

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

March 2023



Photo by Steve Atkey

John Clark (Parish Councillor) and Linda Benton (Artist/Designer) with the new village map.
Please see p.3 for more details

Dates for March

4 th	Lent Lunch	19 th	Steventon News Copy cut off
7 th	Parish Council Meeting	21 st	History Society Talk
9 th	Darby & Joan Meeting	21 st	WI AGM
11 th	Lent Lunch	21 st	Deadline for Thames Water plan
18 th	Lent Lunch	22 nd	SARINC meeting
			<i>Warm Space Cafe - every Tuesday</i>



www.steventonhistory.co.uk

Announcing our first event of the year

Steventon's Railways – it's all Brunel's fault!

7.00pm Tuesday 21st March at St Michael's Church

An illustrated talk by Roger Orchard

If you have ever laid awake worrying about how Steventon coped with the 77,000 passengers disembarking at the station and travelling on to Oxford in the mid 19th century; or how the goods yard handled 12,000 tons of freight in those early years; or why the government gave GWR just two weeks to create railway tracks for the Milton ordnance depot for the First World War; or how close was Steventon station to becoming like Didcot Parkway as the junction for Oxford, then this is the talk for you!

Roger Orchard, our resident expert on all aspects of the history of Steventon's railways promises to fascinate and enthrall us with the story of the love affair between our village and the Great Western Railway. Entry is free but donations towards the cost of staging the event and to our chosen good causes (The Great Western Trust and Pendon Museum) are welcomed.

There will be a glass of wine on arrival and tea and coffee after.



As a teaser, have a look at this mystery object: whenever you cross The Causeway railway crossing, you will pass by it. What is it and why might Roger be referring to it in his talk?

For further information on the activities of Steventon History Society, contact Tim Owen at owentd@talk21.com or visit our website.



*Steventon Speedwatch
Group*



Steventon Speedwatch Group has been going now for approximately 7 months. We are a team of 11 local residents aiming to keep our village safe from speeding motorists. Each member gives on average an hour a week of their time on a voluntary basis to monitor the speed of motorists through the village.

So far, since July 2022, we have recorded approximately 220 speeding motorists, that's an average of around 30 vehicles a month driving in excess of 30 miles per hour.

With location spots throughout the village, please look for us out next time you're driving around!

If you have an hour or so a week you can spare and would like to join the group, please contact steventonspeedwatch@gmail.com

Steventon News Contributions and Advertising

Cut-off dates for next issue

Contributions for the **April** issue to steventonnews@outlook.com by **Sunday 19 March**, please. Advert cut-off is 12 March. If you do not have access to a computer, then please type or write clearly and leave it in the blue folder at the Steventon Co-op counter.

Steventon News Advertising

Ad Prices until 31.03.2023			
Residents			
	12 issues	6 issues	1 issue
1/10th	£47.00	£24.00	£16.00
2/10th	£95.00	£47.00	£24.00
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1/10-page boxed adverts are 5.0 cm high x 8.5 cm wide and 1/5-page ads are 10.2 cm high x 8.5 cm wide.

Steventon News Advertising - formatting

Acceptable digital artwork formats for adverts only include PDF, JPG* and TIFF* (*300ppi at final size). Word files may also be acceptable, e.g. where an ad is text only; other formats on request. We strongly recommend that artworks are designed to fit the space (not stretched or shrunk) and text checked for legibility at final printed size. Please send all enquiries about adverts by email to steventonnews@outlook.com. Local events with no entry fee FREE if space available

Important Information - The Editors reserve the right to alter, omit or hold over any item. The views expressed in Steventon News are not necessarily those of the Editors. We will not publish anonymous letters or contributions but will withhold names on request. © Steventon News - Copying any part of any issue requires permission. Please contact the Secretary via steventonnews@outlook.com

Village Map

A village map has been installed in the Village Hall car park. (pictured on p1)

The Parish Council, through feedback from Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires and resident engagement identified, as a Community Aspiration, a need for a Village Map that portrays both the layout and key features of the village.

The work was paid for by S106 developer contributions for "art" within the village. The design was undertaken by Linda Benton of the Ark Studio, East Hagbourne with the Steventon Village logo designed by our local artist Lin Dewsnap. Invaluable assistance and guidance was provided by Abi Gail, arts development officer, Vale of White Horse District Council.

The next phase of the art project is the provision of bespoke benches located around the village.

Chris Wilding
Chair, Parish Council

Your Steventon Councillors

Oxfordshire County Council:

Sally Povolotsky **07939 912997**

Sally.Povolotsky@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Vale of White Horse District Council:

Sally Povolotsky **07939 912997**

sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Parish Council Chairman:

Dr Chris Wilding Tel 01235 861665

Email: crwilding@aol.com

Steventon Parish Council Clerk

Angela Einon Tel 01235 831024

Email: steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk

Halls for hire in the Village

For availability and to book

For Village Hall contact Booking Secretary

Tel: 07561 209421

SteventonVillageHallBookings@gmail.com

For St Michael's Hall contact

The Booking Clerk

Ruth Howard Tel: 01235 831409

Steventon Sports & Social Club

President: Michael Jarvis
Chairman: Stuart Fisher
Steward: Lucy Perkins
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Club Facilities are available outside above times by prior arrangement. Speak to Lucy for details

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 25th Feb Football Club Race Night Fundraiser

March

Sun 5th Mar Membership Renewal (Hours TBC)

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(revphil@damascusparish.org.uk 01235 635476 / 07507378737)

Lay Minister: Mr Jack Jarvis (01235 831395)

Church Warden: Dr Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

Deputy Warden: Mr Alan Binning (01235 820009)

Dear Friends

'The world, the country is in a mess due to the failure of.....'

Failure! We all experience it in some way or another; every day each one of us will fail in myriad of small and large ways. Closely associated with failure comes blame; failure is hard to confront whilst blame is so easy to embrace. Failure is an intricate part of being human, therefore the question facing us is not 'Will there be failure?' but, 'When there is failure, what will we do about it?' Failure can occasionally be devastating in its consequence whilst often the effect is small. The challenge for humanity therefore is How do we make the kinds of mistakes that are safe, contained; learning about what went wrong in order to avoid making them again.

Traditionally the Church uses the season of Lent for serious and sober thinking – this year the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book is entitled Failure and written by Bishop Emma Ineson will be the theme for our Parish services and study groups. The bible is full of accounts of serious leadership failure including Joseph, Moses, David, Jonah. Was Jesus successful in leading his team of 12? Immediately after the resurrection the disciples were confused, scared and ineffective. We learn from biblical historical narratives that the most spectacular disappointments and failures, public or private, are not the end of the story. The end of the story is written by God who knows what failure is and is not, and whose gracious love overwhelms our greatest failures. God sets a different scale for measuring success and failure, and the bible records many stories of failure redeemed, forgiven, restored.

The temptation is to use our many failures and disappointments to convince ourselves that we are not worth being loved. The bible narrative on failure says that the opposite is true. Many failures mean we have nothing to brag about but everything to be loved for. As we study some of the biblical narratives of failure, we pray that we will be disturbed when we are too comfortable and comforted when we are too disturbed and in doing so, to take comfort in God's merciful and hope-filled judgement of each and everyone. If you want to join these discussions, please contact me.

We offer a warm welcome to our revised service pattern and time, with blankets and cushions available during the service with tea and coffee served afterwards.

Wed 1 March	09:30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Jack Jarvis
Sun 5 March	08:00 Holy Communion (BCP) 09:30 Family Service 18:00 Evening Prayer (BCP)	The Family service continues with its 2023 of ' <i>Saints Alive</i> ' and this month features St Patrick Mike Murray
Wed 8 March	09:30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Jack Jarvis
Sun 12 March	09:30 Holy Communion	Phil Sutton
Wed 15 March	09:30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Jack Jarvis
Sun 19 March	09:30 Morning Worship	Special service for Mothering Sunday
Wed 22 March	09.30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Jack Jarvis
Sun 26 March	09:30 Holy Communion	Helen Kendrick

Phil Sutton

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Steventon Darby & Joan Club

We didn't have Fish and Chips on the 12th of Feb as I put in the February News, they were too expensive, so we had either Cottage Pie or Sausage and Mash potatoes, which was from the menu we shall be using in future. There was a good response all round. This is being supplied by Munchies who are now in Grove. We welcomed two new members into the Club.

Our next meetings are:-

Thursday 9th March we meet at **12.30** for a lunch at 1pm. This is followed by a talk by Age UK about Scams and what Benefits we may be entitled to.

Thursday 23rd March our A.G.M. You can have your say (well you usually do).

On **Thursday 27th April** we are going to the Bicester Garden Centre, the cost will be £11.00, this is open to none members providing seats available. Please contact Audrey Keller on 834064. Please remember all meetings now begin at 12.30pm.

Best wishes

Jack Jarvis 831395

Lent Lunches 2023

Soup and bread lunches continue this month from 12 till 2pm at the following houses :

Saturday March 4th at 12 Kennel Lane.

Saturday March 11th at 6 Ellaway Road.

Saturday March 18th at 89 Castle Street.

Saturday March 25th at 27 Stocks Lane.

The venue for Saturday April 1st is yet to be confirmed.

Do come along and enjoy homemade soup – and raise money for Christian Aid.
Mary Thompson

Days to Celebrate in March

1st St. David's Day

17th St .Patrick's Day

19th Mothering Sunday

26th Summer Time begins - clocks go forward.



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Steventon Women's Institute



Our meeting this month will be on 21 March but as it will be our Annual Meeting there will not be a talk by a guest speaker

Our usual clubs are busy with a lunch club each month, a group working on a new banner for the group, the book club and busy hands craft group.

Visitors are always welcome and if you want more information please speak to a member or call 01235 833009. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Millennium Room at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

SARINC (Steventon Allotments and Relief In Need Charity) – 2023

SARINC is a charity which was established in 1987 with two main roles:

- To maintain the allotment site for the villagers of Steventon
- To support any residents or groups within the village who are in need

The Charity is getting ready for the spring and reviewing the allotments it has available. It is the time of year when some give up and some villagers want to have a go. If you would like more information about becoming an allotment holder do get in touch.

The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on **Wednesday 22 March.**

Residents and groups can contact the Clerk or any of the Trustees to discuss any support. All requests will need to complete the Charity's application .
To request a grant application form, please contact The Clerk or any of the Trustees.
Email info@sarinc.org.uk Call 07361 250 922
Post 19, Lime Grove, Southmoor, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 5DN

GARD Respond Now to Thames Water!

Now is the time to respond to the Thames Water draft Water Resource Management Plan.

The deadline for response is 21st March.

This is your opportunity to register your opposition to the planned reservoir to Thames Water and to the Regulator, Ofwat. You can also tell your MP and Councillors what you think, by forwarding the Thames Water confirmation email containing your response to them. Please also tell us at GARD that you have responded.

Thankyou!

For information and assistance look on the GARD website abingdonreservoir.org.uk or contact the GARD Secretary on gard.secretary@gmail.com

Derek Stork Chairman, GARD

Steventon Choral Society News

We are delighted to welcome back guest soloist Leslie MacLeod-Miller for our Palm Sunday Concert. Please join us if you can for our performance of **Mozart's Requiem and other music at 7pm on Sunday 2 April in Steventon Church.** Tickets are not required, instead we will be accepting donations (whatever you can afford) on the door which will be used to cover concert costs and support SCS. Wine and soft drinks available in the interval.

The choir rehearse on Thursday evenings 7.30-9.30pm in Steventon Village Hall. We sing a diverse repertoire including classical choral works, songs from the shows and other popular music. We welcome new singers (no auditions required), and are particularly keen to add to our friendly tenor and bass sections. Find out more about the choir at www.steventonchoral.org.uk and get in touch with our secretary Helen Pearce (07748 152967) for an informal chat if you are interested in joining.

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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 7th January with 7 Parish Councillors, and 10 members of the public being present.

Apologies were received from Sally Povolotsky, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Councillor and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC).

Public participation was lively with topics raised regarding the debacle of the road re-surfacing works on the railway bridge, the on-going saga of the installation of a new chicane on Hanney Road, footpaths on Hanney Road and the proposed Reservoir.

Thames Water held a marketing meeting in the Village Hall in February outlining their current **conceptual** plans for a proposed reservoir in Oxfordshire that will have a significant impact on Steventon for many years if it goes ahead.

The closing date to lodge **your opinion** on the proposed reservoir ends on March 21st 2023. Please make your opinion on the proposed reservoir count. You can submit your comments via: www.thames-wrmp.co.uk.

Just to remind you. Leaks are currently costing Thames Water (or, rather us as customers) £1M pounds per day i.e. £365M per year or, £1B (one billion pounds every 3 years).

An application has been submitted to the VWHDC for the creation of an Eco-park on the Parish Council land at the end of the school playing field. Details of the proposed Eco-park can be found on the Parish Council website.

Unfortunately, it looks like the minority of irresponsible dog owners are in denial about dog fouling in the village and causing significant health hazards, particularly to young children and those involved in sports activities.

Dog poo can contain roundworm eggs, and accidental ingestion through not washing hands thoroughly after contact may develop into a form of larvae that can migrate to your brain, lungs, liver, kidneys, or heart. When

they migrate to the eyes, they can cause blindness, especially in children.

If you see a dog owner allowing their dog to foul and not picking it up please note down as many details as you can that might help us to identify them. The Vale of White Horse District Council require the following information to commence an investigation:

- date and time of incident
- location of incident
- description of person in charge of the dog
- description of the dog
- name and/or address of person in charge of the dog

They will need a written statement from you for our investigation that could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued. The current fine is £50. If a person refuses to pay they can be taken to the local Magistrates Court for the dog fouling offence and fined up to £1,000. Parish Council Elections will be held in May. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils have put together a one hour Zoom session which sets out the basics of being a councillor with the opportunity to ask questions as well.

If you feel that you would like to be a Parish Councillor for Steventon the next one hour session with no need to book will be on:

15th March 2-3pm.

Zoom joining details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87125012109?pwd=VzZkYzkwajlqTTJSWEdrbmVxTUu2QT09>

Meeting ID: 871 2501 2109

Passcode: 386520

Applications forms for Parish Council election will be available from **March 20th** and need to be submitted before **4th April**. Forms can be obtained from the VWHDC website, for details <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/local-elections-thursday-4-may-2023/information-for-candidates-agents-and-parish-clerks/> or contact the Parish Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday March 7th, 2023, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Dr Chris Wilding -Chair

SB

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Litter Report – Follow Up

Following our annual report on the village Litter Collection, which appeared in the January edition of The Steventon News, we were asked for more information on what our duties entailed, what and where we covered and how long we had been keeping Steventon tidy.

It began in 1987 – in fact a little prior to that because, at the time, I walked (the late) Iris Taylor's dog on a daily basis. Going around the block from her bungalow in Stonebridge Road, to the Hanney Road, St Michael's Way and back, I used to take a carrier bag and pick up any stray bits and pieces I found en route.

The Parish Council then advertised for a Village Litter Warden – "To clean the three bus shelters" – one by the School (since demolished), one on the main road by the Little Green and the other on the High Street. The Council were not exactly overwhelmed with applicants and I got the job! – and have been employed ever since – 36 years!! My duties have grown far beyond the three bus shelters however, and, at my instigation many more litter bins have since been installed. Since his retirement a few years ago, my husband, Christopher, helps me and does the majority of the "on foot" work while I visit the bins further afield and accumulate the sacks in the car.

Our route covers Castle Street, Stocks Lane, the area around the play parks, Green Close, The Causeway, Milton Lane, The High Street (in both directions) and the far side of The Green. We empty the bins – 20 in all – and pick up any dropped items.

In emptying the bins and collecting all the rubbish, we separate as much recycling as possible and take that home in the car. The refuse collectors must think we have one heck of a party every two weeks – especially in the summer!! All the actual rubbish is dumped in the Biffa bin at The Hall and/or any overflow we take to the tip at Drayton.

All this generally takes around two and a quarter hours, including unloading and cleaning out the car on our return home. We take a pride in our village and like to keep it looking neat and tidy. Please do what you can to help us and, if you see a dropped item please pick it up and drop it in the nearest bin or take it home.

In 1993, I wrote a poem which was published in the Steventon News. It is probably worth repeating although some of the items now sound a little dated. More modern ones have replaced them!

Ann Turton



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Steventon Friendly Association

WED 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1165 18/1	53	Michael Webb
1166 15/1	8	Edie McKenzie
1168 8/2	55	Joan Leahy

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1384 21/1	18	Sandra West
1385 18/1	25	Joanne Dunson
1386 4/2	56	Pete Beacham
1387 11/2	50	Anne Ashton

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

Week	No.	Winner
460 21/1	18	Chris Wilding
461 18/1	25	Gill Gay
462 4/2	56	Sue Flockton
463 11/2	50	Mrs Freemantle

Congratulations to this month's winners

Pat Hemmings, Chairman- SFA
01235 831462
07808086603

LITTER LADY'S LAMENT

I am the Litter Lady, p'raps you've seen me on my round
For once a week I tidy up the mess that's on the ground.
I really am amazed at all the things folk leave behind
And I never cease to wonder at the many things I find.

There's sweet and biscuit wrappers, empty drinks cans by the score,
There are glass and plastic bottles and there's polythene galore.
Remains of pears and apples, many other things to eat,
But everything's collected, so I make it look all neat.

There are single socks and mittens, broken brollies for the rain,
I've even found a wallet and a ticket for the train.
With newspapers and comics, books and other things to read
Old penny coins and trinkets and a well chewed canine lead.

A broken lamp and mud flap from two cars who've had a fight,
A torch without a battery, in consequence, no light!
The remnants of a "take-away" and ice cream tubs and sticks,
There are "ciggy" stubs and packets, bits of wood and broken bricks.

A record, chipped and damaged, a cassette tape all in strands,
There are tools and knives and china and a load of rubber bands.
There are childrens' toys and play things, a discarded luncheon pack
And balls for cricket, soccer – why, they all go in my sack.

My list, you see, is endless and goes on for evermore,
But permit me now, to ask, if you see rubbish on the floor -
When there's a bin that's handy your kind help to have I'm keen,
Please assist the Litter Lady to keep Steventon so clean!

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Steventon Football Club

Despite the threat of both heavy frosts & floods last month, each of our teams got 3 games played since my last report:
The First team maintained their 6th place in the Division One, despite just the one win in their 3 games

Played 13 Won 4 Drawn 3 Lost 6 = 15 points;

Abingdon Utd Development 4 vs Steventon 1

With Finlay Byran giving a reason to cheer, against the strong Division leaders from Abingdon

Steventon 3 vs Long Wittenham 0

A morale restoring victory, with Dylan Burgess scoring his 15th of the season (ranked 3rd highest) aided by a brace from Sam North

Drayton 4 vs Steventon 0: Our dismal run of defeats against our local rivals continues (See below also ☹️)

Meanwhile, the Reserves played just one League fixture maintaining 8th place in the 3rd Division and two Cup ties

Played 11 Won 3 Drawn 3 Lost 5 = 12points

Steventon Res 3 vs Wantage Town 3

Goals from Jona Green, Jack Prior and Mike Moss, saw them come back from two goals down to snatch a draw and miss a late chance to clinch a win, against a side that they'd beaten easily in the League Cup a couple of weeks prior

League Cup: **Steventon Res 4 vs Wantage**

Town 1: The next round beckons thanks to Tom Clearly, Jona Green, Leigh Paintin & Jon Stephens They now face an away tie vs Benson, who have lost only once this season (there's always a 2nd time, fingers crossed!)

Kingham Cup **Drayton Res 3 vs Steventon**

Res 2: A spirited derby performance against an in-form team currently 10pts clear in our division, with Dan Garlick getting a brace!

Reminder: Whilst interest grows from potential players in both U15 & U16 teams

next season, we are desperately seeking coaches as well as helpers and of course sponsors, so if you'd like to more details or know someone who might be interested, my details are below.

Robert Green tel. 416725

robertgreenltd@gmail.com

Steventon Cricket Club

By the time this is published, our summer term 2023 junior softball programs will already be on sale, Allstars (for ages 5-8) and Dynamos (for ages 8-10). These courses are very popular and usually oversubscribed, so please do book your child in early, and do feel free to contact us with any queries.

We've also made a great start on winter training, on various dates in Abingdon & Didcot, for Senior & Junior hardball groups - do get in touch for more info. We welcome new players to our women's and men's squads, and boys and girls of all ages too.

A reminder that, thanks to a generous grant from the FCC Communities Foundation, the new nets training facility at the club is due to be constructed in the 2nd half of March, so the nets can be ready in time for the start of the 2023 season. We're grateful to the Parish Council for their assistance in making the project a reality, and to everyone else in the village for their support. It will be a fantastic new facility for the ever-growing village cricket community.

If you or your child would like to get involved with our community club, whether playing, umpiring, scoring, doing groundwork or coaching, do get in touch. As well as being a fantastic sport, it's a great way to meet new people, in a fun and sociable environment. Contact Joe on 07966 592381, email SteventonCC@gmail.com, or use the website to find out more and get in touch, SteventonCC.org.uk



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Roots & Shoots' The Warm Café has moved!

The Warm Space Café, initially set up in the Church Hall has thrived, providing a warm welcome, as well hot drinks, home-made cakes and soups and more recently cheese toasties on the menu. Since October we have held 11 sessions, welcoming more than 550 people, with an average of over 50 attendees each week, ranging from a few weeks old to 99 years of age!

Donations at the Warm Space Café have helped us to get started, but we have also been busy applying for grants to support the longer term development and sustainability of the Roots & Shoots Kitchen and Community Allotment projects.



By the time you read this, you will already know that the Community Café has relocated to the Millennium Room in the Village Hall, providing a more central and accessible location in the heart of the village. Over the next couple of months we hope to expand the catering provision we offer by developing the Community Kitchen project, using food surpluses to provide meals for families and individuals in need.

On the Community Allotment, recent drier weather has enabled us to start clearing weeds and volunteer work parties have been hard at work spreading seven bulk bags of improved top soil, which were donated following our Christmas appeal for compost. If you would like to donate a bag of compost you can leave it on the pallets which are placed at each end of the Community Allotment, or by contacting Chris on 07419 732488 or sending a message via info.steventon.rootsshoots@gmail.com if you would like us to collect from your home. As spring approaches, we would welcome more volunteers to help with various jobs on the allotments – no gardening skills necessary, just a bit of time and enthusiasm.

The Steventon Roots & Shoots project would not be possible without our fantastic team of volunteers, currently numbering around 55 people, who offer their time and help in so many ways and this makes you realise what a special place Steventon is to live. As you can see from the feedback from the Warm Space Café visitors, it's not just us who think that!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deborah on vol.steventon.rootsshoots@gmail.com or scan the QR code on this page and leave a message on our Facebook site.



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