The war to end all wars’ ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918. Too late for the poet Edward Thomas, who was killed in action in the battle of Arras in 1917. In tribute to those who died, on all sides, we print this short poem:

In Memoriam

The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Easterly call into mind the men,
Now far from home, who with their sweethearts, should
Have gathered them and will do never again.

Edward Thomas

Greenwich Heritage Centre: Mothballing History

There is a rising tide of anger at the closure of the Greenwich Heritage Centre: an act of cultural vandalism that makes a mockery of the Royal Borough’s claim to be proud of its history and having the longest heritage archive in the UK. Rightly, many people feel aggrieved at what is happening.

Residents of Westcombe Park will recall that the Heritage Centre – then called a local history library – was until October 2003 housed in Woodlands House (now the Steiner School, next to Mycenae House). The library was moved to the site on the Royal Arsenal. With “Building 41”, the Council proudly claimed that it was the UK’s emission reduction targets and when we Brexit, the UK’s watchdog to replace the ECJ would have no powers on climate change.

Women’s Safety Charter

The Council has launched Greenwich’s Women’s Safety Charter to combat sexual harassment, joining forces with the Her Centre.

Mums Aid

Mumsaid has just won an award at the Maternity Health Alliance’s annual conference. Greenwich is one of only two London boroughs rated as adequate on the map of Perinatal mental health services.

The war to end all wars’ ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918.
Raising money for Macmillan

At the Coffee Morning, our visitors met with some of our volunteers.
Above: Craig Fordham, Macmillan Director of Legacies; Mick Hayes, the Deputy Mayor; Tessa Cross; Diane Blackwell; Christine Legg (WMS Membership Secretary); the Mayor, Cllr Christine May; Caroline Owens and J J and Maureen Aune. Right: Caroline Owens, the organiser. Motto: “Let them eat cake?” Yes, the cake sold well, very well, that is hot cakes!

On 14th November eleven walkers assembled in the rain to begin the fundraising, raising fourteen km walk organised by the Westcombe Society. We set off along the north Thames Path: the views of Greenwich were as unusual — marvelous despite the weather, and there were some very interesting stops such as the lighthouse at Trinity Wharf. We crossed back via the cable car to home. Thanks to Raj at Westcombe Hill Food and Wine who generously donated the water that kept us going!

The Westcombe Society Macmillan Walk

The Mental Health Activity Trust is leading the way, supporting local people in their communities. The charity, on Delacour Road, Blackheath Standard, is often deemed to be ‘off the beaten track’, but is going strong. It is supported by a busy charity shop that will have been open for five years on 29th March 2019. CEO and Founder, Toni Hale, set up the charity to help those living with mental health problems to sustain meaningful employment either within the MHA Trust or their communities. She said: “Since we opened, we have served approximately 32,760 people, up-cycled over eight tonnes of donations, as well as supported over 2,000 people with complex issues and welfare rights advice. And we’ve got 53 people into sustainable employment. “This is a real achievement for a small charity with very few resources. We are not supported by any Government or Local Authority funding.”

The charity currently employs 27 volunteers. Toni organises day trips, holidays and many social events to reduce social isolation. The charity also hosts an annual special awards ceremony which it pays for, and is free to anyone who attends. Toni adds, however, that the charity raises more money to fund our activities, so please get in touch if you think you can help. To find out more about the MHA Trust, how to make an appointment or donate, please visit: https://mhatrust.org/about/ , https://mhatrust.org/give-mha-trust/

News from St George’s

The next community lecture is at 8.00pm on Thursday 6th December, when Dr Sam Moorehead will give an illustrated talk on ‘The pagan roots of Christmas traditions’. Spiritual Film Night is Annevek on Wed 20th November 7.30 pm. Anannevek chronicles the adventures of Muna, a single Christian Palestinian woman who seeks to find a place in life in Islam. “Reisins”, who provide updates on the anti-academy campaign via their Facebook page and on Twitter at @johnubhoiReisins. I am saddened to learn of the death of Edward Hill, whom I knew as a headteacher and on a personal basis. Ed was sometimes unorthodox in his approach to campaigning, but curiously deep about how the ‘desecration’ of our environment impacts on humans and other species. It is people like Ed who stand up for the interests of the community. From: Peter Osler Churchill Place E14 I read with interest your story regarding the proposed new academy in Old Dover Road. All the criticisms of the plan cited by Ann Hill are spot on – especially remembering the mess created by the Bluecoats students in the area. Thank you, Westcombe News.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Come and join us at Theatretrain, Greenwich, Greenwich**

**Prepare for Universal Credit**

Residents who are claiming benefits in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are being urged to prepare for changes under Universal Credit as the system begins to roll out across the borough.

From October, most new claimants will have to apply for Universal Credit (UC) which will replace housing benefit, income-based jobseeker’s allowance, income support, income-related employment and support allowance, child tax and working tax credits.

Those already claiming benefits will see no change for the time being.

One of the changes under UC means that new claimants will not have to make a separate claim for housing benefit. Help towards rent will now be paid as part of UC. However, the element of UC that is to help with rent will be paid direct to the claimant rather than to their council or housing association landlord, so tenants will now be responsible for paying their own rent in the same way that many private tenants do.

Direct payments can also be applied for in other circumstances if the DWP accepts that it is in the claimant’s best interests. All claims will need to be made online and every claimant will have his or her own online account. People without easy access to a computer can use computers available in local jobcentres or at the Royal Borough’s libraries.

UC will be paid monthly in arrears. However, the first payment will be made seven days after that.

Come to Sunfields Methodist Church on Sunday 18 November at 10.30 am (across the bridge from the shops in Old Dover Road) to a service presided over by Lord Griffiths of Barry Port, aka Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths. All welcome, followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Cllr Christine Grice, Cabinet Member for Finance Resources, said: “The changes being made are huge and will have a major effect on people who need to make a new claim, or advise of a change of circumstances, such as a change in residence. Having to wait five weeks from your claim to receive your money could be disastrous for people unprepared for it.”

“The Council has a range of support for people to help them cope with the changes – I would urge anyone needing to make a claim to find out more now.”

For more information visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/universalcredit or call the Welfare Rights Service on 020 8921 6575 (open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday between 10am – 1pm).

**Calling all sceptics**

Are you a nurse guarding against God? Feeling burned by the Church? Have you walked away from religion because your childhood faith felt phoney? Are you annoyed by Christians who claim an exclusive hold on truth and want to push their brand of belief on you? Do you think it’s all nonsense, but are still nagged by a feeling that “there must be more than this?” You might actually enjoy the Sceptics Group that meets at the St George’s vicarage. It’s a free-wheeling discussion group exploring questions of faith and forbidden science and mystery, scripture and more.

There aren’t any wrong questions or forbidden opinions. We informally discuss the questions, gripes and excuses which people bring to the group. Sometimes we watch a video to kick off the discussion produced by a group of Progressive Christians. (Yes, there is such a thing!)

The Sceptics Group is open to anyone who wishes to wrestle with questions of what it means to live a meaningful life. Atheists and agnostics are welcome, along with believers or non-believers of any faith or tradition.

The group is led by the Team Vicar of St George’s Church, the Rev. Tim Yeager, and it meets at the St George’s vicarage on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8.00 pm. There is always a glass of wine or other beverage served for you, and a group of neighbours who may be sharing some of the same concerns that you have.

If you’re interested, give Tim a call at 020 3633 5494, or email him at tim@stgeorgeeastwimbledon.org.uk

**Early music**

The world’s largest Early Music Fair comes to Blackheath Halls from Thursday 8th November to Saturday 10th. Over 100 instrument makers converge from around the globe. Tickets to the exhibition gives you free entry to Makers Demonstration Recitals which take place throughout the three days at St Michaels and All Angels Church in Pond Road.

Among the treats:...
**Features**

**Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund - Round 2**

**Maggie Gravelle**

The article in October’s *WN* on local community projects was slightly misleading, confusing the Ward Budget Scheme with the Greenwich Growth Fund or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Ward Budget scheme is an ongoing pot of money for small scale projects in individual wards. CIL is for larger projects costing £50,000 or more. All the winning schemes quoted in the article were submitted under CIL.

The list of projects in the Ward Budget Scheme so far funded are as follows:

- **Blackheath Society** – Blackheath Story Boards (The Westcombe Society funded the board at Vanbrugh Park gate)
- **Age Exchange – Communities at play** (sessions designed to get different generations together, using board games but sessions designed to get different generations together, using board games but
- **Way and Wentworth House sheltered housing**
- **Friends of Westcombe Woodlands – pond dipping project**
- **Kidbrooke Park Close Estate – for environmental improvement and community safety**. 2 lights on pathway between estate and Rochester Way and low level fencing around grass areas to discourage misuse / dog fouling
- **Vanbrugh Park Estate – green space project (replacing some of the large amount of paving stones with grass and shrubs)**
- **If residents have projects costing less than £30,000 they should contact Ward Councillors with details. The box on the right provides more information**.

### Two different schemes: CIL and the Ward budget scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of budget</th>
<th>CIL</th>
<th>Ward budget scheme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>To mitigate some of the adverse effects of such developments</td>
<td>Respond to local need expressed by residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical area</td>
<td>Westcombe Park Area 2, which includes Peninsula &amp; Greenwich West wards</td>
<td>Blackheath Westcombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount available</td>
<td>£227,671, for projects over £50,000</td>
<td>£30,000, for small scale projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria for project</td>
<td>In line with local priorities as determined by Better Together meetings and Residents’ Survey. Criteria is set out in application guidance</td>
<td>Must be of benefit to local residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application process</td>
<td>Submit: Completed application form; Organisation’s constitution; Quotations for materials and services; Permissions needed for the project.</td>
<td>Proposal submitted to local councillors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application date</td>
<td>Set by Council annually. Current deadline was 28th October</td>
<td>Ongoing up to 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-making process</td>
<td>By panel of officers and public vote</td>
<td>By agreement with ward councillors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friend of Mycenae Gardens** – to buy two garden benches

**St Georges Community Gardens** – contribution towards opening up the garden area as a community garden

**Friends of Westcombe Woodlands** – pond dipping project

Age Exchange/Blackheath Conservatoire – reminiscence project to combat isolation / dementia at Langton Way and Wentworth House sheltered housing

***Kidbrooke Park Close Estate*** – for environmental improvement and community safety. 2 lights on pathway between estate and Rochester Way and low level fencing around grass areas to discourage misuse / dog fouling

*Vanbrugh Park Estate* – green space project (replacing some of the large amount of paving stones with grass and shrubs)

*If residents have projects costing less than £30,000 they should contact Ward Councillors with details. The box on the right provides more information.*

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**Comedy in Blackheath Halls**

Got the Brexit Blues? Cheer up, help is at hand. No fewer than three top comedians are line up at the Halls:

Friday 16th Nov welcomes Marcus Brigstock’s new satirical show Devil May Care. As we categorize people in little boxes – Snowflake, Fascist, Remainer, Trot, Libtard, Brexitmunist, Feminist, Piers Morgan . . . we have to decide - what is good, what is bad? Is this satire – or comedy?

Friday 30th Nov, Sarah-Jane Morris’s new show Keep It Light joins him for a unique mix of new and tried material.

**Historic Landmark under threat**

Thousands of people have signed a petition against the closure of Woolwich Barracks (above).

There has been a military presence in Woolwich for over 300 years, and these barracks are ‘unique’ they are the longest Georgian building in the world, and in 1973 were given a Grade II* listing. They were built between 1772 and 1802; originally two separate buildings, erected at different times, they were joined together by the architect James Wyatt, who constructed the triumphal arch that can be seen in the above photograph.

There has since been a groundswell of local public opinion, leading to the petition shortly to be presented to the government by local MP Matt Pennycook. He said: “Woolwich remains a garrison town: our history and identity are intertwined with our armed forces.”

Kenny Janes, said in a tweet: “I was born in Woolwich, and currently serving. This would be an absolute kick in the teeth if it was removed, why are they even thinking of it?”

The reason, no doubt, is that the defence budget is sorely stretched. But many soldiers will tell you the accommodation they are given by the army – often rented – can be pretty sub-standard.

*On a happier note, The Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery are holding an open day on the 27th November 2018.*

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**Cleona Lira – 2plan Wealth Management Ltd.**

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER, CHARTERED STATUS.

SPECIALIST IN INVESTMENTS, PENSIONS & ETHICAL INVESTMENTS.

Address: Heron Tower, 13th Floor, 110 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AD

Email: cleona.lira@2plan.com (T): 0207 112 4968

Website: http://cleonalira@2plan.com/ Blog: http://cleonalira.co.uk/

2plan Wealth Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

It is entered on the Financial Services Register (www.fca.org.uk) under reference 461598.
ALSO IN NOTTING HILL:
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Trips, Nov 1st 7.30pm. Great Hall. Trinity Laban Sympohic Winds perform Teas ‘Moograve’ by a wide-ranging concert. £30.00
Fri 2nd Nov. Trinity Laban Opera scenes 5.00 & 7.30. £12.00 inc glass of wine. £20.00
Fri 16th Nov. WW1 100 YEARS CELEBRATION. Songs and readings. £12.00. Possible by the Friends.
Sun 18th Nov. BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA plays Debyshy & Shestead tickets £12.00. £10.00 under 12s.
Fri 23rd Nov. TRINITY LABAN JAZZ. £16.00 | £14 concs. £10.00 inc glass of wine.
Sat 1st Dec. TAIKO MEANTIME LABAN CHORUS. £16.00 | £14 concs. £10.00 inc glass of wine.
Mon 26th/Tues 26th Nov. MUSIC GALA. £12.00 | £10 concs. Under 12s £6.00
Sat 17th Nov. BLACKHEATH HALLS SATURDAY NIGHT ENSEMBLE plays Debyshy & Shestead tickets £12.00. £10.00 under 12s.
Fri 9th Nov. 8pm. JAZZNIGHTS. Candlelit Live Jazz music event with Thur 8th Nov. 4pm BACH TO BABY. Family Classical Music. £10.00.
Sat 24th Nov. 1pm & 3.30pm - SLEEPING BEAUTY. Dazzling dancers, Tchaikovsky's sumptuous score, £12.00/10.00.
Fri 30th Nov. 7.30pm. BLACKHEATH HALLS MEN’S CHOIR plays Debyshy & Shestead tickets £12.00. £10.00 under 12s.
T he John Roan has had some significant problems in recent years. Greenwich Council secured some additional leadership support in 2017, but by the time of the Ofsted inspection earlier this year, the improvements were still at an early stage. The Ofsted report was a disappointment but not a surprise.

The law required that an Academy Order be made. The law imposes a statutory duty on the School Governing Body and the Council to work towards Academy conversion. The actual conversion will happen probably in early 2019.

Many people dislike the Academisation of our schools. If anyone thinks the law is wrong then they should campaign and vote for a Government that will change the law.

The teachers’ union got some legal advice just before the summer holiday to say that there might be a chance to launch a legal challenge to the Ofsted report. But the Union decided not to pay the legal costs of that challenge. There was a crowdfunding attempt but it didn’t raise enough to start a legal case. The latest date by which a challenge could start has now passed.

The Academy sponsor has confirmed that it has no plans to change staff terms and conditions. The current school governors have no proposals to change staff terms and conditions of employment. The local MP spotted that the school had a strong and popular new headteacher who was making improvements. He argued passionately that time should be allowed for the new head, in partnership with staff and parents, to be given time to show that improvement could be achieved. Sadly he was undermined because the staff went on strike rather than focus on showing a passion that time should be allowed for the new head to make improvements. He argued that the school should be given time to plan and to start a legal case. The latest date by which a challenge could start has now passed.

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The strike was driven by dogma. Staff have been fed a great deal of misinformation about what they can achieve. To repeat: there is nothing that the staff want their employer to do. There is no proposal to change terms and conditions. There is no employer the staff can talk to. The strike was actively counterproductive.

A number of parents support the strikes. But a far, far larger proportion do not. They support the staff, while recognising that they feel genuinely concerned about the change to be employed by an Academy Trust.

I do not agree to my name being published, as I wrote in my blog. A very small number of parents who support strike action have been abusive and aggressive towards people who disagree with them. I don’t wish to say that everyone who supports the strike behaves like that, but a small number have done so and I do not want to be exposed to that abuse.

academisation: A John Roan parent writes

On one hundred years ago, at 11.00 am on 11th November 1918, the guns fell silent and the “war to end all wars”, which had claimed the lives of millions of people, finally ended. In the aftermath, communities all over Britain compiled rolls of honour in remembrance of those friends and loved ones who had given all in the name of Freedom. Blackheath Standard was no exception.

On 11 Nov 1925 a memorial screen with over 120 names on it, was unveiled in the Church of St John the Evangelist, in Stratheden Road. These men were either local residents, or whose names are on the Memorial Screen, we will remember them.

One hundred years on, the parishioners at St John’s resolved to remember these men in a manner befitting their acts of self-sacrifice. To this end, at the beginning of July this year a small group of parishioners volunteered to carry out research into the war stories of those whose names are engraved on the screen.

The results are being turned into a commemorative display in the church building, which will be open to the public during the week of the 5th – 11th November 2018.

The task has not been an easy one. The building which housed the army records of the men of Other Ranks of WW1, was bombed in 1940, and 70% of these files were destroyed, and we have not been able to trace every name on the screen. We invite the reader to look carefully at each name on the photographs of the screen. Should anyone be able to provide any information on any of the names, please get in touch with us through our church office at office@stjohnsblackheath.org.uk.

The Church of St John the Evangelist in Stratheden Road, near the Royal Blackheath Golf Club. The screen was unveiled in November 1925.

‘At the going down of the sun, And in the morning, We will remember them.’

Honouring those who died

One hundred years on, at 11.00 am on 11th November 1918, the guns fell silent and the “war to end all wars”, which had claimed the lives of millions of people, finally ended. In the aftermath, communities all over Britain compiled rolls of honour in remembrance of those friends and loved ones who had given all in the name of Freedom. Blackheath Standard was no exception.

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Goodbye to Wheelie Bins?

These days, wheelie bins have become a seemingly unavoidable part of the street scene, and are without doubt an eyesore, especially in conservation areas. So it was with interest that the W&N heard about the biggest underground bin system in the UK. This is now operating in north west Cambridge, eliminating the need for around 9,000 wheelie bins.

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City have begun collecting residential waste using innovative underground bins at Edington. Residents now take their waste and mixed recycling to sleek steel bin chutes set into the pavement near their homes.

The discarded items fall into a large underground chamber. A sensor notifies the council when the chamber is full, so that collections can take place when required.

Could this work here?

Is this an idea that could work in parts of our borough? Our neighbourhoods is rich in underground workings. Many of us remember the huge hole that opened up on Blackheath Hill in 2002, which very nearly swallowed a bus.

The cavers around Blackheath are well documented over the ages; for example The Underground Passages, Caverns etc., of Greenwich and Blackheath, M. Stone, M.A., published by Greenwich Antiquarian Society in 1914, gives a detailed account of where they are situated, and why they were created. More recently, The Blackheath Caves Crack Report (1946) unearthed by an outfit called Rectory Court, and may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning.

So RBG: maybe in this borough we should think laterally, or perhaps more positively, about our health and wellbeing, but you don’t have to buy into every idea on offer. Food for thought.

ULEZ comes to London

Air pollution is a dangerous threat to children’s health. According to a UNICEF report, 71% of UK towns and cities, children are breathing unsafe levels of air pollution. Around 1 in 3 babies are growing up in areas of the UK with unsafe levels of particulate matter – that’s nearly 270,000 babies under the age of 1 in the UK.

The problem is mainly caused by road vehicles. To help tackle this, the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is coming to central London in the same area as the Congestion Charge zone.

It will operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from 8 April 2019. Vehicles will need to meet the new stronger emission standards, or pay the daily ULEZ charge. Vehicles registered for the Blue Badge Congestion Charge Discount will not receive a discount from the ULEZ. If the vehicle is driven within the zone and does not meet the ULEZ standards, the ULEZ charge will be payable from 8 April 2019.

You will need to pay the ULEZ charge if the vehicle is registered with the DVLA with a ‘disabled’ or ‘disabled passenger vehicle’ tax class.

You will continue to receive the 100% discount from the Congestion Charge as long as your vehicle remains registered for the Blue Badge Discount.

Check if your vehicle meets the new standards by entering your number plate into the online vehicle checker by visiting https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/check-your-vehicle.

From 25 October 2021 the central London ULEZ area will be expanded to the inner London area bounded by the North and South Circular Roads.

This is part of the commitment by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, and TfL to help Londoners breathe cleaner air. Any vehicle that meets the ULEZ standard will be able to travel in the zone without paying the ULEZ charge.

On 25 October 2021 the ULEZ will be expanded to Inner London (the area up to but not including the North and South Circular Roads).

Beware the used clothing scam

Minnigits Now has recently discovered that its logo is being used on unauthorised clothes recycling bags. These bags are designed for people to donate their unwanted clothes, shoes, and other items, which are then collected at the roadside or on the doorstep, often to raise money for charity.

It is clear that this charity does not raise funds through these schemes as there is no arrangement in place with any company to collect unwanted goods on its behalf. This is not the only charity that has been affected by this, as its logo sits alongside other charities on these fraudulent bags, including,bibs, which supports children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Stephen Service, Policy Manager at the Fundraising Regulator said: “While many clothing collections are legitimate, charity bag fraud is an increasingly common problem which makes victims of donors and charities alike. If in doubt, check with your local council directly before you give to ensure the collection is licensed.”

Ed: Or just give unwanted items to one of our local charity shops.

PLEASANT BUILDINGS

Wheels in the Heart is a beautiful, case-bound coffee table book with full colour, gilded illustrations, created by medical herbalist Nathaniel Hughes, and talented British artist Fiona Owen. Together they have created this unique guide to unlocking the ways plants can encourage wellness and healing.

“Not a book of cures, but a book of doorways,” the book doesn’t provide answers, but instead equips readers with the tools they need to learn from nature themselves.

The authors are an interesting team: Nathaniel Hughes is a herbalist and healer with a background in the sciences. He has a degree in chemistry, and studied herbal medicine at post graduate level for four years in Scotland.

Fiona Owen is a British artist, living and working in Gloucestershire. Fiona paints in oil on panel and gilds her work with 24ct. English gold leaf in the tradition of the Medieval manuscripts.

Nathan and Fiona have developed some wellness article topics surrounding the themes in the book, including:

• Battle, fighting, heat: Why we need to stop using ‘war’ language for our health
• Appreciating melancholy - why feeling sad isn’t always a negative emotion
• Supporting melancholy - why feeling sad can be a doorway into deeper understanding
• Combining meditation and herbs: why plants and mindfulness go hand-in-hand
• Embark on a dream journey with these three herbs
• Grow your own Meditation Garden - 5 plants that will help you meditate
• Back to basics: why we should go back to the power of wild nature
• Support your body to heal itself - don’t see it as having problems that need to be ‘fixed’
• What is herbalism and why should we take it seriously?

Apart from being a very beautiful book, Wheels in the Heart offers a doorway into thinking laterally, and positively, about health and wellbeing, but you don’t have to buy into every idea on offer. Food for thought.

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