

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

We heard the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II with great sorrow. Our thoughts are with members of the royal family at this sad time.

Throughout her life, the Queen was passionately interested in horse-racing. In the early years of her reign, she regularly attended race meetings at Hurst Park racecourse.

The Queen is seen in the picture on the right at Hurst Park Racecourse in May 1953.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 12 October 2022, 11 a.m.
COFFEE MORNING
Royal British Legion
St Mary's Road, East Molesey, KT8 0ST

Please join us for coffee and a chance to chat to other members. We shall be showing some old film clips of Molesey. We would welcome any suggestions for future meetings or for newsletter articles

Friday 18 November 2022, 8 p.m.
HISTORY OF TAGG'S ISLAND
St Lawrence School, Church Road, East Molesey KT8 9DR

We have been researching the history of Tagg's Island this year and have been very fortunate in being provided with an enormous amount of information. We have decided that, as we have so much material, our meeting in November will look at the history of the Island until the mid-1920s when Fred Karno was declared bankrupt. We shall bring the story of the Island up to date at another meeting next year.

MEETING & EVENT REPORTS

MOLESEY CARNIVAL

Saturday 11 June 2022

Our tent at Molesey Carnival as usual proved to be very popular; we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon. We exhibited some old maps of Molesey, some photographs of street parties held to celebrate the Coronation in 1953 and display sheets on Royalty in Molesey, the history of the Carnival and the Pandemic.



We were delighted to be visited by Doreen Bott (pictured left) who was the Carnival Queen in 1950. She was pleased to see her photograph as the Queen in one of our Carnival displays.

THE HISTORY OF BUSHY PARK AND THE RESTORATION OF THE DIANA FOUNTAIN AND THE WATER GARDENS

By Pieter Morpurgo

St. Lawrence School, Church Road, East Molesey

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Report by Roger Hoad

Pieter, who is President of the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks, gave a very interesting talk on Bushy Park. His talk was divided into three parts: the History of the Park, the restoration of the Water Gardens and the restoration of the Diana Fountain.

History

The Park is at least 4,000 years old and has Bronze Age mounds; an axe head was found. It is the second biggest Royal Park after Richmond, but, unlike Richmond, it is completely flat. It was used from the 1500s as a hunting ground for Hampton Court Palace. Charles I had the Longford River, which is 17 kilometres long, built to supply water to the grounds of the Palace. Oliver Cromwell thought the Park too extravagant and sold it, but, when he moved to the Palace, he bought it back.

While William III was riding in the Park in March 1702, his horse tripped and threw him. He broke his collar bone but ignored advice and moved to Kensington Palace where he died three days later of pneumonia. His death was blamed on the 'little gentleman in black velvet' as his horse was thought to have stumbled on a mole hill, but the mound on which his horse stepped was in fact an ant hill of the Yellow Meadow ant. Because the land is flat there is an unbroken view under the trees. This is called the browse line and is maintained at the height that the deer can reach to eat the foliage.



Upper Lodge

Upper Lodge, in the northwest corner of the Park, is surrounded by medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing and may have been originally the site of an earlier building. It was rebuilt in 1709 by Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax, when he became the Keeper or Ranger of Bushy Park following the death of the previous Keeper. It was rebuilt again in the 1840s.

During World War One, King George V gave permission for Upper Lodge to become a hospital for Canadian troops. It had 300 beds and out of those treated there, only seven died. In 1990, the Canadian Government gave a Totem Pole as thanks for its use. This was erected in the Park with a plaque of thanks.

During the Second World War, Upper Lodge was used by the National Physical Laboratory as offices and laboratories. Many important advances in aerodynamics and marine technology were made there, including the streamlining of the Spitfire. Barnes Wallace used the tank in the Laboratory's main building for testing his bouncing bomb, and other armaments were also tested in the Park.

The Park was used by the USA in the Second World War to construct a camp for about 5,000 of their soldiers. It was named Camp Griffiss after Townsend E. Griffiss who was the first American airman killed in Europe after the United States' entry into the War.

This was where General Eisenhower began planning 'Operation Overlord', the Allied Expeditionary Forces' D-Day invasion of Normandy. Bronze plaques mark the corners of the camp.



Bronze Plaque marking a corner of Camp Griffiss

Water Gardens Restoration

These water gardens were first built by Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax between 1709 and 1715 when he was Ranger of Bushy Park and lived in Upper Lodge. They fell into disuse and disrepair over subsequent centuries and became just a muddy pond.

By chance the Friends of Bushy Park were given sketches of the original design and an 18th century painting was found in the attic at Hampton Court Palace. This original painting by Marco Ricci is now in the Queen's Gallery.

Pieter gave examples of the attention to detail to bring it back to the original build. When complete, the Water Gardens were officially opened on 1 October 2009 by Princess Alexandra. The Water Gardens were opened to the public on the following day.



This painting by Marco Ricci in 1715 was used as the basis for the painstaking task of restoring the Water Gardens. The original now hangs in the Queen's Gallery

Diana Fountain Restoration

The Diana Fountain is a bronze statue of the goddess on a marble and stone fountain, surrounded by bronzes of four boys, four water nymphs and four shells. It was designed in 1637 by Herbert Le Sueur at the request of King Charles I for his wife Henrietta Maria. It originally stood at Somerset House, then moved to the Privy Garden of Hampton Court in 1656. In 1712 the fountain was moved to its current position in Bushy Park, in the middle of Chestnut Avenue, as part of Sir Christopher Wren's new grand entrance to Hampton Court Palace.

Before any restoration could commence, the pond had to be cleared of fish; it took three weeks to catch them all. The pond then had to be drained of 17.5 million litres of water, which took another three and a half weeks. After this a considerable amount of sludge had

to be removed. When this had been done, an inner ring of brickwork was revealed showing that the pond had originally been smaller; the 1913 Ordnance Survey map showed the smaller pond whereas the 1954 OS map showed the larger one. No records are available to say when the pond was enlarged.

On inspection it was found that the Diana base was not straight and was fixed by only three of the original four fixings. It was not until the statue was lifted off the base stone that it was discovered to be 2.38 metres in height and to weigh 924 kilos. Many of the Portland stones were damaged or not fixed properly, with 82 of them having to be replaced, and be cut by hand from new blocks by skilled stone masons in an onsite facility. The stone base to the statue was carved with "AR 1712" which proved it had been moved there during the time of Queen Anne. When the base was repositioned, "ER 2009" was carved on it as a record of the date of restoration.

The Diana statue, together with all the other bronze parts, was taken to a workshop in Brixton for restoration. They were carefully cleaned by a steam jet. The boys, water nymphs and shells were carefully repaired where necessary and given six layers of wax to all surfaces.

Looking through the original invoice from Christopher Wren, it was noticed that £104 had been charged for gilding Diana. It was decided that Diana should be as original and so she was given two layers of gold leaf at the cost of £6,000.

After the statue, fountain and water pipes had all been tested and proved to be working, the pond was refilled, which took another three and a half weeks.

It was decided not to restock the pond with fish. After the restoration, the statue and fountain were given Grade 1 listing.



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EMINENT VICTORIANS

Summer Stroll - St Peter's Churchyard and Molesey Cemetery
Monday 11 July 2022

The theme of this year's summer stroll, in St. Peter's graveyard and Molesey Cemetery, was 'Eminent Victorians'. Forty members and guests came along on a gloriously sunny morning to hear Anthony's introduction in the church before seeing for themselves the graves of the locally rich and famous.

Anthony reminded us that the funeral practices of the Victorians of all social classes were very formal and could entail considerable expense. The Surrey Comet of 26 April 1873, for example, reported the funeral of Alfred Gillott of Matham Road. Alfred was one of the sons of the famous Birmingham steel pen nib manufacturer, Joseph Gillott. (The older generation will remember writing with these nibs at school.)

A beautiful wreath of 'immortelles' lay on the solid oak coffin which was carried in a horse-drawn hearse. The distinguished artist, Frederick Richard Pickersgill of Park House in St. Mary's Road, was one of eight pallbearers and the funeral procession consisted of six mourning coaches. Alfred was buried close to the cemetery chapel. His coped red granite stone memorial with an iron railing surround is next to that of his younger brother Montague, who died seven years after him.



Anthony had placed markers next to some of the memorials with pen portraits of the individuals commemorated there.

Several of Molesey's prominent local figures are buried in the churchyard. John Wilson Croker MP, who is credited with giving the Conservatives their name and who bought the vicarage for West Molesey Church, was buried here in 1857.

The inscription on Alfred Gillott's memorial is becoming unreadable and the iron railings are in a poor state of repair. Parts of the cemetery are now being managed to maintain and enhance the diversity of wildlife by restricting cutting to two or three times a year

Close by is the cross marking the grave of his adopted daughter, Rosamond (died 1906), and her husband Sir George Barrow (died 1876). Lady Barrow was an important benefactor, influential in the founding of Molesey's first hospital.

Many of Molesey's eminent Victorians are buried around the Cemetery chapel. The 'Who's Who' of Victorian Molesey includes the hugely popular Dr James Jenkinson Knox (founder of Hampton Court and Molesey Association Football Club), Dr John Knox (his younger brother who succeeded him as Medical Officer of Health), James Ray (long-serving chairman of East and West Molesey Urban District Council).

Also buried here are Jesse Wheatley (whose firm built St Paul's Church and most of the big houses in the former East Molesey Park), several members of the Tagg family (including Thomas George Tagg of Tagg's Island fame) and members of the Kent family (including William Charles Kent, a leading light of Molesey Boat Club and Molesey Hockey Club).

Among the more surprising discoveries to be made in the cemetery are the memorials to two survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1857 (Henry Jewell, a private in the 11th Hussars, and George Pumfrett, a corporal in the 17th Lancers).

Anthony hoped that further stories of Molesey's eminent Victorians will come to light, especially of the women who we currently know less about. Members can read a brief history of Molesey Cemetery in the Members area of the website.



George Pumfrett in his uniform as Corporal in the 17th Lancers. In later life, he lived in Arnison Road, East Molesey. Family tradition has it that his horse was shot under him at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854 and he walked back unwounded

P.S. A big thank you to Geoff, the landlord of The Royal Oak, for opening up early on a Monday morning to serve refreshments and to Annette, operations manager at St. Peter's Church for arranging for us to meet there.

COMMANDER LIONEL ANDROS DE SAUSMAREZ (1847-1929)

A review of one of the 'Eminent Victorians' buried in Molesey Cemetery

by Rosemary Searle

One of the 'Eminent Victorians' buried in Molesey Cemetery and mentioned by Anthony Barnes in his talk at the Summer Stroll was Lionel Andros de Sausmarez. Lionel was a member of the well-known family of Sausmarez/de Sausmarez, who were Seigneurs of Sausmarez, Guernsey, owners of Sausmarez Manor, illustrious naval officers and important members of the Island community for many generations. He first made an appearance in East Molesey during the late 19th century, when he, his wife, Mary (née Bell) and their four children moved into East Molesey Lodge, a large mansion in extensive grounds on the west bank of the River Mole, the site of which is now occupied by Kingfisher Court and Cedar Close in Bridge Road.

East Molesey Lodge was originally known as Walnut Tree House and was erected on the site of an older mansion built by one of Henry VIII's advisors, Sir Thomas Heneage.

However, during the Victorian period, it was previously owned by John Spinks (1851 census, when it is referred to as Molesey Lodge) and later his brother, Frederick Lowton Spinks, the last Serjeant at Arms, who purchased it from him in 1853. On the 1861 census it is again named Walnut Tree House, but servants only are noted in residence. Later owners were Richard Wakefield, a paper manufacturer, and his family, who are listed as living there in the 1878 Kelly's Directory for East Molesey and on the 1881 and 1891 census returns. The de Sausmarez family appears on the 1901 and 1911 census returns with a full complement of servants.



Lionel Andros de Sausmarez was born in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, on 2 April 1847, the third of four sons of Captain Philip de Sausmarez, (1810–1895), who was a younger brother of the Seigneur de Sausmarez, and his wife Jane Maria (née Barlow). Captain Philip de

Sausmarez entered the Royal Navy on 18 June 1823, saw much service, including the China War, and retired on 31 March 1866.

Lionel's three brothers were Philip Algernon (1841–1915), a Master Mariner in the West African Mail Service and afterwards Consul at Rouen; William Howley (1845–?) who died at a young age and Frederick Barlow (1849-1939) J.P., M.A. Pembroke College, Oxford, who was appointed one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in 1878.

Lionel de Sausmarez was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, entered the Royal Navy in 1860 and was promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1866. He married his cousin, Mary Bell and they had three daughters and one son - Frances Mary (1873 – 1964); Lionel Wilfred (1874–1901), a Lieutenant of the 60th Rifles, who died during the Somaliland Campaign and was

buried at Berbera; Leila Edith (1876–1949) and Ethel (1878-1965) who married an East Molesey doctor, Lyon Falkener, in 1906 at St. Mary's Church and lived locally in Riverbank and later at Arcamont, Palace Road, with their daughter, Margery. The Falkener family eventually moved to Guernsey where Lyon died in 1952 and Ethel in 1965.

Lionel de Sausmarez was specially promoted to Lieutenant, awarded the Albert Medal (the first naval officer to gain this distinction) and a Royal Humane Society medal for having, on the night of 1 June 1868, whilst officer of the watch on HMS Myrmidon in Banana Creek, River Congo, jumped overboard in a strong current and shark-infested water to rescue a seaman who could not swim. He saved five other people from drowning.

Whilst Senior Lieutenant of HMS London (1875-8), de Sausmarez was actively engaged in the suppression of the slave trade on the south-east coast of Africa and whilst Senior Lieutenant of HMS Sultan was present at the Bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, was mentioned in dispatches, and received the Egyptian medal with the clasp for Alexandria, the Khedive's bronze star, and the Order of Osmanjeh (fourth class). He retired with the rank of Commander in 1883.



Mary de Sausmarez died in 1908, but Lionel and his daughter Frances, who never married, lived at East Molesey Lodge until his death in 1929. The house was then sold and was demolished soon after, in 1930. Lionel and Mary are buried in Molesey Cemetery and on the gravestone, there are also tributes to Frances, who died in Somerset in 1964, and their son Lionel Wilfred, who had died in 1901 (see above details).

The grave of Commander Lionel Andros de Sausmarez and his wife Mary in Molesey cemetery. Their gravestone also mentions their son Lionel Wilfred who was killed on active service and their daughter Frances

References and Sources

GRO Births Marriages and Deaths; 1841 – 1921 British census returns; Will of Lionel Andros de Sausmarez; Bailiwick of Guernsey – J. Jacob; The Book of Molesey by Rowland G.M. Baker – pub. 1986

HAMPTON COURT HOUSE TOUR

Wednesday 10 August 2022

We were very fortunate to be able to arrange a tour of Hampton Court House for some of our members. We were met by ~~Sarah~~ **Sarah**, the Events Manager at the House, who showed us round the main hall, the gallery, the theatre, the conservatory and the gardens, including the shell ~~garden~~ **garden** as a very informative and enthusiastic guide, who clearly ~~loves~~ **loves** the property.

HAMPTON COURT HOUSE

A Short History

This short history is based on a longer document forwarded to us by Hampton Court House. The longer document can be found on our website, www.moleseyhistorysociety.org



Hampton Court House, a Grade II listed building, (shown above) and its grounds occupy about nine acres of the original Hampton Court Green and are bounded on two sides by Bushy Park. The House was begun in 1757 by George Montagu Dunk, the Second Earl of Halifax, for his mistress, Mrs Anna Maria Donaldson, who was known to 18th century theatregoers as the beautiful singer and dancer, Anna Maria Faulkner.

Anna appeared at Covent Garden Theatre and at Marylebone Gardens, one of London's great Pleasure Gardens, and was engaged by David Garrick to perform at Drury Lane.

She married William Donaldson in 1748. Five years later, in 1753, Donaldson agreed to his wife being taken into the household of Lord Halifax, ostensibly as governess to his children, and Halifax secured a post for Donaldson as secretary to the Governor of Jamaica.

The House was designed by the architect, Thomas Wright, who is also credited with the landscaping of the garden, including the Shell Grotto, the

Gothic hut and the heart-shaped lake. By June 1757, the House had been finished and Mrs Donaldson spent much of her time there until the Earl of Halifax died in 1771, when she returned to London. Halifax left the House to Mrs Donaldson and her heirs.

Over the next one hundred years, the House was occupied by a succession of tenants and owners, until in 1871, it was purchased by Mr Marmaduke Blake Sampson, who was the City Correspondent of 'The Times' and well-known as a connoisseur of paintings. He built a picture gallery and the palm house or winter garden.

He died in 1876 and in 1883 the House was bought by Mr Thomas Twining, a member of the family of famous tea merchants, for his daughter, Augusta and her husband, Mr Auguste de Wette. When they moved into the property in April 1884, the estate was described as 'more or less a desert' but they quickly restored it and established the House as a centre for glittering parties.

They converted the picture gallery into a concert room, where they held concerts and plays on Saturday afternoons in summer which were regularly attended by over 200 'select and fashionable' people.



The Shell Grotto merges a fascination with Rococo garden design and shell collecting, both activities which were at their peak in the 1750s. The Grotto was restored between 1983 and 1986



The sheltered garden outside the Orangery

Mr de Wette died in 1912 and in the same year the House was purchased by Mary Clarke. However, she never lived there, and the property was eventually sold to Mr Hubert Gore-Lloyd, who put the property back into a good state of repair following years of disuse.

He made some substantial alterations to the interior, including the removal of three rooms on the ground floor and three on the first floor to make a grand hall and gallery. In 1923, Mr Gore-Lloyd's son, Edmund, replaced the narrow concert hall stage with a wider one so that the room could be used as a theatre.

The theatre became the home of the Cardinal Operatic and Dramatic Society, and they gave many performances there with Edmund Gore-Lloyd taking part as actor and producer. During the Second World War, the property was used to store large amounts of food and clothing to meet the emergency requirements of bombed areas in south-west Middlesex and to host 15 officers at a time from the United States Air Force base in Bushy Park. After the War, the property was sold to Middlesex County Council who converted it into a home for elderly ladies.

In 1969, Teddington Theatre Club was granted a lease of part of the property and, after carrying out conversion work, they re-opened the theatre on 24 April 1971. The Club remained at Hampton Court House until the late 1990s. In 1983, The Save The Children Fund took a lease of the property, at a nominal rent, and used it as a home for Vietnamese Boat Children until 1992. Sarah told us that while the children were there, one of their favourite games was to put mattresses on the floor of the main hall and then jump onto these from the gallery. It seems unlikely that this would be allowed today!

By 1993, the House had fallen into a state of disrepair and English Heritage added it to their 'At Risk' register. In 1998, the property was bought by an educational trust and was renovated, before being opened as an independent school in 2001.



The main hall and gallery created by Mr Hubert Gore-Lloyd in the early 20th century by the removal of three rooms on the ground floor and three on the first floor

A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION OF HAMPTON COURT HOUSE

From Pat Worthy

Pat Worthy has sent us the following recollection of time that she spent at the property during her school holidays in the 1950s.

"I was delighted to go on the Society visit to Hampton Court House in August as I worked in the grounds there in the school holidays. There was a plant nursery at the property run by John Tilbury, then a leading light of Molesey Boat Club. I cycled there from Hampton and have happy memories of pricking out plants for sale which gave me a love of gardening. We never went in the house, which was then an old people's home run by Middlesex County Council, so I was pleased to finally see inside. I took the photo with my Brownie camera - John Tilbury is in the middle."



GREEN ROOM AT GLENLYN MEDICAL CENTRE

Glenlyn Medical Centre has recently opened the Green Room; it is a small room with comfortable chairs where patients can discuss their mental health and wellbeing.

The Society created the displays in the room, which include restful pictures of Molesey's rivers and bridges and iconic buildings.

There is also a poster telling the story of the house and some of its celebrated residents

(From left to right) Jenny Wood, Anthony Barnes, Heidi Crombie (Operations Manager at Glenlyn) and Janet Barnes at the opening of the new Green Room at Glenlyn Medical Centre on 30 June 2022



60 YEARS AGO

THE MOLESEY REVIEW June-August 1962

The June and July Reviews both predicted that Molesey Regatta was in danger of fading out of existence. The Regatta was held on 20 and 21 July and had taken place every year since 1886, except during the First and Second World Wars. The Molesey Regatta organisers said that they were grateful for the support which they had received in the past from the residents and traders of Molesey, but they needed even more help if the Regatta was to survive. They suggested that "the publicity which the Regatta, and the Boat Club with which it is associated, gives to the name of 'Molesey' should be an incentive to the traders to give the Regatta their support."

June

The Walton Road branch of the London Co-op started a self-service experiment (see right).

July

The Molesey Society had implemented a comprehensive plan to brighten up Bridge Road. Photographs and drawings of the Bridge Road redecoration scheme were being included in an exhibition which would tour the country, as an example to other towns. In a letter published in the August Review, Kenneth Wood from the Molesey Society and Chairman of the Bridge Road Committee said that the Bridge Road scheme was still far from complete, and there were still many proposals which had been agreed but not implemented, e.g., the redecoration of the Albion and the removal of the lighting columns and their substitution by new wall lighting brackets chosen by the Society.



'Workshops' had recently been destroyed by fire on Tagg's Island. The buildings were originally erected to house an indoor golf school and covered tennis courts but switched to industrial use during the Second World War. The Review argued that the necessity for them to be used for industrial purposes had long since passed and that this use should no longer be permitted. Esher Council had approached Twickenham Borough Council to try and stop the continued use of Tagg's Island for industrial purposes, but the tenant's permit for such use still had three years to run.

The 2nd Molesey (St Paul's) Scout Group had been fundraising for three years to raise money for a scout hut. After their summer fete in June, their building fund had reached £800, but the Group could not start constructing the new hut until the fund reached £1,000. The 3rd Molesey Scout Group were also fundraising towards an extension for their scout hut.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government had granted permission for the erection of a three-storey block of six flats and six garages following the demolition of the existing building on the site of The Firs, 10 Palace Road, East Molesey.

Lloyds Bank were opening a branch in Walton Road, East Molesey.

August

The annual report for 1961 by the Medical Officer for Health of the Moleseys said that "of the 2,657 premises in the district without a fixed bath in 1951, some 15% are still without a fixed bath in 1961 and that 896 households still share this amenity with other occupiers."

Molesey Regatta broke all records for both entries and attendance. The Officials of Molesey Boat Club thanked local residents and competing clubs for "their splendid support."

Molesey Boat Club lost in the semi-finals of the 'Grand' and the Stewards Cup at Henley Regatta, but they won the A.R.A. eights trial giving them the right to represent Great Britain for the fourth successive year at the World Championships in Lucerne in September 1962.

An article thanked Martin Nielson, who was at that time chairman of both The Molesey League of Friends and the Lest We Forget Association, and his father, Christian Nielson, for all that they had done for Molesey. The article referred to a party held many years previously which was organised by the Moleseys and Hampton Branch of the Lest We Forget Association and which was attended by the Queen Mother at the invitation of Mr Christian Nielson. "On that occasion over a thousand ex-servicemen were entertained in four enormous marquees, erected and loaned for the occasion by the Nielsons in West Molesey." The Review referred to "A stunning party, the like of which has never been seen since in the district". *(If anyone has any photographs or any further information about this party, we should be grateful if you could please let us know.)*

ELMBRIDGE MUSEUM

THE MOUNT FELIX TAPESTRY

Killik & Co., 9 High Street, Esher, KT10 9RL

August-November 2022

In 1915, Mount Felix – a grand estate next to the river in Walton – was converted into a hospital for wounded New Zealand soldiers fighting for the British Empire. One hundred years later, the Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, R.C Sherriff Trust and Elmburgh Borough Council embarked on a community stitch project, the Mount Felix Tapestry, to commemorate the hospital's centenary. Now, for the first time, 17 of the tapestry panels have been paired with original photographs from the hospital in the Museum's collection, and with display objects linked to Anzac soldiers' experiences in the First World War.

This exhibition tells the fascinating story of Mount Felix, its patients and nurses. Most importantly, it demonstrates how lives were irreversibly changed by the War. The exhibition can be viewed during Killik's open hours until Wednesday 16 November.

Molesey Local History Society
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