

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

*News, Information
and Comment for
Goring Heath,
Whitchurch Hill
and Crays Pond*

January 2016
149th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

SJC = Saint John's Church, Whitchurch Hill

December 2015

20th Nine Lessons & Carol Service

SJC

January 2016

14th Parish Council Meeting

GHPH

21st History Society

WVH

28th SOAG Lecture

GHPH

30th Quiz

GHPH

February 2016

11th Parish Council Meeting

GHPH

18th History Society

WVH

25th SOAG Lecture

GHPH

Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us the dates.

IT IS FREE

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature. Please send the details to the Editor - James Collins at archaeologyblues@hotmail.com.

Please allow sufficient time in advance for the publication of the appropriate newsletter. Contribution deadlines and publication dates are on the inside back cover.



Chairman's Comments

My commentary is obviously read in the best circles, as no sooner had the last Newsletter been published than the Prime Minister joined me in giving the County Council a kicking for making unnecessary cuts to the Council services.

It's a well known ploy of politicians to announce that swingeing cuts are needed, and then triumphantly announce that some threatened service has been saved; this time it's the Oakley Wood Recycling Centre that has been "saved", and so won't be closing as originally planned by the County Council. I am sorry to say that it's less good news on the buses, in that all bus subsidies are axed, so from April there will be no more 143 service.

We are planning to improve the play area at Garton End, replacing the fence with something more appropriate and stronger, and installing new and additional play equipment. We are expecting that this should attract grants from SODC and potentially other sources. Nick Elsome is running this project which, as is often the case, is taking longer and is more complex than seemed at first.

We have been successful in attracting a grant for doing some more work with the pond at Crays Pond. The water quality in the pond has much improved as a result of the measures taken to reduce the run off of water into the pond from the roads.

The promise of fibre broadband for Whitchurch Hill by the end of December now seems unlikely, as the new cabinets that are planned for either end of Orchard Coombe have not appeared. However, there is potentially good news, as there also seems to be a plan to install a cabinet at the top of the hill where the existing telephone one is located. This should mean that those parts of Whitchurch Hill that appeared to have been missed off the original plan, are going to get faster broad band at the same time as the rest of Whitchurch Hill.

Peter Dragonetti
Chairman

Christmas in Goring Heath

Start the real Christmas in a proper traditional way with the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St John's Church Whitchurch Hill at 5pm on Sunday 20th December, with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards in the Parish Hall.



Katy's Ironing Services

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WITH ME BEFORE YOU GO, SO I AM AVAILABLE
TO DO ALL YOUR IRONING ON YOUR RETURN?**

**I WILL COLLECT AND DROP OFF FREE, WITHIN 5 MILES
OF GORING HEATH**

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from S.O.D.C.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P15/S2870/HH 12 Garton End Crays Pond RG8 7QH Demolition of existing utility and conservatory and erection of single storey side and rear extension incorporating garage.	No Objections	Permis-sion
P15/S2910/FUL Technology Centre Bozdown Drive Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Creation of a natural pond with spoil used to form a shallow mound adjacent to the pond.	No Objections	Permis-sion
P15/S3139/HH 18 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Two storey side extension, single storey side and rear extensions. Alterations to existing dormer. Replacement single storey front porch	No Strong Views	Permis-sion
P15/S2945/AG Mount Pleasant Farm Goring Heath RG8 7TB Erection of an agricultural building	Com-ments on website	Applica-tion required
P15/S3126/HH G offs House Goffs Hill Crays Pond RG8 7QA Demolition and replacement of the existing garaging and storage	No Strong Views	
P15/S3102/HH 19 Hill Bottom Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX Demolition of single storey garage and toilet. Con-struction of two storey extension to side and single storey to rear of property.	No Strong Views	Permis-sion
P15/S2947/HH Treetops 20 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Change garage roof from flat roof to pitched roof.	No Strong Views	Permis-sion
P15/S3111/FUL Woodcote Sawmill Pot Kiln Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SS Erection of storage unit.	Should be Re-fused	With-drawn prior to determi-nation

Planning Decisions continued on page 6 →

Planning

We would also like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It should not be read as illustrating tacit approval of an application. More often than not this choice is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.

Planning Decisions Contd.

The following planning applications have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from S.O.D.C.



P15/S3389/FUL Theldon Goffs Hill Crays Pond RG8 7QD Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of new dwelling with car port (amendments to permission P14/S2735/FUL)	No Strong Views	Permis- sion
P15/S3397/HH 22 Hill Bottom Close Whitchurch Hill Goring Heath RG8 7PX Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey rear extension and part single/part two storey side extension.	No Strong Views	Permis- sion
P15/S3462/FUL Cedar Lodge Goring Road Goring Heath RG8 7SH Erection of two detached two-storey 4-bedroom dwellings incorporating construction of vehicular access and formation of parking including detached carport to serve Plot 1.	Should be Re- fused	With- drawn prior to determi- nation
P15/S3494/HH Cwmgwyn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Construction of a wooden garage	No Strong Views	

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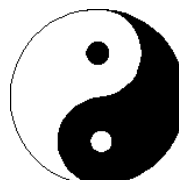
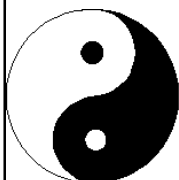
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Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Moving down to Whitchurch Village Hall in Manor Road, we start our meetings for 2016 on **Thursday 21st January** with a series of short talks by members. One of the talks concerns William Coombe's voyage down the Thames at the end of the eighteenth century to describe the scenery and the desirable estates on its banks – Nuneham, Coombe, Basildon, Mapledurham to name a few.

Our AGM is on **February 18th**, also in Whitchurch, and after the business we have Tony Hadland to talk about William Gill, Victorian explorer and spy.

Both meetings start at 8pm, coffee from 7.30. Non-members £2, to include coffee.

Vicky Jordan

The 2015 Whitchurch Art & Craft Exhibition

This annual event was held in Whitchurch Village Hall on Saturday 14th November and, as always, it was an enjoyable and sociable occasion. There was a wonderful variety of artwork, craftwork and photographs from young and old, showing a very high standard and mix of skills from the local community. The Whitchurch Cup (winner of the Craft category) was awarded to Yvonne Kerevan for her superb Windsor Chair, which was without doubt the star of the show this year. Colourful displays of work by children at the Pre-School, the Primary School and the Oratory Prep School were very eye-catching and added to the show. Visitors enjoyed refreshments all day and meeting up with friends and neighbours before the prize-giving ceremony at 5pm.

Included in the exhibition this year for the first time, was an impressive display of artwork created by residents of Eastfield House. Volunteer artists have started this initiative which provides a new interest and stimulation for the residents and to which they have responded with great enthusiasm.

Congratulations to all the prize winners; a full list of these can be found on the Whitchurch Village website, on the link to Village Groups/Annual Art & Craft Exhibition.

Very many thanks to all exhibitors and also to everyone who helped with the setting up and running of the show, including serving the refreshments all day and making delicious cakes. Finally, my special thanks to Chris Martin and Sarah Dixon who joined me on the planning committee and to the Whitchurch Society members who supported us.

Sally Woolhouse
(sally@wotarts.co.uk)



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Specialist helplines available in domestic abuse cases

Henley Citizens Advice is raising awareness of specialist helplines people can call if they suspect that someone they know is in an abusive relationship.

Although friends and family can provide a lifeline by encouraging victims to seek specialist help, Citizens Advice say they currently face difficulties in helping victims this way because most people in Britain do not feel equipped to help people who are suffering from domestic abuse.

Surveys also reveal that more than one in three people who have personally experienced abuse didn't tell anyone else. Victims are often too afraid or isolated to talk to others about their problem.

Henley Citizens Advice staff and volunteers are trained and supported to identify instances of domestic abuse with a simple but sensitive approach during face-to-face advice. The staff and volunteers are then able to provide support and advice to those who are experiencing, or have experienced, any kind of domestic abuse.

People who want to support victims of abuse need to know the steps they can take and where they can get specialist help. Citizens Advice is joining the national "Talk About Abuse" campaign so we can help ordinary people to know how to recognise abuse, talk about it safely and enable victims to make the right decisions for themselves.

If you are experiencing domestic violence or abuse, or you are concerned that someone you know might be in an abusive relationship, you can seek help by calling confidential freephone helplines. You can also get help and support from your nearest Citizens Advice, or call Adviceline on 03 444 111 444.

Helplines:

- ♦ If the victim is a woman, you can get help from the freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 (run in partnership by Refuge and Women's Aid);
- ♦ If the victim is a man, you can get help from the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327;
- ♦ If the victim is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, you can get specialised help from Broken Rainbow on 0300 999 5428;
- ♦ If you live in Wales you can call the bilingual Live Fear Free national helpline on 0808 80 10 800.

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The Parish Council and Openness and Transparency

The Parish Council conducts itself in an open and transparent way, and the parish council meetings are open to anyone who wants to come and listen and we normally let visitors express their views at our meetings.

We also publish all our financial transactions through the minutes of our meetings, where each payment is recorded, and these minutes are on the website.

We now also post our detailed annual accounts and audit reports on the web site. If you want more information, please ask the parish Clerk by email on goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com and we will try and help.

Peter Dragonetti



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South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group

Forthcoming lectures to be held at Goring Heath Parish Hall are as follows:

- ◆ **January 28th 2016** SOAG lecture: Simon Townley (Victoria County History) Ewelme and Ewelme Hundred: Recent VCH Work.
- ◆ **February 25th 2016** SOAG lecture: prof John Blair (University of Oxford) The Anglo-Saxon Upper Thames Region: New Discoveries and New Thoughts.

Whitchurch & Goring Heath Twinning Association

If you're starting to think about next year's holidays the good news is that we shall be visiting La Bouille for a long weekend at the end of April/ beginning of May next year which will include a promised visit to the lovely harbour and town of Honfleur. More details to follow. All are welcome, and generous hospitality is assured.

Vicky Jordan

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Goring Heath District 2015

First, I would like to thank all the door to door collectors whom, once again, braved the wind & rain

‘WHAT A TEAM!’

Thank you also to all of those who very kindly had static boxes. This year was a good year, thanks to you all who donated. We raised a total of £1,177.65 which is for such a good cause. This was slightly more than last year. This is a magnificent sum for the Goring Heath district. Thank you all once again.

Caroline Brookes
(Poppy Appeal Organiser)

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month or more.

Salisbury, Cheltenham, Oxford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website. Subscriptions £10 per annum but £8 if paid online.



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Is a wood burning stove right for me?

With their glass doors and sleek looks, today's high efficiency wood stoves can provide a visual centrepiece as well as winter warmth. However, there are practicalities to consider before buying one:

1. *Do I have a chimney?*

You'll need to feed a flue up a chimney or out through a wall.

2. *Can I store the wood?*

Do you have a dry space for a few cubic metres of wood? A tonne goes quickly in winter!

3. *Am I fighting fit?*

Lugging and/or splitting wood is hard work. There will be wood ash to clear if you are burning logs rather than pellets.

4. *Will I use it?*

A wood stove may be surplus to requirement if you have a good boiler and central heating.

5. *Will I burn the right stuff?*

Will the wood you burn come from a sustainably managed forest?

For more wood stove Q&As, simply search the blog at www.yougen.co.uk

For information from Citizens Advice on heating your home and saving energy, please see the feature on page 18-19 overleaf!

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Logs for Labour is on again!

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of firewood by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs.

The events run most weekends in the winter, are about 3 hours long, and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees or piling up brash. All you need are sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (only hand tools are allowed for insurance reasons)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers.

Information about forthcoming events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour or 'like' www.facebook.com/oxonwood.

Riki Therivel, (01865 243488)

Heat your home and save money

Are you having problems heating your house, or do you feel that you're paying more than you should? South Oxfordshire Citizens Advice is urging people to take action, cut their bills by checking that they are on the best possible deal, switch tariff or supplier, or take up offers of help to insulate their homes.

You could benefit from savings of up to £320 a year from energy efficiency measures, an average of £100 by paying by direct debit, and up to £200 by shopping around.

Citizens Advice has published new energy advice information and links to comparison tools. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advisernet/consumer/energy/energy-supply to find out how you can benefit.

Citizens Advice has also issued eight money-saving tips:

- ♦ Check your bills carefully and read your meter regularly so you can check that you're paying the right amount.
- ♦ Talk to your supplier if you think your bill is wrong or if you have problems paying. They will give you advice or talk you through repayment options.
- ♦ Make sure that you are on the cheapest tariff. Check with your supplier and use an accredited tariff-switching website to see who is offering the best deal. Most energy suppliers offer fixed price tariffs, i.e. the price of a unit of energy will stay the same for the length of the deal.
- ♦ If you use a pre-payment meter, remember that standing charges will be added daily, even when you aren't using energy. Check how much these standing charges are and keep your meter topped up to avoid unexpected charges.
- ♦ If you use heating oil as your main fuel, buy before winter and see if there are any local oil-buying clubs you can join. A scheme covering many local villages is the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council's Bulk Oil-Buying Scheme - visit www.oxon.rcc.org.uk

- ♦ Make your home energy-efficient. Insulate lofts and cavity walls, install double glazing or use thick curtains to keep the heat in. Get your boiler serviced or replaced to ensure that it is energy-efficient. There are schemes to help pay for this and Citizens Advice can tell you about them.
- ♦ Save money and energy – don't leave appliances on standby. Fix leaking hot water taps and turn off the light when you leave a room.
- ♦ Do a home energy check – visit the Energy Saving Trust home energy check at www.hec.est.org.uk Use this check to get a full report with details of your home energy use and the savings you could make.

If money is tight, contact your local Citizens Advice. They can look into your situation and see whether you are getting all the benefits you're entitled to, or if you can get help paying your bills. For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours, see www.caox.org.uk

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau
www.caox.org.uk

And the Winner is....

The more attentive of our readers may recall the light-hearted competition in the previous edition of the Goring Heath Newsletter, whereby I invited answers to the origin of the headline of that particular article.

The answer was, of course, the song "Hello, Goodbye" by The Beatles (whatever happened to them, eh?)

Unfortunately, as I didn't receive a single correct answer—and didn't supply a closing date—the prize can be rolled over to this month.

An inexpensive bottle of wine or box of chocolates is available to the person who correctly identifies the Feast Day of St Nicholas (as recognised by Western Christianity.)

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers received by email at archaeologyblues@hotmail.com. The closing date will be December 31st 2015.

Good luck!

- Ed.

It's Snow Time!

In the event of heavy snowfall, local roads are not cleared by the County, but we do now have salt bins in strategic places where there have been problems in the past.

We also have some bags of salt that are available for anyone who wants to be public spirited and is willing to apply it to the road outside their house. We can drop one or two bags off in advance which can be tucked away in anticipation. Each bag will cover about 50 yards of road as not much is needed to be effective.

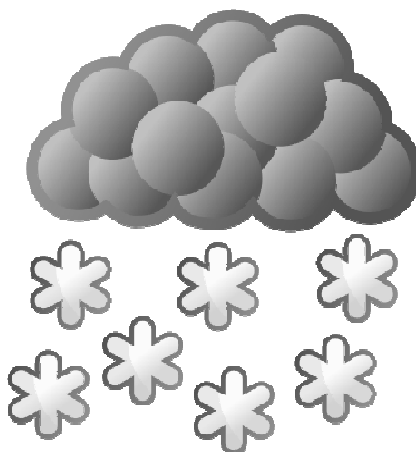
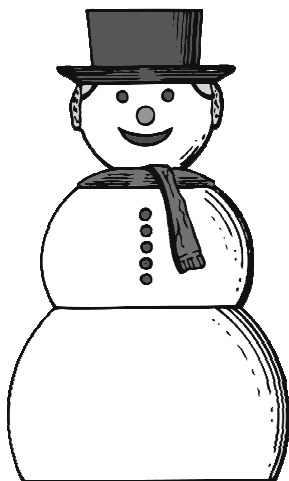
Please email us at Goring.Heath.Parish.Council@gmail.com if you want to join in with this.

Please note that this is not free salt for your own driveway or property, it must only be used on the road or pavement, as should the salt in the salt bins.

Peter Dragonetti

N.B.—

The daily update on whether roads will be gritted is posted on the winter pages of the OCC's web site <http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms>



Season's Greetings!

I travelled into London on a Saturday earlier this month, braving the crowds and discomfort of a journey that I usually do five times a week anyway and desperately try to avoid at weekends. The reason for this apparent madness was a trip to see the new production of “A Christmas Carol” starring Jim Broadbent.

The play was excellent, funny and spectacular in equal measures, and although I am more than familiar with Dickens’ original novella, the adaptation was different enough to hold my interest for the entire two hours. I mention this not as a recommendation of the play (which I wholeheartedly do) but as an observation on the demeanour of the woman I sat next to for the duration of the performance. Not once did I see this lady crack a smile, laugh, applaud or otherwise give any indication that she was enjoying being there. She appeared unmoved by the waves of jollity all around her and almost gave off an aura of severity and indifference.

My favourite line from ‘A Christmas Carol’ is spoken by Scrooge’s nephew, Fred, as he tries to convince his uncle of the benefits brought by Christmas: “I have always thought of Christmas time,” says Fred “...as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.”

And this to me summed up the essence of what I love about this time of year, in spite of the damp and mild weather, and the bleakness of the daily news and the incessant travails of the weekly grind. This concept of togetherness and seeing each other as “fellow-passengers to the grave” rather than hostile strangers is, for me, the true spirit of Christmas. Looking at life, and people, through such a filter can only serve to increase our tolerance and friendliness to each other, and bring truth to WB Yeats’ assertion that, “There are no strangers here; only friends you haven’t yet met.”

So did I turn to the sour-faced, grumpy lady next to me and offer her a warm smile and festive greetings?

No. I just shrugged and dreamt about a large brandy at the interval.

But I did *think* about it. So in that failing spirit, I’d like to wish all you readers a wonderful festive season, a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

- Ed.



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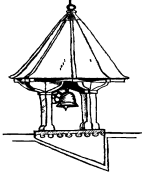
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Goring Heath Parish Charity
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??QUIZ NIGHT??

**GORING HEATH PARISH HALL
SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY 2016
8PM**

Another New Year! So don't miss out on the
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Mike Holland Quiz Night!

Get your team, of about six together, and then book your
table.

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or email

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COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Robert Simister Yew Tree Cottage, Harpsden Bottom, Henley on Thames, RG9 4HS
01491 576352 robert.simister@southoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG
01491 823000 www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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The Goring Heath Newsletter is published by the Parish Council six times a year and is delivered free to every household in the Parish.

To contributors to the Newsletter:-

It would be most helpful if copy could be submitted to the editor as a document attachment to email and sent to archaeologyblues@hotmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
11th February 2016	March 2016
14th April 2016	May 2016
14th June 2016	July 2016
11th August 2016	September 2016
13th October	November 2016
8th December	January 2017

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494 764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491 681236
Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club	John Bridgens	0118 9842682
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491 575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Chris Uden	01491 681263
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	0118 978 7829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867 954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Nicola Robinson	0118 984 2239
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Chair: Sue Matthews	0118 984 4489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association	Vicky Jordan	0118 984 3260
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	0118 984 2162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Elizabeth Harrap	01491 681171
Yoga and Pilates	Betsy Twelves-Dickson	07922 439165

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056
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