

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

April 2024



***Happy Easter!***

50p\*

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(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## Parochial Church Council –

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement . . . . . revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham . . . . . 07753 626899

Church Warden: Rachel Wells . . . . . 01473 822230

**Bellringers** – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell . . . . . 01473 822616

**Forget-me-nots** – Organiser: Veronica Partridge . . . . . 01473 823188

**Tuesday Club** – Rachel Wells . . . . . 01473 822230

**Table Tennis Club** – Adrian Blyth . . . . . 01473 827805

## Parish Council –

Chairman: John Hume . . . . . 01473 810098

Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge . . . . . 01787 210859

**Footpaths** – Chairman: Kevin Pratt . . . . . 07854 390658

**Kersey Community Playground Committee** – Jonathan Marsh . . . . . 01473 822927

**Neighbourhood Watch** – Vacant

## Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge . . . . . 01473 823188

Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth . . . . . nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

Treasurer: Norah Orriss

## VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge . . . . . 01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells . . . . . 01473 822230

## Grays Trust –

Chairman: Peter Martin . . . . . 01473 828361

Secretary: Philippa Harris . . . . . 01473 827079

**Nightingale Trust/Allotments** – Info: Natalie Blyth . . . . . 01473 827805

**School** – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley . . . . . 01473 823397

**Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe)** – Mark Pertwee . . . . . 01473 810227

**Kersey Community Website** . . . . . www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

**Hadleigh Health Practice** . . . . . 01473 822961

**West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)** . . . . . 01284 713000

**Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust** . . . . . 01473 712233

**Police** . . . . . The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

*Please let us know of any changes.*

**Defibrillators** – *There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.*

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## Church Clergy:

Rev Geoffrey Clement  
01473 657316, revgclement@gmail.com

## Church Warden:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.  
and vacant position.

**Weddings:** For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact [adrianwaller@mac.com](mailto:adrianwaller@mac.com) or phone 01473 652561.

## ST MARY'S CHURCH PCC – PUBLIC NOTICE

As everyone is aware our beautiful parish church is a grade 1\* listed building and all changes to the structure, the fabric and the artefacts within require approval from the Diocese and any interested third parties, such as Historic England, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and indeed many others.

There is a list of many routine maintenance items that the Diocese allows the PCC to manage otherwise very little essential work would be completed. For everything else a Faculty must be submitted and a process followed which can take months or even years to conclude.

A Faculty for two projects has recently been supported by the Diocese and we are awaiting third party feedback which is due by the end of March. Following this will be a short period of public consultation, and Notices will appear in and around the church requesting feedback (positive and negative). Feedback can be anonymous and is made directly to the Diocese and not the PCC.

These two projects are the Shrine Installation and the new windows in the Sedilia. The PCC will include a detailed note alongside the official notice so that everyone has a good understanding of the background and rationale to each project. Any questions should be directed to Colin Grannell or Linda Newbigging in the first instance. An update will be provided at the APCM on 10th April in the Church at 7.30pm.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held in church on the 13th March. Vice-chair Lucy Oldham chaired the meeting. Minutes of January meeting were approved.

**Matters arising:** The Health and Safety is up to date.

**Church matters:** A faculty was submitted in February and a reply from the DAC is awaited. The hornbeam for the Queens Canopy has been potted on ready for planting out when large enough. The PCC are happy with the service schedule but would like to see an increase in attendance.

**APCM:** All items relating to the annual meeting were discussed and approved. The financial report and quota were discussed.

**Fund raising:** Cream teas will be served in church on Easter Monday 2.30pm onwards. St Mary's will provide a light lunch for a U3A group that are visiting in the summer.

**Newsletter:** A new editor is still needed.



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## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

**FOSM:** The AGM is on the 2nd April. There is an open farm day on Easter Saturday at Bridges Farm 11am-3pm.

**AOB:** St Mary's has no website at present. Church details can be found on the village website. The clock has been serviced and is in good working order.

Meeting closed with the Grace.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of St Mary's church is being held in the church on the 10th April 7.30pm. Please come along and hear what has been going on over the past year.

### SYMPATHY

We send our sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Jarvis who passed away recently at Ipswich Hospital. A service will take place at Seven Hills Crematorium on the 23rd April 3pm.

Donations gratefully accepted in memory of Jean for St Elizabeth Hospice.

### INVALIDS

Our best wishes go to all those who are in hospital or unwell at home. Especially to Rev Liz Law who helps us with services has fractured her hip.

### CREAM TEAS

Cream teas will be available in St Mary's church on Easter Monday from 2.30pm to raise funds for the church.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 8th April – Linda Newbigging and Gillian Sacker  
 22nd April – Sarah Partridge and Jenny Partridge

## PARISH NEWS

### KERSEY CRIME REVIEW 3/2/24 – 21/3/24



Since my last update, there continues to be no reported crime within Kersey itself. That said, it is not far away and Hadleigh has now been targeted by criminals in March, breaking into homes between 2:50am-5:30am, with the likely intention of stealing vehicle keys within, to in turn steal the car. I need to reiterate the message from last month, which is to keep keys for your car, that are in your home, hidden and not easily accessible. Call 999 if you see/hear anything suspicious, please review your front door security and the security of other access points to your home. CCTV and/or a video doorbell can be a good

cont./

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# PARISH NEWS (cont.)

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deterrent. Police patrols have increased throughout the night. I spent some time in Kersey recently, joint working with the Babergh Community Safety Team in relation to some reported anti-social behaviour issues experienced by some residents. This matter continues to be monitored but seems to have improved.

I am intending to do an informal talk and provide some information about scam prevention in Kersey later in the year at the "Tuesday Club". It is currently scheduled for 1st October, more details will follow on that.

By the time this article is published, my next monthly engagement location will be within Elmsett Village Hall (The Street) between 10am-1pm on Saturday 13th April, there is a small market event on at the same time. Pop along if you have any ongoing issues for the police or simply want to say hello.

Kind regards,  
**PC 1293 Niall Johnson – Hadleigh Community Police Officer.**

### VILLAGE HALL-DATE CHANGE

Our AGM will now be held on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm  
 All welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

### TUESDAY CLUB

At the first meeting of 2024 members were joined by Tina Loose from Boxford. She came to talk and show pictures of the Garrigue region of Southern France. The ground here is rocky and weather very hot and dry. Vegetation consists of spiny shrubs, if you stray from the paths when walking you can get badly scratched from the prickles. These bushes flourish as they can withstand the heat also blue flowered plants don't mind the sun. A wide variety of plants included orchids, hyacinth, tree heathers, fungus and truffles plus we were shown butterflies and bees. A very interesting talk with some lovely pictures. Competition for "A sign of Spring" was won by Mary Smith.

On 2nd April 2.30 we will be joined by Chris Parfitt from Rendlesham who will talk and show pictures of the Isle of Wight. Competition "From the seashore".

**Rachel Wells.**

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### Kersey Community Website

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## Community Organisation Spotlight:

### Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells reveals all!

#### What is it?

An opportunity for people of all ages to meet socially, learn and be entertained.

#### When is it?

The first Tuesday of every month, except January and February. Times vary depending on the time of year but can always be found in the newsletter.

#### Where are the Meetings?

The Kersey Village Hall.

#### Is it just for retired people?

Certainly not! Everybody is welcome. We usually have 16 to 20 attendees of all ages and genders. It's very friendly and informal. Just turn up.

#### How much is it?

The princely sum of £1.00 – cash on the day! This goes towards speakers' costs and we provide tea or coffee. We are grateful for the funding provided by The Grays Trust.

#### What do you do?

It is a social event, but we aim to have speakers and topics on a wide range of subjects which have to be planned at least 12 months in advance. We have had talks on thatching, gardening, journalism and holidays in unusual places. Lynne Mortimer, a local journalist and current Mayor of Ipswich is coming in July. She is always good value! I will put the programme for the year in the next newsletter, so look out for details so you can put the dates in your calendar.

#### How did it start?

When the Mothers' Union stopped, Jean Goddard, the Vicar's wife at the time, started the Tuesday Club and they met at the Vicarage. I took it over from Anne Brown 24 years ago.

#### What about the future?

It is a lively group and I hope to see more people coming to enjoy our meetings. If anyone has ideas on possible speakers or topics, please let me know.

“Hope to see you soon at the Tuesday Club.”

The next issue is **May 2024**.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 24th April to:

**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk**

To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact:

**Colin Grannell at hawkcg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074**

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# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

## Dear Friends,

The other day in Hadleigh I saw something rare, more so than spotting a Dartford Warbler at Minsmere! It was a man smoking a pipe! Back in the day, pipe smoking was an everyday thing, from Sherlock Holmes to Harold Wilson or Tony Benn to Stephen Fry. My old foreman when I worked at Westminster Abbey had a pipe which he was either smoking or using as a pointing stick. On one occasion I was helping him build one of the flying buttresses and he asked me what the first thing was that he should do. Before I could answer he said: light my pipe and have a think! And that is what happened, we spent the next half hour sat on some stones discussing what we would do whilst he filled the air with clouds of smoke.

His advice stuck with me, not the pipe bit, but the bit about standing back and taking time to think things over. These days there are not many, if any flying buttresses that need rebuilding, but life does throw up situations when standing back and thinking things through is what is needed.

April is a time for personal reflection and growth, a good time to take a step back and reflect. As we witness the world around us bursting into life, we are reminded of our own potential for transformation and renewal. It's a time to shed the old and embrace the new, and embrace the promise of the future. In April, there is a sense of optimism in the air—a feeling that anything is possible.

From the Christian perspective we would call this prayer or meditation. These days in the secular world it is called Mindfulness. Either way, now that Spring is well and truly with us, now is a good time to step back and reflect on the beauty that surrounds in the fields and hedgerows, listen to the “song of creation” that is buzzing in the air.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our Sunday Services this month.

Geoffrey

**Revd. Geoffrey Clement**

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest **500 Club** draw results:

	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
1st Prize –	Chris Partridge	Sarah Partridge
2nd Prize –	Viv Marsh	Trevor Stirling
3rd Prize –	Trevor Stirling	Colin Grannell

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

For details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact either **Mark Rigby** on **07484 649235** or **Mark Pertwee** on **07919 166782** or email **fosmkersey@gmail.com**.

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

31st Mar 11am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
7th Apr 9am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev Adrian Waller
14th Apr 11am	Parish service	tbc
21st Apr 6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
28th Apr	No service at Kersey	11am at Aldham

## CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

If you would like the church floodlit to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in remembrance etc. the cost is £10 per night. Contact **Rachel Wells** 01473 822230.

## KERSEY SCHOOL



**To all past pupils, staff and governors,**

The whole of the Kersey school community warmly invites you to afternoon tea to celebrate our 150 years.

Please bring photographs, old school work, artefacts and memories to share!

Wednesday 26th June 2024

1pm - 3pm

Kersey Church of England Primary School

Please email [kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk](mailto:kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk) to confirm your attendance and let us know any dietary requirements.

## KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

**<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>**

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at **kerseypc@gmail.com** so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

## PARISH COUNCIL

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## THE BELL

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A meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 4th March.

Present were John Hume chair, four other councillors, clerk, one member of the public plus County and District councillors for part of the meeting.

**Apologies** were received from one councillor with one absent.

**Declarations of Interest:** One councillor declared an interest in a planning application.

**Minutes** were confirmed and signed as correct.

**Public forum and reports:**

*Suffolk County Councillor* Robert Lindsay said he was pleased that Kersey and Semer councils had been able to match his funding for the 40mph limit on the A1141, his report also included the council budget, weed killing, Special Educational Needs failure and Suffolk Devolution.

*District Councillor* Leigh Jamieson’s report included the Babergh budget, parking charge petition, loft insulation for Suffolk Homes and Tax premiums for empty and second homes.

**Parish time:** Concern was raised about the poor state of the road signs in the parish giving a poor impression to visitors. It was confirmed that if the signs are for safety issues Suffolk County Council has a legal duty to ensure they are legible. A resident will photograph the signs ready to send to SCC. The cobbles either side of The Splash are dangerous. This has been reported to SCC.

County and District councillors left the meeting plus the member of the public.

**Planning - progress:** Cherrywood, The Tye. Erection of detached garage/cart lodge and barn for storage of machinery. Babergh refused permission stating that the development would be contrary to the Joint Local Plan.

Little Manor. Tree works. Babergh did not wish to object.

To consider: Curtis Farm. Works to gable elevation. Parish councillors agreed to fully support this application as it will protect this historic building.

**Clerk’s report:** Kersey school and their eco committee will carry out a litter collection around the school. The clerk will contact the KVG with updated risk assessment and a reminder to walk their routes before the spring growth. The Kersey community calendar on the website is regularly updated. The clerk has spent time with Semer Parish Council to secure funding for the A1141 speed limits. The clerk continues to report potholes via the reporting tool. Robert Lindsay had been in touch with Highways to question why some terrible potholes had not been repaired within the time frame. The reply was the wet weather had prevented them from being done. There had been a delay in fitting the Uplands defibrillator and in setting up the new Kersey Good Neighbour group. The defibrillator at The Bell is reported as active. An estimate had been received for the water depth marker at The Splash. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

All correspondence was noted.

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## PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

**Finance:** A financial statement had been circulated to councillors for approval. All payments were approved. A councillor had checked the bank conciliation had been completed and they were correct.

**Footpath Working Group:** Some footpaths remain underwater. It is likely that the first cut will be difficult as many ruts have appeared. Fallen trees have been removed. SCC have replaced the footbridge which had been washed away. Thanks as always to the volunteers.

**KCPC:** The quarterly inspection was carried out with no major deficiencies. The swing seats have been removed until repair to the swing frame has been completed. Work is also needed on the slide castle and balance beam. Leigh Jamieson has kindly offered some money from his budget to put towards these works.

**Consider progress** with the Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. The Babergh officer is happy to support the Parish Council Working group at a meeting.

**Reviewed were** Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Internal control systems plus Risk Management policy, Business risk register, risk assessments and confirm compliance with Data Protection legislation.

**Agree content for Pride in our Parish:** This will inform residents that there will be a flood investigation carried out by SCC. Organisation spotlight for April will be the Tuesday Club.

**Training:** SALC continues to offer a variety of training sessions. The clerk had attended two networking sessions.

**Reports** from other meetings: Brett Valley Digibus. A councillor is part of a steering group investigating options for a new demand responsive bus service for rural villages. The group are investigating options for a new demand responsive bus service for rural villages. The group are researching liability, operators and funding.

**AOB** for councillors. The chair had received a call from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch group. The chair to find out more on the benefits of restarting again. All residents are able to follow Suffolk Police and receive Police connect messages. The information on how to connect is on the Parish website. Councillors still to visit The Bell about the outside lighting.

**The Annual Parish Assembly** is on the 15th April 7.30 followed by a Parish Council meeting if needed.

A full report is on the Parish Website.

**Rachel Wells.**

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## FARMING NOTES

### Arable

As is usual in the farming world this month's work has been dominated by the weather. Although we have had nearly a week of dry weather as I write, the ground is still wet from the huge amount of winter rain. We would normally have expected to be sowing our spring crops by now but we need another week of fine weather before the ploughed land will be dry enough. I have learnt to be patient as moving land that is not dry enough usually results in less than ideal sowing conditions, especially if we get rain immediately after disturbing the soil. The exception to the above is land that was planted with oil seed rape back in August 23. Because it was dry and firm when sown and the plant has grown vigorously and taken up a lot of water since sowing, the OSR land is able to bear the weight of large tractors. Just as well as our recently purchased fertiliser spreader needs to be used on a big tractor as it can carry at least 3 tons of fertiliser, and OSR being an early crop needs all of its nutrient in good time. We have run through it twice with nitrogen and once with Phosphate, Potash and a small amount of Sulphur and will need to apply the final dressing of nitrogen by the end of March.

While unable to get on the land we have been busy planting a new wood, to be known as Sampsons Wood, comprising approx. 500 trees of mixed variety. Prior to planting we coppiced a tall hedge to prevent shading and hopefully the two will grow up together happily. We have also coppiced another hedge in order to dig out the ditch beside it as part of our drainage maintenance plan. If left un-coppiced for too long, most hedges will become too tall and lose their vigour and the amount of cover that is ideal for wildlife, so although this looks destructive, it is necessary every 20 years or so in rotation.

### Rob Partridge

#### Sheep

Lambing finished yesterday... Hooray! It has been a long (mild) wet winter and it will be lovely to be able to turn out the ewes with their lambs onto fresh spring grass as soon as ground conditions allow. Lambing actually went quite well with only the usual few frustrations: a few still born lambs; a couple of lambs laid on by their mothers and one or two sudden unexplained lamb deaths. All of that is to be expected and we are pleased with the number and quality of the lambs. Our month of social isolation is over, Sarah and I enjoyed visiting the pub for lunch on Sunday!

#### Cattle

Calving is also progressing with about 15 cows left to calve out of the 45 which produce at this time of year. The most recent batch of Pedigree British Blue calves, which were got by embryo transfer and born out of crossbred recipient mothers, are doing well with no losses and no C-sections required. This included three sets of twins – a result of the deliberate policy of implanting embryos in pairs. Twin calves are generally smaller but usually easily born and very active. Sometimes it is also possible to adopt a spare twin calf onto a cow which has lost a calf. Twinning

## FARMING NOTES (cont.)

embryos also helps us to boost the number of bulls we are producing to sell to Cogent, something Cogent are keen on because at present they can't get enough of our bulls! In recent years we have been using hornless (polled) genetics in our commercial and pedigree cattle and it is now becoming very noticeable that I am saving a lot of time in not having to disbud as many calves. Dehorning or disbudding is quite hard work involving restraining the calf, injecting anaesthetic and removing the horn bud with a hot iron, it can be stressful to the calf and the operative! In the fullness of time polled pedigree bulls which we are producing here at Kersey will be bought by Cogent and their semen marketed to other farmers leading to huge savings in money, time and stress.



Simmental commercial cow with her twin Pedigree British Blue calves got by embryo transfer.

We are hoping for fine weather for our charity farm open day here at Bridges Farm on Easter Saturday – 30 March 11am to 3pm. We look forward to seeing some of you then.

### Chris Partridge

#### KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

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If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at [kerseypc@gmail.com](mailto:kerseypc@gmail.com) so it can be included.



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Part of **Investeq Holdings Limited**

## PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

### Flooding in Kersey

Well, we certainly had a lot of rain this winter! Some gardens near the Splash flooded at least four times.

The most spectacular was the ‘once in a hundred years’ Storm Babet in October when five houses were flooded internally and several gardens inundated. This met the criteria for investigation by Suffolk County Council (SCC).

The investigation, in partnership with the the local community, aims to:

- highlight possible causes of flooding
- identify options to reduce future flood risk and increase property resilience
- recommend actions by relevant organisations, landowners and homeowners.

Climate change seems to be causing an increase in extreme weather conditions. It is reassuring that this investigation is underway to determine what can be done to reduce the damage of future storms.

A problem is the scale of the recent floods in Suffolk. Kersey is only one of the 40 villages in the County that have been affected. It is expected that there could be up to 80 investigations and this will take two years to complete.

Investigations are prioritised based on the number of homes flooded. Debenham and Framlingham are at the top of the list, as shown on the SCC website “Storm Babet – Suffolk County Council”.

In Kersey, we’re at 31 out of 48, so we don’t expect anything soon. Kersey Parish Council will join the review and report on the recommendations.

**John Hume**  
**Chair, Kersey Parish Council**

### The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary’s Church on behalf of all parishioners.

The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

**[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/)**

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

**Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.**

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

**Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.**

For further parish details and events, please see **[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud)**

## DIARY DATES

30 Mar – Farm Open Day .....	Bridges Farm .....	11.00-15.00
2 Apr – Tuesday Club .....	Village Hall. ....	14.30
2 Apr – FOSM AGM .....	St Mary's church .....	18.30
8 Apr – Village Hall AGM .....	Village Hall. ....	19.30
10 Apr – Church AGM. ....	St Mary's church .....	19.30
15 Apr – Annual Parish Assembly .....	Village Hall. ....	19.30



## NEWSLETTER PRODUCER URGENTLY REQUIRED

After 5 years the current newsletter production editor intends to stand down.

Would you be able to help design, layout and produce this newsletter?

*No editorial input necessary.*

**FULL SUPPORT PROVIDED**

For more details please contact:

Colin Grannell [hawkcg@hotmail.com](mailto:hawkcg@hotmail.com)

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