# CANCER FUND POLECATE O NEWSLETTER

Words that Ethan's Mum wrote to us Our son Ethan, who turned 2 very recently, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour when he was just 3 months old. Following surgery to try and remove some of the tumour, Ethan was left blind, has a weakness in his left side and has complete hormone dysfunction. He shouldn't technically be here with us but here he is and he has amazed the medical profession several times. Life is not easy but he giggles and smiles, dances (in his own way) to music and cuddles up to his much loved toy dog, the very important 'Mr Snuffles'. Ed and I often feel so isolated so when the call came in from CWCF, that isolation broke down a little.

So, the wishes. It was really, really

hard to write them for ourselves. For the kids. it was easy! We had unsuccessfully tried to get Ethan a chair to sit in. He has no head control and can't sit up and spends most of his time in his buggy. We tried him with several 'special needs' chairs but to no avail. The only chair he likes is the tumble form chair which is specifically designed to aid lack of head control.

Again, we couldn't get funding for it and after a failed attempt to borrow one from our local hospital, we gave up. Until CWCF came along and Ethan is now the proud owner of one shiny blue tumble form chair! For Hayden, our youngest it was a car seat for when he turned 6 months which was duly delivered. We added a Hoover as we hadn't owned a proper Hoover ever and as we are buying a house, thought it was time and that again was duly delivered. Surely that must be it? So utterly generous but we were wrong. Two white envelopes were produced and Ed was given golf lessons with a professional coach for which he was absolutely blown away by. And for mummy? A trip to Toni and Guy for my hair. I had it done last Saturday and the manager, Emma of the salon gave me a free goody bag and a hair treatment whilst I was there. For a day, I felt like a princess!

Words can't describe how grateful we are to CWCF. Making little dreams come true goes a long way in helping families like us cope and making us smile through the heartache is utterly priceless.

Alli, Ed, Ethan and Hayden xxxx



CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND

5 WESTERN AVENUE • POLEGATE • EAST SUSSEX • BN26 6EP TELEPHONE: 01323 485314



# <del>GHANRMANPS</del> Report

Firstly may I apologise for the time it has taken to get this newsletter out. A lot has happened to CWCF and us since the last newsletter which is now over a year ago. Throughout the newsletter you will see the different things but mainly it has been the support of you the reader that has got us where we are. We have done outings for the families, panto trips, £50 shopping vouchers for Christmas, lots of wishes and the arrival of a new caravan. We are supporting 68 families as we go to print in one way or another and with the economic climate being what it is the nurses are also turning to us when they see a family struggling.

14 years now CWCF has been going and what a journey it has been! Check out the web page where you can see the latest children or sign up for the bulletin board and find out what's going on that involves CWCF. We also have a Facebook account, 'Children with Cancer Fund – Polegate', why not join us.

It has been an amazing year and every day continues to throw challenges at us all, but together we can get through.

CHRIS

# INTRODUCTION TO NEW FAMILIES

When we get a family referred to us the first thing we do is send them an introduction letter about CWCF & a £50 Tesco voucher. The reason for this is that when families first get told their child has cancer, their world falls apart. However they still need to get to the hospital & the rest of the family still need to eat, so by doing this we have covered both things as they are able to use the voucher for petrol or food. The trial we did on this received a very good response of thank you's and e-mails telling us how useful it was. Hopefully we will be able to continue giving the families a little boost to help them when they first need it.

The aim of Children With Cancer Fund (CWCF) is simply to raise money and to distribute it in the form of wishes to families or causes associated with children up to the age of 18 who have had, or are suffering from, a form of cancer and living in the East Sussex/Brighton & Hove area.

### **ABOUT US**

CWCF was formed in July 1998 and is made up of a small voluntary group of family and friends with the main thought being to enable the children, and families of the children with cancer, to have a quality of life that we would hope to have ourselves. Most of the time it means giving them treats or buying them something they have missed out on, normally due to the fact that their money has been spent fighting the illness or burning up petrol going to and fro to the hospital for treatment.

### WISHES

Most of the time the community nurses, who are treating the children, nominate the families to us and we then talk to the families about their wishes. We have gone from strength to strength granting wishes such as bikes, computers, show tickets, garden toys, a wheelchair, a car and we now have two 10-berth caravans to which we send families on holiday.

This year is our 14th anniversary and when we look back over the 100s of wishes we have granted we still know that every wish is different and so are the families.

The only reason we have been able to do this is because you the local people have supported us so well. We get the best bit, (and the bit that we say no money can buy) that is the 'wish granting'. Simple things like an England football kit the other day lit up the eyes of a child and a million pounds could not buy that. We could not do it without you, so to all who read this, THANK YOU from CWCF and all the families we help.

Reg Charity No: 1110644

# WHO WE ARE

CWCF is a registered charity. We are supported by many, we are not religious based, yet we are supported by many of the local churches. We are not politically minded, yet all the various parties have made small donations in different ways. We are not directed by ourselves. We are directed by the wishes and guidance of the families and nurses that we support. BUT without your support we could not have that direction. So to all those that give CWCF our direction THANK YOU, plus those that believe in our dream - to help children and their families who are suffering, or have suffered, from cancer.

Once again this year we have had the support of 12 special companies, who have advertised in the centre pages, please support them if you can and mention that you saw it in this booklet.

# Callum's treat

Dear CWCF Team.

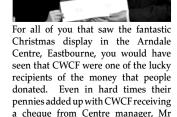
We wanted to say that Callum and us had a really lovely time at Tottenham's game against Manchester United in January.

It was an amazina experience for Callum one that he has not forgotten! One that was made possible by

Children with Cancer Fund. Thank you to all the team that work so hard to make little faces beam! Callum and family.







Plumbridge, for £1835.

# **BIRTHDAY BASH** SURPRISE FOR CWCF

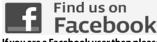
The Camping and Caravanning Club is divided into 12 regions, and each region is split into District Associations (DA). Each year the Chairman of the DA chooses a charity to support and for the third year running CWCF has been lucky enough to have been one of the chosen charities. At the Birthday meet of the East Sussex DA we were pleased to receive a cheque for £260. We know the hard work that goes into

organising events and would especially like to thank, Mick and Jeannie Camping and May along with the team Caravanning behind them for their Club continued support.



# Three ladies do it again

Linda Boys, Peggy Lawrence & Jean Bradford are three retired ladies who enjoy fundraising and over the last few years have been doing so for us by running a stall at various local fairs. Jean said, "We enjoy supporting many local charities and are very happy to have made CWCF one of those charities". Thank you very much for your efforts ladies.



If you are a Facebook user then please feel free to join us www.facebook. com and look for Children with Cancer Fund – Polegate.



# **Amazing Masie**

Maisie asked to have a Wii game console & Mario kart game, Dad's dream wish was to drive a fast car & Mum wished for a relaxing chair. The wishes were organised and given to the family. They were all happy as Christmas had come early! Mum sent us an e-mail later that day.

My daughter was absolutely thrilled with her wish and has not stopped smiling and she tells anyone she can about it. Dominic has never had such an amazing treat and can't wait to try his Jenson Button skills. I confess to having a bit of a blub after you left having given us our wishes, it touches your heart to know people care so much. Thank you from the bottom of our Miss

It was not us that gave them the smile but

you and the donations you gave us to buy them.





# 10 HARDY SOULS FROM THE SAMA KICKBOXING CLUB

Ten hardy souls from the Sama Kickboxing Club (Eastbourne Division) braved the wind and rain to compete in the Eastbourne Half Marathon in March. Despite the awful weather they all managed to finish the course and raised a magnificent £1220 for CWCF. The cheque presentation was made at the Sama Club at Hampden Park Sports Centre. Vicky Miller received the cheque on behalf of CWCF from organiser Andy White surrounded by all those who took part. Thanks to Andy, Dean, Ricardo, Barney, Rachel, Helen, Graham, Stuart and Rachel no 2.

# Bongo Bash Bites Back

Not only did the Bongo Bash bite back, but it came back in style! Last year was small compared to this year and it is set to keep growing with motorbikes, custom cars and entertainment from all over the world. CWCF received a cheque from the organisers which gave us the chance to thank them for their continued support. This year's event is called Bongo Bash Triple and takes place July 27-29th at the Six Bells, Chiddingly, with even more custom cars, bikes and trikes.





# **BRITISH QUEEN** NEW YEAR'S DIP

New Year's Day saw eight hardy souls take to the sea at Eastbourne for a dip to raise money for Children with Cancer Fund. The regulars from the British Queen pub, Willingdon, raised a fantastic £1200.

# BATHROOM SAGA

When a cancer family spoke to us regarding their bathroom tiles being held together with



mastic and the rest near to falling out, we were able to help..... Not knowing what a saga it was going to be. Replacing the tiles was the easy bit, but in taking the old tiles off they saw what a state the rest of the bathroom was in! A plumber was called and a

new suite soon fitted so the special bath hoist could be put back into operation. Thank you Mr Daniels from 'Knight on the Tiles' for your help.



# Children's Oncology Room in Brighton



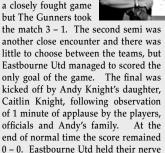
Since assisting the Children's Oncology team in Brighton we have been told how it helps the children through their treatment, so we decided to ask the team how we could help further and they came back asking

for a Wii game console and games which along with a few other bits were delivered putting a smile on the faces of both nurses and children. GRAN



# The 3rd Andy Knight Memorial Trophy (Veteran's tournament)

The above event took place at Princes Park Oval. A bumper crowd enjoyed the sunshine and watched the first semi-final. This was a closely fought game



medals were presented by Andy's wife, Trudi. Dale Hendy of Eastbourne Utd won the Man of the Match award. A hugely successful tombola and raffle were also held, a great day was

in the shoot out and ran out winners

on penalty kicks. The Andy Knight

Memorial Trophy and individual



# Chloe's Marathon Run

I decided to raise money for CWCF after hearing about the charity from one of the children that was in my Beaver Scout colony, who had been supported by the charity in the past. I raised the money for Children with Cancer Fund through sponsorship. I asked family, friends and parents of the beaver colonies that I assist with for sponsorship money. I also asked my local Waitrose store, which I worked at whilst I was a student, to support me through their community matters (green token) scheme. Although I found the Brighton marathon incredibly tough I am glad that I chose such an inspirational charity to run for, and to keep me running when it got really hard. Chloe



had by all and we were delighted to have raised £2778.60 in total for the Polegate Children with Cancer Fund which included a generous donation from the bank Santander.

Many thanks go to Eastbourne United for providing the facilities and to the Eastbourne Referee's Society for providing the match officials throughout the day. Thanks also to all who helped prior to, and on the day, and for all the donations given.

This year Wayne Cull and Jo Ferreria, from the Seaford branch of Santander, were proud to support the 3rd Andy Knight memorial tournament; doubling all monies raised on the day for Polegate's Children with Cancer Fund. Wayne said, as he handed the cheque to Trudi and Chris, "We look forward to supporting you again next year - I think Knighty would have been proud of the funds raised (maybe not so much of our penalty taking though!!)."



CWCF had a request from one of our families saying their son thought he was the only young teenage boy in the area with cancer, and was there anything we could do to help him with his feeling of isolation. Of course there was. We organised an afternoon of bowling: one bowling lane for the adults and one for the boys.

The ice was soon broken and they all had a good time with a basket meal and lots of laughs.

This event was made possible by a donation we were given and it certainly did make a big difference to several families.





# Introducing Caroline

Hi, my name is Caroline and I have recently joined CWCF as their part time administrator. I live in Polegate with family and have always followed the achievements of CWCF. It is so good to find a local charity that supports our local families, especially when they are going through difficult times. My job is to help Chris and Ursula with the paperwork side of things so that they have more time to concentrate on the important things. I have lots to learn, but am looking forward to the challenge but I am new to this so please be gentle with me!

For many years now EAVS (Eastbourne Association of Volunteer services, now 3 VA) has been telling us we need some help with the admin side of CWCF. But, we have always said that we were not going to use money given to us for children's wishes to pay for staff. Well this year they said the same thing to us, but before we could answer they also said that an organisation in Lewes would fund her position for a year. We opened a separate bank account so the money did not get mixed up with the wishes money and we also know that when the money runs out we have to lose her (although we are speaking to other organizations about extending her position with us for a few more years). We also set up some new policies thanks to Karl Parks from 3VA for his help with that - and let her loose. The saying you don't know what you missed until you have it comes to mind, because the filing system was in a mess, the letters and wishes were backing up and yes we were in a bit of a pickle. But now we are glad to report that Caroline has turned us around and we are back up to speed. Many thanks to www.sussexgiving.org.uk and 3VA for giving us the support.





# BIG LODGE HELPS

LITTLE CHARITY

After his year of fundraising as the Worshipful Master at Verity Lodge in Eastbourne, Jonathan Burnside approached the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex who agreed to donate an extra £600 to his chosen charity, CWCF. Ursula Downton received the cheques for £1,600 on behalf of the charity and said, "We are very grateful to the extraordinary generosity both Verity Lodge and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex have shown".

Ionathan said, "It was always important for me and Verity Lodge to give to local charities because they are often the ones that struggle to survive because they are lesser known than their national counterparts. Cancer touches most families in one way or another so when I heard of Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate) and the great work they do, I knew we had to try and help them in some way. We managed to raise a substantial amount which should help to make the lives of some a little more easy and enjoyable. I would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and generosity".



Sometimes we get a request for some sibling time out, which on this occasion was for a Dad & son to go to a football match together. They were Brighton & Hove supporters so we made

a phone call and to our surprise they presented us with two tickets to give to the family. Best of all, Brighton won that day 2 – 0 against Barnsley!





# JIM JAM WALK

Dear CWCF,

Please find enclosed a cheque for CWCF from Lily and her classmates from Year 6 at Willingdon Primary School who did a 'JIM JAM WALK' to raise money for your charity. They wore wellies and pyjamas, and with Lily's Daddy escorting them, walked over the Downs to the Eight Bells from Willingdon, then back again during the Easter holidays.

Lots of Love, Sarah G, Khadija, Emily K, Lauren, Lily, and Emily H



# CHARITY'S CHILDREN RECOGNISED

After years of behind the scenes work supporting children with cancer, Tyler, Zara & Jessica Downton from Polegate were recognized for what they do by winning a Child of Sussex Award. They were nominated for the 'Make a Difference Award' and recently received it at The Grand Hotel in Brighton.

Children with Cancer Fund (CWCF) was set up in 1998 and the children have never known anything different, supporting the cancer children and their siblings, running fundraising events and never looking for a reward for doing so.

## **Disneyland Paris** Trip April 2011 "Quotes"

Below are some of the messages we received from the families we took on our Disnevland Paris trip:

Amanda R: 'Went to Paris all thanks to you guys and we had an amazing time. We have never been and probably would never have got the opportunity to visit but thanks to CWCF we have had the most brilliant time. Xxx'

Julie P: 'Thanks for a lovely trip.'

Kirsti S: 'Thank you again for a wonderful holiday, Xx'

Richard N: 'Thank you for a wonderful time. X'

Teresa G: 'Thank you so much for making Disneyland possible for us, we have had such a wonderful time but are happy to be home now as totally shattered! X x'

Sally: 'Just got home safe and sound. Thanks CWCF for organising such a wonderful trip. We all had a fabulous time.'



# Disneyland DREAM

When a family loses a child there never seems to be a good time to talk to them, but with one family we spoke to shortly after they lost their son the Mum said something that touched us and we were glad to have made the phone call.

Her wish was not for financial help to pay for funeral arrangements but it was to help her carry out a wish she had made to her son. She had promised to take him to Disneyland, Paris, but unfortunately it had not happened, although she still wanted him to go. So CWCF with your kind donations paid for the family to go over New Year, and, at the strike of 12 to see in 2012, they

were able to carry out his wish and scatter some of his ashes in the place he really wanted to go.





This is written by one of the families that we took on a group trip to Disneyland Paris in April 2011.

This was our first trip as a family to such a park. I am not sure we quite knew what to expect. To say that our trip to Disnevland Paris was a success would be a massive understatement. Whilst us parents might have felt that the trip was more about the children having fun, when the time arrived we were all running from ride to ride and back again having a ball. On several occasions we were to be found taking the last ride

lodgings weary but very happy. I think we managed to go on pretty much every ride at least once. We also had a bash at Ranch. That was genuinely a time when I think we all scared ourselves.

One of the highlights of the event, against expectations, was seeing all the characters and the amazing themed scenery. The tea with various characters to our very kind will be remembered for quite a while poor old Woody was so keen to be in the shot he nearly fell off the table! Kate was Flora and Polly Hickish

at 10pm and then going back to our then seen hiding behind a pillar trying to avoid Pluto, only to be spotted and forced to hug him.

To be able to enjoy five days of fun the tree climbing back at Davy Crocket's not only with the family but also our new friends was quite magical. We came back exhausted but refreshed and having forgotten all the boring hassle of normal life.

A huge thank you

Leo, Kate, Camilla,





### Frazer

The wishes we get asked for can sometimes be quite small and Frazer was one such young person that didn't want a lot. He asked for a Tiger Woods game console golf

game and an Adele CD. His little brother wanted some toddlers musical instruments and Mum just asked for some time away in our caravan with the family.

# DREAM NIGHT AT THE **ZOO**

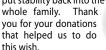


CWCF were lucky enough to have been asked if their families would like to attend 'Dreamnight' at Drusillas in June. 'Dreamnight' is a worldwide event held annually on the first Friday in June where zoos open in the evening especially for children who are chronically ill or disabled and their families where they are treated as VIPs. For a lot of our families going somewhere like the zoo proves too much when there are thousands mulling around so the evening was a great success with children being able to handle creepy crawlies, pan for gold without being pushed and shoved and have shows put on especially for them. Our thanks go to Claire Peters and her team at Drusillas for inviting our families to this wonderful event.

# **FAMILY BACK** ON THEIR FEET

If your child was diagnosed with cancer, would you think about work first??????

One such family had a driving school so they finished the pupils they had and then concentrated on the poorly child. But when the child was better they had to start up again and that is where we were able to help. We assisted the family by paying for some adverts to kick start the business again. Not only did it help the parents but it put stability back into the







### FAMILIES TREATED AT EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

A 0-0 score line at Eastbourne Borough Football Club's Priory Lane ground could not dampen the enthusiasm of the Browning and Gutsell families as they enjoyed a CWCF day out courtesy of Don Robinson of 'Winning Look'. Don kindly let them have the use of his executive box so they could enjoy the game in comfort. To add to the occasion they were served refreshments and were even paid a visit by Sammy Sunshine, the club's new mascot. There was also a competition to guess the number of people in the crowd, both families won and received a football signed by all the Borough players and a Fifa football managers game, with Kieran Browning even getting the honour of going onto the pitch at half-time to pick the winning draw tickets. All in all it was a fantastic experience that I'm sure the families won't forget. Huge **∢OG** thanks to everyone at Borough especially Don Robinson for the use of his box and Lorna



Gosling for her tireless work.

# Race Afternoon

We don't give expecting to receive but Hannah's parents wanted to do a race afternoon and the money was shared between us and Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice. It was a great afternoon but best of all the children had fun 'riding' the horses.

# east West шацк



Dear Ursula and Chris

As I promised (apologies for the delay) I have enclosed within this letter a cheque in the sum of £220. I hope that it will help in some way and would like to thank you for all your hard work and efforts in helping the people in need.

I wish you all the best for your future work Yours faithfully Milena

# Elante



Some families know what they would like when we ask them for a wish, others dream about a wish but never expect it and when we received Elante's wish she didn't expect what she and her brothers got.

When we ask a child to do their wish list, we ask them to put down three things so that we can choose what we are going to get them. Elante wanted a Blackberry, her brothers wanted a laptop and a TV for their bedroom. From the picture you can see that with some kind donations we were able to

do them all; we were allie even able to do Mum's wish which was for a new cooker for when they moved house.





# Moira House School Walk & Picnic

The Juniors of Moira House School for girls had a fun day with a sponsored walk, ending in a family picnic by East Dean pond, raising money for CWCF. Mrs Young and two year six girls presented Chris with a cheque for £250 at one of their school assemblies.

### **JOE & AMANDA**

Hello to all supporters of CWCF as are we, Joe and Amanda O'Riordan.

Soon after we moved to Polegate in 2004 we heard of the charity and we took the decision to support it whenever we could. We have donated various things, a bicycle, guitar, scooter. We held a coffee morning at St John's Church Hall raising some much needed funds.

Here at Guardian Court, where we live, Hazel Boylett, who runs a jigsaw afternoon each week made a donation on behalf of the players whilst Karen Parkhurst has organised a stall at one of our regular Tuesday coffee mornings to sell items, with money raised being donated to the CWCF. Our support is small compared to the hard work put in by Chris and Ursula with their band of supporters.

Kind regards, Ioe and Amanda O'Riordan

Pictured below is one of our cancer children who won the guitar in a raffle.



# **BIRTHDAY**Celebrations by Colin



Having been involved with the charity on a number of occasions I thought to myself 'how could I raise money for the Fund'? Well, with a 50th birthday planned for March and knowing that many people would be coming, I decided these birthday celebrations were the perfect answer.

On the night various donations of prizes were brought along for the fundraising raffle. Thank you to all who donated for this local cause. Thanks also go to the Junction Pub who let me have the function room and the band, White Ice, who played rock' n' roll and '60's music, keeping all the guests dancing the night away. It was a great night for myself but more importantly a good bit of cash was raised, which I'm sure through the good work that CWCF do, will be put to good use.

# Ollie's CAKE SALE

Ollie made cakes and sold them in aid of CWCF, presenting us with a pot full of money. Previously he had done similar and hopefully he realises just how it all adds up meaning we are able to carry on granting the wishes of the cancer families. Thank to those that bought as well as those that made the cakes.





# Leanne and brother got their wishes

Unfortunately Leanne was in hospital when her Dad and brother came to collect the wishes. Although she was in hospital, Leanne had re-designed her bedroom and part of it was to have a TV on the wall which CWCF were able to supply for her whilst her

brother, Liam, wanted wrestling games.
The money for these

wishes was raised by some lovely people from Barclays Bank,

Polegate, by holding a coffee morning and silent auction. Thank you.



Unfortunately just before we went to print the lovely Leanne lost her fight. R.I.P. sweetheart, our thoughts are with your family.



# IN MEMORY

At a very difficult time, some kind hearted families decide not to have flowers but to have donations to CWCF instead. We at CWCF would like to thank those families, on behalf of our cancer families, for your support.

### **KIERAN'S GOLF TROLLEY**

A letter from Kieran's Mum:

Every day 10 families are given the devastating news that their child has cancer. Sadly, on January 31st 2011, we were one of these families.

Our son Kieran was a typical 16 year old, enjoying life and working towards his dream of becoming a professional golfer. He was in the second term of his golf apprenticeship when he noticed that he had double vision and recurring headaches. Within a few days we rushed him to Eastbourne DGH A&E department where a later scan confirmed that he had a brain tumour. Kieran was taken as an emergency to Hurstwood Park Neuroscience Centre where the first operation to release a dangerous build up of fluid on his brain was performed. This is where Kieran's cancer journey began.

The next few months were a catalogue of hospital appointments, admissions and operations. Kieran's tumour was quickly diagnosed as an extremely rare intracranial germ cell tumour that would require an intense course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, all of which would take place at the Royal Marsden Hospital.



As the chemotherapy had not shrunk the tumour, Kieran also underwent a 12 hour operation to reduce the size of the tumour before radiotherapy. The operation was a massive success in that Mr Bucur managed to remove the whole tumour. We shall be eternally grateful for the skill and expertise of Mr Bucur.

Throughout his journey, Kieran always remained positive and upbeat. He showed us a remarkable side to his character that made us immensely proud. One day whilst having the weekly check up of his Hickman line, his community nurse, Louise Pike, told us about a charity in Polegate called "Children with Cancer Fund". We'd been discussing ways in which Kieran could continue to play golf even though he had been zapped of all his energy by

the chemotherapy, when Louise mentioned that CWCF could help. It wasn't long before they contacted us and offered to pay for a motorized golf trolley which would save Kieran from carrying his clubs. Kieran was absolutely delighted!

Today we're very pleased and relieved to report that Kieran is recovering very well and has finished all of his treatment. He has returned to Sussex Downs College to continue his apprenticeship. His cancer journey has made him appreciate things in life that he may have taken for granted such as being able to play golf! Now that he's reached the end of his treatment we, as a family, (and our close friends) would like to give something back to some of the charities who supported us.

Our very good friends, Carl & Christine Hipgrave, recently organized a charity quiz night at Willingdon Golf Course, Kieran's home course. Thanks to the generosity of the

people who took part in the event, a total of £657 was raised! A special thanks to local businesses who donated generously.





### GINGERBREAD HOUSE FOR CANCER FAMILY

Thanks to Sara one of our families got a Christmas Surprise. A real Gingerbread house, just like in Hansel and Gretel, with sweets all over it, all around it and even in it! There were roof tiles made of white chocolate buttons, Rolo fence posts that had a red liquorice chain running between the posts and even the chimney was made from chocolate fingers.

Sara delivered the house on a snowy day, which was also the day of us taking the families to the Panto so we were able to pass it straight on.

# Laurence's Story

I'm Laurence. I was diagnosed with a brain tumour when I was 16, which turned out to be a rare type of tumour called Ependymoma. I had two operations in June last year at Kings College Hospital in London, followed by 33

sessions of radiotherapy at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. I finished my treatment on the 8th September last year and went back to college the following week, at Sussex Downs College Eastbourne, where I am studying Carpentry level 2

I had my first MRI scan, since treatment, in December last year and had the great news that it was clear. I have to go back for further scans every four months for the next



two years, and then, if all is well, every six months for up to five years. I am feeling really well now, and almost back to normal, apart from sometimes feeling tired, which I am told is the after effects of radiotherapy.

I would like to

thank CWCF and the team for the fantastic laptops which they gave my brother and I. They will be getting lots of use. I have always wanted a laptop of my own and I am so happy that I have finally

got one. I can't thank the charity enough for this amazing gift. Thank you all so much.

Laurence





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# Lilac Lily's Story



Lilac was a normal extremely energetic and cheeky five year old who would never sit still.

Just before the Easter holidays last

year there was a virus in her class at school with symptoms of lethargy and a high temperature.

A week later Lilac was still the same. We met her friends down on the beach and realised that they had all bounced back, except Lilac.

We took her to the GP who said "It's a virus, here are some antibiotics. "A week later and no better we took her to the A & E in Brighton.

We were nearly sent home again! But I begged them to do a test for anaemia at least as Lilac was the strangest colour, a luminous grey quite extraordinary.

Luckily they did do the test and the nurse came to the café to find us, at which point my heart sank. The doctors told us immediately that Lilac had Leukaemia and that we would be admitted straight away and then transferred to the Marsden ASAP.

The world stopped still or my heart did, I felt I was in a dream or a film, nothing was real. The whole experience was forever imbedded in history as it was the day before the Royal Wedding. We spent our first awful day in hospital watching everyone else celebrate.

We were admitted to the Royal Alex and the start of the very long and painful journey began. The first day of holding your child down so that the nurses can take her blood and her looking at you wondering why you would let these people hurt her will never leave me. You cannot explain to a five year old why this much pain is necessary to help her get better and you never will.

We were transferred to the Marsden where Lilac had her portacath put in and the heavy treatment began. We were there for what seemed like weeks. It was amazing to meet so many lovely souls in such a scary place. We were helped through the first few dizzy days by the wonderful Francesca and Blue who showed us the

ropes. We also met the lovely Maisie and her parents. Just a hug and a cup of tea meant the world.

At last we were sent home but after only a week we were back in hospital as Lilac was in severe pain. After a lot of confusion over the cause of her pain we were transferred to St George's Hospital in London, the scariest ride of my life, Lilac had been incubated and I sat helpless in the back of the ambulance.

We were admitted to the PICU and the next day they operated. Lilac had a perforation of the secum which can be caused by one of the chemo drugs. Hooked up in intensive care John & I found it hard to look at the poor girl without welling up. As parents you always try to put on a brave face even though your heart is breaking.

Scarlette our eldest daughter joined us in London as she could not cope with all of us being away, poor lamb. The Ronald McDonald House saved our lives and our sanity by providing a safe haven away from the hospital.

After another eternity we were sent back to Brighton, and after even more weeks sent home. By now Lilac had lost half a stone, she

was thin, weak, couldn't walk and her hair had fallen out. The sight of her every day was devastating, a visual reminder of the intensity of the treatment.

At least at home, with good food and friends coming round, she began to perk up. She decided she wanted a wig & chose a long blonde one from The Little Princess Trust which looks great and really helps with her confidence.

Lilac managed to meet her new teacher at the end of the summer term, and attend the end of term picnic. People do stare, but you get used to it or tolerate it!

We went on holiday thanks to the Luke Cory Fund at the Bunn Leisure Village and had a wonderful time. After being in hospital so much, we all appreciated every minute of sheer happiness.

On our return we had been invited to a Go Kart day by the lovely Chris & Ursula of the Children with Cancer Fund. We had such a fun day and it was lovely to see Maisie and family again. Lilac and Maisie had a ball.

At the end of a lovely day Chris presented us with our wishes. The girls were so happy: Lilac with her Sylvanian Camper Van and Scarlette with her new Blackberry!

I was over the moon with a new laptop and to top it off John was presented with a flat screen TV! We felt like we had been on The Generation Game!

We have since enjoyed our wishes very much and a few weeks later it was John's turn. CWCF had booked John & his band into a recording studio in Eastbourne (CMP Studio's) which they thoroughly enjoyed. As they were leaving Chris presented John with his very own Ludwig drum kit!!!!



He is still smiling & Lilac turns out to be a natural on the drums - much to the cat's annoyance!

Lilac has survived her first round of intensification without being admitted, which is a miracle and she continues to defy the nurses expectations by scooting down the day ward for her chemo with her blonde wig streaming out behind her.

We have got this far on the long journey with a lot of help from a lot of lovely people . The kind gestures and wonderful wishes from the Children with Cancer Fund really

brighten up what can seem like an eternity of dark days.

Thank you guys from the whole family!

There are more stories like this on www.childrenwithcancerfund.co.uk



# Pond money pays for go-karting

Thanks to the continued support from 'Chris the pond' we were able to take some cancer families on a go-karting treat at Filching Manor. Chris is in charge of emptying a

large pond and he always gives us the money that has been thrown into it. This time he appeared with 4 sacks full of change and by the time we had counted it there was enough to pay for a fun time on the go-karts.



### EASTBOURNE DISTRICT MINI CLUB

EDMC's annual Mini run took place on 26th June, with 26 Minis of all shapes and sizes taking part in a 60 mile tour around the scenic local B-roads. Entrants motored from the Beachy Head Pub, over the downs to East Dean and headed north across the Pevensey Levels to Staplecross. There was a quick stop for cake and coffee before heading back to Princes Park for a Mini gathering on the lawns. The day raised a total of £292.26. One of the EDMC members, Stephen Colbran, also took part in a bike ride from

Southampton to Beachy Head to raise funds for the event, which topped the £500 mark. More info on EDMC and their annual run can be found at www.edmc.co.uk.





# Trevor and his 1st Run

April 2010, I witnessed the first Brighton marathon; six of my friends were taking part. So I thought I would go and give them some support.

A fantastic day and all of my friends completed it in a very good time as it was their first marathon.

I thought I would give it a go and I did! Not being a runner, and at 47 years old, training was hard. The big day came, it was unbelievable, I did it! I got a T-shirt and a medal. CWCF accepted my sponsor money of £1007.37. I hope CWCF enjoys spending the money as much as I enjoyed running the marathon.

From Trevor

# Scotty's Runs

My name is Chris Scott and in April 2011 I (some would say stupidly) ran two marathons in a week in memory of Josie Neale in aid of CWCF. I ran the Brighton marathon and then the London marathon the following weekend. The reason I put myself through this was after witnessing someone I know losing a loved one. It was the hardest but equally most rewarding week of

> my life knowing that the £2465 raised will be put to good use and if I get another London place I'll do it all again next year!!:)

Not only has Chris got behind CWCF but The Uckfield Club has joined with him. fundraising with various events and we would like to thank them for all the hard work &

support they have given our cancer family and CWCF.



Some of the larger charities have very set boundaries and will pay for things that a poorly child will never forget, but as we are small it means we can look at each wish individually. One family had a holiday to Disneyland and the poorly child + Mum were given places to swim with the dolphins. This would have left Nan and the sibling sat on the side watching, which is where we could step in and, after talkina to the

travel agents that we knew they were going with, it was sorted and ALL four of them swam together with the dolphins. 🙇







# Nieve's Wish

This is a letter we received shortly after we saw Nieve & her family.

My Mummy and Daddy said we were popping in to Chris and Ursula's for a quick cup of tea on our way out on Saturday. When we were there I was allowed to take one of their guinea pigs for a walk but I think he really took me. After that we had a drink and Chris gave me a box to open. It was a laptop of my own. I was so excited that they had granted my wish that I could not speak. My laptop is fantastic and I am so lucky thank you so much. Having my laptop means that when I am not well enough to go to school I can keep in contact with my friends by using email. One of the best things is it has its own camera so I can skype my friends and see them at the same time as talking to them. We can do this while they are at school so I can keep up with what they are learning and my teacher can help me if I get stuck.

I can also watch DVDs on it when I am visiting the hospitals

as well as play Club n Penguin and Moshi Monsters. It is fantastic and I love it.





# Are you free for 10 minutes?

We are looking for people to deliver our newsletter to their own street/ road. We are not asking you to do loads, just your local area. If you are interested, please contact us on 01323 485314 or e-mail us please.

### A letter from the Community Nurses

As Children's Community Nurses we meet many families who have unfortunately been affected by cancer in one way or another. When we meet the families, it is wonderful to be able to mention Children with Cancer Fund. explaining that it is a local charity for local children and their families. The children often get very excited deciding on their wishes and the siblings are always included in receiving gifts. This can be a great distraction from the difficult and confusing time of diagnosis and acceptance of a very difficult road ahead involving hospital visits and treatment.

We are always amazed at the way children and their families cope with their cancer. Having the Children with Cancer Fund on our doorstep allows often very simple needs to be met, be it a game to play during long hospital visits, or a comfy chair to sit on whilst at home not feeling too well, but not wanting to be in bed away from everything. The team at Children with Cancer Fund do this and so much more - keep up the good work.

Lucy & Louise (Community Nurses Eastbourne D.G.H)

# Night at the Dogs

It is always great to be able to take the families away from the day to day trauma of what they are going through so on a snowy evening in February they were treated to an evening at Brighton Dogs, where they forgot about everything for a few hours and had some fun. One of our new families wrote:

Just a few words to thank you for invitina us to join you at the greyhounds on Saturday night. Despite only picking one winner we had a lovely time and a lot of laughs makina friends with other families.



# PANTO+SURPRISE

over 150 to the panto Eastbourne afterwards the families were treated to a party which was sponsored by Legal & General, Hove (where one of our cancer children's Mum works). The fun was had at the panto, the food



was all sorted and the families arrived. The children danced and played together whilst the parents talked. It was then time for our special quest to arrive. Music to Party had contacts with the act Maybe GaGa who entered in style and sang to the children and parents. Wow what a fantastic way to end the evening! Everyone went home still buzzing about their afternoon

to Mo and the Legal & General team, John and Sue at Music to Party, Maybe GaGa and evervone else involved.





A very kind lady won a years membership to the Museum but instead of having it for herself, she gave it to us. We made contact with the Museum and they offered us a day out for our families instead of the year's membership.

We took them up on their offer and 80 were set to go, although due to the nature of the beast we deal with, the number dropped on the day. They welcomed us with refreshments & biscuits, put on a fantastic show with hands on candleholder making and they even allowed us to handle artefacts of over 500 years old. Then lunch arrived, which it is only fair to say was 'a banquet' with sandwiches filled with salmon & cream cheese, BLT's, avocado & salad and loads more fillings. fruit bowls, homemade sausage rolls & posh crisps. Then in came the four trays of cakes. Yes, everyone had a lovely lunch, then we were taken into the Museum where Charles Dickens told us all about his books and put the children through their acting skills.

One family sent us these words saying: Thank you for a lovely family day out today, we had a great day.

It was good to see

# Rotary support has been fantastic...

### SOVEREIGN HARBOUR ROTARY CLUB



Over the Christmas period, members of the Rotary Club collected for the charity in the Crumbles Retail Park, and also joined other local Rotary Clubs outside Tesco in Lottbridge Drove.

Club Vice-President, Jim Hull, presented Chris with a cheque in respect of the Christmas collections.

Club member, Jan Weeks, congratulated Chris on the charity's success in winning the 'Community Group Achievement' category in the 2011 Eastbourne Achievers Awards which, she said, was very well deserved.

Jim Hull said: "One can't help but be touched by the plight of the children and their families affected by this awful illness, and we are so grateful that, despite the problems of the economy, the public response was, as always so generous.

For more information on Children with Cancer, visit:

www.childrenwithcancerfund.co.uk

The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour meets every Tuesday at 7pm in Simply Italian at the Sovereign Harbour Waterfront; new members are always welcome.

For more information call Don Perman. on 01323-479713 or visit the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour website:

www.sovharbour.rotaryweb.org

# ROTARY CLUB

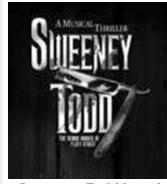
At a recent meeting of Seaford Martello Rotary Club, President Reg Dove presented a cheque to Chris Downton. President Reg said, " I am delighted to make this donation on behalf of Seaford Martello Rotary Club as my aim is to support local charities, particularly those helping families and children. "



### **PUDSEY AT THE** ROTARY CONFERENCE



As part of the District Rotary Conference in Eastbourne, local charities were able to have an information stall about their charity in 'the hall of friendship' allowing many different Rotary Clubs to see the good work done, and CWCF were one of the lucky charities. We were also fortunate to be given the opportunity to make a brief presentation to the 600 conference delegates about CWCF. But for one lucky CWCF helper (our youngest daughter Jessica) Pudsey decided to make a special appearance and he even gave her a big Pudsey hug! Thank you to all the Rotary Clubs that have supported us.



# Sweeney Todd treat

A family's wish was to go to the theatre to see their daughter's favourite musical, Sweeney Todd. It turned out to be a great time with all four of them having time together in Chichester, where they were even able to meet the cast and have a tour backstage. As an email from the young lady's Mum below shows it was a very special outing for the family.

"Our daughter was very low at the time, that night at the theatre transformed her spirits. It was a thrill for us to all ao out together. The performance was spectacular. Going backstage and having the chance to see the set and talk with Imelda Staunton and Michael Ball was spectacular. It was the highlight of my daughter's year. She felt inspired and made her want to do well in her GCSE drama. It was very special."

She goes on to say:

"CWCF gave us a break and a treat when we most needed it. A treat at such time means so much more. It gave us something to look forward to, it lifted our spirits."

All we can say is that it was a pleasure to provide a treat just when it was needed and we are glad we put a smile on the family's face.

# SHARP KNIVES

David Phillips of Steamer Trading has again supported us by carrying out a knife sharpening service and giving the money he charges for the service to us. So if you had your knife sharpened at a branch of STEAMER TRADING COOKSHOP, thank you and thanks to David.

# THE HIDDEN HEROES BEHIND CWCF

CWCF has a lot of people behind but without that sort of support we the scenes doing fundraising for us, would not be able to do what we do delivering the newsletters and even for the cancer families - so, from all making sure the memorial stone of us at CWCF, thank you it is very has flowers on it like Debbie does, much appreciated.



### SAMUEL'S TOYS

We received a letter from a very unselfish Mum:

Samuel plays a lot at the hospital with a toy called a car transporter. He loves it and he has also arown completely out of his trampoline, which he loves and it does help to keep strength in his leas. I don't like to ask you for help but everyone keep saying 'don't be afraid to ask' so I am now askina as I would also like to get my husband the Harry Potter DVD, The Deadly Hallows part 2'. There are lots of things I would like but I can go without, I'd rather make sure my son and hubby are happy xx

What the Mum didn't know was that the Dad had said the same about

himself and wanted show tickets for her, so we were able to get them all together and make everyone happy with their wishes



# **Turkish** spending surprise

After a family attended our pottery painting afternoon and said they were taking their first holiday abroad for several years in a week's time, CWCF decided that in view of the major operation their child had just gone through, it would be nice to make their holiday a bit more special. So with the help of one of the other families', we gave the family some Turkish Lira for spending money. It was not only a total surprise to the family concerned, but

for the family who assisted with surprise, they said it was a privilege to see the families faces on granting them the wish.



# TEMPLE LODGE **SUPPORT**

Following a successful year as Worshipful Master of Temple Lodge Brighton, Russell Turner and his wife Marie met up with CWCF to present us with a cheque for £1350.

Temple Lodge raised the funds through various events over 12 months including a trip to the greyhounds, a BBQ and a Ladies Festival Weekend held on the Isle of Wight.

Russell said. "It's been a great year for the Lodge and with the support of all our members plus the guests we hope it helps". The money was actually used towards the panto trip which we did the week before Christmas with all the families.





### TEA WITH THE OUEEN

It's a long story, but CWCF were lucky enough to be nominated for the Queen's Award. Well, we had meetings with some very posh people, support from cancer families and the backing of the community nurses, but, we didn't win! We did however make it to the finals and because of this we were invited to represent CWCF at one of the Queen's tea parties held on the lawns of Buckingham Palace. We would like to say a big thank you to the people that were behind us and we are very proud of how far CWCF got.

# SPECIAL SWIM SUIT FOR RHYS

Rhvs contacted CWCF to see if it was possible to have a wish for a Hickman Dry Suit come true. Rhvs had a Hickman line in his chest for 6



months and that would have stopped him from enjoying his swimming and water fun. It was fantastic to find out that his wish would come true and he received the Hickman suit, which he used often. Rhys was thrilled to be able to do water activities, which he has always enjoyed so very much. Rhys has four sisters, Phoebe, Saskia, Xanthe and Seraphina who also had wishes come true with clothes vouchers, a fabulous bike, Wii controllers and games, and an enormous Littlest Pet Shop box of goodies, and a Drusillas membership pass. To most of us a dry suit is only for swimming, but to a cancer child it means that they can have a shower. Rhys wanted one mainly because he missed his swimming and with some local donations we were able to buy him one. Now he can swim with the rest of his family and

Thank you so very, very much to everyone who helped these

'has to have a shower'! wishes come true.

# TU CLUB

The TU Club, Eastbourne, has again shown their support for us by raising money over the year. With times being hard they still found events that allowed everyone to have fun and raise money at the same time. Thank you to all the organisers and the people that took part.



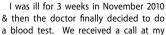
# PARACHUTE JUMP

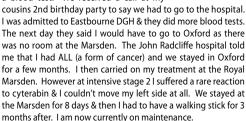
Staff and owners at Combe Haven Holiday Park in Hastings took a leap of faith for charity in September with a 25,000ft parachute jump. Marie Ball, Lara Bolbolsh, Erica Smythson and the aptly named Keiran Jump(!) were among the brave souls who took to the skies in aid of CWCF. All landed safely and unscathed and raised a magnificent total of £2,100 thanks to the generosity of staff, owners and suppliers. The cheque was presented on the night of the end of season party for the owners. The people who took part in the parachute jump were paraded on stage and were given rapturous applause for their brave efforts. Vicky Miller from CWCF received the cheque from organiser Marie Ball and thanked everyone for their participation in raising such a fantastic amount.



# Lillie-Mystory

I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in December 2010 when I was 14.





My wishes to CWCF were:

A trip to Longleat Safari Park- where we got to get up-close & personal to some of the animals - a Wii u-draw game tablet & a Pictionary Wii game. My brother wanted a JD Bug scooter and thanks to the support of some kind people, CWCF were able to grant us our wishes. Thank you everyone for your support.







# Wishing Well Tea Room & Gardens

My first words have got to be, you must go there and try the lemon drizzle cake!

Teresa & Barry, who own the Wishing Well Tea Room and Gardens at Wilmington, invited us to take some families along for an informal afternoon tea. The weather was not the best (a typical English summer afternoon of showers!) but the company and cakes made up for all that. In a very relaxed atmosphere families chatted and the children went in the garden and played. New families to CWCF came along and were soon made to feel comfortable talking to others that understood what they were going through. Events like these don't have a price tag on them because we see the positive effect it has on our cancer families

in realising they are not in it on their own and that other families close to them are there to support them as well as the nursing teams. Thank you again Teresa and Barry for your hospitality.

# Nigel's Walk for Charity

On Sunday July 10th Nigel Craddock, along with 12 supporters from the Eastbourne Working Men's Club, walked the Eastbourne Seafront for Children with Cancer Fund. Nigel, battling cancer himself, has devoted most of the year raising money for this charity. 'It's for the kids!' Nigel says. Along with the Charity Walk, Nigel has also been selling football pools and has received much support from the patrons of the Terminus Pub and members of the Eastbourne Working Men's Club. The Eastbourne Working Men's Club adopted Children with Cancer Fund as its official charity for 2011. Nigel's success in raising awareness for this charity is immeasurable. His courage and determination has been inspiring. Unfortunately Nigel didn't make it to see his money being presented to us.



# WORDSEARCH

# CITY, TOWNS & VILLAGES

**EASTBOURNE HASTINGS POLEGATE** RYE **BRIGHTON HORSHAM** HOVE AL FRISTON **UCKFIELD EASTDEAN SEAFORD** ROTTINGDEAN **NEWHAVEN** RINGMER **LEWES** COWBEECH **PEACEHAVEN HERSTMONCEUX HAILSHAM BATTLE BEXHILL WADHURST** 

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# **JOIN THE WORD**

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1.	SHOE		OFFICE
2.	WHITE		DANCING
3.	LAP		GEAR
4.	KEY		GAME
5.	PICTURE		TENTS
6.	BAR		CUE
7.	WII		CONTROLS
8. 0	HRISTMAS		SHARK
9.	RIVER		NOTE
10. I	FOOTBALL		DARK

# Duplicates – sorry!

The 'Friends' of CWCF are people who have filled out the form on the back of the newsletter and sent it back to us asking for their newsletter to be sent to them. Sometimes they get more than one copy, but the logistics of asking the volunteer street delivery people not to put a newsletter in a letterbox here, there and other places would be too complicated. So, we are sorry if you are a 'Friend' and you do get more than one copy, but we ask that any spare copies you get are given to your friends or members of a club that you may attend. This way we hope they will not be wasted and the word will be spread a bit wider. Thank you.



CWCF are not a big group we are just family and friends who care about what we do.



NEIL PRINGLE Patron (BBC Southern Counties Radio) supported us since we started.



URSULA & I (CHRIS)
We just do the day to day bits, Ursula is
the Treasurer and I am the Chairman.



JAMES & KIRSTY Founders and decision makers regarding events we do as CWCF.



L-R: URSULA, HEIDI, KIRSTY, ASHLEY, JAMES & CHRIS Ashley & Heidi do the day to day signing of cheques and okaying what we are doing.



VICKY Approves wishes and attends/ organises events.



TONI & RAY What don't they do! Collect, count and bank the penny boxes, sort delivery of the newsletter, talks for us, etc, etc.



KAREN & RICHARD
'Friends of CWCF', they sort out
the 'Friends', posting and logistics
to do with that side of us.



CAROLINE Helps with the day to day paperwork, wishes, events, etc.



ANNA Assists Ursula with the accounts.



KEVIN
Kevin does everything to do with
the web pages and sorting out any
hiccups we have with the computers.



PAULINE
When Ursula & Anna have
written the receipts out, Pauline
then makes up & sends out the
certificates & thank you letters.



PAT & DAVE
They are our hospitality team and deal
with keeping the caravans clean that we
let the cancer families have holidays in.

# CANCER FUND POLEGATE O NEWSLETTER

# THANK YOU

There are so many people, groups and businesses that have helped CWCF this year and for this we are truly grateful. Unfortunately we only have a limited number of pages in the newsletter so we can't do stories on everyone of you, but we really do appreciate all of your efforts. Please accept this as a personal thank you from all of us and the families we have supported thanks to your money.

For those that don't know CWCF was set up in 1998 by Ursula & Chris Downton with Kirsty (Ursula's sister) & James Denny. We wanted to do something but could not decide what, so one evening we went around the table saying what we believed in. Two themes came out of the conversation and they were children and cancer. So from that night on we decided to marry the two together and call ourselves "CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND". Now with the help of other friends and family we still go out having fun raising funds to grant wishes to local children and their families who have had or are suffering from cancer.

Answers: JOIN THE WORD PAGE 19

- 1. BOX
- 2. LINE
- 3. TOP
- 4. BOARD
- 5. FRAME
- 6. BILLIARD 7. REMOTE
- 8. CARD
- 9. BANK
- 10. PITCH

FRIENDS

If you would like to receive your next newsletter by post please fill out a form, just in case your street gets missed next year.

CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND

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