

Hambleton VALLEY

*Group
Magazine*

*Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Findest
Medmenham
Turville*

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Mar 2025



The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches
"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"



Cover: Hambleton War Memorial recently cleaned by ET Sheppard, photo Sammy Webb.
This page: Plaque to George Howson and directions map by Gwyneth Ashcroft, Hambleton Church.

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Weekday Services

Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom

Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy Communion, Turville

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group Priests, please get in touch with your churchwarden. (see pages 26 and 27)

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All contributions are welcome, to the Editor, Penny McLeish

hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy deadline is 15th of the month.

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Group Letter



“What is Lent all about?” I was asked by someone with an Armed Forces background.

It was a good question and I thought for a moment about the best way to answer it. I had spent much of my married life as an RAF wife, living in married/family quarters. Each time we were posted to a new RAF station, before moving, the house had to be inspected, known as ‘marching out.’ The quarter was supposed to be left in near-perfect condition as though you hadn’t lived in it; this was

pretty impossible, especially if you had children!

In those days, standards were demanding: we would frantically scrub our quarters, filling in the holes where picture hooks had been, trying to make them look as though no picture had ever hung there.

After a few years of families moving in and out of a house - filling in the cracks each time with cheap filler - the cracks got worse and couldn’t be covered up anymore; bits of dust and plaster would flake off landing in little piles on the carpet. Eventually a major work of plastering would need to be done with layers scraped off, to begin again.

Lent is a bit like this. In our everyday lives, sometimes we simply fill in the cracks in our relationship with God; Lent is a good time to pause, to stop papering over the cracks, and to find ways to go deeper with God.

We may do this by giving up some of the things that distract us away from God, creating time to: simply be; spend time in prayer; reading the Bible; supporting others.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 5th March and, in this magazine, you will see the many opportunities available including the Come and See Lent Course run by Andy (from 10th March) and the annual Footprints Service on Friday 21st March at 7.30pm. Do join us.

Perhaps we can see Lent as a time to look at ourselves differently, to give space to God and to respond to him not with just the outer layer of ourselves, but by going deeper into our hearts.

May God bless you this Lent,
Sue

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GROUP NOTES



Wild Community Action

A rolling stone may gather no moss but a churchyard wall definitely gathers ivy by the bucketload! So it was that the February Wild Church service in Hambleden, having given thanks to God for His Creation via a rousing a cappella rendition of *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*, then found itself dismantling some of that creation. Judicious cutting, scraping and screwdriver prodding removed the pernicious growth without damaging the wall and indeed revealed its glory in the form of a beautiful brick and flint construction. Care was certainly required as the ivy is extremely tenacious and had often burrowed deep into the mortar imperilling the flints. Luckily the expert advice of Sammy Webb ensured that the job was done without collateral damage and indeed became strangely addictive with the hit of each new mural revelation keeping you on the job.

It was not sufficient though to keep your hands warm or dry, and so, to cater for other inclinations in the inclement weather, an equally challenging task was available inside the church where a hardy band



tackled cleaning of the brasses. When we finally did all acknowledge that we should from our labours rest we gathered back together to sing *Jerusalem* and reflect again on exactly what plants should have a place in England's green and pleasant land. Sometimes it can seem nothing is as straightforward as it should be

It certainly was easy to appreciate though the swelling of our usual ranks by several families from Henley whose children enthusiastically and energetically removed ivy while chattering away in a very life-affirming way. Sadly for them, they had to depart before the proceedings reached the cake stage but those sweet creations (along with the warming brews) were definitely unalloyed delights! So, thanks as ever to the bakers as well as to Pat and Liz for keeping us all safe, Mardi for immortalising us all with her iPad and of course to Sue for leading us in grateful, thought-provoking prayers and reflections.

David Redhouse

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Wild Church!

**Do join us for our next and future
Wild Church in 2025!**

Sunday 9th March 3pm:

Wild Lambing – Hanger Farm, Fingest

Sunday 13th April 3pm:

Wild Palm Sunday - Turville

At Wild Church we meet outdoors at different venues on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Everyone is warmly welcome!

Wild Church Team:

Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or
suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell
grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519;
Magdalena Dabrowska magda@rmb.london

service takes place the weekend before Mother's Day, a time when the loss of a child can be particularly difficult. It may be a time of year when the pain of losing a child is difficult to bear, whether that loss is recent or many years ago. It may also be a time when remembering is important and a significant part of the pathway through grief.

Footprints is a special service for anyone who has lost a child during pregnancy or at any age or stage of life or has been affected by such a loss, whether parent, grandparent, teacher, friend or family member. All are warmly welcome.

Footprints will offer space to remember your child or children and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory if you wish. There will be music, readings and prayers included as part of our time of remembering. Refreshments will be served after the service.

For more details please contact:

The Revd Sue Morton 07808 517347
suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com



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Footprints:

**A special service of remembrance
for the loss of a child:**

Friday 21st March 2025 at 7.30pm

**St Peter & St Paul's Church,
Medmenham SL7 2HF**

On Friday 21st March at 7.30pm, we will be holding our annual Footprints Service at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Medmenham SL7 2HF. This annual

Community Matters News

This is a traditionally cold time of year and we certainly know how cold it has been recently. Thankfully, because of ongoing financial donations from

GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

groups and individuals, we are able to help our families with heating. As we have mentioned before, almost all of our families are on key meters for their heating and lighting which are the most expensive of all the tariffs so the money for their heating budget falls short very quickly at this time of the year.

We are very grateful for a group of people in the Hambleden Valley who have got together to provide cat and dog food for our families. These are for pets that have been in the family for a long time and give much pleasure to their owners, particularly for those living on their own; their pet is company and also gives the owner the opportunity to exercise their dog, and themselves!

Recently we have helped families buy good second-hand furniture, (we often use Central Aid in High Wycombe) and we have paid for petrol when frequent medical appointments are at hospitals some distance away.

When there have been problems with getting repairs to the house done, we have a very good relationship with the housing associations and have arranged meetings between them and the family concerned with good outcomes.

As always, we are so pleased to be able to thank you all for your ongoing support through the medium of this newsletter. The wonderful donations of food/toiletries are so appreciated and really do enable us to continue this support which is so needed.

**Blessings,
Judy Taylor**

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Our first short walk of 2025 will be held on Monday 10th March, meeting at 10.30am in a local wood. We will be finding and identifying Bryophytes, so please bring a hand lens if you have one and wrap up warm for this slow exploration.

Bryophytes are usually found in damp conditions, and are divided into three types; the mosses, hornworts and liverworts. They are a group of plants that reproduce via spores rather than flowers or seeds. Unlike vascular plants, they do not depend on roots for nutrient uptake, so are able to survive in environments that most plants cannot, like deserts, the arctic and high elevations.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com.

Mary Webb

A Naturalist's Reminiscence No. 13

As platoon* commander of 12 Platoon, D company, Suffolk Regiment in Cyprus, I was fortunate to have a good mix, half Suffolk poachers and half Dagenham boys. My Company Commander never worked out why he was offered fresh chicken, duck or even venison instead of tinned Irish stew whenever he visited us on rural manoeuvres. Likewise, the Dagenham boys were excellent in finding interesting objects in the streets of Nicosia, but I will not go into detail.

I well remember when I was instructed

Continued on page 11



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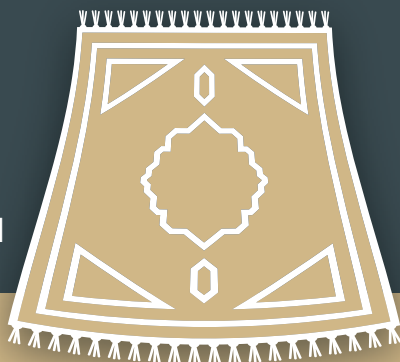
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by my CO to raid Kykkos Monastery very early one morning to search for arms and ammunition. We would have been surprised to find anything because we were sure the Chief Monk knew we were coming. In the foyer when we entered the monastery, there was a grandfather clock which had been presented to the monastery by Archbishop Makarios after he trained there as a Greek orthodox priest. As expected, we found no arms or ammunition.

Before we left, I asked the Chief Monk whether he would like to search our three lorries with me to ensure that nothing has been taken from the monastery. He really enjoyed climbing underneath the trucks and sitting in the cabs.

When we got back to our camp at about 8am, I was really looking forward to breakfast in the mess. While walking there I was intercepted by the Adjutant who asked me whether "It was your lot up at Kykkos Monastery this morning?" I responded in the affirmative and asked why did he want to know. Came the answer "Archbishop Makarios' clock has been stolen and the police are coming to search our camp". Watch this space.

Alfred Waller

*Platoon, about 30 soldiers.

HAMBLEDEN

Was it worth it?

On a foul winter weather Sunday, a warm Hambleden Parish Church filled with parishioners and visitors to honour and commemorate the life and work of Major George Howson MC of The Hyde,

Hambleden. He founded The Poppy Factory in 1922.

In the specially written service, a fitting lesson – the parable of the good Samaritan – was read to us by Sharon Smith, Deputy Church Warden. She was the driver of fund raising which led to this unveiling of a memorial plaque in the south transept.



Major Howson's granddaughter Harriet Coleridge read to us Lt. Col. John McCrae's moving poem '*In Flanders Field*'. Rev Sue Morton gave an outstanding sermon from the pulpit exquisitely mixing Howson

facts with exhorting contemporary Christian duty to care for others.

The plaque itself is not vainglorious. It is modest in script and dimension. Local stonemason Martin Cook designed, created and carved it with enormous skill.



HAMBLEDEN

Joining members of the Howson family were current leaders of the Poppy Factory in Richmond; local Royal British Legion representatives and members and representatives of Hambleden Parish Council. Lt. Col. Colin Bulleid represented Howson's regiment, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, (now amalgamated with The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment). As if to confirm that the army is one family, I spotted in the congregation an upright old gentleman – 98 years old, formerly a Grenadier Guard, who clearly had wanted to make the effort to be there.



Major Howson's grave is in Pheasants Hill cemetery. His headstone bears a Whitehall Cenotaph-sized poppy wreath placed there by the Poppy Factory annually on 28th November, the anniversary of his death.

In a personal letter to his family shortly after establishing the Poppy Factory, Howson wrote "If the experiment is successful, it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 men. I do not think it can be a great success, but it is worth trying."

I think we all agree, it most certainly was worth it!

Alan Armstrong

Sue's sermon can be read on the website

Hambleden Cinema



Please join us on the 15th March to watch the uplifting joyous film *The Miracle Club*, rated 12, featuring the late Maggie Smith. There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes.

The trailer;

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12712604/>

Doors open 7pm, programme begins 8pm. Tickets £8 each can be bought from <https://www.hambledencinema.co.uk> and from Hambleden Village Stores. There will be a bar selling soft drinks, wine, beer and tempting delicious cinema snacks! In aid of raising funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 30027.

Hambleden Cinema Team



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

January 19 Milo Woodward

Medmenham

Holy Matrimony

January 25 Benjamin Mercer and Harriette Wilcock

Hambleden

Rest in Peace

January 25 Jean Hoare Nairne

Burial of Ashes, Turville

January 27 Roger Druce

Funeral, Holy Trinity, Lane End



Hambleden Valley Prayer Group

We have formed a contemplative listening and confidential prayer group, forming a circle round the valley with God at the centre. If you would like prayer please send a request to the email below:

hambledenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com



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CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2025

Pattern of Worship March 2025

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am on Wednesdays with Churchyard Prayers at Fawley at 12noon on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is at Turville. Please check our website

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk for latest updates or contact our administrator

Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
2nd March		10am Group Service				
9th March	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Lambing, Hanger Farm		11am Holy Communion		
16th March			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
Friday 21st March					7.30pm Footprints	
23rd March	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
30th March Mothering Sunday	10am Breakfast Service		8am BCP Holy Communion 3pm Special Lay-Led service with Refreshments	10am Prayers with Posies	11am Holy Communion	
6th April			10am Group Service			



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Chris Whitehead

Book Launch

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 I have written a book describing what life in Hambleden might have been like during those troubled war years.

In doing so, I have been fortunate to be able to refer to contemporary sources - the Parish Magazines of the time, the school records, the memoirs of the incumbent Rector, Wilfred Watts, and teenage resident, Charles Gray.

I have also been blessed to be able to call on the recollections of two villagers who can remember those years as children - Jim Tilbury and Evelyn Robinson.

The book (price £10) will be launched in the Sports and Social Club on Saturday

15th March between 10am and noon. Tea/coffee and cakes will be provided, and I hope to see many of you there.

Chris Whitehead

Hambleden Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to thank Sue Morton's Wild Church group for their terrific team work on Sunday 9th February. A group of Parishioners did a tremendous job on the inside of the Churchyard Manor Wall pruning off the Ivy, gentle teasing with screwdrivers and secateurs. They removed much of the Ivy from the wall, all involved taking great care not to dislodge the flints and lime mortar. Three half-ton bags were filled in just an hour. The wall looks tremendous. Thank you to all who participated and gave up their time for Wild Churchyard maintenance. With thanks and best wishes from Hambleden Parish Council.

**Lorna Coldwell
Clerk**

Heads up on Easter lilies.

Please be thinking of joining others who will be contributing long stem lilies to be in the Parish Church on Easter Day and following.

Lilies are offered in memory of family members who have died and are much missed. They will be arranged in front of the altar and at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.

Full details here next month; also, on the notice board soon.

**Elspeth Armstrong
01491 571324**

HAMBLEDEN AND FRIETH



Help Needed (Please!)

Hambleden Church Teas is a lovely organisation to attend and run. It has an almost international reputation and people have been known to divert off the M40 just to re-experience this lovely institution.

As with all organisations we need an ever-evolving membership of attendees and helpers.

The Saturday bakers – The average number of cakes consumed on a Sunday is 12, so we would love to hear from any cake

makers out there. We do have a freezer for cakes to be stored.

The Sunday servers and urners – These are the teams of 3 or 4 who serve the teas, coffees and cakes on a Sunday afternoon, a very social occasion with the opportunity to make new friends.
penny.hurtley@gmail.com

The Sunday sign and table team – Without this team the teas could not go ahead. It involves late Saturday or Sunday morning putting out the Church Teas signs in the valley. A bonus would be putting the 3 tables out together with the urn.
1chrishowgo@gmail.com

All welcome. It's great fun to be involved. To help please contact the emails above.

**Penny Wright
(and Chris Howgo)**

FRIETH

Frieth School

Arts and Culture Week

What a fantastic Arts and Culture Week we had. Our pupils were immersed in a range of enrichment activities linked to different countries and cultures. Along with many other exciting activities during the week, the children have been creating mosaics to represent each of our school values. These

Continued on page 21



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were designed by our students and, once completed, will be permanently displayed on the back of our school hall for everyone to see each day. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank several parents who came in and led workshops. The children have loved having you in!

Young Voices

Twenty-six Frieth pupils joined four thousand other students from primary schools across England to form the world's biggest choir at the 'Young Voices Concert' in Wembley Arena. The children sang their hearts out and, as always, represented the school brilliantly. What a fantastic day!



Netball

Friday 7th February marked the first game of the newly created Marlow Schools' 7s League; a cold and wet first game with Burford. The first quarter saw a strong Burford team finish 1-0 up against Frieth, however, the second quarter saw Willow and Tabby sink 4 goals vs Burford's 2. Arron held a strong defensive position to ensure they didn't score in the third quarter and Frieth inched their lead out to a 7-4 win. The team played well in cold and wet circumstances and we have some good development areas to work on. Well done team and our awesome coaches!



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

FINGEST

Candlemas

Fingest church is the perfect place for Candlemas - ancient, small and intimate and looking its best in candlelight. So it was on Sunday 2nd February when the traditional Candlemas Evensong Service took place. It was lovely to see so many people there for the service led by Rev Andy Storch and assisted by Rev Sue Morton. Candlemas celebrates the

FINGEST



presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem forty days after his birth with the prayer of Simeon *“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.”*

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They do say that if Candlemas Day is bright and sunny then we are only half-way through winter! Sunday 2nd February was certainly bright and sunny and perhaps the best day we have had in a while here’s hoping folklore has it wrong this time!

Ann Lazur

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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

Rector: The Revd. Andy Storch,
07811 430898, Revandystorch@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Revd. Sue Morton,
01491 639286, suemorton131@gmail.com

Director of Music: Jo Hutchins 07909
608654 johutchins27@gmail.com

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM,
01491 571588, c@wells.vnworks.net

Group Treasurer: Stephen Sidders,
01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

Group Administrator: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor,
Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm
Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297,
wendy.duerden@techademic.net

Barney's Toddler Group: Frieth Village Hall,
Currently suspended

Hambleden Valley Garden Club:
Meetings October-March on the first Tuesday
of the month, Frieth Village Hall.
Clair Honnor 07773 387195

Website:
www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden: David Napier,
01491 574230,
david_napier@btopenworld.com

Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and Village Hall booking:
David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

Churchwardens:
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,
brianbarnes346@gmail.com

Jill Dean, 01491 638678,
jill@sundawn.uk.com

FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

Verger: Judy Hunt, 01494 882227,
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Village Hall Bookings:
website www.friethvillagehall.org
email friethvillagehall@gmail.com
Tel 01494 880737

Frieth Natural History Society:
Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586,
FNHS2023@gmail.com

Frieth Village Society: Caroline Walker
01494 882333

Frieth Cricket Club:
Ben Smiley
friethcricket@btinternet.com

Frieth Lunch Club: meets on last
Friday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.
Judy Hunt, 01494 882227
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

HAMBLEDEN (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Jill Steward 01491 571320
jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden:
Sharon Smith
sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing: Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or
Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

Village Hall Bookings: Jamie Baker,
01491 410669, www.hambledenvillagehall.org

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,
07951 019594

Bridge Club: Fridays 1.30 – 4.30
Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

Hambleden Social and Sports Club:
Open daily from 8pm Pat Eldridge,
01491 576067

Tennis Club: Heather Symons,
01491 577344, heathersymons16@hotmail.com

Tennis Coaching: Chris Marshall,
07801 999230, chrismarshall20@hotmail.com

MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)

Churchwarden:
Vacant.

Village Hall Bookings: Emma Tentori,
07759 014396

Uniformed organisations:
1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers: leader Nick Currie,
enquiries@danefieldscouts.org.uk

Medmenham News:
medmenhamnews@icloud.com

SKIRMETT

Village Hall Bookings: Mandy Heller, 01491 638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

Tai Chi: Friday 9.30am - 10.30am.
Contact: junekingsburytaichi@gmail.com

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Caroline Sants, 01491 638994
turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

Bell Ringing: Wed practice,
Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025
rachel@markjwallace.com

Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the first Sunday of every month 11am-4pm.
Angela Fois turvillestudios@aol.com
www.turvillestudios.co.uk

TURVILLE NORTHEM

Village Hall Bookings:
David & Susan Faragher 01491 638960 or 07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm
smfaragher@fastmail.fm

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

Parish Council Contacts

Hambleden: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell
01494 881483, clerk@hambleden.org.uk,
www.hambleden.org.uk

Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem
01494 449215, mpc.clerk@gmail.com

Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,
01494 881483, turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com, www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk

Fawley: Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting
Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252
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