

THE Grapevine

December 17

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



SING CHRISTMAS with the HEATH SINGERS

Wednesday 6th December, 2017
Thursday 7th December, 2017

at 8p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHAPEL ROAD,
FLACKWELL HEATH

*£10 Donation to include interval
refreshments*

Tickets: Peggy Woolhouse 01628 523464



Our Day Centre Your Help – Tesco's Cash!

TESCO Bags of Help

Tesco Bags of Help Initiative gives money raised by the sale of carrier bags in stores to local community projects. Flackwell Heath and Loudwater Day Centre has now been shortlisted to get an award in this Tesco region, along with two other projects. How much depends on customers voting by using tokens given to them in store each time they shop. Votes are counted every two months; for this award that's November and December 2017. An award would pay for redecoration and some basic maintenance and repairs.

So PLEASE, when you shop at TESCO, make sure you are given a TOKEN and use it to VOTE for our Day Centre.

Flackwell Heath Methodist Church encourages you to look out for our travelling Nativity and stray sheep at venues around the village throughout advent. Then come and tell us who you saw and where; and see them being reunited at our family-friendly, fun and interactive Christingle Service, 4pm Christmas Eve, Flackwell Heath Methodist Church, Heath End Road.

The Christmas Story



These delightful characters were made by Sylvia Berry of Liskeard, Cornwall, mother of Vicky Everitt, Young Families Worker of the Methodist congregation – Ed.



Flackwell Heath
Residents' Association

By the time you read this, the centre of the village should be lit up! Thanks are due to Liz Johncock for her tireless work over the past five years to make the transition to new LED lights.

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Lights Event at Jubilee Gardens, preceded by the children's party at the Community Centre. Many thanks to all involved, particularly FHCA for their contributions and a big thank you to Sainsbury's for their generous donation to the party food.

Thank you to all the groups we have worked with through the year, we look forward to new projects in the coming year, including a membership drive. All that remains is for me to wish, on behalf of the whole FHRA Team, all villagers a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.

Chloe Andrews-Jones, Chairman FHRA

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Michael Thornton ND, DO

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Flackwell Amblers

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

If you would like to join us on Thursday 28 December 2017, The Flackwell Amblers will be going for a Local walk. We will be meeting at the ex-Budgen's car park at 10am. This walk will last approximately 2 hours and is undertaken at your own risk. Please wear walking boots or strong shoes NB This walk may be subject to change at short notice due to prevailing weather conditions. New walkers always welcome - just turn up on the day. Please note there will not be a walk in January 2018.

C. Barker

Bonfire Night in Flackwell!



The Flackwell Heath firework display took place on Saturday 4 November at the end of Lawrence Way off Chapel Road. The annual event raises money for three charities within the village - Carrington PTA, Friends of Juniper Hill, and the 1st Flackwell Heath Scout Group - with profits from the event being split equally between the three organisations.

This year's display saw approximately 2,500 attendees; who, collectively, raised around £9,000 for the charities, meaning a very healthy £3,000 each! The money is always very gratefully received, and spent on such things as new dictionaries and thesauruses (or is that thesauri?) at Carrington, playground game-floor markings at Juniper, and various pieces of camping equipment for the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The first celebrations of the night were from Ben Cardy, Sophie and Oliver Hatfield, and Alice Cardy who won the 'Best Guy' competition (judged by the heads of Carrington Infant, Carrington Junior and Juniper Hill school); shortly followed by Stevie and Mia White (pictured) who were the excited winners of the raffle to push the big red button to start the fireworks! Throughout the evening the 2,500-strong crowd drank their way through 600 pints of beer, warmed themselves with 78 bottles of mulled wine and 64 litres of hot chocolate, chomped through 896 hot-dogs (and 20kg of onions!) - and munched through a whole cubic metre of popcorn!

The event wouldn't have been possible without the tireless support of about 100 volunteers, including members of the Guide District and Residents' Association, who gave their time and effort freely. They excelled themselves not only in supporting the three charities, but in contributing to what has become a key event within Flackwell Heath's calendar - and brought what seemed like the whole village together as one!

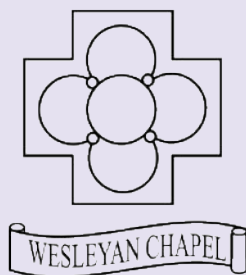
Finally, we should extend a massive thanks to the core fireworks' team of Rory Maguire, Charles Colton, Mark Averill, Mark Nunn, John Urquhart, Kevin Hughes, Suzie Badham and Stefanie Preston - whose dedication towards organising this successful event was second to none. Planning such an evening is a massive undertaking, and I'm sure you'll agree that the Flackwell Heath Village Bonfire Association produced a fantastic firework display once again!

If you have any comments or feedback on this year's event, or have any suggestions as to how to make next year's event even better, then please feel free to email them to fhfireworks@mail.com.

Until then, we hope to see many of you again next year!

John Urquhart

*On behalf of The Flackwell Heath Village
Bonfire Association*



FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 3 December, 11am – TOYS AND GIFTS SERVICE for all the family, followed by a family Christmas lunch – all welcome; if possible, please put your name on the list in our vestibule so we have an idea of numbers.

Wednesday 6 December, 9 – 11.30am – CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH; lots of fun including a special visitor!

Tuesday 12 December, 9.15 – 11.45am – TIME OUT FOR BUSY MUMS. This group for Mums meets on the second Tuesday of every month during term-time; their children are cared for in the crèche. Come and enjoy coffee, chat and support while enjoying activities. To book a place in the crèche, please contact Vicky on 07979 541874.

Saturday 16 December, 10am - 12 noon – WHO LET THE DADS OUT??? For Dads, granddads, uncles and any male carers to spend time with their under-fives. Bacon butties available!

Sunday 17 December, 4pm – FAMILY CAROL SERVICE by candlelight. Come and start the Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols and readings. Coffee and mince pies afterwards!

CHRISTMAS EVE, 4pm – CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all the family led by Rev Nick Thompson.

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10.30am – FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE. Bring some presents to show us!

Sunday 7 January, 3pm – COVENANT SERVICE. A traditional Methodist service in which we have the opportunity to renew our commitment to God as originally encouraged by John Wesley in 1755.

Tuesday 9 January, 9.15 - 11.45am – TIME OUT FOR BUSY MUMS.

Saturday 20 January, 10am - 12noon – WHO LET THE DADS OUT???

Sunday 21 January, 11am – SUNDAY LIVE! with food from 10.15. A service



Christ Church has three services EVERY Sunday: at 9am a more traditional Holy Communion service with hymns; at 10.30am a more contemporary service with a full range of children's and youth groups, and at 6.30pm a quieter evening service to end the day.

The Christmas story is full of unlikely characters. Those on the edge keep finding themselves at the centre of the action. The unimportant get starring roles. The forgotten are the first to know. It's the story of the unexpected. But nothing here is accidental. With God, there are no outsiders. We are all welcome.

And you are welcome to celebrate Christmas at your Parish Church to remember the birth of Jesus Christ!

Christmas services include:

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER – ADVENT SUNDAY at 10.30am: 'Advent for Everyone' – an all-age event for Advent where gifts of new toys, new men's clothing and toiletries may be brought for distribution through London City Mission to those in need.

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER at 6.30pm: 'Rock the Manger' – a loud & lively celebration of Christmas.

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER at 10.30am Family Nativity followed by mince pies & refreshments. And at 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER from 2pm to 4pm: Messy Christmas – Christmas fun for the whole family.

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER – **CHRISTMAS EVE** at 4pm: Crib Service – the Christmas story for families with younger children. And at 11.15pm: Traditional Midnight Holy Communion.

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER – **CHRISTMAS DAY** at 10.30am: a short Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning.

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2018: Services at 9am (Holy Communion), 10.30am: ('Worship for Everyone') and 6.30pm (Compline) to celebrate Epiphany.

New Year resolutions... Must get to grips with my finances... Must discover what Christian faith is all about... Must get some creative ideas on parenting. Good news! Coming in the New Year... **CAP Money**, a free three-session course on managing your money well... the all-new **ALPHA Course** – a fantastic way to explore the Christian faith for yourself in the company of others... and **'Time Out for Parents'** Course for those with children with additional needs (starts 23 February).

Christ Church hosts **'You-nique'**, a regular monthly support group for parents of children with additional needs, on 13 December and 10 January. It meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month for coffee, 9.30am to 11.30am.

More details of the above are available from the Church website (www.ccfh.org.uk) and the Church Office in Chapel Road: 01628 533004 (9.00am – 1.00pm Monday to Friday)

for young families and the young-at-heart.

Sunday 28 January, 6.30pm – CELEBRATE! A lively music-based service led by Rev Nick Thompson.

All weekday groups meet at their usual times, with Sunday services at 11am and 6.30pm, except where there is an afternoon service as specified above. Other activities and information can be found on our website www.fhmc.org.uk; or please contact our senior steward Suzanne Soper on 01494 673403, or our minister Rev Nick Thompson on 01628 483985.

www.fhmc.org.uk

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prayer.requests@fhmc.org.uk



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Neighbourhood Watch News

I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable time at Halloween and on Bonfire Night. Now it's 'the final countdown' to Christmas and another New Year!

Christmas Shopping

Whilst many of us do a lot of our shopping online these days - and isn't The Internet a wonderful thing? - those of us who prefer to browse the shops for Christmas presents should be aware of some basic rules to protect our purchases.

Do not leave all your shopping on display in your car whilst you go off to have a well-earned 'cuppa'. Make sure that you put everything in the boot of your car, away from prying eyes and the temptation for a quick 'smash and grab'. Anything that is left visible in your car in a car park is a potential target. Apart from the obvious things such as laptops, mobile phones and the like, we have had reports of vehicles being broken into for a packet of mints, some doughnuts and an old jacket on the way to a charity shop!

Similarly, if you like to display your Christmas 'goodies' under the Christmas Tree, try not to make them too obvious if your tree can be seen by passers-by, and close the curtains at night. If you plan to purchase any expensive presents, check that your Household Contents Insurance is adequate for this temporary event, to cover any (hopefully unlikely) burglary.

I send you all my very best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a successful 2018.

For further information about any of these topics or about Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

David Gresswell – Area Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath:

Tel: 525019

e-mail: flackwell-nhwatch@talktalk.net

Police General & Non-emergency number:
101

Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour):
01494 421 087

Crimestoppers (Anonymous):
0800 555 111

Trading Standards (Consumer Direct):
0345 4 04 05 06

Cyberaware – <http://cyberaware.gov.uk>

ACTION FRAUD:
0300 123 2040
(<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>)

The Information Commissioner's Office:
0303 123 1113

NHS: 111



Flackwell Heath Community Library

Halloween Competition Winners

We would like to thank all the children who put so much effort into producing a colourful picture, designing a fun book cover or writing a scary story for the Halloween competition. With an amazing, almost 50 entries, it was very difficult for the judges to decide the winners. As a result of this, and of the very high standard, we awarded additional prizes for short stories.

The winners were - Under 7 picture: Blossom Smith; Under 7 story: Ruben Matley; 7-11 picture: Ellie Weedon; 7-11 story: Amaris De La Salle; 12-16 story: Anna Bellamy.

The photo shows the 5 winners who were presented with their prizes on 4th November.

hobbycraft Many thanks to Hobbycraft who donated the prizes for each group.



Photo: Alison Mayall

Christmas Crafts

Once again we are inviting young children to come along with their parents 10.15am – 12.30pm on 2 December, to make Christmas decorations & cards. Parents are invited to stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while they wait. There is NO CHARGE and NO NEED TO BOOK, just turn up.

Flackwell Heath Community Library, Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AA Tel: 0845 230232 email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net

Find us on web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries



Competition

StreetArtDrop will donate a picture as the prize for the winner of a competition with 5 questions:

- 1 Date of foundation of the earliest chapel in Flackwell Heath.
- 2 Address of Jamiroquai mural.
- 3 Where can you see a mural of a foreign field?
- 4 How many claws on the front foot of a green dragon?
- 5 Answer the clue in the noticeboard.

The answers to all these questions can be seen from an outdoor public area in Flackwell; please do not intrude on private property, there is no need to do so.

Please send your answers by 8 January 2018, to The Grapevine at the address on the back page. If there is more than one entry with 5 correct answers, the winner will be drawn by lot. The Editor's decision is final. Answers will be published in February.

StreetArtDrop

What is 'Street Art'? Murals on blank walls, perhaps by community groups? Pavement artists' work? Graffiti? The man behind 'StreetArtDrop' produces none of these; he's a self-taught



abstract artist who works on canvas and other bases. He uses acrylic paint, putting it on with a palette knife, a stick, a leaf, scraping with a piece of glass, pouring it, dripping it – using anything except a paintbrush, which he finds limiting. He also uses aerosols and is sponsored by Liquitex.

Never thought 'good at art' at school, he became an engineer. However, when his Nan died he was given a lot of art materials that had belonged to his long-dead father. This gave him the impetus to start painting; – he scoured the internet for demonstrations of techniques.

He found it very hard to get showings in traditional art galleries and decided to try using the street as a gallery. He left a picture in a public place, then advertised its whereabouts on Facebook – free for the taking. This generated a good response and he built up a following over a couple of years. Now he can sell his works and some people collect them. He always signs his work: 'Letts'.

He tends to paint a series of pictures on a theme e.g. 'smudge', 'city', 'space', 'seasonal' or 'football', but they are abstracts. Some people love them, others don't get the point. He does commissions, but never portraits. For example, if you are looking for an original Christmas present for a football fan, he can do a themed work in the team colours.

Letts decided that, after painting in others' studios, it was time to set up on his own. He lives locally and last summer he moved into part of the unit where the Midland Bank used to be in Common Road,

beside the barbers. However, he is not always there.

In November he ran a 'Whole School Art Day' at Loudwater School – every child in the school was given the chance to paint. He has also worked in prisons and with mental health groups.



A man with his own particular vision, Letts is an interesting addition to the Flackwell scene.

Find him on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, @streetartdrop, or email streetartdrop@gmail.com

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Police Cuts cause NAG Chairman to Resign

David Onslow has long been Chairman of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) a liaison group between the Police and the local community. He has been concerned for some time over the falling numbers of front line staff on the Neighbourhood Policing Team (currently one Sergeant, one PC, two PCSOs and one new recruit). They are working valiantly hard to maintain a police presence over the whole of the Hazlemere, Chepping Wycombe and Wye Valley area.

He also perceives a lack of support for the work of the volunteers who operate the Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS). When these were first set up, it was agreed that the speed data obtained would be used by the Police to follow up with their Mobile Camera van and Speed Guns, concentrating on the sites and times of day when speeding was at its worst. Sadly this has rarely happened. There is no point in volunteers providing the MVAS if the data is not used.

David passed on his concerns to the Chief Constable and the replies did not hold up much hope for improvement. In consequence, he has resigned.

I am sure we would all like to thank David for his long service - Ed.

Flackwell Local Area History Group

Talk

'Lesser Known Grand Houses in Bucks' on Monday 22 January 2018, from 7.30pm at the Flackwell Heath Library. Mike Dewey will describe the history of four local grand houses which are not normally open to the public. This is a ticketed event. The tickets will be available at the library from 11 December and are £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL). Please note that tickets will not be available on the night.

The next **Fact Finding Forum** at the Flackwell Heath Library is 12 February 2018 at the Flackwell Heath Library, from 7.15 – 9.00pm. Please join us for a chat and a cuppa.

Family History Research sessions will restart in the New Year on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays between 2 and 4pm. Contact Gill Kyle on 01494 436314 or email address donkyle@btinternet.com to



One of the grand houses whose history and that of the people who have lived there will be described by Mike Dewey

arrange a slot. The sessions cost £2 for 50 minutes plus the cost of any photocopying.



Like us on facebook/Flackwell Heath, Loudwater & Wooburn Local History Group

www.localhistorygroup.org.uk

'Tis the season to be jolly!', BUT.....

Please ensure you remain safe. Don't drink and drive, and check your ride home.

Here are a few tips if you choose a Private Hire vehicle or hail a Taxi from the street.

Private hire -

Book well in advance and ask the price at time of booking. If you have pre-booked a vehicle with a local firm, check the licence plate on the rear of the vehicle, check that it has the council door stickers which will be on the front doors. Check the driver's ID badge. Ask the driver to confirm your name, if he is unable to do this walk away.

Hackney Carriage -

If you choose to take a taxi from a rank or hail one as it passes: check that it has a roof light which says TAXI; this is a requirement set by Wycombe District Council. Check the rear licence plate starts with HC (Hackney Carriage.) Do not try and agree or negotiate a fare as it will always end up costing you more. You can ask for an estimate. Ensure the driver puts his meter on 'rate 1' for any journey that is completed before 11pm or 'rate 2' after 11pm. Ensure the driver takes the shortest route, this will guarantee that you pay the going rate which is set by Wycombe District Council. These rates are for standard size vehicles and non-bank holidays.

If unfortunately you are unwell in the vehicle the maximum soiling charge set by Wycombe District Council is £50. This charge is for the cleaning and for the time the vehicle is off the road.

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Dates for your Diary

December

Saturday 2: Children's Crafts at Library, see page 4

Sunday 3: Juniper Hill Christmas Fayre, 11-3

Wednesday 6

& Thursday 7: Heath Singers Concert, Christ Church, 8pm, see page 1

January 2018

Monday 22: Local History Group Talk: 'Lesser Known Grand Houses in Bucks' see page 6

Two Buckinghamshire GP practices plan to merge

Two Buckinghamshire GP practices are planning to merge— and are calling on their patients to give their views on the proposal.

Hawthornden Surgery in Bourne End and Pound House Surgery in Wooburn Green, which also operates the Orchard Surgery in Bourne End, hope to become a single GP practice from next April.

All three surgeries will remain open and continue to operate as usual under the plans – so patients are unlikely to notice any significant disruption to the services they receive. A merger will give patients greater access to GPs, nurses and other primary care support services. It would combine back office functions to become a single efficient larger GP practice with more resources to draw upon. It should also allow patients to book their appointments with greater ease.

Dr Sarah Buxton, GP at Hawthornden Surgery, said: "This merger will bring benefits for our patients, enabling us as clinicians to continue to offer high quality and diverse services from each of our practice premises, while streamlining some systems and making the most of a greater pool of expertise among our staff. All this should be good news for our patients, and we are eager to hear their feedback so we can address any concerns they might have. Both practices have recently been rated as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission. As a merged practice we want to continue to deliver improved services for all our patients and especially those with long term conditions like diabetes or heart disease, and ensure we are able to better support them with self-care and care planning."

The practices currently serve a broadly similar population, including offering extended opening hours to patients and providing dedicated support to a number of nursing homes.

Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

We have made arrangements for a lunch in January at Wycombe Heights Golf Club. No speaker at the December meeting but hope to have some entertainment.

In November, our speaker, Eileen Gershon, described her experiences in nursing which she began at Addenbrookes Hospital in 1967, aged 18. She loved her career and eventually worked mainly on children's wards. She said how exciting it was when the first liver transplant on a child was performed there. Being in Cambridge meant nurses received plenty of invitations to parties and dances, and was where she met her husband to be.

At the age of 50, she was astounded when her mother gave her every letter Eileen had written home during her nursing career, as she was not aware they still existed. Some time later, having been on a writing course, she was persuaded to publish them in book form and had 2000 copies printed. The proceeds will be donated to Addenbrookes for the accommodation unit for parents whose children are patients there, something not available in her day.

Evening WI

We celebrated our 60th Birthday with guests from other Institutes in our Group. We had a delicious hot meal, and for once we used a caterer (Richard Chalmers and his team). Afterwards, our President, Barbara Dickinson, got us all trying origami – we ended up with lots of little foxes and some slightly less successful birds (they didn't fly well!). Ruth Walne made and decorated a superb cake (see photo) – a treat for both the eye and the palate. A good time was had by all!

The December speaker is Peter Hague on 'Yorkshire Customs'. Visitors welcome, 7.45pm on 2nd Thursday, 14 December, at the Community Centre. In January, Sheila Keatinge will tell us about Madagascar.

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnautov



Patients' registration will be unaffected by the proposed merger.

If you have any specific queries or concerns please write to Anne Ronan (Practice Manager) at Hawthornden Surgery, Wharf Lane, Wooburn Green, Bourne End SL8 5RX, or email her at anne.ronan@nhs.net.

Please submit any comments before 12 February 2018.

Drop in information sessions for members of the public will be held at times and dates to be confirmed.

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Jan Churchouse GRSM LRAM MTC

Janet Churchouse (known to most people in the village as Jan), originates from Brighton but has lived in Flackwell Heath since 1989. She is best known locally for her musical abilities, in particular for her piano playing.



Twickenham. Her next project was to produce three sons, Matthew, Dan and Robert, of whom she is immensely proud. All three were musical so the house soon filled up with 3 violins, trumpet, double bass, bassoon and trombone. Soon after moving to Bucks from West London in 1989 Jan accepted a job in the music department at Davenies Prep School, Beaconsfield; 28 years later she's still there! For much of that time she fulfilled the demanding 'Head of Music' role, currently she works in a part-time capacity as Music Administrator, accompanist for choirs, orchestras, concerts and exams, also as a private piano teacher.

On Monday evenings Jan accompanies 'Amchor' (Amersham Choral Society), which is conducted by an ex-pupil of hers. She says 'The boot is definitely on the

Audiences who attend 'The Heath Singers' concerts will recognise Jan as accompanist to our local ladies' choir, she has also trained and conducted the choir when the need has arisen. Jan attends Christ Church and regularly plays for services (usually 9am but also on other occasions).

Jan began learning to play the piano aged 5 and went on to study piano and clarinet at The Royal Academy of Music, London. After a year at London University Institute of Education, (where she met her husband Paul to whom she has been married for 38 years), she taught at senior school level in Eastbourne, Littlehampton and

other foot now, I have to put in hours of practice and do as Mark says!

Jan has a number of hobbies, in particular dancing with her husband Paul ('Ballroom and Latin - we've been learning for a number of years and ought to be better than we actually are'). Jan and Paul also enjoy playing two piano duets. She loves reading (usually last thing at night), and belongs to a local book group; she goes to the gym (necessity not pleasure!), enjoys travelling, walking and gardening. Jan is looking forward to next February when she will become 'Granny Jannie' to her first grandson (but does not have the time to start knitting).

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Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: Chris Cramer
01628 526129

Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361

Treasurer: Alison Harvey
01628 530186

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www.flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk

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Grapevine

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