

HATHERN HERALD



The Hathern Parish Council Magazine

WINTER 2023

hathernparishcouncil.org.uk



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WELCOME

Greetings and a warm welcome to the Winter edition of the Hathern Herald!

With each new issue of the Herald, I find myself contemplating what surprises Hathern has in store and how to capture its essence. True to form, our vibrant village never fails to deliver. There's a constant buzz of activity and reflection that makes Hathern truly unique.

Within these pages, we shine a spotlight on major events and influential groups like the Wicked Hathern Fireworks and Bonfire, the invaluable Hathern Together, and the cherished Hathern Community Library. Yet, what truly captivates me is the discovery of unsung heroes making a meaningful impact.

One such touching narrative is Resh's story, which struck a chord with me. Being part of his Charity Ball in September was an honour. It's remarkable to witness how Hathern not only hosts incredible community groups but also nurtures extraordinary individuals passionately committed to their causes. The hidden gems within our village continue to inspire and enrich our community spirit.

Read on and delve deeper into the amazing community that Hathern is. Until the spring...

Benjamin Hardy

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NATURE TALKS

REWILDING HATHERN'S VERGES: A BOON FOR LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

Hathern, like many UK villages, historically maintained meticulously trimmed verges for aesthetic appeal, but at a cost to local biodiversity. Recognizing the significance of these areas for wildlife, Hathern Parish Council and the Hathern Wildlife Group are embarking on a rewilding initiative for selected verges.

Rewilding offers crucial habitat creation for local flora and fauna. Traditional verge practices, involving frequent mowing and herbicides, adversely impacted insect populations. By allowing wildflowers to flourish, rewilding provides nectar and pollen sources, supporting bees and pollinators, and fostering a healthier ecosystem for birds, small mammals, and invertebrates.

These rewilded verges serve as wildlife corridors, facilitating the movement of creatures and reconnecting fragmented habitats. Hedgehogs and amphibians benefit, enhancing their survival prospects.

Beyond biodiversity, Hathern's residents gain from this initiative. An aesthetically pleasing,

natural landscape promotes mental well-being. Wildflower meadows create a serene environment for community activities, fostering pride in the village's green spaces. While verges are a new focus, Hathern already boasts wildflower meadows at St. Peter & Paul Churchyard and Hathern Park.

Additionally, reduced verge maintenance cuts Parish precept costs and lowers the carbon footprint. Rewilding is eco-friendly and cost-effective in the long run compared to traditional practices involving machinery and chemicals.

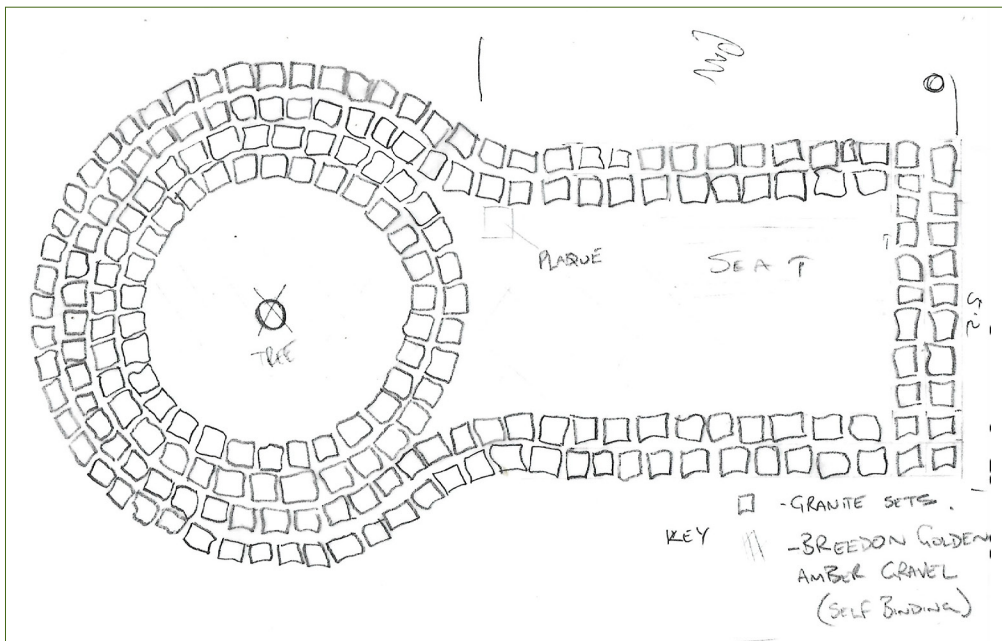
Careful rewilding management is crucial for road safety, invasive species control, and addressing litter concerns. Recognizing homeowner preferences, the Parish Council ensures thorough consultancy during site identification.

Hathern's rewilding initiative represents a step toward a sustainable, nature-friendly future, showcasing how communities can embrace change for environmental and well-being benefits. This small village sets an example, demonstrating that rewilding is not only an environmental boon but a community-building endeavor benefiting everyone. Hathern's rewilded verges symbolize a village reconnecting with nature and offer a glimpse into a brighter, greener future for all.

DAISY BANK UPDATE

Any regular reader of the Herald, particularly the PC News section, will know that Daisy Bank and its adoption process has taken a large amount of time and patience. Alas, we are now in full control. Residents on the estate were quick to alert us to potential oversights in Grounds Maintenance over the last couple of years and we have already contracted additional cuts in the Wildlife verges to rectify this.

Moving forward, we can now progress with additional assets on the site, starting with our long overdue proposed Jubilee/Remembrance tree. Whilst it was hoped that Daisy Bank would be in our ownership in time for the Platinum Jubilee of 2022, this was not the case. However, the Council still feel that a new seating area and tree would be fitting. A location has been identified on Daisy Bank itself and we are sourcing quotes – for the meantime the attached drawing gives you some idea as to how it'll look. From the top of Daisy Bank, you can see for a good few miles to the north and north east!



DOG FOULING

We hate to be party poopers (no pun in intended), but the issue of dog fouling in the village continues to be a regular cause for concern. The Parish Council has a zero tolerance policy with regards to this – particularly when a lot of people walk their

dogs on a school route too – and will support any prosecutions brought by Charnwood Borough Council.

Not all dog walkers are irresponsible and it's important not to tarnish with the same brush, however any positive ID's of dog fouling can be brought to prosecution by reporting directly to Charnwood. The Parish Council has assisted with this already this year.

HATHERN'S CHRISTMAS TREE

Hathern Parish Council was once again please to be able to purchase this years Christmas Tree. As has been the case for a number of years, St. Peter & St. Paul Church will play host. A huge thank you to them for continuing to make this possible and the best of luck to them for what will no doubt be a fantastic Christmas Tree Festival.



MEETING DATES FOR 2024

The Parish Council has set its meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year. Our meetings are held at 7.30pm on each date, at Hathern Village Hall and most importantly, are 100% open to the public. It's long been the thought of the Council that the public should have full transparency of decisions made as well as having the opportunity to ask any questions (even if we may have to go away to find out the answer!)

2024 Dates:

- 15th January
- 26th February
- 8th April
- 13th May
- 1st July
- 12th August
- 30th September
- 4th November
- 16th December





SPECIAL FEATURE: CRISIS TO COMMUNITY TRIUMPH

A routine visit to the GP became the catalyst for Resh’s journey when he experienced a sharp pain in his chest during exercise. Swift action by his GP set in motion events that would test his strength and redefine his connection with both health and community.

July 2017 brought a pivotal moment. Following various tests, Resh underwent a Coronary Angioplasty to address blockages in his arteries. However, the severity of the situation became apparent—his arteries were almost completely blocked, necessitating an Emergency Coronary Artery Bypass Graft. The doctor delivered a sobering prognosis, revealing that Resh was on the brink of a massive heart attack within three to four weeks.

The news not only shook Resh but also had profound implications for his family. Initially prepared to welcome him home after what seemed like a routine procedure, they now faced the reality of a Bypass Graft. The burden of guilt weighed heavily on Resh; he felt he was subjecting his family to a nightmare scenario, causing mutual worry and anxiety.

The transition from a healthy, active lifestyle

to living with heart disease brought forth a cascade of emotions that Resh had to navigate. Once a carefree and happy-go-lucky individual, he found himself adapting to a new reality—one marked by health challenges and the emotional complexities that accompany such journeys.

Resh’s tenure at Glenfield Hospital, from the initial diagnosis to the culmination of his treatment, stands as a testament to the positive impact of compassionate healthcare. The bond formed with the hospital staff became a source of comfort and extreme gratitude.

Encouraged by his wife, Resh embarked on a mission to transform his personal journey into an opportunity for community service. He joined the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and became a community speaker, sharing his experiences to raise awareness about heart disease symptoms. His advocacy extended beyond general awareness talks to specific engagements with police and business professionals, emphasizing the critical importance of heart health.



Driven by a desire to give back, Resh, with the support of his family, initiated plans for a Charity Ball. Setting an ambitious target of £20,000, the aim was to contribute to the British Heart Foundation and Glenfield Hospital—two entities that played pivotal roles in Resh’s health journey.

Seeking support from prominent community

leaders — Ben Hardy, Martin Clayton, Lewis Fuller, and Rachel/John Smith-Moorhouse — Resh garnered a collective commitment despite their busy schedules.

The Charity Ball, held at East Midlands Hilton Hotel, unfolded as a harmonious blend of entertainment and generosity. During dinner, enchanting performances by Sam, Nicky, Laura, and Ben created a lively atmosphere, adding a touch of beauty to the evening.



The event featured an impressive line-up of 21 raffle and 10 auction prizes. Highlights included a signed shirt by the Manchester City squad (a personal favourite of Resh), a signed Cristiano Ronaldo photo and boot, a signed Marcus Rashford-Manchester United shirt, and exclusive hospitality experiences at Manchester United. Resh’s sons played an instrumental role in securing these coveted items through their diverse network of contacts.

Fosse Radio presenter Dave Shepherd skilfully hosted the auction, complemented by a silent auction facilitated by ‘Superstars,’ introducing an additional 20 prizes. Over the course of a year, Resh meticulously collected prizes, ranging from unique experiences like a ‘Windsor Castle family tour’ to sentimental items such as a signed letter from the King.

Adding a poignant touch to the event, Resh extended invitations to the nurses who had cared for him at Glenfield Hospital. Their presence not only symbolized recognition

for their dedication but also created a heartfelt connection between the healthcare professionals and the individual whose life they had played a crucial role in saving.

The night reached its crescendo with a vibrant performance by Rock Jedi, keeping the dance floor alive until the early hours. A total of 21 volunteers, including photographer Rick, generously contributed their time, earning a heartfelt thank you for their invaluable support.

The Charity Ball exceeded all expectations, raising over £21,000. A testament to Resh’s commitment, £10,000 each was donated to the British Heart Foundation and Glenfield Hospital. In a touching gesture, Resh entrusted Glenfield Hospital’s staff to decide the best use of the funds, recognizing their expertise and dedication.



As Resh continues to navigate his journey, the story doesn’t end here. Looking ahead, he plans to organize another Charity Ball in September 2025, illustrating a sustained dedication to community service and advocacy for heart health.

In essence, Resh’s narrative transcends personal triumph; it is a communal victory—a testament to resilience, gratitude, and the power of collective action. In the heart of Hathern, Resh’s story has become an inspiration, leaving an indelible mark on the village and exemplifying the profound impact that one individual’s journey can have on an entire community.

SPECIAL FEATURE RIVER SOAR MATTERS



The following article contains some good news and some not so good news about the River Soar.

The Good News

First the good news: the Soar Valley Improvement Scheme completed in 1995 does what it was designed to do. Further to the piece about the radial gate at Zouch in the Autumn Edition of Hathern Herald, in the aftermath of Storm Babet the possibility of severe flooding – which would have followed such a deluge before the scheme was completed – was considerably reduced, thanks to the automatic relief system.



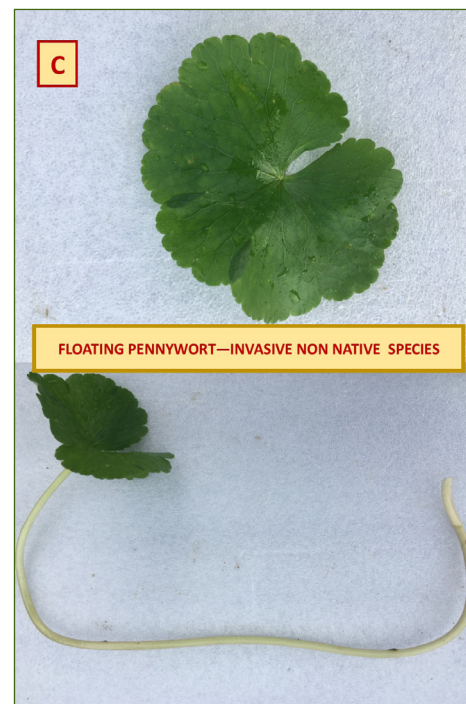
In photograph A, the upstream side of the radial gate is shown as it appeared on 21st October together with an inset of it in its normal position. As may be seen, it is wide open with the upper edge of the gate above the fence line. In photograph B, the

downstream side of the gate shows the sheer force of the water as it pours through at almost the same level as the river above. Had the gate not operated as intended, there is no doubt that the Soar would have overflowed much more damagingly onto the adjacent farmland, dwellings and businesses as it once used to do.



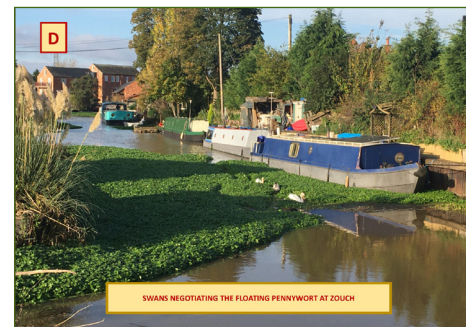
The Not So Good News

The not so good news is that the health of the river and its leisure and commercial amenities may be being seriously impaired by the spread of Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, a single portion of which can be seen in photograph C). A native to North America, it was introduced to this country for use in ornamental ponds in the 1980s and was first found to be growing in the wild in 1990. As may be observed in photographs D and E, it forms dense floating mats and, given that it can grow at an astonishing rate of 20 centimetres per day and reproduce itself from very small



fragments, it can (and obviously does) quickly come to dominate a body of water. When the density is such that its leaves emerge above the water, it can also be mistaken for solid ground, constituting a danger to animals and humans alike.

Not surprisingly, it has been categorised as an Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) but by using a combination of herbicide and physical removal it can be kept at bay. If it is left unchecked, however, it can rapidly choke



rivers such as the Soar and, amongst other things, cause blockages in pipes, pumps and installations designed to alleviate flooding. It can also make life extremely difficult for aquatic birds, for example, as can be seen by the swans threading their way through the plant mass at Zouch, not to mention its being something which costs a great deal of time and money to keep under control by requiring regular annual treatment.



But The Better News

The better news about it, however, is that its threat to the well-being of water bodies nationally was recognised in its being banned from sale from 2014 and that it is illegal to plant it or cause it to grow in the wild. For further details about the plant, its impact on the environment and the environmentally-friendly ways of controlling it being investigated, the following article by Elizabeth Kimber from Inside Ecology published in January 2018 may prove informative: <https://insideecology.com/2018/01/11/invasive-non-native-species-uk-floating-pennywort>

Given all the above, it is obvious that Floating Pennywort is not something that you would really want to see in your garden pond but, much more than that, it is clearly something which we would all prefer not to see in the River Soar.

Peter Sergeant

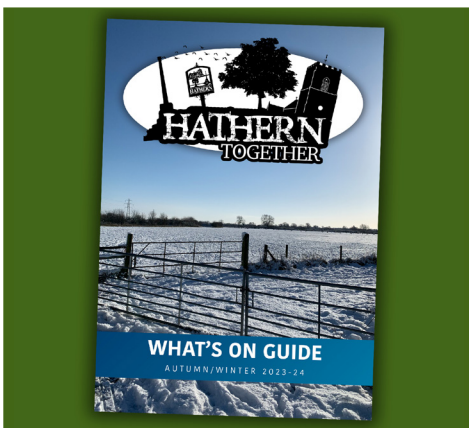
HATHERN TOGETHER

You'll no doubt have noticed that an extra village guide reached your doorsteps at the start of November with the reintroduction of the "What's On Guide" by Hathern Together.

After a short hiatus due to the pandemic, it was great to see this group come back. The Hathern Together group is effectively a "group of groups", open to all community groups and businesses within the village. Supported by the Parish Council, it enables the village to have one resource for what's going on, accompanied by its website www.hathernonline.co.uk.

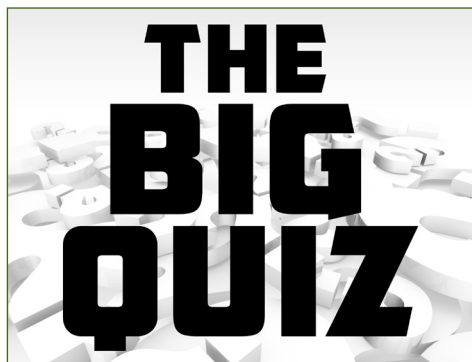
The Winter 2023 Guide will be the 5th guide that has been produced now, with the aim being to produce 2 per year in March and October 2024. Most of the events are put on for free or with a nominal charge attached, something the Parish Council is keen to support by providing small grants to cover running costs of any such events.

In the run up to Christmas, let's have a look at some of the events that will be available over the festive period and into January!



Hathern Band Outdoors – 10th December, from 10am

A true village staple, Hathern Band has been playing through the streets of Hathern at Christmas for decades. Leaving the Cross at 10am, they will be gracing the streets with a heartwarming program of carols.



The Big Quiz 2024 – 21st December, Hathern Club, 8.00pm

Another staple of the village, the Big Quiz has been running twice a year for nearly 10 years now. This year, it is at Hathern Club, where it serves as the final to a long-running friendly "quiz-off" with the Dew Drop. This years quiz has 6 rounds, starting in 1960 through to present day!



New Years Day Walk – 1st January, 11.15am, St. Peter & St. Paul Church

Bid farewell to the old year and embrace the new one with a rejuvenating New Years Day tradition. Embark on an hour-long stroll through picturesque valleys and open fields, embracing the beauty of nature. After our invigorating walk, we'll reconvene at the church for a delightful light lunch featuring soul-warming soup, fresh rolls, and your choice of tea or coffee. It's the perfect way to refuel and relax.



A Talk by Resh Kandola – 10th January, Hathern Library, 7.30pm

Resh's story is one of resilience and hope. He not only triumphed over a challenging health crisis but also found a newfound purpose in his advocacy for heart health. Join us as Resh shares his personal journey and the inspiring work he does in collaboration with The British Heart Foundation and Glenfield Hospital.



As you can see, in the space of a month 4 different groups are opening their doors to the village. Hathern is a vibrant community, if you'd like to explore more about what's going on please visit www.hathernonline.co.uk

If you are part of a village group and would like to talk to the Hathern Together team about getting involved, please contact us via the contact form on the Hathern Online website, or contact the Parish Clerk.

www.hathernonline.co.uk

PICTURE SPECIAL

WICKED HATHERN FIREWORKS & BONFIRE

On Saturday, November 4th, Hathern witnessed the triumphant return of the beloved Wicked Hathern Fireworks and Bonfire event. This spectacle, organized entirely by dedicated volunteers from the Hathern Village Association, showcased the true spirit of community collaboration.

Despite the weather playing a dampening role in both the setup and the event itself, the village came alive with a massive turnout. The evening commenced with a mesmerizing performance by Out Of The Blue, followed by the crowd-favorite Adam Boom and their fiery display. The bonfire, with a little coaxing, roared to life before the low-noise fireworks lit up the sky.

Adam Boom took the stage once again, and WHF favorites, The Zufflers, graced the audience, opening and closing the main fireworks display. Although an unusually still night caused some lingering smoke, the crowd couldn't help but emit 'oohs' of awe.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who attended, exchanged greetings with volunteers, and contributed to the event's joyous atmosphere. The Hathern Village Association expresses immense gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who invested multiple days, braving less-than-ideal weather conditions for the setup and pack-down.

Stay connected with HVA on Facebook for updates on their exciting 2024 events, as the community eagerly anticipates more moments of togetherness and celebration.



COMMUNITY MATTERS
**HATHERN
 COMMUNITY
 LIBRARY**

We can't quite believe it's nearly Christmas already, it seems like we've only just finished the Summer Reading Challenge! 31 children completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year, and we held an awards ceremony on the 17th September – well done and thank you to everyone who took part. Our talented volunteers created a 'Library Barbie' scarecrow for the scarecrow festival – we hope you liked her!



We've also had 4 new members join the library in the last month – welcome all of you! We've recently had a new stock-drop, with lots of new titles available for adults and children across a wide range of genres – we have new adult fiction, non-fiction and children's titles in stock. There's something for everyone, so why not pop in and pick up something new to read now the nights are drawing in! Our crafty volunteer elves are busy getting the library ready for Christmas, and we'll be having a tree at the Hathern Christmas Tree Festival as usual – this year's theme is fairytales, so please look out

for our tree at the festival in St. Peter & St. Paul's church from the 8th-10th December. Details of other upcoming events below, including our secret Santa book swap, and a series of festive craft workshops.



UPCOMING EVENTS

• 6PM, MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER – SECRET SANTA BOOK SWAP.

At this session we will be exchanging Secret Santa books, which we will then discuss during our January Reading Group session. If you would like to join the Secret Santa book swap, please email us to say that you will be attending.

Email: hatherncommunitylibrary@gmail.com

• 1PM-3PM, SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER – FESTIVE PAPER FOLDING WORKSHOP.

Recycle vintage books or use scrapbook papers to make delicate fairy light ornaments and festive gift wrap embellishments. All materials will be provided; however, you're welcome to bring along any scrapbook papers or old books pages you'd like to use. £12 per person, which includes tea/coffee and festive treats. All money from this workshop will be going to HCL. If you are interested in any craft workshops, please email hatherncommunitylibrary@gmail.com or

contact us on Facebook.

• 1PM-3PM, SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS CRACKER GIFT BOX

A great Christmas craft. During this class you will learn to make some beautiful Christmas cracker boxes. Perfect for a small gift or for decoration and favours on the Christmas table. A great way to get ready in time for Christmas. £15 per person. If you are interested in any craft workshops, please email Harsha direct at: harsha@IndiaInspiredCrafts.com

• 7.30PM, WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY – HEART HEALTH AND THE BHF: TALK WITH RESH KANDOLA.

Donations welcome – any donations will be split between HLC and the British Heart Foundation.

• 2.30PM, SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY – DARWIN DAY.

In conjunction with the Wildlife group, we plan a Nature table with fossils, bones, skulls, feathers, plants etc, and games and craft activities, including fold out colouring sheets illustrating different animals' life cycles, and a ladybird 'beetle' drive.

• 1PM-3PM, SATURDAY 3RD MARCH – HCL 8TH BIRTHDAY PARTY! Games and craft activities for children, a second-hand book stall and Refreshments and delicious home-made cakes. Please come along and help us to celebrate! All proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to learn a new skill or share those you already have? Want to try your hand at something new? ... We'd love your help! If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer with us, please get in contact - hatherncommunitylibrary@gmail.com



LOTTERY

Hathern Community Library Lottery is based on the National Lottery and pays out each week on the Bonus Ball. Each ticket, from 1 to 59, costs £2 and 50% of the proceeds goes to the winner, 50% being retained by the library. In the event of no one having the winning ticket, the prize is rolled over to the following week, for one lucky person! If you would like to support us by buying a ticket (or two!) every now and again - or even better by bagging yourself a permanent number - you can contact us through our Facebook page, or by email (janesorby@btinternet.com). The list of current lottery numbers that aren't subscribed to are 16, 26, 31, 33, 41 and 59. The average weekly prize is over £50!!! Payment can be made through PayPal, bank transfer or cash.

OPENING HOURS

Tues 14:00 - 18:00
 Weds 10:00 - 12:30
 Thurs 14:00 - 18:00
 Fri 10:00 - 12:30
 Sat 10:00 - 12:00

CONTACT THE LIBRARY

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www.Hatherncommunitylibrary.org
hatherncommunitylibrary@gmail.com



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