



# December 2013 / January 2014

## Stoneleigh Church Grounds Maintenance

### Thanks...

**On the morning** of Saturday 19th October 2013, 14 volunteers turned up to help edge lawns, cut back ivy-covered gravestones, trim back trees, prune roses and cut hedges, all of which were then recycled for the benefit of the Village Club Bonfire on 2nd November. *[Ed: Too bad it had to be cancelled.]* May I record my sincere thanks to all who helped, as recorded below?

We are clearly indebted to the wider Smith clan - Ian & Jill Smith, Martin Smith and Paul Smith (of The Old Parsonage); The Hancox family - Richard, Anna and Keira - who carried on working through lunchtime; Sarah Ballinger; Robert Kingston; Martin Browett; The regular mowing team members - Dennis Hancocks, Peter Sibley and Clive Watson. (Apologies were received from regular mowers, Peter Whitehouse and Ian Smith.) Gill Watson - for catering to keep the volunteers sustained.

If anyone feels able to offer some time to assist in maintaining our village's lovely old churchyard on a regular, or occasional, basis, please give me a ring (024 7641 1658), even if it is only during the summer months when sometimes we need cover for mowers' holidays. No special skills required - just enthusiasm.

Thanks again.



Clive Watson



The social committee continues to meet regularly to plan events. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a further quiz night and the Halloween celebrations. Unfortunately, the Bonfire and Fireworks event could not go ahead due to insurance issues.

The Club has stayed open to allow members to enjoy significant rugby and football games at weekends. We also open at 5.30pm on Fridays to enjoy a drink after a hard week at work. Many members have enjoyed these occasions, especially now that the colder days are here and the fire is lit!

We are busy organising winter events, which include:

### Dates for your Diary

Saturday 7th December Owners' Night

Come to the Club to mark the completion of the purchase of the Club building and celebrate that we **ALL** now own **OUR** Club. We will drink a toast to our future success!

Wednesday 11th December Christmas Bingo

8.30pm

Saturday 21st December Children's Christmas Party

6.30pm Santa is expected to attend to distribute gifts to all the good children of Stoneleigh.

#### Sunday 22nd December Chr

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long with the Handbell Ringers

Christmas Raffle drawn at 9.30pm super prizes include an iPad mini, a splendid hamper and other seasonal items. PS: If you wish to donate a suitable prize for the raffle, please tell Rory or Jim.

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Friday 27th December Fish and Chip Night To make a change from the turkey! Place your orders at the bar from 26th December.

Tuesday 31st December Celebrate the New Year with Small World (duo) and Laurel Canyon (60s and 70s revival band)

1st January 2014 Village Walk This starts at 11.30am at the Motslow Footbridge with refreshments in the Club on completion. Start the New Year with a breath of fresh air!

We need to sell plenty of Christmas raffle tickets to cover the costs of our events. If you think you could sell a book of tickets, please see Rory or Jim at the Club.

We look forward to seeing you at the Club and, in the meantime, we wish you all a happy and healthy festive season!

The Social Committee

From the Registers

Saturday 2nd November 2013

Wedding at Stoneleigh - David Farr and Sandra Gregory

Thursday 14th November 2013

Interment of Ashes at Stoneleigh - Cyril Pountney Memorial Service at Stoneleigh - Mary Moore

## The 2013 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Very many thanks to all who gave so generously to this year's appeal. Although, at the time of going to press, we are waiting for a few more collecting boxes to come in, we have already far exceeded last year's total, having reached the "magic" figure of £3000.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who helped, particularly with house-to-house collections and with the onerous task of counting all the money. Dennis Craddock is, as ever, an absolute star!

Sheila Woolf



Photograph: Lucy Morris



### High Speed Rail Latest

These are worrying times. The Hybrid Bill, the first step in legally authorising the construction of HS2, will be presented to Parliament on Monday 25th November. The HS2 Action Alliance, Stop HS2 and other organisations are organising a parliamentary lobby and a demonstration outside the House of Commons that day. At the time of writing, full details are not known, but will be available on www.stophs2.org. (Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this edition of the News will have been circulated before that date, but those on our mailing list have been emailed). The Paving Bill, which authorised yet further expenditure on feasibility studies, engineering and construction preparation, was passed on 31st October, with disappointingly few MPs voting against, although including our MP, Jeremy Wright, absented many, themselves that day.

Details of the procedures for the Hybrid Bill can be found on **www.hs2.org.uk/developing-hs2/hybrid.bill**. There will be an opportunity to petition against the Bill and details will be circulated once known. This show is likely to continue for a few months yet!

Meanwhile, HS2 Ltd are conducting a Property Compensation Consultation. A roadshow was held in Kenilworth on 1st November. Many thanks to those News readers who attended that event. HS2 Ltd staff were unable to provide any reassurances about the impact that the construction of HS2 will have on our community, let alone the effects once it is built. "You'll only have the construction site for five years not ten" was supposed to be a helpful comment!! The fact that such a comment was made to a Stoneleigh resident is a sign that our concerns have been dismissed and that the intention remains for HS2 Ltd to locate a site at the edge of the village, all our protests notwithstanding.

To repeat the pleas in the November edition of the News, please respond to the Property Compensation Consultation, even if only to return the card which was enclosed with the News. The deadline is 4th December. Full details are to be found on **www.hs2.org.uk**, but note that, very unhelpfully in the middle of this consultation, details of all consultations can now be found on www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-property-consultation-2013.

Margaret Wallis

on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group



### **Residential Vacancy**

at The Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse in Stoneleigh Village, Warwickshire

The Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse is a Charity providing well-equipped accommodation in ten lovely homes. Each residence consists of: hall, lounge with kitchen area, cloakroom with washbasin and toilet and utility area. A door leads to a small patio connected to large communal gardens. Inside, stairs lead to the first floor where there is a bedroom with en-suite shower, washbasin and wc.

Trustees invite applications for occupancy. Preference is given to needy persons, approaching retirement age or older, living within the parish of Stoneleigh and who are in need of housing. However, similarly qualified persons living locally, or with links to Stoneleigh, are also invited to apply.

For further information and an application form, contact: Mr M C Wareham, Clerk to the Trustees Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse c/o 4 Nursery Close, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glocs GL56 9NH. 01608 654299 / mcwareham@gmail.com

### Ashow Church News

The Advent Service, with carols, will be held at Ashow Church on Sunday 1st December at 5.00pm. The service has been written by Susan Spencer, and the Ashow Parish Singers will be performing. The church will be candlelit for this service. Mulled wine (or soft drinks) and minced pies will be served afterwards.

The Ashow Village candlelit Christmas Carol Service will be on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm, and we hope that this will attract the usual high number of villagers, friends and family.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on the morning of Saturday 21st December from 10.30am onwards. We should be grateful if as many people as possible could come, and please bring "greenery" etc to decorate the candle poles.

A Christmas tree is being donated by Stoneleigh Estate, by courtesy of Sheldon Bosley, their agent, and we will be very pleased if any children wish to come and decorate it.

Stephen Harvey



### Stoneleigh Community Orchard

#### A Planting Event will take place on Saturday 14th December from 9.30am onwards.

A further 19 trees are to be planted in the Orchard to complement those trees already established.



These will be 15 Katy, three-year-old dwarf stock trees (dessert/cider apple) and four taller trees (Dabinette cider apple).

Want some exercise? Then come along and help plant these new trees. Volunteers are needed please: some strong folks to dig holes - bring your spade - but others can help plant, stake, tie and net, or bring coffee and buns to revive the workers.

See you there!

Enquiries to Pete Freeman 024 7641 3893.

## Stoneleigh WI Craft Group Open Morning

Stoneleigh WI Craft Group will have an open morning on Monday 2nd December from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Village Hall.

Please come and join us for a cup tea or coffee. There will also be some craft items available for purchase.



## News from Stoneleigh Church

The Church's preparation for Christmas starts with the Advent Breakfast Course, titled Expecting Christ, with four sessions starting on 30th November. Everyone is welcome for any or all of the sessions. This is an informal and relaxed way to learn and share together with hands-on activities alongside discussion, listening and space for simple reflection. Please let us know if you plan to come along (for catering purposes).

In January, we will be slightly changing the pattern of services. The All Age Service is moving to the second Sunday in the month. We are hoping that this will be an easier time in the month for welcoming all ages.

### Dates for your Diary...

...November Saturday 30th November (Village Hall) Advent Breakfast - Expecting Christ 9.00am Breakfast 9.45am - 11.00am Course ...December Saturday 7th, 14th, 21st December Advent Breakfasts continue (Village Hall) 9.00am for breakfast 9.45am - 11.00am Course Saturday 21st December (Church) Christmas Flowers and Decorating the Tree 2.30pm - 3.30pm Children are invited to bring their parents to help them decorate the Christmas Tree, admire the beautiful flowers and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pie. Sunday 22nd December Mulled Wine and Mince Pies (Church) after the Carol Service 7.00pm

### ...January

Friday 10th January

Film Night - Love Actually 6.45pm for 7.00pm £3.00 (inc pastry and cake)

### ...February

### Sunday 2nd February

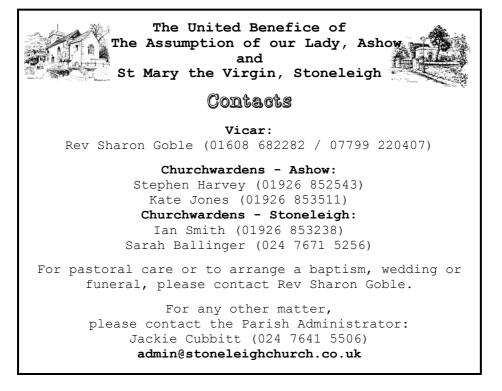
(Stoneleigh Golf Club)

(Village Hall)

Fellowship Lunch 1.00pm following the service Booking is essential

If you would like to join us or would like further details, please telephone Sarah Ballinger (024 7671 5256) or Jackie Cubitt, Parish Office (024 7641 5506), or email admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk.

Sarah Ballinger



### Word Slippage

We knew that getting old was tough That knees and backs would pain It seems that we were not forewarned Of softening the brain.

> The stiffening of the sinews Is nothing now we find Compared with loss of memory And mushiness of mind.

Our brain cells are still numerous As grains on sandy beach But sadly now the one we want Is always out of reach.

You start to tell a story Your audience is agog But then the very word you want Seems clouded in a fog.

You have a vivid image of This thing you need to name A well known vegetable you say A marrow's much the same.

A gourd, a cucumber, they cry To help you nail the thing No, no, I think it starts with 'a' I plant them in the spring.

Or maybe it begins with 'b' And has an 'l' somewhere I think it has three syllables And looks just like a pear.

You soon forget the reason why You need to find this name As each attempt at idle chat Becomes a guessing game.

The conversation takes a turn As others now recall That they once grew a vegetable They couldn't eat at all. Your moment as the raconteur Has surely now gone by The word will still evade you However hard you try.

Next day when idly wasting time Before the tv screen The wretched veg invades your head The word was 'aubergine'.



### Parish Council Notes

#### Meetings

The December Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at Ashow Village Club, Ashow on Thursday 12th December 2013 at 7.00pm. Please note the earlier start time. Join us for a drink and nibbles after the meeting.

The January Ordinary Meeting will be held at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30pm.

Environment Agency: Check your Heating Oil Tank 2013 The Environment Agency is running a new campaign on heating oil incidents. It's a good time to check your heating oil tank before winter sets in because the consequences of leaks can be costly to you and devastating to groundwater.

For further information and advice, please contact the Midlands Geoscience Team at the Environment Agency on: **GWCLwest@environment-agency.gov.uk** or call Steve Brown on 01684 864433.

Pat Maddison

Parish Clerk

## Stoneleigh WI Report

The meeting in November was our Annual Meeting. The President, Pat Lines, completed her term of office and Rhona Robbins was elected as the new President. The new committee includes two members who live in Stoneleigh: Liz Sykes and Rachel Gill. Pat Lines presented the President's rose bowl to Margot Mather, who retired from the committee. Margot, a long serving committee member, was Treasurer for a number of years.

Eight teams took part in a Quiz Night on Tuesday 12th November. They answered questions on sport, general knowledge and food. There were also two picture rounds in which teams had to identify logos and outline maps of European countries. Members played Rummikub and Scrabble at a games afternoon on 19th November. During November, the Craft Group produced items for Christmas.

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 3rd December at 12.30pm. The lunch will be sponsored by the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir. The menu will be soup, roast turkey with traditional accompaniments, Christmas pudding, coffee, mince pies and a glass of wine. If you would like to book a place, please let Liz Sykes know on 024 7641 8301.

The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday 17th December. The lunch in January will be on Tuesday 7th January 2014, and the coffee morning will be on Tuesday 21st January 2014.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd December and will be our Christmas party. At the meeting on 6th January 2014, Kevin Barfield will talk about the life and works of George Formby.







Rachel Cill

Editor's note: A jinx seems to have attacked the listing of authors of last month's books after it left Rachel's computer. Of course, it should have been Patrick Leigh Fermor rather than Patrick Lee Fermer.

### Time for a Christmas Present

I cooked my Christmas turkey on 31st October this year. I know I can get obsessive about getting things done in plenty of time, but I realise that this might sound ridiculous! The turkey and trimmings in October is because one of the rather eccentric habits of my family is to celebrate our Christmas dinner when we go away together for October half-term (with five clergy and two medics, it's easier that way)! All 17 of us share a property, have turkey with all the trimmings, make homemade crackers and shout "Bang!" at the right moment. It's just like The Good Life! We wrap Secret Santa presents in our newspaper, having combed the





charity shops with a maximum of £2 a gift. It never ceases to amaze me what can be found for that price! We've had all the classics - smellies, books, candles, hats, socks, wigs and water pistols... Why don't you try it?

Timing gets ever more pressured as the big day approaches, doesn't it? We try to shop in good time, catch the last post, arrange to see family and friends when everyone can make it, time the turkey to perfection...

How extraordinary that this festival marks the moment that our eternal God entered time and made history. The Bible says that at just the right time, God sent His Son. At Christmas, we celebrate "just the right time", so I'm hoping to keep perspective and not feel like my time is running away with me. Now is the time that God has given us - now that's what I call a Christmas present.

Rev Sharon Goble

### Bonfire Night in Ashow

Ashow was delighted to welcome some Stoneleigh residents to a hugely enjoyable bonfire evening at the Ashow Village Club on Friday 1st November.

A towering bonfire, made possible by some brilliant donations of pallets, huge timber swimming pool covers and garden cuttings, was lit at 6.30pm and marked the start of the evening, which was followed at 7.00pm by a spectacular fireworks display from the pyrotechnics team of Tim Allen, Anthony McGrath and Tony Gregory and which had children squealing with delight and adults clapping by its finale.

There then followed several hours of chat, burgers and bangers of a different kind, many pints of Tribute and other quality beverages to keep spirits high as the bonfire continued to burn outside.

Concerns that the night might not cover its costs after the price of the fireworks and insurance had once again gone up were quickly put aside thanks to guests on the night boosting numbers and strong raffle sales that helped push the night into the black and make a profit for the Club to further cheer the atmosphere.



to all Thanks those who attended and dug deep and those who helped make the event. happen, including special thanks to Pete Horgan for manning the bar, Mary and her team for the delicious food, and Caroline Allen and Anne for collecting Gregory the vital cash!

We look forward to next year. Start saving your wood everyone!

Tim Allen

This month's edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by **Lucy Morris**, who would like to thank all contributors. For those of you who are interested in fonts, this edition's typeface is **Courier New 10 pt**, with headers in **Vintage One 20 pt**, and signatures in **Remachine Script 26 pt**.

The February 2014 edition will be compiled by **Robin Bussell** The Oaks, Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh 024 7641 6183 robin.bussell44@btinternet.com / editor.sandanews@gmail.com

#### Copy deadline: 18th January 2014

We prefer digital A5 copy, but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative.

Advertisements at £25 (full page A5) or £12.50 (half page) accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to S&A News policy.

This month's front cover:

Ashow in the Snow, 2010 Photograph: David Clark



## Stoneleigh United Charities

Stoneleigh United Charities is a fund comprised of the proceeds of many of the ancient charities which have been donated to Stoneleigh, Stareton and Ashow over the centuries. Its aim is to provide help for those in financial need in these villages. If you, or someone you know within the villages, is in need of financial assistance, please apply for consideration to the Chairman, Jean Vaughan, 1 Wentworth House, Stoneleigh CV8 3DH (jeanniev@btinternet.com).

### Stoneleigh History Society

Last month's meeting was, as expected, a fascinating one, when Pam Baker talked us through her researches into some of the earliest of Stoneleigh's parish records - the churchwardens' "disbursements", or payments, during 1663. We learnt a great deal about village life in the mid-seventeenth century, particularly since Pam had investigated the backgrounds of many of the personnel named.

Our November meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th, when Paul Smith will give a talk on the Hon Edward Chandos Leigh and Stoneleigh Cricket Club - an interesting accompaniment to the Test matches in Australia, perhaps! Everyone is welcome; the meeting begins at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

As we approach the centenary of the Great War, research is continuing apace into the lives of those Stoneleigh men whose names appear on the Roll of Honour in the Village Hall and who, thankfully, returned to resume their lives. May I repeat the plea in last month's edition of the *News* for any detail you can give us about the men? Their names were listed in last month's edition. You can contact Lisa Reay on **lisareay@btinternet.com**.

The History Society's Christmas Social will be held in the Village Club on the evening of Tuesday 17th December. If you have been wondering about joining the society, why not come along for a mince pie or two?

Sheila Woolf



### S&A News AGM Notice

The Stoneleigh & Ashow News AGM will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 9th December, kindly hosted by Pam Baker. If any distributors or readers wish to attend, please contact Margaret Wallis on 024 7641 4271 or ms.wallis@virgin.net beforehand.

The editorial team would welcome further members. If you have good IT skills, including desktop publishing (we use PagePlus), and would be interested in being involved in the compilation of the News, please get in touch before 9th December and then join us at the meeting so that you can get an idea of what is involved.

The compilation and distribution of the News is undertaken by a group of dedicated volunteers. Printing costs are covered thanks to generous donations from readers. Thanks are due to all who are involved.

Margaret Wallis

Chair, Stoneleigh & Ashow News Editorial Team



## The Children's Society

The total amount from the annual box collection in Stoneleigh and Stareton this year was £254.30. Thank you to all the people who continue to use their boxes throughout the year. Your efforts are gratefully received, and the money will help children and young people in the UK.

Gwendoline Howse

### Stoneleigh Events News



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope you have found these regular updates helpful throughout the past year. As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact details below.

#### Stoneleigh's Christmas Helpers

If you've been in the Village Hall recently, you will have noticed the wonderful Christmas decorations. Stoneleigh Events' Gary Attwood and his team have got into the Christmas spirit early this year to create an amazing winter wonderland at the heart of the local community. We hope you like it!

#### Events at Stoneleigh Park during December

The car boots will finish at 1.30pm.

The Stoneleigh Indoor Car Boot Sale will take place every Sunday during the first four weeks of December:

Sunday 1st December Sunday 8st December Sunday 15th December Sunday 22nd December

Gates open at 7.00am for sellers and buyers. Visitors are asked not to arrive before this time, in order to avoid any disruption for local residents. Entry is 50p per person and from £10 per seller for a car or small van.

Parking for both public and traders will be on site, with access via Car Park 5 rather than through the main entrance. No road closures or diversions are planned. The events will all take place under cover in the Exhibition Halls and Blackdown Buildings. Visit www.stoneleighcarboot.co.uk/index.php for more information.

Please note that more public events may occur during January, which are still unconfirmed at the time of going

to press. Any new events will be posted on our website **www.stoneleighevents.com/events.aspx**, so please do keep an eye on there for any updates.

Subscribe to the Stoneleigh Events Visitor Newsletter

The Stoneleigh Events monthly newsletter is packed with all the latest events and offers at Stoneleigh Park. If you would like to receive the newsletter straight to your inbox each month, please follow this link to sign up: www.stoneleighevents.com/subscribe.aspx.

Contact Stoneleigh Events Tel: 024 7669 6969 / Out of Hours: 07557 651704 Email: info@stoneleighevents.com Website: www.stoneleighevents.com

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For further information and advice, please contact the Midlands Geoscience Team at the Environment Agency on: **GWCLwest@environment-agency.gov.uk** or call Steve Brown on 01684 864433.

Pat Maddison

Parish Clerk



We wish a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year to you all. We have pledged donations to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance instead of sending local Christmas cards.

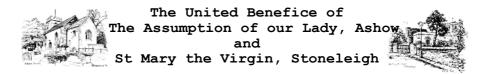
Mike and Pam Baker Shirley and Ernie Ball Mary Beagrie Kate and Charlie Beaumont Church Bellringers Will and Nora Blagburn Jayne and David Brooks Jean and Robin Bussell Village Club Committee Viv and Martin Cooper Lena Crockett Iris Donachie Jean Fardoe Jim Gavin Janet and David Gibson Roger Gilbert Philip and Rachel Gill Ann Harris Ted and Betty Hind Dick and Daphne James

Phil and Claire James-Bull Marion and Mike Murray Judith Oliver Richard and Janet Parham Sheila Rench Alec and Janet Sanders Tim and Nicky Sawdon Patrick Sawdon Kim and Martin Smith Liz Sykes Jean and David Vaughan Julie and Keith Walker Margaret and Ken Wallis Gill and Clive Watson Bill Whatmore Rod and Jill Wheat Mary and Cec White Madeline White Judy and Chris Hadfield Peter and Jan Whitehouse Sheila Woolf

The flag will be flown at The Oaks, Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh over the weekend of 21st and 22nd December to acknowledge these generous donations. If you have missed the list above and would still like to contribute, your donation will be acknowledged on the 'flying notice'.

"Thank you" to all those who have contributed.





### Services for December 2013 & January 2014

#### December 2013

Sunday 1st	11.00am United Holy Communion - Stoneleigh 5.00pm Service for Advent - Ashow
Sunday 8th	9.30am Holy Communion - Ashow 11.00am Sung Holy Communion - Stoneleigh
Thursday 12th	10.30am Holy Communion - Stoneleigh
Sunday 15th	9.30am Holy Communion - Ashow 11.00am Fellowship Holy Communion - Stoneleigh
Sunday 22nd	4.00pm Village Carol Service - Ashow 7.00pm Village Carol Service - Stoneleigh
Tuesday 24th	Christmas Eve 5.00pm Crib Service - Stoneleigh 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion - Stoneleigh
Wednesday 25th	<b>Christmas Day</b> 10.00am Holy Communion - Ashow
Thursday 26th	_
<b>Thursday 26th</b> Sunday 29th	Boxing Day
-	Boxing Day Note: There will be no midweek Communion
- Sunday 29th	Boxing Day Note: There will be no midweek Communion
- Sunday 29th <b>January 2014</b>	Boxing Day Note: There will be no midweek Communion 11.00am All Age Worship Communion - Stoneleigh
Sunday 29th January 2014 Sunday 5th	Boxing Day Note: There will be no midweek Communion 11.00am All Age Worship Communion - Stoneleigh 11.00am United Holy Communion - Stoneleigh
Sunday 29th January 2014 Sunday 5th Thursday 9th	Boxing Day Note: There will be no midweek Communion 11.00am All Age Worship Communion - Stoneleigh 11.00am United Holy Communion - Stoneleigh 10.30am Holy Communion - Stoneleigh 9.30am Holy Communion - Ashow
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