

Honeybourne Village News



Info : Local : News

August 2026



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Welcome to August 2026

Have you been hiding from the heat or enjoying the sunshine? However you've been dealing with the heatwave lately, we hope everyone is well and making the most of the BBQ weather. Let's take a look at some recent summery **good news stories!**

Worcestershire - Who's up for **tennis**? Inspired by success at Wimbledon, Worcester City Council is offering **free** access to tennis and pickleball courts this summer at Cripplegate Park, and Gheluvelt Park. The courts will be free to use on Wednesdays from 15 July to 12 August, from 5pm - 8pm. On weekends, the courts can be booked for free from 18 July to 16 August, between 2pm - 6pm. You can book the courts online and all ages and abilities are welcome!

UK - Free summer travel! From 1 August to 31 August 2026, anyone aged 5 to 15 years can access **free bus travel** in England. This is part of the Great British Summer Savings scheme, which will also include reduced prices on children's meals at restaurants, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas and, entry to summer holiday attractions like theme parks and soft play centres. Be sure to take advantage of free travel this summer!

Europe - Breathe easy! Air pollution is at its lowest point in decades. Thanks to years of successful environmental policy, air quality has improved by 3-5% across Europe since 2010. The increasing rollout of electric cars is believed to be a major contributor to the new air quality statistics. Anyone fancy a summer jaunt to Europe?

Honeybourne Village Fete—Thank you to all the team from the Fete, for another fantastic event. Thanks to all the organisers, the helpers, and thank you to people of Honeybourne for their support. All the very best from the Honeybourne Village 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 in 2026 is the 17:00hrs on 17th of the month

Student Awards.

Many congratulations to all the ex-Honeybourne Primary students who received awards at the Chipping Campden School Awards evenings recently.

Special congratulations should go to Emily Chorley who received the Pye Cup for being the highest achieving student in their first year at Secondary School. Emily, (pictured here with deputy Principal Miss Dunn), enjoys English and Art at School, and plays Cricket and Music in her spare time.



RAF Honeybourne Memorial

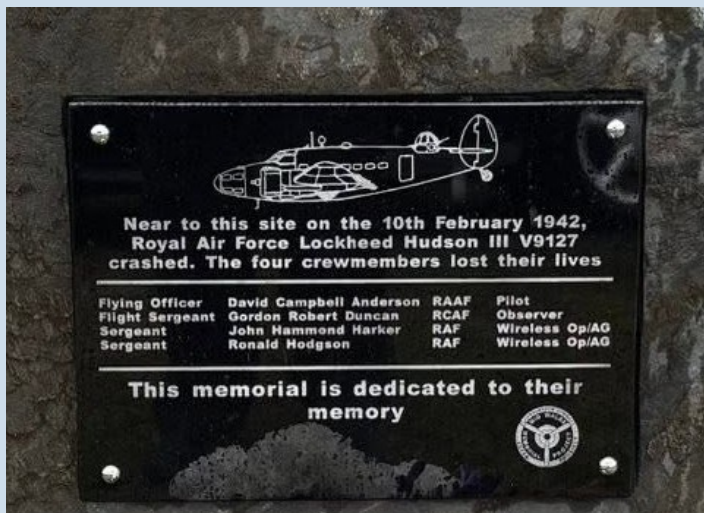
A couple of months ago, a memorial was unveiled in Mid Wales. It was dedicated to four men, who lost their lives when Lockheed Hudson V9127 crashed just outside Aberystwyth. The aircraft took off from RAF Honeybourne on the 10th February 1942.

The crew departed RAF Honeybourne at 1100LT on a test flight consisting of navigation tests and fuel consumption check. While cruising in limited visibility due to poor weather conditions, the twin engine airplane impacted the slope of a hill located near Ponterwyd, some 10 miles east of Aberystwyth. The airplane was destroyed by impact forces and all four crew members were killed.

Crew :

F/O David Campbell Anderson, pilot,
F/Sgt Gordon Robert Duncan, observer,
Sgt John Hammond Harker, wireless operator and air gunner,
Sgt Ronald Hodgson, wireless operator and air gunner.

More photos and videos of the event are on the Mid Wales Memorial Project - MWMP Facebook page.



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@worcestershires.gov.uk

Parish Council News.

With the long summer evenings now here, it's the perfect time to get out and explore more of our beautiful village on foot. You'll find a new "Walks" tab on the Parish Council website (honeybourne-pc.gov.uk), in the menu bar between "Gallery" and "Contact Us" — and we're delighted to share the first route: Tales and Trails — A Circular Walk Around Honeybourne Village, produced by the Friends of Honeybourne Station.

This gentle 2.5-mile circular walk takes around an hour to complete, making it a perfect outing for an afternoon stroll. The terrain is flat with no stiles, mostly on good footpaths, so it's suitable for most abilities — whether you're a family with children, walking the dog, or simply keen to get to know your surroundings a little better. Do bear in mind the paths may be muddy after wet weather, so sturdy footwear is recommended.

Starting from Honeybourne Station, the walk winds through the village and surrounding countryside, taking in many of Honeybourne's historic landmarks along the way. You'll pass the site of the former RAF Honeybourne airfield, St Ecgwin's Church, Cow Honeybourne Church, the Thatched Tavern, and the site of the former Honeybourne Sheep Sale — each with its own story to tell.

Along the route you'll discover more about the village's railway heritage, its Roman and Saxon origins along Buckle Street, and the farming history still visible in the landscape today. It's a lovely way to see Honeybourne with fresh eyes, even if you've lived here for years.

Why not make a day of it — with a stop at one of the village's pubs along the way for a drink or bite to eat, or simply bring a picnic to enjoy en route.

You can download the full illustrated walk leaflet, complete with map and directions, from the PC website https://honeybourne-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/CIRCULAR_WALK_1_A5_4.pdf

This is just the first of several walks now being added to the Parish Council website, with more circular routes around Honeybourne planned over the coming months — so do keep checking back for new routes to explore.

Heath Jobs Chair- Honeybourne Parish Council

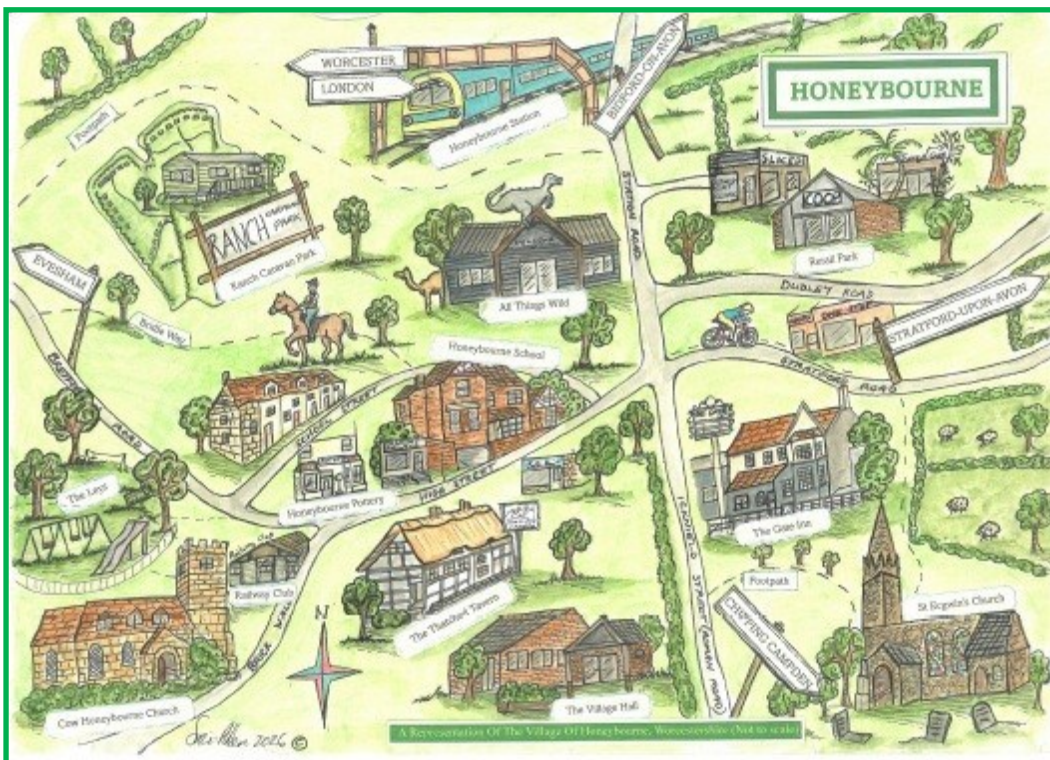
Members of Honeybourne Parish Council

Heath Jobs (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 clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk



Honeybees W.I June Meeting

Appropriately our speaker tonight came to talk to us about the weather, considering monthly temperatures have been broken this month. Ian Pickering bought his 'Weather Road Show', for our entertainment. Through video Ian showed us an array of weather disasters over many years. 1886 was the worst year for hurricanes across the world, a record still to be broken. Here in England 1976, we witnessed a long hot summer with spectacular thunderstorms and winds up to one hundred miles an hour.

The Gulf Stream is a warm ocean current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico and influences the climate of the United States and Northern Europe. The Jet Streams are fast flowing air currents that steers the weather systems.

Ian also explained there are ten different types of clouds which produce different weather conditions, from thin wispy clouds which indicate fair weather, to the heavy dense thunder clouds.

A very interesting and informative talk.

Our evening finished with a raffle and refreshments.

Anyone interested in joining us will be very welcome and can find more information on our Facebook page or telephone 01386830517.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



HONEYBOURNE ALLOTMENT GARDENS

Plots Available — Come and Grow With Us!

Grow Your Own

Is there anything more satisfying than stepping outside, picking your own vegetables, and knowing exactly where your food has come from? If you have ever thought about having an allotment, now is a perfect time to take the plunge — because plots are currently available at Honeybourne Allotment Gardens.

Whether you are an experienced grower or a complete beginner, an allotment offers something for everyone. There is the simple pleasure of getting your hands in the soil, the reward of watching seeds become something you can actually eat, and the quiet satisfaction of a productive afternoon outdoors. Nothing beats the taste of a tomato you have grown yourself, or pulling up carrots that were in the ground just an hour before they reach the dinner table.

But it is not just about the produce. Allotments bring people together. Our plot holders are a friendly and welcoming bunch — always happy to share tips, offer advice, or simply have a chat over the fence. You will find yourself swapping ideas with neighbouring plot holders, sharing surplus courgettes (there are always surplus courgettes!), and becoming part of a like-minded community of people who share a love of growing.

Honeybourne Allotment Gardens is a well-established site managed day-to-day by the Honeybourne Allotment Gardens Association, with support from Honeybourne Parish Council. Plots are available at an affordable annual rent, and the site benefits from facilities including water supply and secure access.

Thinking of joining us?

For more information or to enquire about plot availability, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk

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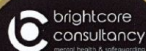


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Gardening Tips for August

August is the month when the garden is at its most generous. Borders are full of colour, vegetables are cropping well, and it's a good time to enjoy the fruits of your hard work while also preparing for the seasons ahead.

Water wisely during dry spells, giving plants a thorough soak early in the morning or later in the evening. Containers, hanging baskets and greenhouse plants dry out particularly quickly and may need watering every day in hot weather.

Keep deadheading roses, dahlias, cosmos, sweet peas and other summer flowers to encourage more blooms. Tie in tall plants that may be blown over by summer winds, and cut back early-flowering perennials once they have finished to keep borders looking tidy.

The vegetable garden should be producing beans, courgettes, tomatoes, cucumbers, beetroot and potatoes. Harvest little and often to keep crops coming. If you have spare space, sow lettuce, spinach, rocket and radishes for late summer and autumn salads.

Continue feeding tomatoes with a high-potash fertiliser and pinch out the tops of outdoor tomato plants towards the end of the month to help ripen the remaining fruit before cooler weather arrives.

Now is an excellent time to take cuttings from favourite shrubs such as lavender, rosemary, fuchsia and penstemon. They root well at this time of year and provide free plants for next season.

Lawns may look a little tired if we've had a dry summer. Resist cutting the grass too short, as slightly longer grass copes much better with warm weather. Most lawns will green up again once the rain returns.

Keep ponds topped up if water levels fall, using collected rainwater where possible. Continue to provide fresh water for birds, bees and hedgehogs, especially during hot weather.

Finally, spend a few moments simply enjoying the garden. Whether it's watching butterflies on the buddleia, listening to the hum of bees, or sharing surplus vegetables with neighbours, August reminds us why gardening is such a rewarding pastime.





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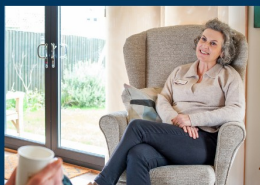
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FUTURE EVENTS

****Gin Tasting Event – Date to be confirmed ☺****

Thursday morning coffee and cake – join us for a nice cup of coffee and cake in the garden on the patio under an umbrella and try out our new patio furniture. ☺

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 6 th Aug	Gentle Yoga 9:45am – 10:45	Zumba with Lesley 9.30am-10.30am	
		Wed Club 2:00pm – 4:00pm 5 th Aug	Senior Stretch Class 1pm- 3pm			
Kids Theatre Group 3:45pm – 5:45pm				Healthy Worcestershire 2:00pm – 4:00pm		
WI – 17 th Aug 7:00pm – 10:00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6:00pm– 7:00pm	Men's Pilates with Nicky 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6:30pm – 7:30pm ~ Life Drawing 13 th Aug 7:45pm – 10:00pm	Short Mat Bowls Group 7.30pm-9.30pm		

All classes require booking to attend.

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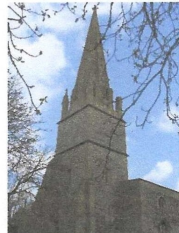
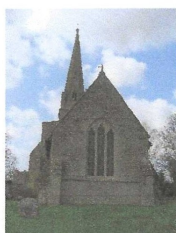


St. Ecgwin's church in Honeybourne is an old medieval church which has altered over time. As a result, the building has lots of interesting features: see how many of the following you can spot just from the path outside, and how many points you can score.

The church consists of three parts: the chancel at the eastern end, the nave in the middle, and the tower, which is nearest the gate. Parts of the chancel are the earliest, dating to the late 13th century.

	Points
How many external doors does the church have? Score 5 points for each door you can spot.	
Little windows high in a building are called clerestory windows. Score 10 points when you've found all four clerestory windows on the south of the nave.	
Weather vanes are situated high on buildings to ensure they catch the wind direction. Score 5 points if you can spot Honeybourne church's weather vane and another 5 if you can recognise what animal it is.	
The nave was re-roofed in the 15 th century. Score 10 points if you can see the line of the older, steeper roof on the tower.	
Score 5 points if you can find the buttress that supports the tower and stops it leaning.	
Medieval churches often had niches for statues on the outside. Score 20 points if you can find the empty niche at Honeybourne.	
Score 10 points if you can identify what material the porch is roofed with.	
The war memorial celebrates the soldiers who died in which war? Score 10 points if you can work this out.	
How many parts are there to the window at the east end? Score 10 points when you have worked this out.	
Total number of points scored (maximum 100 points)	

Honeybourne Church Council hopes you have enjoyed this tour of the church's exterior.



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Z is for Zepher .. the west wind

Have you ever looked up high at Honeybourne's church spire – and noticed something on top of it? There is a wind vane in the shape of a cockerel perched high on the top of the spire, making it the highest part of the church.

The wind vane (or weather vane as they are often called) means we can tell what direction the wind is coming from. The cockerel turns easily on its metal shaft. When the wind changes direction, it rotates until the head is facing into the direction the wind is coming from, and pressure from the wind means it stays in that position. Look up the next time you are passing the church and see where the wind is coming from!

But Honeybourne's wind vane does not just function as indicator of wind direction. It is part of the church's lightning conductor system, too. If lightning should strike the church, then it is most likely to be attracted to the wind vane as that is the highest point, and the lightning would then be conducted to earth through a metal rod, and the church would be safe.

We don't know anything about the history of our wind vane, although we do know that the very top of the spire blew down in a storm in the early eighteenth century, and had to be replaced.

Looking ahead to November - 'Ribbons for Remembrance'

In past years the 'crafty' folk of Honeybourne have got busy to create beautiful knitted and crocheted poppies that we have used to create the poppy 'swoosh' and the bands around the trees in the churchyard for Remembrance.

This year, we would like to ask for your support to create 'Ribbons for Remembrance' by looping ribbons onto the gates into the churchyard. I'm sure you will agree that you don't need to be crafty to participate in this!



Please save any ribbons you get until November - all colours/widths/lengths/materials are welcome. We would love you to participate by placing your ribbons to honour your loved ones and mark our Remembrance event.

Thank you.

An Album Review, WOW! Signal, by Muse

After a string of highly experimental, and deeply polarizing records, Muse have returned with their tenth studio album, *The Wow! Signal*. Released in June 2026, the album is a sweeping, widescreen sci-fi blockbuster that manages to ground its massive, interstellar concepts in raw, earthly heartbreak.

Named after the mysterious, unexplained 1977 deep-space radio transmission, this 10-track record feels less like a band trying to keep up with modern trends and more like a definitive, career-spanning celebration of everything that made them a stadium conquering force in the first place.

If you fell off the Muse train sometime after *Black Holes and Revelations* (2006) or felt cold towards 2022's *Will of the People*, *The Wow! Signal* is the olive branch you've been waiting for. It is easily their most consistent, emotionally resonant, and satisfying album in nearly two decades.

The secret sauce here is the balance. Much of this emotional gravity stems from frontman Matt Bellamy's late-2025 split from his wife, Elle Evans. Instead of hiding entirely behind his usual layers of abstract political paranoia, Bellamy's lyrics are incredibly vulnerable, using the vast emptiness of outer space as a metaphor for personal isolation.

The Wow! Signal is the sound of a legendary band having fun again while refusing to play it safe. By blending the operatic heavy metal of their early years with genuine, heart-on-sleeve vulnerability, Muse have delivered an album that feels both classic and completely revitalized.

Some of the key tracks to listen out for

The Dark Forest. A brilliant, 5-minute opener that acts as a spiritual sequel to *Knights of Cydonia*. Inspired by the dark forest hypothesis, it features a soaring Latin choir and orchestral strings.

Nightshift Superstar. Driven by Chris Wolstenholme's exceptionally slick, heavy bassline, this is classic Muse space-60's glam at its finest.

Shimmering Scars. (possibly my favourite) The emotional epicenter of the record. Built on a delicate piano line and a roaring pipe organ, it's a painful, beautiful exploration of romantic collapse.

Cryogen. Dusts off the legendary, swirling fuzz-guitar tones of the *Origin of Symmetry* era. The heavy, syncopated riff is an absolute monster.

Hush (feat. Ellie Goulding). A surprising collaboration where Goulding's ethereal vocals blend beautifully with Bellamy's over a heavy, driving electronic beat.





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Church Services - August 2026				
	Pebworth	Dorsington	Honeybourne	Willersey
2 nd August Trinity 9			9.00 am Holy Communion (Traditional language)	10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)
9 th August Trinity 10	11.00 am Holy Communion (Modern language)		11.00 am Family Morning Praise	9.00 am Holy Communion (Traditional language)
Saturday 15 th August				6.00 pm Hymns & Pimms at St Nicholas Church, Saintbury
16 th August Trinity 11			11.00 am Holy Communion (Modern language)	11.00 am All Age Service
23 rd August Trinity 12	11.00 am Family Service			10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)
30 th August Trinity 13	11.00 am Benefice Service of Holy Communion (Modern language) and Baptism at Pebworth			
6 th September Trinity 14			9.00 am Holy Communion (Traditional language)	10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)

Sidesmen, readers and intercessors at Honeybourne:

	2 nd August	9 th August	16 th August	6 th September
Sidesman	Sylvia Matthews	Teresa Banks	Anne Jones	Sylvia Matthews
Reader	Elizabeth Rose	Anne Magee	Lesley O'Connell Edwards	Teresa Banks
Intercessor	Minister	Mike Edwards	Minister	Minister

Vicar's Letter – 'Walking with the Great Gardener'

Recently I have been reading 'The Great Gardener: Learning to Walk Daily in the Presence of God' by Jo Claire. It's a book that speaks deeply into what lies at the heart of the Christian life.

I have always found that the natural world reveals something of the character and beauty of God. The image of God as the gardener of the human heart, I therefore find to be a particularly powerful one. Just as a skilled gardener nurtures growth, removes what hinders, and patiently cultivates beauty, so God seeks to tend our hearts and lives.

The author observes that when we try to manage life entirely on our own, we can become weary, overwhelmed, and spiritually unfruitful. Many of us will, I suspect, recognise this, especially when we attempt to control our emotions, wellbeing, future, circumstances, and to carry burdens we were never meant to bear alone.

Yet God longs for us to flourish by allowing him to cultivate the garden of our hearts. Trusting God can be challenging - surrender does not come naturally to us – yet we are reminded that placing our lives in God's hands is not a risk, because our hope rests in the One who loves us perfectly.

One of the book's most beautiful themes is its reflection on the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve flourished because they walked daily in God's presence. They knew who God was, and they knew who they themselves were. These gifts were damaged by the Fall, and humanity has lived with the consequences ever since. Yet we live not only with the reality of what has been lost, but also with the promise of what will one day be restored.

God remains committed to restoring what has been broken. Though he is beyond our full understanding, he continually reveals himself through Scripture, the beauty of creation, and through his steadfast love. God is an active presence; not distant or detached. He cares about what concerns us, rejoices in our joys, and shares in our sorrows.

We can prepare for that restoration by learning once again to walk daily in his presence, through our relationship with Christ, in which we discover our true identity, purpose, worth, and security. While we don't yet experience that reality in its fullness, we are already participants in God's great work of restoration.

The book concludes with a hopeful vision. One day God will walk fully among his people again, and all things will be made new. Until then, the world is being carefully tended, repaired, and restored under the loving care of the Great Gardener.

It's an encouraging message, full of wisdom and hope. So, let us be reminded that the Christian life is not simply about believing certain truths, but about walking daily with Jesus, allowing him to shape and nurture us as we journey towards the fullness of his Kingdom.



Honeybourne Bereavement Café

An opportunity to meet others in a similar situation offering mutual support and friendship within a safe place.

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