



Wilbarston Chronicle



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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Lawrence Dale	23A Rushton Road
Davis James	9 Scotts Lane davejames@me.com
Nick Richards	3 Weinahr Close bramhallnick@yahoo.co.uk
Andrew Smith	20 Main street akgsmith@yahoo.co.uk
Keith Walkling	3 Windsor Close keithwalkling@yahoo.co.uk
Rosalind Willatts	2 Barlows Lane rmwillatts@uwclub.net
Georgina Royle	4 Chapel Lane
Becky Jones (Clerk to the council)	1 Castle Road Wellingborough clerk@wilbarstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

At the first meeting of the new council the following elections and responsibilities were made:

Chairman	Cllr. Richards
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Walkling
Highways Representative	Cllr. Willatts
Footpath Officers	Cllrs. Walkling, Smith
Playing Field Survey Organiser	Cllr. Willatts
Snow Officer/Telephone Box	Cllr. Walkling
Finance Committee	Cllrs. Richards, Dale, Walkling, Burrell
Chronicle Editors	Cllr. Dale, Royle Janet Mackintosh
Representative on Care Committee	Cllr. Burrell
Representative on Bonfire Committee	Cllr. James
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Cllr. Dale
Telephone Box Officer	Cllr. Walkling

PLAYING FIELDS

Parish councillors regularly check the playing field and are aware of items that need to be improved and issues that need to be addressed. Many of these fall within responsibilities of the Borough Council and therefore take longer to be done.



Two activities, which are banned from the field, are horse riding (because there is no bridle way across the playing field) and playing golf because it is dangerous. If anyone sees either taking place remind them that it is not allowed and report the infringement to a parish councillor.

PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly took place on April 28th and was attended by parish councillors and other residents, although many of the latter were in some way associated with the organisations represented.



We heard that Wilbarston Church of England Primary School had had a busy and successful year, with good feedback from the Diocesan and OFSTED inspectors, as well as learning of staff changes and various school activities.

On a slightly less optimistic note the village hall is reaching an age where maintenance is becoming more of an issue; in particular the roof which has had piecemeal attention from time to time but may soon require full-scale attention.

It was reported that the disabled access and toilet project in the church is progressing slowly. In general financial terms the existing attendances and other sources of funding are struggling to keep up with running costs and the 'share' of the diocesan expenses. A number of residents who are not active participants in church activities still contribute by monthly standing order to the maintenance of the building itself and if others wish to join this group they would be welcome.

The new allotments are now into their third growing season and all plots, except one which has become designated for storage, are now let. Equipment has now been purchased to pump water from the stream up to holding tanks at the top of the site allowing for a gravity fed water supply system. Other improvements are planned for the future. A waiting list will now be established for interested parties. For the time being interest should be registered with the chair of the parish council.

The Friends meet on the third Wednesday monthly at Stoke Village Hall and are actively seeking new lady members.



The Fox continues to make progress after the changes a couple of years ago. It is hoped soon to resume the bed and breakfast operation and there are plans to decorate the bar area, slightly revamp the restaurant and alter the kitchen, as well as to make some changes to the outdoor area.

For the first year a report was given on behalf of some of the musical activity in the parish particularly the Albany singers and the Praise band. Both are looking for new members.

Significant matters reported on by the parish council included the establishment of the new website, the installation of a defibrillator in the red telephone box (and associated training) and the arrival of a new clerk. James McKechnie had to resign from Wilbarston in order to concentrate on his role with Desborough Town Council, which had become full time. In his place we welcome Becky Jones, a resident of Wellingborough with previous connections to Market Harborough. Although new to the role Becky is already into her training programme and doing good work.

It was noted the fibre broadband had reached the village in 2015 and that there will be competing providers before the end of 2016. Another matter raised the previous year, the proposed solar farm on the airfield, is still in the planning and development stage. However, it had been established that after concerns raised by residents about future recreational access all the concrete routes would remain as permissive paths and the existing footpath right of way would be upgraded to a bridleway.



Ongoing areas for monitoring included roads and pavements and provision of public transport (!) Provision of street lighting, management of open spaces and services for young people were possible future priorities.

Reference was made to the parish council's budget for 2016/2017, it having been necessary to increase the precept during this year to meet costs associated with the training of the new clerk. There were no other increases and a slight reduction in the expected cost of insurance.

We learnt something during the evening and it was pleasing that the contributions to the assembly from other organisations at least matched that from the parish council. Next year let's try to repeat and hopefully boost the number of residents attending.

PLANNING

When the Parish Plan was produced in 2010 (paper copies still available if wanted) and again when it was reviewed only last year, it was stated that any development with the village envelope would be considered on its merits bearing in mind access arrangements, impact on neighbouring properties and parking arrangements. Parking was considered important as it was identified as a major problem by responses to the questionnaires distributed throughout the village. The Parish Plan was adopted by the Borough Council as a supplementary planning document.

When plans were submitted for a development in the garden of 1 School Lane it was clear that it failed to meet any of the criteria for a new development and consequently the Parish Council recommended the rejection of the proposed dwelling.

Imagine the astonishment when it was learnt that the Borough Council's planning department had not only ignored the Parish Council's comments but had proposed that access rights be afforded to the back garden development and 1 School Lane parking should be on the street, the B669, the main route through the village, which is



already subject to congestion particularly at school dropping off and picking up times.

The planning department's recommendation that the back garden development be approved was put to the planning committee on April 21st. The Highways Department of the County Council was against the development, the majority of letters from villagers was against the development, the parish council chairman Nick Richards spoke against the development and Peter Girling representing neighbours spoke against the development, illustrating with words and some graphic pictures problems that already exist and which will be made worse by the back garden development.

The borough planning officer then spoke. The County Council's Highways Department don't know what they are talking about when it comes to roads was his main thrust followed by 'there are parking difficulties in other parts of the village so adding one more on the busiest village road won't make any difference.' 'If there isn't a yellow line I can park my car anywhere' he said.

Had the planning committee listened to the reasoned arguments of the professionals and the local people? Two of them had and rejected the proposal, two hadn't and supported it and the chair Councillor Lynch despite everything that had been said supported it as well. The decision defies reason and why there should be such strong support from the planning department is a clear anomaly.

FRIENDS



June is nearly upon us ladies, so don't forget that on June 15th Sharon Harding from Wilbarston shop will be coming to Friends to give a talk and demonstration on cake decoration.

So come along at 7.30pm to Stoke Albany Village Hall for what I am sure you will find an interesting and enjoyable evening. Coffee and tea will be served after the talk. It's free for members and £2.50 for visitors.

Some of you may not be aware that Friends also holds a coffee morning on the first Thursday of every month at the Fox Wilbarston - £2.00 for as many cups of tea or coffee and biscuits as you can manage and plenty of chat! The coffee mornings are open to all - even a couple of men venture in sometimes!

Remember we are always happy to welcome new members to Friends. I'm sure you will enjoy the varied visitors we have lined up for the rest of the year. We look forward to seeing you sometime.



WILBARSTON CONSERVATION CHURCHYARD

Did you know that our Wilbarston churchyard is a conservation churchyard for flora and wildlife? As it has never been cultivated nor has had chemical added to it is a reserve for ancient meadow flora. Well over 50 plants have been recorded there, and there may well be more. Frequent mowing of the grass suppresses many of these plants so, this year, a circle of grass is to be left around the Jubilee mulberry tree to allow plants to emerge. If this area is kept un-mown in the summers for several years many new species may appear. I have seen churchyards full of orchids and know of one in the county where after several years of careful management some orchids returned.

Other conservation features of the churchyard include a bat box, bird boxes, a large water dish for mammals, a store of old logs and twigs for beetles and hedgehogs. The spring display of snowdrops primroses and cowslips was lovely. To encourage cowslips to increase they should not be mown until after they have seeded in late July. The same applies to the Village Green



Please help us keep the no. 67 Bus

We have been informed as from 19th July there will be

NO bus service through Wilbarston

Many of our community rely on the bus for medical appointments, work, education, visiting elderly relatives, shopping and leisure. Without this transport link, many of our senior community members will feel extremely isolated.

Yet again, rural areas are being hit by financial cut backs.

Even if you don't use the bus, please help us save it for those who do

You can help by writing to key people and complain.

Let's make our voices heard!

Please write to

Philip.hollobone.mp@parliament.uk House of Commons London SW1A OAA

Dave Brookes, Operations Director, Centrebus, 102 Cannock Street, Leicester LE4 9HR

David.Brookes@centrebus.co.uk

Our County Councillor Allan Matthews amatthews@northamptonshire.gov.uk

John Ellerby Co-ordinator of bus services Jellerby@kierwsp.co.uk

Principal Bus & Rail Development Officer

Northamptonshire Highways, Riverside House, Riverside Way, Northampton NN1 5NX, Tel. 01604 364344



67 BUS SERVICE UNDER THREAT

The parish council was extremely concerned to learn that the 67 bus service is to be scrapped, officially from 24 July and effectively from 19 July.

The information came in an e-mail from Northamptonshire Highways only a couple of days after our parish assembly, at which the service had been seen to require ongoing monitoring but with increasing numbers of users was not thought to be under immediate threat. The reasons given are to do with funding cuts and generally low numbers of users.

The service is operated by Centrebus. They are a commercial organisation and unlikely to continue a loss-making service, but historically this has been subsidised by the community, specifically the county council to whom we pay council tax, to make sure such vital rural links remain in place.

At this stage the county council are noting that Centrebus will not continue the route and asking communities to let them know their public transport needs to help them consider alternatives 'if funding permits'.

The parish council is responding based on its own discussions, comments received from the community (thank you to those who attended the parish council meeting on 12th May for that purpose) and responses to the public transport survey carried out last year and it will help if anybody with an interest also makes their views known to the below. Rural bus routes are a classic example of a service which may not be used by all but can be an absolute lifeline for those who do. Many of us probably accept that part of our council tax is used to keep these rural lifelines in being and we expect that to continue to be the case - we need to remind the decision makers of that fact.



WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL

Website: www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday March 31st 2016 and was unfortunately attended by only 6 people. However, we have managed to raise a small committee to run the hall for the coming year and the new Chairman, Mike Doyle, has issued a separate plea in this edition for more volunteers.

Our Eco-project programme has continued to progress with old upper windows replaced with opening windows to allow ventilation in the summer. We have also replaced the sign on the front of the hall with a gleaming new one which has brightened up the front of the building considerably. The hall is now starting to show its age and whilst we continue to make good a lot of the fabric, the roof remains a concern as it is really in need of a complete overhaul. This will only be possible with the aid of grant funding which we will continue to pursue over the next 12 months. Kettering Borough Council and the Lottery Fund have been particularly kind to us over the last 12 months enabling us to carry out insulation work, etc. and the hardworking Social Committee have raised revenue which has enabled us to redecorate the Lounge area. Please support them when they will be working hard to make the Summer Fete on Saturday July 2nd and the Christmas Fayre is Saturday 26th November a success. Help is always needed so if you can spare a few hours either before the event or on the day, please contact Judith on 01536 771178 for more details.

Youth Brass 2000 were due to give a concert in the hall on May 15th but unfortunately cancelled and will hopefully find time in their diary later in the year to perform for us.

The hall is becoming popular again for weddings and already there are 3 this year and another two booked for 2017. It is also a sought after venue for children's parties and private parties, however, we could do with more regular bookings on a weekly basis as the Scouts have now moved to Stoke Albany (the Wilbarston branch) and we now have no regular bookings on Monday evenings, Wednesdays or Fridays. If anyone can encourage groups to use the hall (keep fit classes, etc.) it would strengthen the regular income that the hall needs to keep functioning.

As we stated in the last edition of the Chronicle, we have 2 excellently equipped changing rooms which are not being used by any football teams so if anyone is aware of a team wishing to use this facility please contact Glennys on 01536 770820 or by email on glennyspotter@btinternet.com. The playing field has a well-draining pitch and has often been used by teams when they are unable to play on their own pitches. There are nets and a line marking machine available for use.

The Committee would like to thank Bob Everett, who retired this year, for all the hard work that he has put into the hall over the last 2 years.

Wilbarston Village Hall Committee



WILBARSTON PARISH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

The allotments are now entering their third growing season but with the weather flipping from snow to heat wave in just a week, it's a battle with the elements. However, having an allotment is proving popular. All the available plots are in use, including the two on Rushton Road, so if anyone is still interested the Parish

Council would be happy to start a waiting list.

We now have water on site; so a big thanks you to those who developed, advised on and commissioned the system.

W.W.WRITES – Products we can no longer obtain????

Wright's coal-tar soap, Imperial typewriters, black lead, washing dolly and copper, soap flakes carbolic soap, Lloyds adrenaline cream, Rickitts Blue, gob-stoppers, Lucas head lights, Gandy's brake linings, 'torpedo' sweets.

Or can you? – Let us know



WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL
(Registered Charity No. 274211)
Wilbarston Hall Management Committee

We have a facility to be proud of!

We are sure that most of the residents in Wilbarston are proud and appreciative of the facilities the village has to offer –. We have a terrific post-office and shop that provides a great service to the village. We have a welcoming pub that that serves good food and beer.

But we also have an exceptional community facility in the village hall. The hall is an important social venue for the village – allowing individuals to meet with like-minded people, e.g. art classes, mother and toddler groups, brass band etc.

The management of the hall is through a sub-committee of the Parish Council comprising volunteers from the village community. As well as running the hall on a day-to-day basis for the community, in recent months the committee has raised funds and won significant grants to enable it to make a number of major improvements to the halls e.g. redecorating the lounge, insulating the walls and loft spaces.

But we need your support!

With recent changes on the Committee, there are now a number of vacancies which we need to fill as a matter of urgency. If these vacancies cannot be filled, then the committee may not have the level of support and expertise it needs to function effectively. This may adversely affect the day-to-day operation of the hall and our ability to organise future social events for the village will be much reduced.

We are looking for volunteers to join our friendly committee and lend a hand. The committee meets once a month to review the running of the hall and plan future events and improvements. So come and join us, any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated!

If you can help with your time and/or expertise please contact our Secretary, Glennys Potter on 770820 or email glennyspotter@btinternet.com for more information.

WALKIES? – AN UPDATE



We raised the following in the spring edition of the Chronicle:

The scenario

You live by yourself, you are rushed into hospital unexpectedly, and your family does not live nearby, what happens to your pet? This can be a huge worry when you should be concentrating on getting well; you want to be sure your pet is being looked after. And what about when you return home? Perhaps you live alone. It would be nice if there was someone who might just pop in for a couple of days to check you are okay? Perhaps get you a few bits of shopping?

The answer

Would you be prepared to walk an ill person's dog? Feed a neighbour's cat? Be able to help someone on their return home? We are looking to set up a register of people who would, in an emergency, be prepared to help out with a local pet and/or the person returning home. At this stage we would like to gather details of those who would be prepared to be involved.

This would be a totally free service. We do not propose to publish the register but have a named person(s) that anyone requiring to use the service would contact, rather like the Care Scheme works. The contacts to be published on the Parish Website and in paper form on the village notice board opposite the shop.

The response following the article

We were delighted that a number of people contacted us saying that they would be happy to help – thank you to those that responded. On that basis we propose to launch the scheme with immediate effect so if you find yourself in the situation of needing some help please do not hesitate to contact either Heather Banks at 7 Scotts Lane, Tel 771747 or Jeremy Burrell, 8 Main St, Tel 770004, email Jeremy@bonhams-hortus.co.uk. And we will arrange for someone to help.

We would gladly welcome more volunteers, just contact either of the above named people – we would be delighted to hear from you!

Many thanks on behalf of our animal friends and villagers.



WILBARSTON C OF E VILLAGE SCHOOL

Welcome to the summer news from our school.



We are all hoping for some lovely weather to help us with our summer events! In the last few months children have been working hard. Class 5 are studying a topic on

World War 2 and we have visited Bletchley Park as part of their studies. During the visit the children took part in a simulation of a 1940s intelligence operation, which they found very exciting!

Class 4 have studied a space topic and visited the Space Centre in Leicester as part of their work.

Class 3 have been studying the Mediterranean as their topic. This has involved map-work, research and also a trip to Pizza Express to make a pizza!

In Class 2 children have been working with our student teacher, Louise and they have been finding out about the history of toys and comparing them to toys today – one of the children's favourite topics!

Our youngest pupils in Class 1 have been learning about mini-beasts and having great fun following and catching some to study. It has been amusing playground duty staff to see the new interest of younger children in the ground! Suddenly they can spot mini-beasts all around.

Our older children in Years 5 and 6 are preparing for their residential trip to Wales in July. They take part in outdoor and adventurous activities such as canoeing, climbing, abseiling and bushcraft skills. The residential is very popular with the children and they learn to challenge themselves and their teamwork improves greatly.



Don't miss our summer events which you are welcome to come to:

Our annual Midsummer Fair is on the afternoon of Friday 27TH May this year and will begin at 1.30pm.



The annual Parents Association BBQ is on the evening of Friday 1st July – come and have a burger and help us to raise much needed funds in these challenging times for budgets. We are raising money for an outdoor table tennis table and a traversing wall so all pupils can enjoy the outdoor areas more.

Andrea Green and all at school.

DESBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE TRUST OUTDOOR PROGRAMME.

Sunday 12th June - Desborough Open Gardens 2.00 - 6.00 pm, tickets available from Desborough Heritage Centre at £4.00. Cream teas, plant sale etc... proceeds go to the Wildlife Trust and Heritage Centre.

Tuesday 14th June - Blatherwycke Walled Gardens. Meet at 7.00 pm Station Road, Desborough, by Barclays Bank, opposite Desborough Dental Surgery. A visit to the gardens managed by Joe Whitehead who practices organic gardening. Stout footwear etc...

Sunday 26th June - Visit to Sulby Gardens, home of Alison Lowe. Usually only open with the National Garden Scheme, plenty of wildlife interest. Meet at Station Road, Desborough 10.00 am, visit finishing at 2.00 pm. Cost £10 per person to include tea/coffee and cakes.

Saturday 23rd July - Visit to John Clare's cottage at Helpston. Home of the Northamptonshire poet. Audio tours available, cafe on site. Walk around the village and churchyard where John Clare is buried. Meet at Station Road, Desborough, as above, at 10.00 am.

For further details see the events section of the Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust website or contact Bob Freeman on 01536 729406.



ENTRY FORM FOR PRODUCE SHOW AT WILBARSTON FETE

2ND JULY 2016

Show Categories, Open entries – 50p per class – all villagers welcome to enter

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Class 1: Potatoes x 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 4: Lettuce x 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Class 2: Peas in Pod x 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 5: Broad Beans in Pod x 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Class 3: Carrots x 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 6: Soft Fruit x 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

BAKING

- Class 7: Wholemeal Rustic Loaf (handmade, no bread makers)
Ingredients: 400g Wholemeal strong flour, 5ml salt, 15ml oil, 10ml dried yeast, 300ml water, 15ml honey.
- Class 8: Victoria Sandwich filled with Jam
Ingredients: 125g soft margarine, 125g caster sugar, 125g self-raising flour, 2 large eggs, pinch salt.
- Class 9: 6 Sultana Scones
Ingredients: 300g self-raising flour, pinch salt, 5ml baking powder, 75g butter, 25g caster sugar, 1 egg beaten and made up to 125ml with milk, 50g sultanas.
- Class 10: Lemon Drizzle Cake
- Class 11: Biscuits x 5 of own recipe

OTHER CLASSES

- Class 12: Fresh Flower Arrangement (no artificial flowers or foliage) In Novelty Container
- Class 13: Rose – Single stem in bud vase Class 14: Sweet Pea stems x 3 (scented)
- Class 15: Piece of Handicraft Class 16: Piece of Artwork
- Class 17: Childs Piece of Handicraft or Artwork

Please tick the classes above that you are entering and give this form with 50p per class to Produce Organisers when you arrive with your entries by 10am latest on Saturday 2nd July.

If you are willing for your entry to be sold after the show to enhance the proceeds

PLEASE TICK HERE

Name-----Address-----

Copies of this form can be found on Village Hall website www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk
Also in The Fox and the village shop or contact:

John Hooper, Allotment Association, Tel. 01536 770888.

WILBARSTON CHURCH BELLS



Under the nurturing of Peter Chilton the Wilbarston Bell-ringers are developing. He has been teaching several people to ring who can now, with care, join in the ringing. For the Queen's 90th Birthday on 21st April, ten ringers, all from Wilbarston, including some of the learners, rang in celebration. On April 23rd the bells, as part of the 'Ringing for England' campaign, the bells were rung for St George's Day and to mark the 400th anniversary of

the death of William Shakespeare.

The bells will be rung again on 3rd June with hundreds of other towers as part of the BBC Music Day 2016. The day is all about uniting people through music and as Church bells are a wonderful symbol of community cohesion. It will provide a wonderful unifying moment. The aim is to have as many bells as possible ringing out across the UK – all at the same time, 7pm. So listen out for them.

For the Queen's official birthday weekend she has asked for as many bells as possible to be rung between 12 noon and 2 pm Sunday 12th June to coincide with her street party on the Mall, the Patron's Lunch, for the 200 or so charities of which she is patron. Wilbarston will be joining in with this too.

After four years of silence it is good to hear Wilbarston bells again. Bell ringing is an equal activity for people from 10 – 85. The age gap of the ringers above is over 60. It is easier to learn to ring bells than to learn how to hitch up a bell rope above the floor! If you would like to learn to ring and be part of the Wilbarston Band, please contact Peter Chilton on 01536 771478



THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



The 21st April was a day of celebration in Wilbarston. The bunting was up and will remain until her official birthday on 12th June. After the bell-ringing there was a procession behind the village drum, to the playing field and the lighting of an excellent beacon that was seen across the valley. Many thanks are due to the Wilbarston Bonfire committee who organised this.

The Drum is the only remaining instrument of the Victorian Wilbarston Band. It was carried by Nick Mountford. The Drum came from Jonathan Moores Military Musical Establishment in Halifax as seen by its internal label. A former curator of the Kirklees Museum there comments

"What a great find! . The mention of the 'Rifle Corps' dates it to no earlier than 1858 - probably 1860, when the first Huddersfield Rifle corps was formed. The uniforms confirm this date."

Nick Mountford with the village drum by the beacon



RADON

Many of you will already be aware that we live in an area with a high risk of Radon. Some those who have recently moved into the parish may not have been informed. The best source of information regarding Radon is the Public Health England website www.ukradon.org. Radon tests can be arranged through the site for approximately £50.00 and comprehensive advice on remedial action, should it be necessary, is given.



THE FOX INN

If you have visited your local pub, 'The Fox', lately you may have noticed a change in the opening hours and the times when we are serving food. We hope that these changes make the Fox a more viable proposition for all concerned.

New Opening Hours

Monday	3pm - 10pm		Evening 5pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday	3pm - 11pm		Evening 5pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday	3pm - 11pm		Evening 5pm - 8.30pm
Thursday	12pm - 11pm		
Friday	12pm - 11.30pm	Lunch 12pm - 2pm	Evening 5pm - 8.30pm
Saturday	12pm - 11.30pm	Lunch 12pm - 2pm	Evening 5pm - 8.30pm
Sunday	12pm - 10pm	Lunch a very popular event	12pm - 4.30pm

We are currently decorating the interior of the pub, and hope that this will encourage more people to use their local.

Look out for further information of events on the outside boards. Remember that Richard 111 ate here after reading the events-boards!

Our skittle team, always on the lookout for new players, has made a flying start to their new campaign, winning their first few matches. Mike King is the captain. He did suffer a career-threatening injury at a recent match but luckily had made a full recovery! So make use of the Fox.

We look forward to seeing both new and already established customers.

Sam & Stella
The Fox



*The next edition of the Chronicle will be published at the beginning of September 2016 - Articles by the 20th August please
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