

ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER to NOVEMBER 2020

Diary of Events

Date	Event (unless cancelled in the meantime!)
October 31 st	Brent Pelham village tidy up 9.30 to 11.30am – meet at Village Hall green.



And here is a treat - just press Ctrl plus Click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciynz7pGzho> for huge firework!

**Let's Hope the Children will be able
to enjoy Firework Night this year!**

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Tel. 01763 848536 jhamilton.redstack@hotmail.com

Please send in your own news to: Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or rjmo2@btinternet.com PLEASE
NOTE NEW ADDRESS (for Anstey); Martin Hugi brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com (for Brent
Pelham); Margaret Beach on 01279 777195 or mothbeach27@gmail.com (Meesden), -
Or, for last minute material, direct to the editors.

The next deadline is **15th** November 2020



Welcome

To the third electronic version of the Newsletter. Please share it with the other people in your household by printing it or forwarding it on. If you know of anyone who HAS email but hasn't received a copy please ask them to send a message to jhamilton.redstack@hotmail.com, or brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com, and a copy will be sent to them and their name(s) put on the list for the next distribution. If you know of any close neighbour who has NOT got email, and if you have a printer and are prepared to help, please print off a copy of this edition and pop it through their letterbox. For those without email in Anstey shortened copies will be printed and distributed by volunteers, Please bear in mind that many of the advertisers whose ads appear will have had to close down during the current crisis.

Please send in your own news including experience of living with lock down, and photos, to your local editors at the addresses on page 1. We will include as much as possible while we have no space limits.

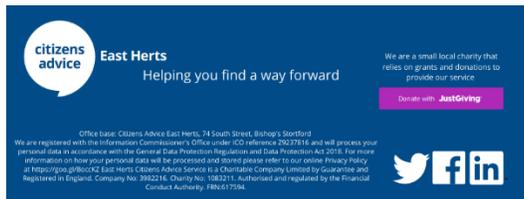
GENERAL NEWS

FUTURE EDITORSHIP OF THIS NEWSLETTER. As announced earlier the current editors are standing down and the next edition after this one will be their last. We are all fortunate that **Dave Oxley**, of Castle Cottages, Anstey, will be taking over, ensuring the future of the Newsletter. Many thanks to Dave, whose contact details etc will be included in the December 2020/January 2021 edition.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME. This is under review, as most of our volunteers are having to be careful. Please however do make use of the help schemes, such as AnsteyLink, that have been set up in all our villages.

Garden & DIY Equipment A reminder that we have equipment that is available for people to borrow. For full details of the equipment visit <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> and check out the Loan DIY Equipment tab. Please do let us know if you have equipment that we can add to this list.

Citizens Advice East Herts July 2020. Since 23 March, we have helped 2,396 clients – 36%



more than the same time period last year - with advice on a range of issues. Employment continues to be the top issue for clients, with advice needed on furlough and redundancy etc. We are also continuing to help with practical support such as Foodbank referrals and local community links and are working with East Herts Police

and other local Citizens Advice to raise awareness of Covid-related scams. Whilst some

restrictions have lifted we have decided to continue to give advice from home for the time being– many of our volunteers are vulnerable/have caring responsibilities and most of our offices do not easily allow for social distancing. We are exploring how we can add in some element of a physical advice service, with the necessary protections in place. In the meantime, we would take this opportunity to remind you of our access options, as set out in the attached flyer. Our website and social media are also useful reference points **particularly re actual or threatened redundancy.**

We are working closely with partners to

The flyer is titled 'Here to help!' and lists various ways to contact Citizens Advice East Herts. It includes a phone icon with the number 01920 459944, an email icon with the website www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/webadvice, a webchat icon with the website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/web-chat-service/, and a Facebook Messenger icon with the website www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvice. It also mentions that information and links are available online at citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk and lists social media handles for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The charity registration number 1083211 is at the bottom.

look at how we can best meet client need post Covid. As government support starts to reduce we are expecting an increased need for help with debt, money advice, employment and housing and trying raise funds to resource more specialist support in these areas (as well as cover the costs of home working). Further details are on our website at www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk



Parish and Town Workhouses. In these strange times we have seen people unable to attend their place of work. Many have been supported by a furlough scheme. Over the years, governments have taken various steps to care for the poor and those unable to work.

The Act for the Relief of the Poor of 1601 made parishes legally responsible for parishioners who could not work. Most assistance was given as “outdoor relief”, meaning financial help but with people able to remain in their own homes.

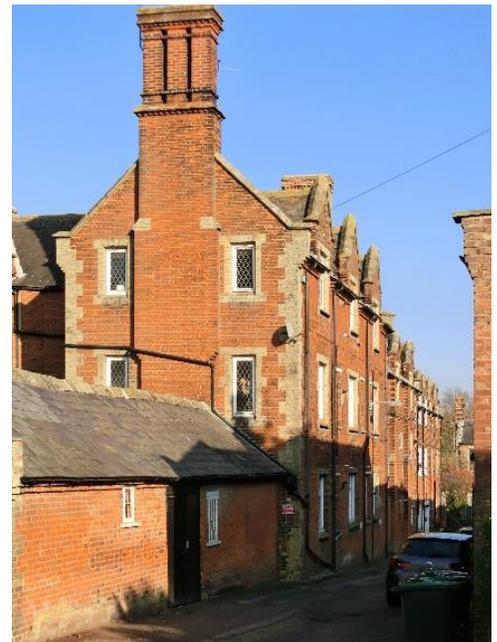


The Workhouse Test Act of 1723 obliged anyone seeking relief to enter a workhouse operated by the parish. Several of these buildings have survived including those at Ashdon (shown left), Clavering, Finchingfield, Newport and Stanstead Abbots.

Under the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 individual parishes were grouped together in a Poor Law Union which was responsible for

constructing and operating a central so-called “Union” workhouse for the larger area. Many survive and have been re-purposed.

Great Dunmow’s Union workhouse (shown right) has changed very little in appearance since it was built in 1838 at a cost of £8,000 to house 350 inmates. One of the architects, George Gilbert Scott was a prolific workhouse designer who later designed the Albert Memorial and St Pancras Station.



The Union workhouse at Buntingford (shown below) was built in 1836 to house 160 people from 16



surrounding parishes. It closed in 1933 and was

subsequently converted to private houses and apartments.

Linton built its workhouse in 1837 in Symonds Lane to accommodate 230 inmates. Today it is a retirement home. Saffron Walden’s workhouse, built in 1836

for 340 inmates, became a hospital and is now apartments.

Life in the workhouse was hard; families were split, husbands separated from wives and parents from their children - a stark contrast to today’s benefits systems.

Hare Street Shop. This has recently reopened, this time as a Deli and store, and we are hearing positive reports about it. Good to have an alternative shopping outlet!

Food Bank Collection of “Harvest Festival” items in Anstey, Meesden, and Brent Pelham churches, 10th and 11th October.

Rev James Sawyer writes: -

The community spirit in lockdown, giving help to people who need it, was very touching. It's been a disappointing year for the farmers, but a good fruit and veg harvest in our gardens and allotments in the villages. Many of you have been sharing your garden produce with others.

Hoping to continue in that vein of kindness to others, generosity and sharing, I wondered whether everyone who can spare any non-perishable goods, might please be willing to contribute to a special 'Harvest Festival weekend' collection of items for some of our local food banks? **This will be organised on Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th October. On these two days, non-perishable items can be left, in bags or boxes, in the church or church porch. They will be collected at the end of each day by volunteers and delivered to local food banks the following week** (together with any items which are brought to the Harvest Service, to be held in Meesden Bury Barn on Sunday 11th (arrival 10am for a 10.30 start)).

It's sad that there won't be the usual Harvest Festival service in our three churches this year, but perhaps we can all join together to make this something extremely positive instead? With the winter approaching, and difficult times economically, it would be lovely if our generous community could mark harvest time by helping others in the wider area.

Thank you very much to everyone who would like to contribute on behalf of our community.

If you would like to donate, but need your items collected, please call Patricia Hamilton on 01763 848536

Details of the food banks and items needed: -

Buntingford's food bank, where the collection boxes in the Co-op and the shop in Hare Street go, is run by Karen Lavers. Contributions of food and toiletries and cash donations are all welcome, and it regularly shows on its Facebook page which items are most badly needed (at the time of writing, these are cereal, long life milk, coffee, rice and instant mashed potato). On average, they deliver to between 10-18 families/individuals a week in local villages, aiming to provide 4-5 days worth of food. Some people they may only deliver to once; others more regularly. The number of recipients has gone up, probably by about 4-5 a week, since lockdown and will probably grow in the months ahead, due to job losses and other Coronavirus-related difficulties.

Bishop's Stortford food bank is run by the Trussell Trust (trusselltrust.org), which has a network of over 1,200 food banks. Its website lists the sort of items they would like for their food parcels, including cereal, soup, tinned meat/veg/pulses/fruit (e.g. baked beans/tinned tomatoes), pasta, rice, UHT milk, tea/coffee, pasta sauce, biscuits. They also ask for donations of non-food items: toiletries (deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste), household items such as washing up liquid and laundry powder, and sanitary products, nappies, baby food and wipes.

The Trussell Trust predicts that, this winter, their food banks will need to give out six emergency food parcels a minute! This is an increase of 61% on last year. In the pandemic, many people turned to the food banks having not used them before, especially families with children.



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Jan Pledger writes: - As many of the local Christmas fairs are not going to take place this year I shall be selling homemade, decorated and scented candles from Woodside Cottage in Anstey. Call me at any time if you want to come round and look and

hopefully purchase a lovely gift for friend or family. Social distancing and Covid rules will be adhered to. Contact Jan on 07850 097673.

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 (references available)

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ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk



A very warm welcome to **William** and **Nicola Bartholemew** and their two children **Barnaby** (5) and **Belle** (3) who have recently moved into The Castle House, having come from Ware. We hope they will have many happy years here in Anstey. Nicola says she is looking forward to meeting her new neighbours when the crazy world of Covid has subsided.

It is widely known that **Anstey Castle**, of which only the earthworks now remain in the grounds of Anstey Hall, was dismantled as a castle. It had passed into the hands of the de Anestie family in the middle of the 12th century and was strengthened during the First Barons' War of 1215–1216 by Nicholas de Anestie, an opponent of King John, fighting for the barons. After the war ended de Anestie was commanded to destroy the castle, with only those parts to remain that had been built before the war. The material from this demolition was supposed to be used in order to repair the nearby church, which is why the crest and shield from the castle feature in the church graffiti. King John is not a king whose name crops up much, so here is a brief history :-

John (24 December 1166 – 19 October 1216) was King of England from 1199 until his death in 1216. He lost the Duchy of Normandy and most of his other French lands to King Philip II of France, resulting in the collapse of the Angevin Empire and contributing to the subsequent growth in

power of the French Capetian dynasty during the 13th century. The baronial revolt at the end of John's reign led to the sealing of *Magna Carta*, a document sometimes considered an early step in the evolution of the constitution of the United Kingdom.

John was the youngest of the four surviving sons of King Henry II of England and Duchess Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was nicknamed **John Lackland** because he was not expected to inherit significant lands. He became Henry's favourite child following the failed revolt of 1173–74 by his brothers Henry the Young King, Richard, and Geoffrey against the King. John was appointed the Lord of Ireland in 1177 and given lands in England and on the continent. The war between Henry II and his eldest sons ended with the deaths of Henry the Young King and Geoffrey. John unsuccessfully attempted a rebellion against the royal administrators of his brother, King Richard,



whilst Richard was participating in the Third Crusade, but he was proclaimed king after Richard died in 1199. He came to an agreement with Philip II of France to recognise John's possession of the continental Angevin lands at the peace treaty of Le Goulet in 1200.

When war with France broke out again in 1202, John achieved early victories, but shortages of military resources and his treatment of Norman, Breton, and Anjou nobles resulted in the collapse of his empire in northern France in 1204. He spent much of the next decade attempting to regain these lands, raising huge revenues, reforming his armed forces and rebuilding continental alliances. His judicial reforms had a lasting effect on the English common law system, as well as providing an additional source of revenue. An argument with Pope Innocent III led to John's excommunication in 1209, a dispute he finally settled in 1213. John's attempt to defeat Philip in 1214 failed because of the French victory over John's allies at the battle of Bouvines. When he returned to England, John faced a rebellion by many of his barons, who were unhappy with his fiscal policies and his treatment of many of England's most powerful nobles. Although both John and the barons agreed to the *Magna Carta* peace treaty in 1215, neither side complied with its conditions. Civil war broke out shortly afterwards, with the barons aided by Louis VIII of France. It soon descended into a stalemate.

John died of dysentery contracted whilst on campaign in eastern England during late 1216; supporters of his son Henry III went on to achieve victory over Louis and the rebel barons the following year. Contemporary chroniclers were mostly critical of John's performance as king, and his reign has since been the subject of significant debate and periodic revision by historians from the 16th century onwards. Historian Jim Bradbury has summarised the current historical opinion of John's positive qualities, observing that John is today usually considered a "hard-working

administrator, an able man, an able general". Nonetheless, modern historians agree that he also had many faults as king, including what historian Ralph Turner describes as "distasteful, even dangerous personality traits", such as pettiness, spitefulness, and cruelty. These negative qualities provided extensive material for fiction writers in the Victorian era, and John remains a recurring character within Western popular culture, primarily as a villain in films and stories depicting the Robin Hood legends.

Hard at work in the Churchyard – well done!!! Many thanks to the Cossors, Goymours, Daphne Bailey and Ed Burton who all did sterling work clearing in the churchyard.



And now for some really modern Anstey residents - here are some recent 2020 arrivals.

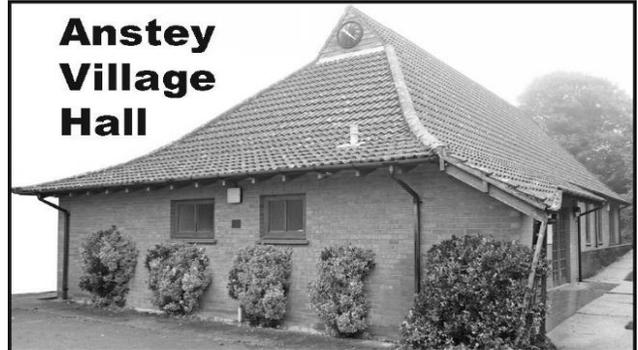


ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL. Owing to the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 situation, we have not yet restarted exercise classes. When we are confident that we can, in a Covid secure way, we will inform regular participants by email and the wider community via the Ansteylink WhatsApp group and the village website. Sadly, social events such as Film Club remain on hold for the present, though we look forward to offering a full programme just as soon as we can.

Dave Oxley (oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk)

ANSTEY DEFIBRILLATOR. A reminder that the Anstey defibrillator is located outside The Blind Fiddler, just to the left of the entrance porch. The code to open the cabinet is **3456**.

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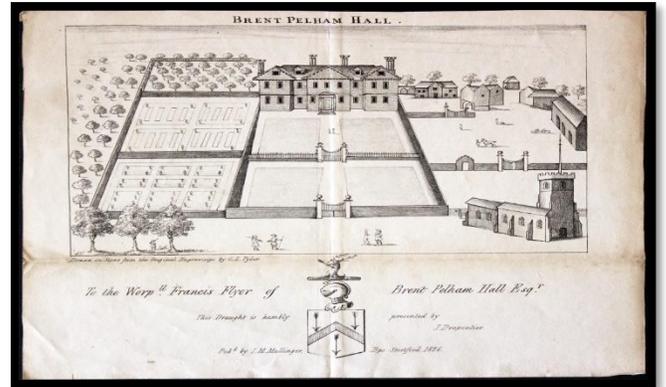
Please contact for details, advice and a free quote.

Bettina Kovacs 07518928871

kovacsbettina@hotmail.co.uk

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

<https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/>



Saturday 31st October - Village 'tidy up'. 9-30 - 11:30 Lots of volunteers needed to ready the village for the winter. Meet at the village hall green.

In Memoriam Ann Barclay - Huntsmans House, Brent Pelham

“Ann (formerly Payne, nee Foster) died peacefully at home, on 19th August 2020, aged 93. Widow of Captain Charles Barclay. Beloved mother of Joanna, Suzy & Richard, wonderful step mother of Diana, Ted, Robert & James. Proud grandmother of Hugh, Hester, Patrick & William & to Simon, Charlie, Cecilia, Sophia, Rachel, Freddie, Ben & Rowley...Donations, if desired, to Lymphoma Action”

<http://announcements.telegraph.co.uk/deaths/243916/barclay->

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Pilates continues on Zoom Pilates continues on Zoom, at 7pm Monday night, for 40 minutes. 6pm on Thursday night. The cost is £3.50 a session if anyone is interested please email Becky at rebecca.ashman@hotmail.co.uk or Hazel at hazelnorris@icloud.com or telephone 777316

Images of the harvest Shared by Kevin Lacy, and taken at the start of August from his garden – The setting sun through the dust from the harvesting gave rise to remarkable skies.



Email addresses Of course, if you are receiving this by email you will, unless someone has forwarded it on, have registered your email address to receive this as a digital copy. Please do check with neighbours if and when you see them that they are aware of the newsletter being digital for the time being. If they are not and they would still like to receive it they can email brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com and it will be sent on and future digital editions. If you are aware that a neighbour does not have an email please consider printing them a copy, whilst checking with them first, maintaining social distancing and taking hygiene

precautions whilst printing and delivering. Thank you.

For the benefit of those new to the village and as general reminders

Brent Pelham Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user then don't forget to like the Brent Pelham Facebook page to keep up to date with upcoming events & local news.

Fraser Murray sends out emails to the village with general news, these are useful for getting out urgent news, reminders and information quickly. To add your name to his distribution list, or if your email has changed, then send a blank email to frasermurray@me.com with your name and address in the header.

Facebook page “The Pelhams”

Fran Bell from Lower Cottages, Brent Pelham, has just started a Facebook page called **The Pelhams**. It's about collecting stories and anecdotes about the area and it would be great to see people joining and hopefully contributing pictures and memories or other posts. Link :<https://www.facebook.com/groups/772768022801021/>

Village hall internet - The WiFi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat. It's free to use for basic respectful use, and for those 'your-internet-is-down' emergencies; For prolonged heavy use a small, or large, donation would be very welcome. Simply post through the letter box at the Village Hall with an explanatory note.

Village defibrillator - As a reminder the village defibrillator is located near the village hall and post box opposite the church. The access code for the box is **C159X**.

ANSTEY GROVE BARN

BED AND BREAKFAST



Anstey Grove Barn is a timber barn that has been tastefully converted specifically to offer high quality Bed and Breakfast accommodation. It is situated away from the main farmhouse, and overlooks the secluded walled garden, which is set to lawn and formal herb patio and is for guests' use only. The six rooms are all elegantly furnished and are a mixture of twin and double. The "Master Room" has a four poster bed, bathroom with freestanding roll top bath, shower and separate WC.

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MEESDEN NEWS

<https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/>



Agriculture Notes. *Wilfrid
Dimsdale writes:* - Most people not
involved in agriculture would not

notice a lot of revolutionary change. You would however notice the size of machinery and the time taken to harvest fields. Thirty years ago, to harvest 40 acres would generally have taken more than a day, today, 100 acres in a day is not unusual. What's more you have to have a store to take the resulting crop quickly. Each load being weighed, moisture tested and sampled. The resulting sample kept for monitoring the store itself, of 1,000 or more tonnes.

Looking at Mediaeval Manuscripts, in the margins there is farming taking place in the same way over centuries before the Industrial Revolution that went hand in hand with the Agricultural Revolution. The Agricultural Revolution had more than one facet: Plant Breeding, the Rotational System of planting, that improved soil fertility and, and even now the turbocharging effect of mechanisation that enables much more work to be done with less people.

The Monoculture of today brings with it significant disadvantages. What (nearly) every farmer loves to see is a uniform crop with no weeds to disturb the picture. No doubt he/she would like to see no weeds, but there is one significant weed, Blackgrass that has infected fields. The bronze look in the spring and early summer is Blackgrass flowering, each plant taking the space of two or three cereal plants and each seed head dropping thousands of seeds. There used to be a herbicide that solved the problem, which for many years it did, but now Blackgrass is resistant, so to get rid of it conventional methods, otherwise known as Good Husbandry have to be

employed. This involves amongst other things not growing anything at all whilst the cure is administered, so big expense without income.

What is not needed today is big expense as the EU Common Agricultural Policy recedes into the background. The UK's new Agricultural Bill makes no mention of growing food, as the government in its wisdom thinks we should be like Singapore and import all we need. The Bill is all about the environment, important as it is it will be of no help at all to sheep farmers whose crop of lambs has been exported to France, so a tariff, increasing the price will price British Lamb out of our biggest and nearest market. Climate Change is a disaster for one product, windscreen cleaners: whereas thirty years ago windscreens were spattered with corpses of moths and other insects, today, beautifully clean windscreens. A good thing.....NO! Insects are part of a system; Birds feed on insects and when there are none upon which to feed.....what then?

Meesden Community Garden.



Thank you everyone that has purchased fruit or veg that was grown on our garden. The beans have been disappointing this year, but the abundance of cooking apples and juicy plums made up for it and we

have collected £159 which this year we are donating to the NHS. With the added benefit of Gift Aid this increases our donation to £190. Thank you all.

Anti-social behaviour Thankfully rare in our village, but there have



been reports of a car being driven through the village at high speed during the early hours of the morning whilst sounding its horn. If you encounter this, or any other anti-social behaviour please call the Police on 101. We need to inform the Police whenever we have issues so that they might relate it with other crime in the area.

What 3 Words

Given the unreliability of the mobile phone signal in our villages there is an interesting App that can be downloaded for free onto your mobile phone that we all might find useful, particularly when out and about. The basis of the app is that even when there is not a signal on your phone it will always know your exact location using GPS coordination and this app simply converts the complex GPS coordinates into three words. Should you need to call 999 on your phone in an emergency you give the operator these three words and they will know exactly where you are, even if you are in the middle of a field or stranded on a road in the middle of nowhere.

Apparently, GPS signals are accurate to within three meters so the emergency services would find you even if you were hidden in a ditch or in the middle of a forest. Seems like a really good idea. Look it up on the internet, it is certainly worth considering.

<https://what3words.com/news/emergency/three-words-for-a-faster-emergency-response>.

Grateful Thanks. I often think how very lucky we are to live in such an unspoilt and beautiful village! Not only are our surroundings lovely and peaceful, but the people who live here are kind and generous.

Over these last summer months, we have been given some delicious produce from villagers' gardens. Our gifts have included runner beans, french beans, cooking apples, Victoria plums, beetroot and some interesting and very tasty tomatoes. I say they were interesting as they came in a variety of lovely colours, from yellow, orange, through to a bright red. I wondered if the flavour of each would be different, but they all tasted the same and were equally delicious. On one occasion, we also found on our doorstep a gorgeous bunch of garden flowers. They were left anonymously, and apart from having a peep into everyone's back garden, I think their original owners will have to remain a mystery! So very many thanks to all. Living in Meesden is a joy! -

Margaret and Stephen Beach

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