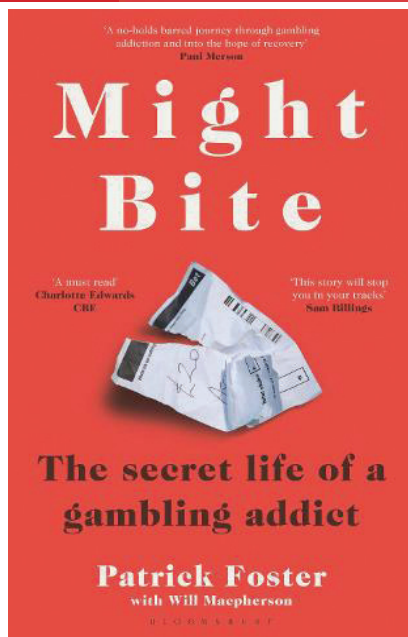
Bird photographs courtesy of Charles Farnell



MIGHT BITE by Patrick Foster **Published by Bloomsbury Sport**

Having a Flutter: Just on the National or a Daily Addiction?

In the past decade gambling has become a major element of “entertainment” for many people of all ages. For the vast majority, activities such as the National lottery, scratch cards, fixed odds betting, poker, horse racing, etc. are an occasional “flutter”, however, evidence shows that an increasing number of “occasional punters”, as high as 3 per cent of adults, bet more than they can afford. **Concerns have been expressed about the pervasiveness of advertising promoting gambling, on television, the media, sporting journals and billboards, offering incentives to “get started”, “keep spending”, with free bets, money back, and 5th place payouts etc.**



In a powerful, no holds barred and emotionally challenging book, **“Might Bite” by Patrick Foster engages the reader in a lucid account of his roller coaster battle with gambling and personal struggles.** With the support of his co-writer, Will Macpherson, Patrick highlights the ease by which he became “trapped” in a web of success and the “buzz of celebration”, loss and the “secrecy of depression”, traversing the pits of pathological addiction, loneliness and mental frustration. **Those readers with personal experience, at primary or secondary participation, with the “highs and lows” endured by the author, will find this book makes for compelling and at times heart rending reading.**

Patrick was no working class, underprivileged or emotionally deprived student seeking solace or attempting to boost his grant by “having a flutter”. It is clear that his parents had encouraged and supported his development from the fee paying school at Oundle, to Durham University, training at the MCC Centre of Excellence for “aspiring cricketers” and playing as a professional cricketer for Northants. He openly concedes that having money was actually a problem. He had three incomes made up of a generous allowance from his parents, a salary from Northants Cricket and a student loan. His detailed reflection on how he became ensnared within the “gambling arena”, resulting in personal battles with “debt and mental health” highlight issues which will make readers ponder and possibly “stop in their tracks”.

He recalls how, as a student at Durham University at 19, he went to a Coral betting shop for the first time and was enthused by the “electric hub of activity”. **His initial winnings of £72 playing roulette on a Fixed Odds Betting Terminal gave him the “buzz for more action”.** Unlike his friends who left the Coral shop to do other things, Patrick turned back “into the action”. He was hooked into the winning mindset and isolated little bubble, based on the assumption that as an avid watcher, based on the

assumption that as an avid watcher, participant and his knowledge of sport could make him loads of money. He had won £70, why not turn it into £700. **The buzz and elation, his success on his first day as a gambler drew him back regularly for “more and more action”.** His need to find time for regular gambling and socialising impacted negatively on his careers in cricket, insurance and teaching. **As a result of his “secret life” as an isolated punter and considerable debts, he faced rejection, fear of failure and a personal crisis.**

It is clearly evident that his personal reflection on why he was facing “failure and self doubt at 20” failed to deter **his need for gambling as the closest thing he could find to “replicate and replace” the buzz of playing cricket.** This “gambling buzz” became greater with higher stakes, more bets, particularly accumulators. **Some readers may find his accounts of experiences emotionally disturbing.** Being trapped in the buzz of gambling resulted in loneliness, boredom and incessant stress to hide the guilt of being a “secret addict” from family and colleagues. **The reflective “situational analysis” by his wife Charlotte adds greatly to the content and relevance of the text.** This is particularly evident when she comments on his secretive behaviour, on his phone both night and day, evidence of anxiety, at times inconsiderate, irrational and frustrating behaviour. **She discusses her scepticism regarding his debts, and inability to accept his need for support** and her feelings of guilt questioning him since he was so convincing with outstandingly generous and loving features.

Financial problems of debts to friends, colleagues, parents of pupils, loan companies and others reached a crescendo in March 2018. Despite winning about £58,000 on bets he was under constant pressure because his debts were £152,000. **He had tracked a horse “Might Bite” and bet almost £50,000 for the horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, earn him £200,000 and clear his debts.**

Might Bite lost. This was the pit of emotional loneliness for Patrick. His response was standing on platform 5 at Slough station in a real personal mess, an emotional wreck and a broken person. His journey to self analysis, recognition of his role in the process of reform, and finding a new “buzz” were made possible by the support, care and acceptance by his wife Charlotte, his family, the Professional Cricketers’ Association, colleagues and a period of specialist residential treatment

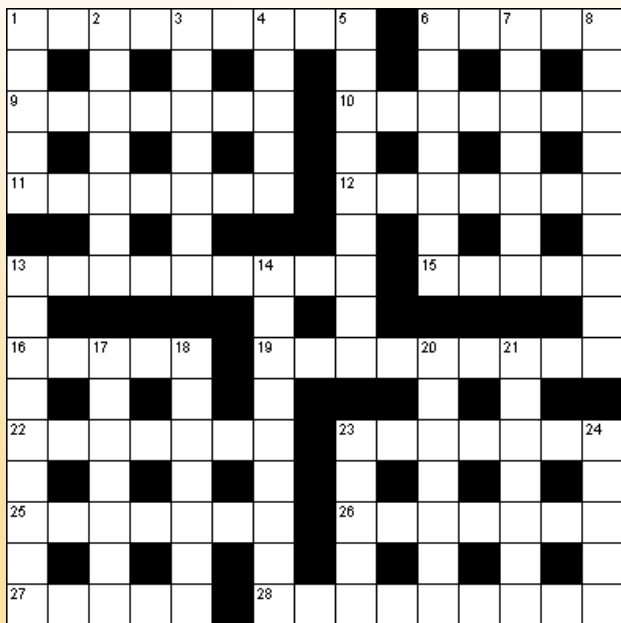
Patrick’s emotionally challenging story addresses key issues affecting the growing numbers of “gambling addicts” very effectively. He highlights key issues including the need for bookmakers to re-assess advertising strategies to “entice” punters, the problems caused by excessive losses and research into mental health issues and suicides caused by gambling debts. Patrick is “in recovery”, working with EPIC a gambling harm minimization group and an ambassador for enhancing personal skills in young people through participation in sport.

About the reviewer

John T Morris BA(Hons),MEd,MPhil,DipPsych,CertEd.

John taught physical education in Ladbrooke Grove and was fitness coach at the Middle Row Boxing Club. His research at Aberystwyth University was on the relationship between aerobic and anaerobic power. He was fitness and weight training coach in Wrexham, fitness coach at Wrexham RFC and with the WRU. He is a mental health counsellor. John specialises in working with individuals and teams to develop growth mindsets, including resilience, tenacity, drive, determination and team skills in sport, education and business

PUZZLE CORNER



Down

- 1 Whipping, clotted or ice (5)
- 2 Leaner (7)
- 3 Not heavenly (7)
- 4 Inclines (5)
- 5 Timber workers (9)
- 6 Covered with a layer of leaves or wet straw (7)
- 7 Idiosyncrasies (7)
- 8 Clever (9)
- 13 Notable (9)
- 14 Drop down in level or rank (9)
- 17 Souvenir (7)
- 18 What Popeye eats (7)
- 20 Conflagration (7)
- 21 A daughter of Agamemnon (Greek mythology) (7)
- 23 A group of south Pacific islands (5)
- 24 Figure out (5)

Across

- 1 Church building (9)
- 6 Islamic jurist (5)
- 9 Quip (7)
- 10 Baseboard (7)
- 11 City in Tennessee (7)
- 12 A military unit (7)
- 13 Imposed loss due to one's beliefs (9)
- 15 Dance bar (5)
- 16 Wordless performers (5)
- 19 Breeziness (9)
- 22 Colliding (7)
- 23 Ails (7)
- 25 Kerchief (7)
- 26 Relating to marriage (7)

- 27 Long period of time (5)
- 28 Provide details (9)

Sudoku Puzzle

How to play:

The numbers 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3x3 zone.

There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid.

There is only one correct solution to each sudoku. Good luck!

Difficulty level: Medium.

Solutions can be found on our website

1		2			7			
7			4					1
	4				3			
	9	6						
			3		1	4		
		4			2	9		
		3		2		5		6
	7		9		8			

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Walker's Words for April

Hello there!

Welcome to the April Edition of Walker's words in Love Wirral.

I am very sad to announce this will be the LAST edition of Walker's Words.....

JUST KIDDING.....APRIL FOOLS!

Although by the time you read this April Fools day would have passed so I guess the joke is on me right?

Summer is well and truly on the way, with flowers beginning to bloom it is slowly coming to the second best time of the year – Summer, with beautiful weather and glorious rays of sunshine, and on that note here is my monthly ramblings of what I have been getting up to and what is happening in the local area.

The VERY Adult Play

You may recall last month I mentioned City Theatre based over the water.

Well, I am THRILLED to announce that I have been offered the role of Friar Tuck in Bow and Arrow, the Ghosts of Sherwood.

Staged in the very beautiful Epstein Theatre in Liverpool on Friday 27th May at 7:00pm.

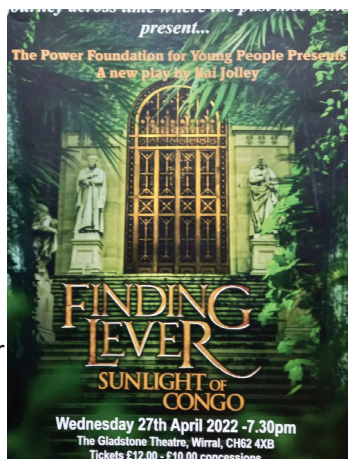
The very adult pantomime is full of smutty gags and rude paraphrases and of course many dirty musical numbers lots of bum wiggling and twerking (and that is just from me!) the Script has been penned by the Very talented Barry Levy.

Rehearsals are well underway, and you can see from the photographs of rehearsals it promises to be a very fun filled evening.

So get your girls together, lads go get your mates and come down to the Epstein Theatre for a great night. Tickets are available online or in person from the Epstein Theatre box office.

Sticking with Theatre, I am very pleased to see a homegrown play directed by New Ferry Resident Christopher Power "**Finding Lever Sunlight of Congo**" and this is proudly put on by the Power Foundation for Young People on **Wednesday 27th April at 7:30 at the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight.**

I got to know Christopher very well over the past few



years and I really do find his story fascinating and how his journey has led him to become an actor with credits to his name including Coronation Street. I find it very refreshing that an organisation invests in Young people. I will be bringing you my review of the Show in next months Edition and a little bit more about Christopher and the Power Foundation for young people. Tickets are available from the Gladstone Theatre website and are £12.00 and £10.00 for concessions.

Birkenhead Park

April Brings lots of activities and adventures for all ages at Birkenhead Park including the **official Anniversary Day of Birkenhead Park on the 5th April**. The park was originally opened in 1847.

There is also a programme of events in the Visitor Centre located in the Park Itself including an Exhibition of “Birkenhead Park through the ages”.

It really is fascinating to know how much history the park has and how Central Park in New York is based on Birkenhead Park!

As Summer Emerges and school holidays come around it may well be worth spending a fun family day in Birkenhead Park.

That’s it for this month

As usual, you can find me on all popular social media channels, just search “Walkers Words”

Have a great month, Until Next Time,

Ian X



Friendly? Single?

Want to meet and keep new friends?

Do you sometimes wish for a better social life?

If so, come and join us, where you can meet and make a new circle of friends, and enjoy good companionship. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at various locations where there is good car parking, and a bar with a nice relaxed atmosphere.

Members organise various social events including meals out each Saturday evening, theatre visits and many other activities.

Our group of like minded unattached people enjoy getting out and about, and are happy to consider suggestions for trips and outings from all members.

Newcomers will be made most welcome. If you would prefer, we can arrange to meet you at the door.

For more information ring Brian on 0151 6481516, or



‘Good Morning, Liverpool’ Poem by John Fowler

Took a trip to my home town, the place where i was born.
Didn't want to miss a thing, so set off at crack of dawn.
Planned to walk the city streets, the prospect made me drool.
Couldn't wait to see it all, good morning Liverpool!

I strolled along a famous street, that The Beatles made their own.
Passed some friendly faces, so I knew I'd come home.
The gentle breeze from off The Mersey, helped the air to cool.
The aroma of the coffee, good morning Liverpool!

The shops were awe inspiring, but it's the people that you meet,
their warmth and sense of humour, makes this city hard to beat.
All their stars and past achievements, you cannot overule.
The breaking of another day, good morning Liverpool!

I walked slowly towards the Pier Head and heard the seagulls cry,
stopped underneath the Liver Birds and watched some boats sail by.
Took an amble around The Albert Dock, it's now the city's jewel.
The giant has awakened, good morning Liverpool!

Every one is welcome, whether you are King or Fool,
time for all to rise and shine, good morning Liverpool!

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The Freddie Smith Big Band

The Freddie Smith Big Band is the premier Big Band on the Wirral.

Founded in the 1970's by professional sax player Freddie Smith, the band have been performing all over the Wirral and North West since it's inception, holding a number of residences at top cabaret venues.

Freddie was a well-known, well-loved charismatic character within the North West jazz scene and passionately led the band until his passing in 2010. Since Freddie's passing, a group of dedicated musicians have kept the band performing in his name to honour him.

We have a good mixture of pro, semi-pro and top amateur musicians who dedicate their time to playing in the band every week. The band has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and is well regarded by musicians and audiences alike.

Featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Ted Heath, Neil Hefti, Billy May, Stan Kenton, Nelson Riddle Neuhaus, Sammy Nestico, Tom Kubis, Dave Wolpe, Gordon Goodwin and many more, we play a varied mixture of old and new charts throughout the evening. We have also been known to play the odd request.

[Please join us every Wednesday between 8.30pm & 11pm at our residency at Higher Bebington British Legion, Teehay Lane, Higher Bebington, CH63 8QS.](#)

Entry is free, but we ask for donations in order to pay our deps travel expenses, and to try to keep our music up to date.

We can also play at your private event, wedding, birthday party, anniversary or music festival and will adjust the music to suit your needs. Please contact:

Paul Leonard - 07753 102 236

Please support the premier Big Band on the Wirral and keep Big Band music alive!



In October 1945, with the country still struggling to come to terms with the end of the Second World War, a group of music-lovers called a public meeting. Shortly after, in 1946, Chester Music Society came into being “To encourage, amongst amateurs, music making both orchestral and choral”. Now, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Society is still as active as ever, promoting chamber concerts by both professional and amateur musicians and performing choral works. After the ravages of Covid-19, which caused the complete cancellation of the 2020-21 season, music-making is back on the agenda, now with a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* in May 2022.

Is this the best-loved music ever written? Performed annually throughout the UK since its first performance in 1742, Handel’s masterpiece *Messiah* tells the story from the prophecy to the birth, death and resurrection of Christ in a series of recitatives, solo arias and choruses. From the opening *Comfort ye my people*, through *Hallelujah* and *I know that my Redeemer Liveth*, to the final chorus *Worthy is the Lamb*, *Messiah* is now deeply embedded in the British musical consciousness. Last performed by Chester Music Society Choir in 2016, this performance promises to provide a moving experience for everyone, performed with professional soloists and orchestra in the magnificent acoustic of Chester cathedral.

The background of the poster is a mosaic of a face, likely representing Christ, with large, expressive eyes and a red mouth. The mosaic is made of various colored tiles in shades of yellow, orange, red, and grey.

 **CHESTER MUSIC SOCIETY**

Handel Messiah

7.30pm, Saturday 14 May 2022
Chester Cathedral
by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter

Milly Forrest *soprano*
Elisabeth Paul *mezzo soprano*
Toby Ward *tenor*
James Cleverton *bass*
Chester Music Society Choir
Liverpool Sinfonia
Graham Jordan Ellis
conductor



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from cathedral box office or
www.chestermusicsociety.org.uk



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MAY 5 HASTINGS ST MARYS IN THE CASTLE*
MAY 6 LONDON CADOGAN HALL*
MAY 7 SOUTHEND PALACE THEATRE*
MAY 12 ALDERSHOT PRINCES THEATRE*
MAY 13 HARROGATE ROYAL HALL*
MAY 14 BURY ST EDMUNDS APEX*
MAY 19 PETERBOROUGH CRESSSET*
MAY 20 NEW BRIGHTON FLORAL PAVILION*
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