

STONELEIGH & ASHAW NEWS



Photo: David Gibson

The Final Winding (see page 1)

FEBRUARY 2011

Stoneleigh Church Clock

Our cover picture this month shows Cec White winding the church clock at St Mary's for the very last time as, during the past few weeks, the clock has been overhauled and an electric winding and control system fitted.

When Smiths of Derby carried out the annual service of the clock in June 2009 it was noticed that the dial was in poor condition with some rotting woodwork; it was recommended that the dial works should be stripped and serviced and the strike weight pulley repaired. At that time it was only possible to undertake essential work. Subsequently, consideration was also given to the possibility of installing automatic winding as has been done in many other churches.

The task of winding the clock had been done by Cec White for the past 20 years and he was quite willing to continue with this weekly task for as long as he remained able. Few of us will have climbed the 18 very narrow, worn, tapering, spiral stone steps that lead to the clock mechanism and for which the only safety aid is a length of old bell rope used as a handrail. Fewer still will have operated the heavy winding handles – 75 rotations each week to keep the clock running and the bell chiming. Cec must have negotiated 40,000 steps in those 20 years – 20000 towards heaven and 20,000 back again, and given those handles nearly 80,000 turns!

Now we have a shiny new clock face and, behind the scenes, an automatic clock. Most of the work is finished and all that remains is to fit the electronic pendulum regulator which will ensure that the clock gives us absolute accuracy. In the meantime, Cec will be chuckling to himself as the 'new fangled mechanics' are gaining more than one minute each week. It was never like that in his day!

So many things are taken for granted and often only appreciated when they cease. We have all taken the time from the church clock without, perhaps, appreciating the dedication of the "weekly winder". Thank you Cec, and now "thank you" to the PCC for ensuring that we can continue to take our time from the church clock; and, of course, thanks go to all those who contributed to church funds to allow the £9935 refurbishment of the church clock.

Ian Smith and David Gibson

STONELEIGH WI

At our Christmas meeting we had a talk on the Victorian Christmas which was followed by 'secret santa' and an excellent supper.

In January the scheduled speaker was unwell and so one of our members, Yvonne Brown, gave a talk on her collection of historic buttons. The Christmas lunch was well attended and very successful – thanks to the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir who supplied the entertainment and sponsored the event.

The December coffee morning was well attended in spite of the inclement weather – thanks to Jim for lighting the fire and helping with the washing up.

Between Christmas and the New Year the Strollers had a walk at Ryton followed by lunch at the Three Horseshoes at Bubbenhall.

The book club and craft group have reconvened in the new year and the theatre group visited the pantomime in Birmingham and the Loft in Leamington.

The speaker for the meeting on the 8th of February is Glynis Gayton and the title of her talk is 'Our Daily Bread'. This is at 7:30pm at the village hall. All are welcome.

The village lunch is on February 1st and on the menu – chicken and pancakes. If you want to come please contact me on 76418301 – or if you can't attend.

Also drop into the club for a coffee and a chat on February 22nd from 10:30 – we'd love to see you.

Liz Sykes

From the Vicarage:

There is an old 'Sunday School Chorus' which goes:

The best book to read is the Bible, the best book to read is the Bible.

If you read it every day, it will help you on your way,

Oh, the best book to read is the Bible.

As you probably know 2011 has been declared the 'Year of the Bible' as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the 'King James Authorised Version'. There are many more modern translations and paraphrases available now, but for lots of people the "King James" still holds a special place in their hearts. They speak of the beauty and majesty of the old language, and how the words they grew up with took root in their hearts so that familiar Bible passages remain there.

To me, however, the beauty and majesty is in the message, not in the language. I grew up at a time when translators were bringing the timeless message of the Good News of God's love for his creation into the language of the late 20th century rather than the early 17th. It helped me to appreciate that it was a message for NOW, not just for the past. It introduced me to a God who is alive and active in his world and with those who commit their lives to follow him. I remember one experience early in my 'adult' Christian life, when I was a member of the youth group at a church in Essex: four of us decided to embark on a 24-hour sponsored Bible Reading. Interestingly, some years later the four individuals became two married couples! What I learnt then, apart from the actual reading, was that it is possible to read the entire New Testament together with about 7% of the Old Testament, out loud in 24 hours – which if expanded means that it would take about 3½ days to read the entire Bible out loud, or about 40 hours to read it to yourself. In other words, 7 minutes per day would let you read the whole Bible in a year. There's a challenge for 2011.

Also, there is a great opportunity to listen to the whole New Testament being read by a variety of actors in forty ½hour sections. It is freely available on the Bible Society website (www.biblesociety.org.uk) under the title You've Got the Time. It is offered as a plan for Lent – but is available now and you can download the whole lot onto your computer or put it on your iPod etc. I don't think King James could have begun to imagine what he had started when he commanded that the Bible be brought to the people through his Authorised Version translation, but as a 'James' myself, I would like to think he would approve.

Whether you read for seven minutes or more, or listen to the ‘podcasts’, the best book to read/listen to is still the Bible.

Jim Perryman

3-PARISH SPOTLIGHT

(See **www.a-lw-s.org.uk** for up-to-date service details.)

The weather certainly ‘enhanced’ the events of December, causing the Police to cancel their Carol Service which was to be held at Leek Wootton, and causing the Vicar to miss the Carol Service at Ashow (which was the same day). However, despite everything, the Christmas celebrations continued and we glorified and worshipped Jesus ‘in the bleak midwinter’ – even at -13°C as was recorded at Ashow on Christmas Morning for the 9.30 service! Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our church buildings especially beautiful for Christmas.

January is always a little quieter – but there have still been some major events. Our Alpha Course reached a belated conclusion (due to a few hiccups in the autumn) and included a day focussing on the Holy Spirit, which was opened up to others who wished to come. The day was interesting, moving and powerful. Why not look out for opportunities to join future Alpha courses and discover what it’s all about. There was also the ‘away day’ for the PCCs of the three parishes, where we (hopefully) built up our sense of unity & fellowship, expanded our vision and expectations, and stepped out into the future with renewed hope and energy. We also joined at Coventry Cathedral to celebrate the licensing of Audrey Rowberry, from Leek Wootton, as Reader within the parishes. Audrey has been involved leading and preaching throughout her time of training, including leading the Advent Breakfasts in December at Stoneleigh Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming her ministry among us even more over the coming months and years. As the month ended, we said a big “Thank you” to Susan Spencer as she retired from her role as Director of Music after many years of faithful service to all the churches.

February sees the next Stoneleigh Film Night, a Marriage Preparation Day for those couples getting married at our churches during 2011, and a variety of different people leading our worship while Jim is in Switzerland for a couple of weeks enjoying the skiing while working as Chaplain to the English-speaking tourists, workers and residents in Zermatt.

Christmas at Ashow 2010

Ashow had two memorable Carol Services by candlelight this year, the Advent one at the end of November, and the Christmas Choral Carols on a particularly snowy and icy night in December. The music organized by Susan Spencer was wonderful and the choir performed brilliantly on both occasions.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who contributed, and also all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas; particularly Diana Holt and Margaret Cotton who created the large arrangements, and Stoneleigh Estate who donated a beautiful tree.

Christmas Day saw a delightful family Holy Communion Service led by Jim Perryman.

The offertory collection for the Carol Service and Christmas Day amounted to £336.24 which was sent to Acorns Children's Hospice in Birmingham this year.

We would also like to thank everyone on the Flower and Cleaning Rotas who have worked so hard over the last year, and also David Wareing who maintains the Churchyard, Neil Collett who winds the Clock, and not forgetting Janet Charlesworth who delivers this Magazine to all in the Village and surrounding area.

Stephen Harvey

ST MARY THE VIRGIN STONELEIGH



Film Night

on

Friday 4th March 2011

at

Stoneleigh Village Hall

6.45 for 7pm start

Earlier start due to length of film

Please check poster in church for details of film

£3.00 (including coffee and cake)

All welcome, feel free to bring your own drinks, cushions or comfy chair

Stoneleigh Handbells

The team was busy in the run up to Christmas, playing at a number of venues in the local area.

We were disappointed not to be playing in Stoneleigh Church at the carol service this year. This was very sad for the team which has always regarded this performance as the highlight of their year. But they did enjoy playing in Stoneleigh Church on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to support the team and have an enjoyable evening out, we are holding our:

Stoneleigh Handbells Quiz Night on

Saturday 12th February 2011

8.00pm start

in Stoneleigh Village Club

We wish everyone a Happy New Year

Wendy Bayliss

Victorian Christmas Fayre

Christmas seems a long time ago, now, and we started early by holding our Fayre on the last weekend of November! It was a bitterly cold night, with a light dusting of snow beginning to fall (a taste of what was to come...) and when the church bells rang out at 5pm for the switch-on of the lights on the village green, and our own Victorian “Lord Leigh” welcomed everyone, it felt a bit like being in a Dickensian Christmas setting.

Very many thanks to all those who made the evening such a success. The Club was the perfect venue, and Jim and his team could not have been more helpful. Those who set up and manned the stalls; those who donated items for the tombolas and raffle; those who made delicious cakes and mince pies; those who decorated the horse-box ready for Father Christmas’ arrival...you know who you are, and the occasion could not have been what it was without you. Huge thanks, too, to the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir whose carol-singing made the night very special, to Will and his team for taking such splendid “Victorian” photographs, and to everyone who entered into the spirit of things by coming dressed in glorious Victorian costumes.

The wonderful sum of £547.74p was made for the “opposition to HS2” fighting-fund, and I owe a great debt of gratitude to the members of the Stoneleigh Action Group who ran with the initial idea of holding the Fayre, just a few weeks in advance. We hope that all the children who visited Father Christmas got what they wanted on December 25th!

Sheila Woolf



HIGH SPEED RAIL - LATEST

The Government has published its revised proposed route for HS2. The proposed route will now pass through Stoneleigh Park, in a cutting, a bit further from Stoneleigh than the original plan, but closer to Ashow; it still badly affects several properties in the parish. The campaign against the scheme as currently envisaged continues. There is to be a public consultation exercise, due be announced shortly, after which the Coalition Government will decide whether or not the scheme should go ahead, and will then provide details of the type of compensation available for those whose properties have to be demolished.

Coventry and Warwickshire are amongst those local authorities who have voted against HS2 amidst fears that it could damage the economy of West Midlands towns and cities, except Birmingham.

Phil Bull attended a recent meeting of the Parish Council which subsequently voted in favour of increasing its precept to support opposition to HS2. This decision is much appreciated.

The Stoneleigh Action Group will announce further activities once the details of the public consultation are announced.

Margaret Wallis

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2010

Once again the response from the Stoneleigh area was magnificent and I would like to give heart-felt thanks not just to those who contributed so generously but also to everyone who helped with the administration of the Appeal. Particular thanks to Dennis Craddock and to his trusty team, as well as the collectors Janet Gibson (standing in at short notice for Mary White – get well soon, Mary!) Peter Whitehouse, Martin Smith and Ernie Ball.

The total collected from the Stoneleigh area (which includes Ashow as well as a large number of local businesses and schools in Finham, the Abbey Park and Stoneleigh Park) is over £3,100.

Sincere thanks to you all.

Sheila Woolf,
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Stoneleigh Area.

Dates for your diary...



Bridge Afternoons

For beginners, improvers or masters!

Under the expert guidance of Janet Charlesworth
4th Wednesday of every month

Time: 2.00pm

Cost: £2.00 (to include refreshments)

No need to book in advance - just turn up!

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 26th January 2011

Wednesday 23rd February 2011

Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Wednesday 27th April 2011



Royal Wedding Celebrations

Friday 29th April 2011

5.30pm

Early doors with a difference - details to follow



*In addition to our regular opening hours,
Ashow Village Club is available for private functions and meetings -
for details, please contact Lucy Morris (lucyandphil@metronet.co.uk)
New opening hours from 9th Feb: Tue 9-11 Wed 7-9 Fri 5.30-7, 9-11 Sun 12-3, 8-11*

Youth News

The young people of Stoneleigh are benefitting from the Hybrid Arts sessions. Warwick District Council has kindly funded another 5 sessions and I am delighted to announce that our Parish Council is funding the hire of the Village Hall to facilitate this. There has been a lot of praise and positive feedback recently about how the Stoneleigh Youth Group has behaved. We are trying to raise funds locally to see if this good work can continue, and checking out future venue possibilities.

The Group is showing interest in doing a film of Stoneleigh Past, Present & Future and has also shown an interest in the potential Orchard project. Can I take this opportunity in thanking all of the people that have been supporting the youth initiatives in Stoneleigh Village and congratulate the young people and children on their excellent attitude and positive behaviour.

Tony Hanselman

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

“March Showtime”

The spring offering from the choir this year will be an extravaganza loosely based upon the hit musical “Grease”. Show dates are 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th March and each performance will be preceded by a 2-course hot meal. Tickets are £18 and may be obtained from David Gibson (024 7641 1772).

In addition, there will be a preview evening on 16th March (starting at 8.00pm) and to which we would like to invite Stoneleigh Senior Citizens (at no charge). Tickets for this are available from Jim Harris (024 7641 5209). A limited number of preview tickets are also available for sale at £5 each.

Robin Bussell

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

The February Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the **University of Warwick, University House, Kirby Cross Corner at 7.30 p.m.** on 10th February 2011.

Warwickshire County Council

Potholes, Pavement Repairs, Highway and Street Lighting Problems?

Report it to:

Call:

County Highways 01926 412515

Online:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roads

Email:

countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk

Text:

Lighting (followed by location & defect details)

Send text to 07950 081082

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk

“Thank You”

I would like to thank, so very much, all our lovely friends and neighbours when I was so poorly and ended up in hospital. We both really appreciated the cards, flowers and especially the food. It was so kind of you all. It seems like a nightmare, but all the thoughtfulness of such lovely neighbours helped such a lot.

Mary White



Neighbourhood Watch

For my first report in my new capacity as Lead Coordinator, I am pleased to say that, to the best of my knowledge, there have been no incidents of petty or major crime reported in Stoneleigh or Ashow in December or January.

I attended a Community Forum meeting on January 20th with Roger Gilbert and will report on this in the next issue of The News.

In the meantime, I say “thank you” to all of the people who contribute to our neighbourhood watch scheme. Your diligence makes Stoneleigh a safer place for us all. I wish you all a happy New Year; please keep up the good work in 2011.

Tony Hanselman

St. Mary the Virgin Stoneleigh

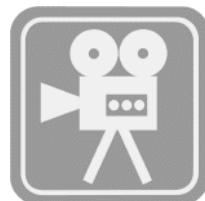
Another Film night!.

Thirty of us attended another film night at the Village Hall and enjoyed the film and the coffee and Danish pastry provided in the interval. The profit of £49 will be passed on to our charity for January: the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

There will be another chance to join us on Friday 4th March; full details are given in the advert in this magazine.

What it will not tell you is the name of the film chosen by the audience; to comply with copyright law we can only display this on church property. Pop into church and see what we have lined up for you!

Syd Creed



Stoneleigh Village Club

Happy New Year to all from SVC!

The club has been extremely busy over the festive period and we hope you enjoyed the many successful events. Thanks in particular to the Committee and all the willing volunteers who helped to make these events a success, and to the Choirmaster Robin Bussell for getting the carol singing going!

Forthcoming Events:

**Handbells Quiz - 8.00pm start
HS2 Murder Mystery Evening**

**February 12
March 5**

All Welcome.

Following is a note from the SVC Secretary in response to the recent letters, which were delivered to every household in Stoneleigh:

“Thank you very much to the people who responded to our recent letter. For those who feel that they have missed or lost their copy there will be spare copies left on the SVC bar, until the end of February.

So far, we have read ten responses to our request for **your** ideas. The letter also prompted some people to renew their membership which was an unexpected and very welcome response. However, with only ten responses we cannot move forward with any of your fantastic and varied ideas.

Today, the club held an Extraordinary Committee Meeting (ECM) to discuss the financial management of the club. Despite having extremely popular and enjoyable events, sadly it seems that our income is not covering the ever-increasing costs.

The committee is determined to continue working hard in order to keep the club open. We are committed to efficiency and economy like every other business, but we do need your continued support and membership.”

Barbara (Secretary) on behalf of SVC Committee
Stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com

Sue Brooks

CHARITY

How pleasing it is to note that “giving” is still alive in these straightened times:

- The ‘flag flying’ at The Oaks in place of sending local Christmas cards raised £401 for the Air Ambulance
- The church Flower Group coffee morning raised just over £500
- The collections at the Male Voice Choir carol concerts at Stoneleigh Abbey totalled £386, also for the Air Ambulance.

“Thank you” to those who worked for these events and activities and special thanks to those who contributed so generously.

RB

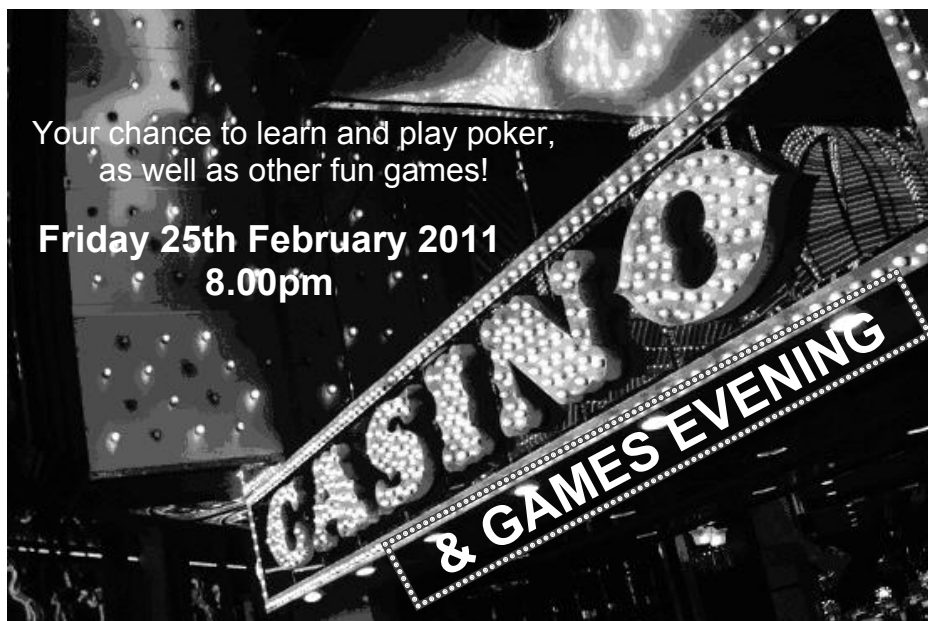
STONELEIGH MALE VOICE CHOIR - THANKS

Regular attendees at the Village Lunches organised by Stoneleigh WI had a special treat on Tuesday 7th December as this was generously sponsored by the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir. We enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch, complete with crackers and a bonus 'Christmas pudding'. (Yes! A miniature replica pudding knitted by WI members and hiding a Ferrero Rocher chocolate). The event ended with wonderful entertainment from the Choir who sang old favourites before leading communal singing of Christmas songs and much-loved carols. Very many thanks to all those involved.

Margaret Wallis



Dates for your diary...



Wine Tasting

Thursday 24th March 2011
7.30pm

Courtesy of Bablake Wines - details to follow



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Ashow Village Club is available for private functions and meetings -
for details, please contact Lucy Morris (lucyandphil@metronet.co.uk)
New opening hours from 9th Feb: Tue 9-11 Wed 7-9 Fri 5.30-7, 9-11 Sun 12-3, 8-11*

New Home Woodchipping Service



5" Diameter

- Subsidised service available to Warwickshire householders Monday to Fridays by appointment.
- Chippings will be left with the householder in plastic bags supplied as part of the service.
- Chippings are left for use by the householder and will **NOT** be taken off site.
- Garden woody waste must be no greater than 13cm (5") in diameter and of manageable length.
- Material that is unsuitable to chip will be left for the householder to deal with. (E.g. Processed or Treated Wood. E.g. Pallets or Fence Posts)
- The resident **MUST** be at home while the work is being done for Health & Safety.
- Garden waste for chipping must be in an area with vehicular access.
- The cost of each visit (Max 1 hour) is £20.00 inc VAT.
- To book an appointment ring: **01926 738827**

Monday - Friday Between 09.00 - 12.15.

(Answerphone outside these hours)

*Reduce it!
Recycle it!
Chip it!*



**Warwickshire
County Council**

*Working for
Warwickshire*

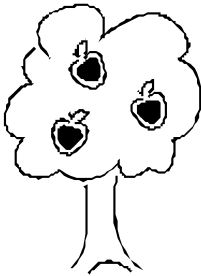
An Orchard for Stoneleigh

In the last issue of The News, I sought expressions of interest from anyone willing to take part in a project to establish a Stoneleigh Village Orchard with the assistance of funding from the Warwickshire County Council. I am pleased to say that Pete Freeman has volunteered to put together a project team. He now seeks others to join the team and, hopefully, 'get the show on the road'.

Pete, who lives at 5 Church Lane, may also be contacted on pete.freeman@itss.nhs.uk. Phone: 024 7641 3893.

Please contact Pete if you would like to help.

Robin Bussell, Secretary, Stoneleigh Meadows Society



STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS - FINANCE

This publication is financed by voluntary donations from our readership and now is the time of the year for you to express your satisfaction with our efforts.

Please make any donations payable to "Stoneleigh and Ashow News" and send them to me at: Alliance Cottage, The Bank, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DA. Alternatively, donations may be made direct to our bank account by quoting: Branch Sort Code 60 12 35, Account Number 63535718.
Thank you

Clive Watson, Honorary Treasurer.

“Forty Years On”

Here are a couple of extracts from the Stoneleigh and Ashow News of February 1971:

WI

At the last monthly meeting, a talk was given by Colonel Benn about Lifeboats. There was a Bring and Buy from the proceeds of which a donation is being made to the Lifeboat Fund. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Milner and Spicer. The prize winners resulting from the Children's Fancy Dress Party arranged by the W.I. were Martin Lambert, Ray Manning, Colin Roberts, Michael Malone, John Malone, Suzanne Lovell, William Waites and Ann Lambert. There was a puppet show, party games and tea. Each child took home an orange and chocolate.

“Signs of the Times”

These days when it is scarcely possible to turn round without planning permission, it is quite incredible that the ‘authorities’ – whoever they may be – should be allowed to disfigure one of the most attractive features of what is still a most attractive village. I refer of course to the huge road sign placed on the Bank. It really would be interesting to know who makes such decisions and who is answerable to whom. I can only hope that the Parish Council, who have a good record for defence of the village, will again take up their well-worn cudgels. I wonder, what is the penalty for digging such things up?

G.H.P

Editorial thoughts: One orange and some chocolate in a party bag might not do today, and perhaps GHP was advised by the local Bobby: “three days in the stocks” because the sign is still there!

**THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, ASHOW
and
ST MARY THE VIRGIN STONELEIGH**



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2011

	Ashow	Stoneleigh
Sunday 6th	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Ashow – <i>Please note time of service</i>	
Thursday 10th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion
Thursday 24th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	9.30 a.m. Village Service	11.00 a.m. All Age Worship

STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS

This issue was compiled by Robin Bussell
The March issue will be compiled by Sheila Woolf
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Email: shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

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Acceptable electronic formats: .doc, .rtf, .txt, or PagePlus 10

Any graphics should preferably be .jpg and no larger than 150Kb

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