Honeybourne Village News

Info: Local: News

December 2025



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Hello from the Editor,

We hope that you were able to attend (or are going to attend) the Christmas Light Switch On evening at the Village Hall and that you have the date in your diary for the Community Carol Service (22nd Dec at 7pm), also at the Village Hall. We hope to see you there.

The list of things to do to prepare for the season starts with buying, writing and posting cards, then sorting the tree, the decorations and getting whatever the latest Christmas lights are to hang on the tree (and the house!).

No doubt you are looking forward to the Christmas and New Year festivities but they seem to start earlier and earlier each year. By the time 25th December comes round, some people will have attended Christmas Lunches organised by their employer, their various activity groups and will have already feasted with friends and relatives.

As we approach the end of the year, it is a time to recognise and appreciate all those in our village who have given their time, once again in 2025, to support the community in a variety of ways. Will 2026 be the year that you get involved?

A final word to our new readers - this year we increased our print run to 880 and we welcome those who will be spending their first Christmas in Honeybourne - we hope it will be a special one.

On behalf of all the team involved in the Village News, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous new year.

Víllage News Team

Contact details for the HBVN:

Comments & contributions e.g. photo's around the village or area, jokes or puzzles, ideas for the Spotlight On... feature, articles, letters to the editor. editor.hbvn@gmail.com

ALL ARTICLES OR ARTWORK MUST BE PROVIDED READY FOR INCLUSION AND PRINT USE A5 WORD, JPEG, PNG OR PREFERABLY POST INFO DIRECTLY INTO EMAIL

Deadline date for inclusions for January 2026 is the 10th of the month Deadline date for inclusions for the rest of 2026 is the 17th of the month

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We would like to wish both our local Post Lady, Sarah, and Postman, Andy A Very Merry Christmas. They have each served Honeybourne for 25 years, with this Christmas being their 26th. Sarah has lived in Honeybourne all her life, whilst Andy is from Evesham.

These familiar and cheerful faces deliver to around 1,000 premises in Honeybourne village

and local trading estates, with the amount of mail they deliver doubling over the Christmas period.

I'm sure you would all like to join us in thanking them for their service. Come rain or shine, valuable items find their way to our doors.

(we should also acknowledge and thank Sarah's Assistant/Supervisor. You can choose which one he is!!)

Happy Christmas to you and your families



What's on in Honeybourne?

LADIES WALKING GROUP!



Walking Keeps You Fit. Join our walking group and make new friends. We do a two-mile walk on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. For more information, call Ann on **01386 830517**

We look forward to seeing you.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

If anyone enjoys watching bowls on T. V. why not come along to the Village Hall on a Friday Evening and try your hand at a somewhat simpler version called Short Mat Bowls? All equipment is provided the only thing we ask that you wear is flat shoes - trainers are ideal. We start at 7. 30

The cost is £2 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

For more information contact: 01386 832215.

Mobile Library Timetable

The **Mobile Library** on the 4th Friday in the month as follows:

12.05-12.20 Grove Avenue **12.25-12.40** Perrie Drive **13.15-13.30** Village Hall

Enquiries: 01905 822722 or emailing mobilelibraries@worcestershire.gov.uk

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? — He was picking his nose!

What do you call an old snowman? Water

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

▲ Message from the Parish Council Chair **▲**

As we move into December, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone in our community for their continued support and involvement throughout the year. It has been wonderful to see so many people taking part in village events and supporting local initiatives — proof once again of the strong community spirit that makes Honeybourne such a special place to live.

November was a time of reflection and remembrance. I was honoured to lay a wreath at the War Memorial in the churchyard and attend the Remembrance Service, and to represent Honeybourne at the Poppies to Paddington initiative, organised by Great Western Railway (GWR). It was a moving experience to see our wreath travel alongside others from across the country to London Paddington. I would also like to acknowledge the beautiful poppy display in the churchyard, which provided a fitting local tribute to those who served and continue to serve.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Christmas Lights Switch-On at the Village Hall. This event is always a highlight in Honeybourne's calendar, bringing residents of all ages together to celebrate the festive season. My sincere thanks go to everyone involved in organising and supporting this much-loved community occasion.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow councillors and to the many residents and volunteers who give their time and energy to make Honeybourne a welcoming and vibrant village — from supporting local events and community groups, to helping maintain our public rights of way, and even beautifying Honeybourne Station with raised beds for everyone to enjoy.

I would also like to recognise those who give their time quietly — whether through litter picking, helping neighbours, or small acts of kindness that strengthen the fabric of our community. Your efforts, often unseen, truly make a difference.

I would also like to thank the Village News team for producing the magazine and delivering it throughout the village — your work keeps everyone informed and connected.

The Christmas season reminds us of the importance of kindness, connection and community — values that continue to shine brightly here in Honeybourne. As we look ahead to 2026, the Parish Council will continue to focus on projects that enhance our village and bring people together.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year. Thank you to everyone who continues to support parish events and community life in Honeybourne.

Cllr Heath Jobes

Chair, Honeybourne Parish Council







Members of Honeybourne Parish Council					
Heath Jobes (Chair) 07375085116					
Balbir Dubb (Vice-Chair) 07795670707					
Andrew Attridge	01386 830744	Amy Mathias 07956076271			
Graham Clelland	01386 832500	Stephen Sidwell 07815311432			
Colin Clear	07702105737	Sandra Walsh 07714237336			
Judith Mellor	07770983522	-			
Clerk contact details: Mobile: 07951 429652					
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Enjoy a bit of Christmas Colouring!!





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Thursday 11th December







Cow Honeybourne Church

Although Honeybourne now has only one church, near the village shop and cemetery; in the past it had two: one for each of the two villages of Church Honeybourne and Cow Honeybourne. The church in Cow Honeybourne is now split into three private dwellings, but its tower is still a landmark.

Cow Honeybourne church was originally built as a chapel of ease for Winchcombe Abbey. However, by the twelfth century Winchcombe Abbey had reached an agreement with Evesham Abbey that the latter would be responsible for maintaining the services etc. in the church at Cow Honeybourne. The tower dates to the fifteenth century, and there are possibly a few other medieval remains.

The church was never consecrated. In later years no dedication was known for this church, but the priors' registers of Evesham Abbey describe it as 'the chapel of St. John the Baptist' in 1539. The church was converted into almshouses at some time in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries: in 1712 Robert Atkyns wrote that there were five, two in the chancel and three in the nave. By the mid-nineteenth century things had deteriorated further and in 1848 a visitor described the almshouses as 'huts of the most miserable appearance', the altar was an oven, and pigs were being kept within the 'sacred walls'. The villagers had to worship at Church Honeybourne church, or they had the option of Cow Honeybourne Methodist church.

However, J. G. Knapp, the curate of Honeybourne from 1855 to 1869, decided to restore the church, and raised sufficient funds to do so. The restoration under the aegis of architect W. J. Hopkins began in 1861 and was completed in 1862: much of the church was completely rebuilt. Over time though, the state of the building declined again, and in the early twentieth century another vicar was appealing for funds to improve it.

Services eventually stopped in the church in 1975, following concerns about the poor state of the roof, which the P. C. C. could not afford to repair. The decision was made to sell off the church: a solution made easier by the fact it had never been consecrated. It was sold by public auction in 1976 for a total of £9,100, and converted into three dwellings: the dormers in the nave were inserted in this process.

By Lesley O'Connell Edwards

Thank you very much for sending us this article Lesley, a very interesting read.

If anyone else has any interesting articles/stories/reviews etc that could go in the magazine, please send them to: editor.hbvn@gmail.com



Honeybourne Dart Team Wins Parish Darts Championship

Honeybourne's dart team has won the Wychavon Parish Games darts competition, securing maximum points and a trophy for the parish.

The victory was achieved on Monday 21st October 2025, with the trophy to be collected at the upcoming presentation night.

The five-strong team competed against other parishes in the Wychavon area, demonstrating excellent skill and teamwork to take first place.

The Parish Council supports residents' participation in the Wychavon Parish Games by funding entry fees for anyone in the parish wishing to compete in the various sporting events held throughout the year.

This win is a credit to the team and reflects well on Honeybourne's community spirit and sporting talent.

Congratulations to everyone involved, great result!!



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R is for roof

While other churches may feature reredos and a rood screen (look them up!!), for this month's article I shall focus on the various roofs at St Ecgwins' ChurchThe roof covering the chancel is of **Cotswold stone slate**. We recently had some broken slates replaced and they are such a good match I would challenge you to identify them.

Our nave started life as a conventional form with a steeply pitched roof as on the chancel. In the 15th century, the roof was raised, and a clerestory and flat roof added.

The line of the former pitched roof can be seen on the Tower.

The church porch is a 15th century addition and has a **stone paved roof.**

The **copper roof** of the nave of the church has had significant issues over the years with water ingress. The temporary repair we had done seems to be holding. It seems that the copper panels are too large and 'flex' in the wind, allowing water to run underneath the copper and find its way into the church.

The box gutters that run above the north and south elevation are very shallow and the flashing and step to the roof are insufficient.

This arrangement means any blockages in the gutter or downpipes water to breach the gutter and damage the internal fabric of the wall.

Our architect is busy specifying all the work that needs to be done to address the issue of leaks – both the copper roof panels and to address the gutters and outlets, which cannot cope with the heavy downpours we now experience.

We know that this will be costly and so we shall start the process of applying for grants to help us to fund the necessary repairs.

Gardening Tips for December

December may be the quietest month in the garden, but there's still plenty you can do to prepare for the year ahead — and enjoy some festive greenery along the way.

General Jobs

Tidy and protect: Clear away the last of autumn's fallen leaves, especially from lawns and paths, to stop them becoming slippery.

Protect from frost: Wrap tender plants with fleece or bubble wrap and move pots to sheltered spots.

Clean and sharpen tools: A quick clean now will keep them rust-free and ready for spring. Feed the birds: Natural food is scarce — keep feeders topped up and fresh water available.

In the Vegetable and Flower Garden

Harvest winter veg: Pick Brussels sprouts, leeks, parsnips, and kale as needed — they taste sweeter after a frost.

Plan for next year: Order seed catalogues and start planning your crop rotation.

Compost heap: Turn it if the weather allows, or cover it to keep rain off.

Check for wind damage: Tie in climbing plants and secure loose trellis or stakes.

Plant bare-root roses and hedging: As long as the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged.

Look after pots: Raise them on feet to help drainage and prevent roots sitting in icy water.

In the Greenhouse

Keep it frost-free: Use bubble wrap insulation or a small heater.

Water sparingly: Overwatering encourages rot — let compost dry a bit between watering. Sow early seeds: Start sweet peas or early salad leaves if you have heat and good light.

Festive Touches

Bring the garden indoors: Use holly, ivy, and evergreen branches for wreaths and decorations (leave enough for the wildlife!).

Gift ideas: Home-grown jams, dried herbs, or potted bulbs make lovely personal presents. **Tip of the Month**: A little planning now makes spring gardening much easier — use dark evenings to sketch out your growing plan or make a seed wish-list for the new year.

Honeybee's W.I

Our October meeting was very interesting, the speaker was Robin Farnworth from theVale of Evesham Community First Responders, talking to us on how to use Defibrillators and how to administer C.P.R. Most members had a try



at C.P.R on the dummy, with lots of laughter ensuing. We also learnt that Defibrillators are on locked and a procedure has to be followed to use it. We learnt a lot. The evening was enjoyed by all of us. Raffle and refreshments completed the evening.

On Saturday October 25th we held our Halloween Quiz. The Village Hall was decorated with lots of scary items and looked great. A supper of soups and burgers was provided at the interval, and cakes were available for sale. A huge raffle took place, with many prizes generously given by Chipping Campden shops. The proceeds of the evening have been shared with Chipping Campden Nurses.

Our next meeting is on December 15th at the Village Hall at 7 .30. Anyone interested in joining us will be most welcome, just come along, or visit our Facebook page, Honeybees W.I



On a Dog walk through Honeybourne, I came across this team of voluntary litter pickers doing a fantastic job in the village. After a quick pet of my Dog, I persuaded them to pose for a photo, and here it is.

A huge thank you from the Village News team for the efforts of Mandy, Karen, Owen, Dylan, Aubrey and Tilly.





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December WEEKLY TIMETABLE

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FUTURE EVENTS

** Wine & Cheese Tasting Event – 29th Nov @ 7:30pm**

Christmas Wreath Class – 1st Dec @ 7:30pm

Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty - 13th Dec @ 2pm

**Movie Night – Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale – 17th Jan @ 7:30pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
Pilates with Nicky 9am – 10 am Fitness with Jae 10:30am – 11:30am	Yoga with Jae 10am – 11am	Pilates with Nicky 8:45am – 9:45am ~ Art Group 10am – 12:30pm	Coffee morning 9:30am-12:00pm ~ Embroidery Club 9:30 – 13:30 4**Dec ~ Toddler Group 9:30am –11:30am	Gentle Yoga 9:45am – 10:45	Zumba with Lesley 9.30am-10.30am	Indian Block Printing 7th Dec 10:30 – 12:45 or 2pm – 4:30pm		
		Wed Club 2pm –4pm 3 rd Dec	Senior Stretch Class 1pm- 3pm		Pantomime Steeping Beauty 13th Dec 2pm - onwards			
Kids Theatre Group 3:45pm – 5:45pm				Healthy Worcestershire 2pm – 4pm				
WI – 15 th Dec 7pm- 10:00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6pm-7pm	Men's Pilates with Nicky 7.00pm -8.00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6:30pm – 7:30pm – Life Drawing 18 th Dec 7:45pm – 10pm	Short Mat Bowls Group 7.30pm-9.30pm				
All classes require booking to attend.								







Jan Film Night



Saturday 17th Jan (due to DVD release date being delayed)

Doors open 7pm
Tickets £5.00 pp
Refreshments and Raffle on the night
Tickets available online at

www.honeybournevillagehall.org

It's time to say goodbye. When Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change as the staff prepares for a new chapter with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.

PG

Christmas at St Ecgwin's Church

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Sunday 7th December

9.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December

11.00 am Christingle Service

Sunday 21st December

11.00 am Holy Communion

Monday 22nd December

7.00 pm Carol Service

at the Village Hall

Christmas Eve

2.30 pm Crib Service

Christmas Day

10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December

10.00 am Holy Communion

All Services in Church, apart from the Carol Service, which is in the Village Hall

What can we learn in the dark?

When asked what is your favourite season; lots of people answer spring or summer but very few say winter. I have been learning how people from Nordic countries embrace the winter. Winter brings darkness and with the darkness rest. Darkness can be a time of calm, contemplation and recuperation. Stillness, a lack of hurry is important to our physical, emotional and spiritual health. "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer is a wonderful book, a manifesto for a



slower and more intentional way of living. Nature rests, but can we? Most people are chronically sleep deprived. Winter brings a different rhythm that we can shape for our own well-being. Rest from the opportunities and busyness that comes with light. In winter we can hunker down, pause and take stock taking a cue from the natural world. We can let the unimportant fall away. Winter can be a time or rest, repair and restoration.

In A Midsummer Night's Dream nighttime, in the Athenian Forest, is a time to play, where identities wobble and discoveries are made. Darkness can provide safety to explore, to question and learn anew who we are and what is important. Asking questions is a part of faith. Asking good questions is a sign of maturity and wisdom. A delightful celebration of darkness comes from the author Barbara Brown Taylor in her book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." She asks whether God works in the night. She shares things learnt in the dark that couldn't have been learnt in the light. The Psalmist reminds us (Psalm 139:12), "Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light."

"Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you."

Christians believe that an unseen (spiritual) world runs in parallel to the seen (physical) world. In daylight it can be hard to see a source of light but at nighttime it is visible from far away. The prophet Isaiah (9:2) foretelling the birth and ministry of Jesus wrote,

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Jesus calls himself the light of the world (John 8:12). The beginning of John's gospel (1:5) proclaims, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus brings light and Christmas is a celebration of light. Christingles, Advent wreaths and the decoration of our Christmas trees all prompt us into praise. "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9).

Draw the curtains, stoke up the fire, turn on the lights, curl up on the sofa, snuggle down under the duvet, take a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate - breath out and relax. Invite God's Holy Spirit to be at work in you, though and around you this winter. Enjoy the short days and long nights for there is much to be discovered and discerned.

Every blessing Revd Craig Bishop

Revd Jon Barwood Tel: 07777 148880 Email: jonbarwood@btinternet.com

A little Christmas Sodoku for you—solution on page 28

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Spotlight on Gordon Daffurn and his Roller Pigeons

This month I happened to catch sight of a group of birds in the skies over Stratford Road. Whilst I admired then somersaulting overhead, I got chatting with their proud owner, Gordon. He told me that they are Birmingham Roller pigeons which is a breed of domesticated roller pigeon, so named, as they originated in Birmingham. They were developed via selective breeding for their ability to do rapid backward somersaults while flying. He kindly agreed to tell me more about his interest.

How long have you been keeping Roller Pigeons?

I've kept and bred them for over 30 years.

How many birds do you have?

I have 90 birds at the moment and they all run. I keep them in lofts in my garden.

What about breeding? How many do you breed?

I breed about 50 birds every year because you tend to lose quite a few to birds of prey like peregrine falcons.

When they roll, how far do they drop?

It can be anything from 10ft to 50ft.

Are there competition events for 'rolling'?

Yes, always throughout the summer and subject to the weather they can fly all through the year. Events started around Birmingham but now it is a worldwide hobby, with a World Cup judged over many countries across several months.

Thank you, Gordon and let's all keep looking out for a sight of these amazing birds!





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Wednesday over 60s Club

Our meeting in November was a buzzy one, held on the 5th, we welcomed Mike Tenant a local Beekeeper, Mike gave us an insight into the world of bee keeping. Mike shared his experiences and showed us how a beehive worked. It was very informative and was enjoyed by all.

The afternoon was rounded off by handing out birthday cards, having our usual raffle, and catching up with friends over tea, coffee, and cake.

The Club meet the first Wednesday of the month and our next meeting in on 3rd of December, at the Village Hall @ 2.00pm, where we are looking forward to welcoming the children of Honeybourne school who are coming to sing carols for us.

New members are always welcome, why not pop along, meet and make new friends, we would love to see you.

Trip to Coventry

On 17th December, our monthly trip is to the city of Coventry, where you can explore the city's medieval cathedral or just browse around the shops. All are welcome to join us on this day out; you do not have to be a member of the Wednesday Club to come along. The cost of the trip is £15, if you want to know more or to book a seat, please call Pam on 07966 871862.



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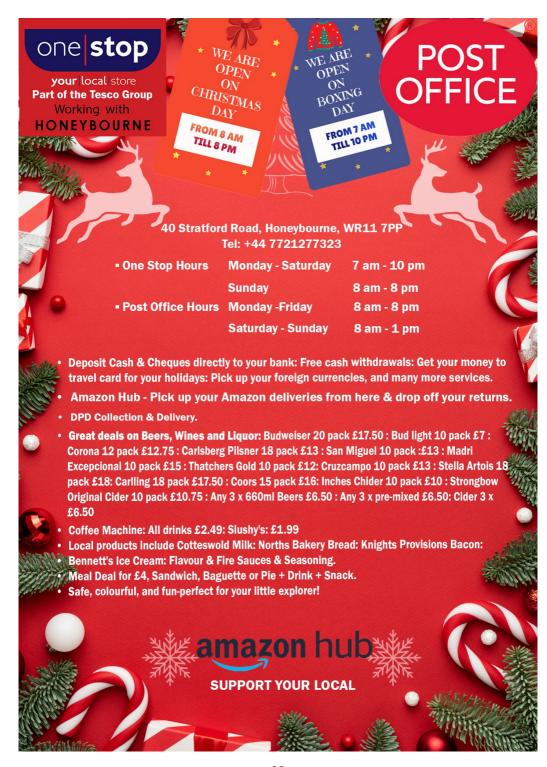
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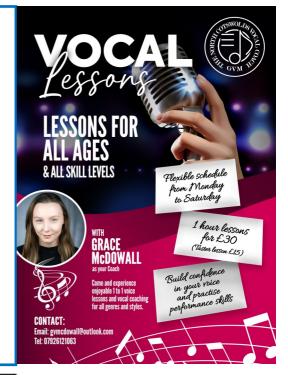
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Tue 16 Dec, 8pm - Festive Folk: Churchfitters, £19
Sun 21 Dec, 2.30pm - Solstic Morris Dancing & folk session
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Too tidy? Not me! By Honey Wildbourne

I don't have any mature trees in my relatively new garden and so the leaf fall is sparse. The beds look pretty tidy. I wonder if my neighbour will think I'm a bit strange if I ask for a bag of fallen leaves? He has great piles of them around his large copper birch. I have recently heard the insistent drone of leaf blowers around the village and seen brown "garden waste" bins overflowing with crunchy russet-coloured leaves and I have felt a little leaf envy. Autumn tidying appears to be in full swing here in Honeybourne.

As the temperature drops and we head into winter there are many species – from invertebrates to mammals - that are looking for a place to hunker down until spring. Thick carpets of leaves offer a vital haven for many small creatures including amphibians such as toads, frogs and newts, as well as insects of many varieties such as butterflies, spiders and ladybirds. It is true that these layers of leaves are very tempting to ground feeding birds and that some of the inhabitants of this "haven" may be eaten during the leaner months of winter, but, to quote the musical, it's just "the circle of life"!

After having spotted a visiting hedgehog family during the summer, I also hope that a pile of leaves in a quiet corner of the garden might offer one of them bedding in which to hibernate. There's a gap under my shed that looks cosy enough to offer a home.

Where leaf litter is concerned, perhaps the little-loved group who benefit themselves, as well as gardeners, are the detritivores. Apart from having a name that sounds like the villain in a comic book, detritivores are the garden's own clean up and recycling crew.

Earthworms, woodlice and slugs process leaves by ingesting them and returning the nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous to the soil, thus making it available to our cultivated plants. Also, in the detritivore crew, are fungi and bacteria (the good sort) that colonise the leaf litter and, through secreted enzymes, break the leaves down. One way or another, by the end of winter, most of the leaves are likely to have been incorporated into

the soil, increasing the level of humus and making our heavy clay soil more friable.

By allowing my garden beds to be a little "untidy" I hope to be rewarded by a thriving and balanced ecosystem.

Maybe I should ask for two bags!







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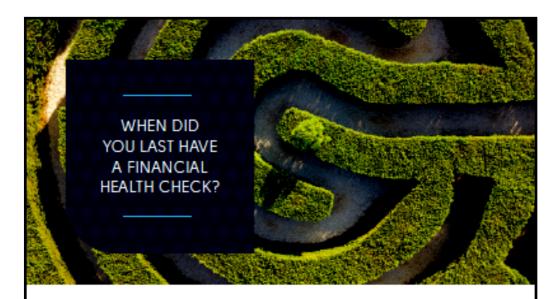
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