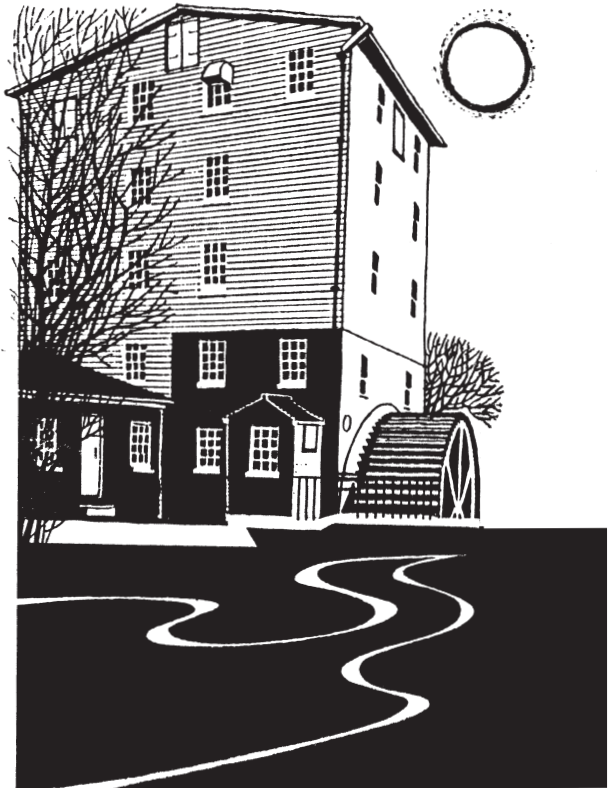


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THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE  
OF RIVER, KENT





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# EDITOR'S WELCOME

JAY SMALLEY

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this festive issue of The Rivall!

With a number of services at both the River Methodist Church and at St. Peter and St. Paul and Father Christmas taking up residence at the Corn Mill, there is plenty going on in the local community to help get you in the yuletide spirit. There are also plenty of points of inspiration for new hobbies and activities to take up in the New Year in this issue with contributions from the WI, River Voices, the Model Boats Association, River Gardeners and Dover Flower Club.

I would like to thank all of those who took the time to provide feedback for the last issue, I am glad that so many of you like the new formatting. If you have any thoughts or questions about The Rivall do not hesitate to get in touch with me via my email at [editor.rivall@gmail.com](mailto:editor.rivall@gmail.com).

I am extremely keen to get as many people involved in The Rivall as possible. If you would like to contribute to The Rivall, our next edition will be the March Edition and the deadline for submission will be the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please submit all articles as a word document via email to [editor.rivall@gmail.com](mailto:editor.rivall@gmail.com). I look forward to reading all articles from contributors old and new.

Should you wish to get involved in the production of the magazine itself, we are looking for someone to take over our advertising from Helen Simmonds. Please do not hesitate to contact us (see Useful Information) or email Alison Dale at [alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com](mailto:alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com) for more information.

I would like to wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas and a happy New Year from all of us here at The Rivall and extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing contributors and advertisers without whom this publication would not be possible.

# RPC CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

NICK DIXON

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

We would like to hear from anyone wishing to join the Parish Council, I am pleased to welcome and introduce our two new councillors who joined at our last meeting, Dr. Razvan Shariff and Daniel Styles-Martin.

## RECREATION GROUND

Work on two trees is to be undertaken shortly, we had to wait for planning permission which has now come through. An item of gym equipment needed replacing, that has been completed and normal repairs have been carried out in both play areas.

## CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

The Rec Cafe has been open more recently, with winter approaching they will reduce their opening hours.

## PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM

This continues to move forward very slowly, we are relying on DDC Planning and Sport England to meet with us to finalise the discussions.

## FOOTBALL

Rangers are using the pitches well, they have support from the FA in cutting, lining, and works to improve the pitches.

## DOGS

Dogs continue to be walked in the play/sport areas despite the very obvious signage.

## TRAFFIC MATTERS

Parking is still a problem and more yellow lines have been painted where necessary. Please consider others whilst parking.

## LOWER ROAD PHONE BOX

This is well used and is clean and tidy thanks to the help of Councillor Atkins.

## CHRISTMAS TREE

We will as normal erect the village Christmas tree in early December.

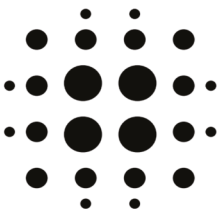
## PARISH MEETINGS

River Parish Council meets at the Methodist Church in Lewisham Road on the second Tuesday each month except August and December. If there is something you would like to raise why not come along to one of our meetings and we may be able to help. Details of our Meetings are placed on our notice boards and also outside the Village Hall on Common Lane.

Finally, may I thank my fellow councillors and our clerk for their continuing efforts as well as our contractors who continue to maintain the recreation ground and other areas throughout the village.

Please keep up to date by visiting either our Facebook page or our website [www.riverparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.riverparishcouncil.org.uk)

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# TAKE A RISK - CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

REV. CATHERINE WAGSTAFF

Christmas is a risky business ☐ hopefully fun, certainly busy ☐ but risky!

As I write the churches are already busy preparing for the special services for Advent and Christmas ☐ getting ready to hear the story of Christmas once more. So ☐ are you sitting comfortably ☐? Well, perhaps we shouldn't be ☐ because if we're getting ready for a cosy, comfortable story about a baby in a manger then I think we've missed the point!

Think about the characters in the story ☐ Mary, Jesus's mother, was sitting very comfortably, her life ahead was planned and predictable as the future wife of a carpenter ☐ but God's request through the angel who visited her, soon changed all that. From the moment of her yes to that request, Mary's life took an extremely risky turn because now she faced, what would most likely be at that time, over 2000 years ago, a complete rejection by her fiancé, her family and her community. She stepped right into the uncomfortable unknown ☐

Joseph too, was sitting comfortably. He was to be married, to have a family - life for him would take its proper course ☐ but God had other plans for him. Joseph was to take on a woman already pregnant, which in those days meant risking the scorn and mockery of his friends and family ☐ and he was to take the risk of caring for the one who was to become the Saviour of the world.

The shepherds and wise men, visitors who went to see the child Jesus, were sitting comfortably in their own ways ☐ they knew what they were about. Their roles, although very different(!), were comfortably secure ☐ and then they were shaken up and challenged ☐ and sent on a journey of discovery to find the Christ-child. The shepherds risked rejection and abuse from a town which

would have been hostile to their presence there and the wise men risked a long desert journey to an unknown destination in foreign territory.

This is no comfortable story! For God has taken the ultimate risk of sending his Son into the world and revealing the full extent of his love for us.

We can sit comfortably and just enjoy the trappings of Christmas or we can take the risk, just as the characters in our story did, of allowing God's message of love to shake us up and challenge us to look at life in new ways. The characters in our story were never alone on their journey and neither are we; we too can put our hand in the hand of God who shows his love to us in Jesus who was also called Immanuel, which means God is with us God's love with us, for us, for ever So go on, take the risk and celebrate Christmas!

I wish you, on behalf of the churches in River, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

---

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

RIVER METHODIST CHURCH, LEWISHAM ROAD

18th December	19:00	Pharos Choir (entrance £10)
22nd December	16:00	Candlelit Carol Service (led by Revd. Catherine Wagstaff)
24th December	16:00	Christingle Service (led by Mrs Linda Beverton)
25th December	10.30	Christmas Day Service (preacher Mrs Linda Beverton)

All are welcome to attend any of these special Christmas services as we celebrate the birth of Jesus who came to show all people how much we are loved by God.

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST PAUL, MINNIS LANE

22nd December	18:30	Nine Lessons and Carols
24th December	17:00	Christingle
	23:30	Holy Communion
25th December	10:00	Holy Communion

If you are unable to attend in person we will be live streaming these services. Please follow either of these links:

[www.youtube.com/@riverparishchurch7329/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@riverparishchurch7329/streams)

[www.twitch.tv/riverchurchdover](http://www.twitch.tv/riverchurchdover)

□his Christmas is unique and provides an opportunity to get to know the living God, who came to meet us as a little Jewish baby boy and is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit □

Do have a wonder filled Christmas season and may Jesus □love, joy and peace fill your hearts and homes.

Andy Bawtree - Vicar

---

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# NEWS FROM RIVER WI

MAGGIE WAITE

Our September meeting about the enormous number of TV detectives was brilliant. Everything from the earliest Sherlock Holmes programmes shown at the very start of television, through Z Cars, The Bill, Morse, Prime Suspect, Midsomer Murders right up to Happy Valley. Fascinating to see bit part actors who are now internationally famous.

The Chocolate Swirls meeting was great; Jane Napper made chocolates before our eyes explaining all the time and we ended up tasting amazing chocolates filled with home-made salted caramel, and chocolate bark. Would be good to have a go at this at home BUT then we ate it all not the best of ideas!!

Some of us attended a group meeting with a difference at Capel WI where we were entertained by Morris dancers and musicians, Dead Horse Morris and Broom Dashers. The braver ladies amongst us had a go.

Our Christmas meeting on December 12 (a week earlier than usual) will be a poetry afternoon plus mince pies and sausage rolls. The January gathering will be a chance to catch up after Christmas, play games, take part in quizzes and generally have a laugh.

We are planning as usual for 2025 with sessions including trekking in Nepal, the pottery designer Clarice Cliff, bee-keeping, the history of Pantomime and a hospital ship in West Africa (the Mercy Ships). Our programmes and other activities are not just about cake but try to reflect our objectives of education, fun and friendship. Our monthly Knit and Natter meetings are popular - I think there's more Natter than Knit... but who cares!

Do come and see what we are up to you will be made very welcome. Please phone Pat on 01304 822777 or me on 07541 697505 on my email [margarita45@gmail.com](mailto:margarita45@gmail.com) or just turn up our dates are on the Village Hall page.

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# RIVER THEN AND NOW

SUE NICHOLAS

The village school had an intake of approximately 200 pupils. Some of the children had to walk back and forth to the village hall, mostly for their morning lessons as the old buildings could not accommodate all of the pupils.

The school kitchen was in the playground. This was later demolished and children were educated on site, albeit in mobiles in the playground, which meant less room to play. These were cold in the winter and hot in the summer; some pupils crawled under them!

I spent a lot of time going to and from the education office situated in Dover and then journeys to Folkestone where I hammered home that we needed new classrooms.

I recall bursting into a meeting that was about to close, as I had been to a meeting at DDC. I can still see the look on their faces; they said "oh no! Not her!" demanded that the area for teaching our children should be significantly improved. Now we have an extension built and better facilities.

The school now has an intake of over 400 pupils with modern facilities. Rome was not built in a day, however, never one to give up, I banged desks. It was suggested I become a governor. I became a governor eventually but not for River school. I became one at St Radigunds, where I spent 10 happy years.

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# THE FESTIVE RIVER KITCHEN

REBECCA WHALLEY

There is no Christmas treat I love more than Stollen. Originating from Germany, Stollen is a fruit-filled sweet bread flavoured with spices and almonds. Making Stollen isn't the fastest process in the world, but it's sure worth the effort.

Now, some people are averse to marzipan - bizarre, I know - so feel free to leave it out if it doesn't suit your tastes.

## Christmas Stollen Recipe

100g mixed dried fruit with peel

1 tbsp icing sugar

180ml apple juice

30g blanched whole almonds

7g dried yeast

10g butter, melted

250g plain flour, plus a little extra for dusting

75g cold marzipan, cut into small pieces

Generous pinch of ground cinnamon

Generous pinch of ground aniseed or allspice

Small pinch of ground cloves

1. Soak the dried fruit in 100ml of boiled water. Warm through the apple juice in a pan and then add the yeast to it. Leave the yeast to activate for 10-15 minutes, during which it will start to bubble.
2. Put the flour into a bowl. Stir in the yeast and juice mixture to form a dough. Cover and leave to prove somewhere warm until roughly

doubled in size, around 1-2 hours. If you prefer you can put the dough in the fridge to rise slowly overnight.

3. Drain the fruit and add it to the dough, alongside the marzipan, nuts and spices. Knead everything together and then put the dough on a lightly-floured work surface. Knead until the fruit stays in the dough.
4. Shape the dough into a sausage and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper. Cover it with a clean tea towel and leave it to prove somewhere warm for 30 minutes to 1 hour; until it has risen by about a quarter.
5. Remove the stollen from the oven and brush it with melted butter. Dust it with icing sugar. Leave it to cool before slicing it.

Stollen tends to keep for quite a while, usually just under 2 weeks.

---

# RIVER GARDENERS ☐ FLOURISHING COMMUNITY EVENTS

REECE JACONELLI

This year, we were thrilled to see an increase in both exhibits and exhibitors at our Shows, and despite the challenging weather, everyone truly shone! Each of the three shows featured a delightful array of exhibits from our talented Children, the enthusiastic Abbey Pre-school, the Artistic Photos from Astor Secondary School and the skilled Adults.

With your continued support, we're excited to make the Shows even bigger and better in 2025. Let's make it a year to remember!

In July, our quiz event brought the community together and successfully raised funds for the Royal Marsden - thank you to everyone who participated!

The AGM took place on 2nd November, where we discussed plans for the future, and now we're gearing up for the next exciting events.

Mark your calendars for an exciting RACE NIGHT on 7th December at the welcoming River Village Hall in Dover. For a modest fee of £4, the evening will be packed with ten thrilling races.

In the spirit of an American Supper, we invite you to bring your own delectable dishes and beverages. This pot luck-style event promises not only exhilarating races but also a delightful culinary experience, as you share and enjoy a variety of treats and drinks with your table. Join us for a night of fun, food, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned race enthusiast or just looking for a great night out, RACE NIGHT at River Village Hall is the place to be. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to connect with your community and enjoy an unforgettable evening.

Tickets available at [rivergardeners.com/event/race-night-at-river-village-hall/](http://rivergardeners.com/event/race-night-at-river-village-hall/).

Save the date: on February 22nd, join us for a heart-warming COFFEE MORNING from 10:00 to 12:00! Sip on your favourite brew, enjoy some delightful refreshments, and take the opportunity to catch up with friends old and new. This isn't just about coffee - it's about community, connection, and a cozy start to the day. Don't miss out!

You've got to check out our vibrant SPRING SHOW on 29th March - it's going to be spectacular! This year, we've got an exciting twist with the Chairman's Challenge. Embrace your green thumb and plant three Society daffodil bulbs (supplied at the AGM in November) in a pot. Let's see who can grow the most stunning display. Ready, set, bloom! Mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable celebration of nature and talent. See you there!

Calling all helping hands! We need enthusiastic volunteers for our upcoming show days. Whether you have a passion for helping out, or just want to be part of something special, we would love to have you on board. It's a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community, meet new people, and make a real impact. Join us and be a part of the magic that makes our shows unforgettable.

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# CRABBLE CORN MILL

PHILIP WEST

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS are being offered every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday until 19<sup>th</sup> December, except 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December. Price is £16.00 for adults and £9.00 for children aged 8 and under.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA is being held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December with sittings at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Price is £17.50 for adults and £8.50 for children aged 8 and under.

SANTA'S GROTTO will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December with admission only £15.00 per child. To avoid congestion, we would request that admission, where possible, is kept to two adults. Santa endeavours to provide good quality gifts according to the child's age and gender on the day of their visit so please provide these details when booking.

EVENT BOOKINGS can be made online via our website [crabblecornmill.org.uk](http://crabblecornmill.org.uk) or by calling into the site office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday. It is essential that bookings for these events are made in good time to avoid disappointment.

A COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE will be held from 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, led by the Rev. Dr. Andrew Bawtree. Admission is FREE and minced pies and mulled wine will be served at the end to soothe all those sore throats after singing those well-known carols.

ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHTS will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 7:00 p.m.

QUIZ NIGHTS will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 7:30 p.m.

Crabble Corn Mill Trust and its volunteers would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



# RIVER VOICES

Living Lively Community choir for over 50 Thursdays in term time 14:00-15:30 River Methodist Church. No experience necessary and no need to be able to read music – just come along and give it a try. It's a lot of fun!

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For more information contact Matthew on 0951 572920 or [matthew@livinglively.org.uk](mailto:matthew@livinglively.org.uk)

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# DOVER FLOWER CLUB

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Dover Flower Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, CT16 3LY. Meetings start at 19:15 and are open to members and visitors who love and are interested in flowers.

We have a full programme of events planned for 2025, including Floral Art demonstrations, workshops to improve members' skills, visits and competitions.

Our first event is on Monday 24th February when Elaine Boobier will give a demonstration entitled 'My Life in Flowers'.

Free refreshments available.

For more information contact Mig Kimpton: 07831 838851

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# MODEL BOAT ASSOCIATION

ALAN POOLE

You might be aware of the Model Boat Association Dover, the club that sails model boats on the lake at Kearsney Abbey right on our doorstep. What you may not know however, is the fact that we have been established at Kearsney since 1993, 31 years now. We sail all types of models from yachts to submarines and usually operate on Sunday mornings but also hold regular regattas during the summer months. We have a very competitive yacht section who race every other weekend from the south side of the lake. Currently, we have 55 members and one junior member.

We as a club try to encourage junior members (under 16) by teaching them how to construct models from a wide variety of materials and learn about the

electrics and painting skills. These skills will be an asset to them in later years. There are many experienced modellers who are willing to help our juniors and adults alike to enjoy this very interesting and relaxing hobby.

The Kearsney Abbey Lake is one of the most picturesque model boating lakes in the South of England and we are privileged to be able to use it. The lake has been used for model boating for many years with pictures of model yachts being sailed there going back for some time and it is wonderful to be able to continue this tradition.

The lake is free to use for everybody and we as a club are keen to encourage responsible and respectful use of this community asset for the benefit of people and wildlife alike.

The Swans that have become very prolific recently can sometimes be dangerous to our models; as a result of their presence, we had hoped to use Russell Gardens for activities such as photography and periodic testing but this has not been possible.

We are very privileged to have such a park and lake so close. We always like to have new members and if they can be local that would be even better; they would be made very welcome, plus, it would be easy for them to come down and use the facilities with us and sail their models.

Please come and say hello to us when you are in the Abbey and ask us questions about our hobby, we are always happy to talk to any interested members of the public. This wonderful location is an asset to us all.

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## ROYAL OAK RIVER

Just to say thank you to the kind customers and winning quiz teams who have donated hundreds of pounds over the past year to charities such as The Dover smART Project, RNLI, Help for Heroes, Dover Food Bank, and many others.

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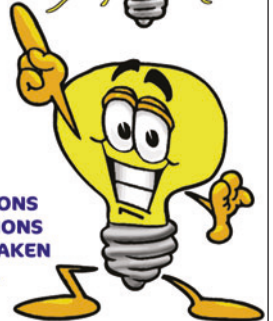
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# USEFUL INFORMATION

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings for the River Village Hall can be made with Jean on 01304 823803.  
More information on the Village Hall can be found at [www.rivervillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rivervillagehall.co.uk)

## HALL TRUSTEES

Village Hall Representatives ☐ Alison Dale & Jean Thomas

## REPRESENTATIVES OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

WI ☐ Elaine Grayling

RGA ☐ Pat Hicks

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EDITOR Jay Smalley 07584321414 editor.rivall@gmail.com

ADVERTS Helen 07900815161 hsimmonds63@hotmail.co.uk  
Simmonds

DISTRIBUTION Mary Eyre- 823132  
Jackson

## RIVER VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

07.12	19:00-22:30	River Gardeners ☐ Race Night
13.12	13:30	WI Poetry Afternoon
16.01	13:30	WI Members ☐ Afternoon (Visitors Welcome)
20.02	13:30	WI Bev Williams Corn Dolly Workshop
22.02	10:00-12:00	River Gardeners ☐ Coffee Morning
29.03		River Gardeners ☐ Spring Show



## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

29.11 & 20.12	19:00	Acoustic Music Night	Crabble Corn Mill
30.11 & 21.12	19:30	Quiz Night	Crabble Corn Mill
08.12 & 15.12	09:00 / 10:30	Breakfast with Santa	Crabble Corn Mill
08.12 & 15.12	13:00-17:00	Santa's Grotto	Crabble Corn Mill
10.12	19:00	Community Carol Service	Crabble Corn Mill

Festive Afternoon Teas at Crabble Corn Mill are available every Sun. Mon. Wed. Thurs. until 19.12 except 08.12 and 15.12.

For updates on events at the mill please visit [www.crabblecornmill.org.uk](http://www.crabblecornmill.org.uk)

## RIVER VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Please note that some of the following classes and activities only take place during term time. Please contact the corresponding telephone numbers for more information.

MON (Except Bank Holidays)	YOGA	10:30 □ 11:30	07882 410895
	TAI-CHI	12:00 □ 13:00	07882 410895
	YOGA	13:15 □ 14:15	07882 410895
	KUNG FU	17:30 □ 18:30	07841 353109
	KARATE	19:00 □ 21:00	07786 814998
TUES	PILATES	18:00 □ 19:00	07968 081959
	KUNG FU	19:00 □ 20:30	07590 845212
WED	PILATES	17:30 □ 19:30	07834 839801
	YOGA	19:55 □ 21:00	07513 129950
THURS	BALLET	15:30 □ 18:30	07585 652694
	KUNG FU	19:00 □ 20:30	07841 353109
FRI	YOGA	09:45 □ 11:15	07513 129950
	KEEP FIT	13:30 □ 14:30	03000 412222
	BALLET	15:30 □ 18:30	07585 652694
SAT	BALLET	09:00 □ 12:00	07585 652694

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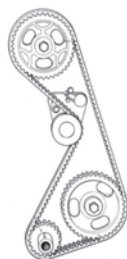
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