

# Beyton Village News

APRIL - MAY 2026



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# Dates for your Diaries 2026

## Beyton Parish Council Meetings 2026

7th April 2026

5th May 2026

2nd June 2026

7th July 2026

### Parish Council meetings

Will usually take place on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at **7.30pm** unless stated otherwise.

If you would like to make written representation rather than attending in person, please send an email or write to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 7 days from the date of the meeting.

Meetings are open to the press and public and there is a section of the meeting where residents are invited to raise questions or make comments; although there is no requirement of the Council to answer any questions at the meeting, Councillors will take account of the balance of views expressed when they are deliberating matters during the remainder of the meeting.

### Knit & Natter

10am-12 Church Vestry

Monday 13th April

(no meeting 6th April Bank Holiday or Thursday 16th April)

Monday 4th May

Thursday 21st May

Monday 1st June

Monday 18th June

### Midsummer Madness

Saturday 20th June

5-10:30pm The Green

### Village Walk

Saturday 27th June

6pm Old Bus Shelter

### Deadline for next edition:

Friday

15th May 2026

Please let us have any contributions by the above date at the latest for consideration for the next edition. Please send to: [editor@beytonvillage.news](mailto:editor@beytonvillage.news)  
Letters welcome.

|               |                 |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Chairman:     | Graham Jones    | <a href="mailto:chairman@beyton-pc.gov.uk">chairman@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>               |
| Vice Chair:   | Ann Alderton    | <a href="mailto:ann.alderton@beyton-pc.gov.uk">ann.alderton@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>       |
| Councillor:   | Helen Preston   | <a href="mailto:helen.preston@beyton-pc.gov.uk">helen.preston@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>     |
| Councillor:   | John Clark      | <a href="mailto:john.clark@beyton-pc.gov.uk">john.clark@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>           |
| Councillor:   | Helena Harris   | <a href="mailto:helena.harris@beyton-pc.gov.uk">helena.harris@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>     |
| Councillor:   | Jonathan Wilson | <a href="mailto:Jonathan.wilson@beyton-pc.gov.uk">Jonathan.wilson@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a> |
| Parish Clerk: | Claire Usher    | <a href="mailto:parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk">parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk</a>         |

# Editor's Welcome

Welcome to another edition of the Village News and I apologise for the fact that this will be a little bit late arriving with you. I have had a major computer glitch which has taken a while to sort out.

Great to see a new village event to put in the diary – looking forward to some nice spring weather to enjoy it all.

**Editor**

Beyton Parish Council

## Chairman's report

Spring is here already! Actually the winter has not been so bad, we are so lucky to live in a place where we miss all the floods, gales and horrible stuff. Yes we did have day after day of drizzle but we have forgotten that – at least I have!

Unfortunately Beyton has recently lost three of its special characters who served the community for many years and in their own special ways helped to form the village as we know it today.

Barry Waterman who ran The White Horse for over forty years.

Rod Scott BEM who gave his time, mostly free, to better the Church buildings and support military charities.

Jon Rapley who chaired the Parish Council for many years either side of the Millennium, in fact it was on Jon's careful watch that much of the development of Beyton occurred.

The Parish Council pays tribute to the memory of these fine men and we send our deep condolences to their families.

The key council items remain as reported in the Feb-March edition of the magazine. I am sure that you are keeping up with events by checking reports on the Beyton website: <https://beyton.suffolk.cloud> and I am delighted to say that we have had more people attending our meetings in person and they seem to have enjoyed it.

Finally, we still have a vacancy for another councillor and our clerk, Claire Usher would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining, her email address is [parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk)

Yours

**Graham Jones**

*Chairman, Beyton Parish Council*

At Woolpit Health Centre we are proud to operate a 'total triage' model. Every patient access request, whether online, telephone or walk-in, is clinically assessed and triaged by our 'on the day' GP team. A senior GP mentor who is always available to guide clinical decisions.

Requests are prioritised based on their level of urgency, then assigned to the healthcare professional best suited to meet individual needs. This may result in an urgent or routine call or appointment or self-care/signpost to other services.

In the 12 months since we switched our online request service to Anima, we have received over 45,000 requests, an average of 175 per day (Monday – Friday). Approximately one third of these requests are completed by our reception team on behalf of patients who telephone or walk-in.

## **Andi, our new Virtual Care Navigator!**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 we launched a new automated system called Andi, designed to help improve how we manage patient requests and phone calls.

Andi is a Virtual Care Navigator and has been created by the same team behind Anima. We will be trialling over the next 3 months.

### **What is Virtual Care Navigation?**

When you call the surgery, instead of waiting in a queue, you can speak to Andi, who will ask you questions, take down your request and send it to the triage team for review.

### **Benefits for Patients**

- No need to wait in a call queue.
- A quick and easy way to submit your request.
- Fast and efficient triage.

### **Benefits for the Health Centre**

- Frees up staff time to focus on patient care.
- Helps us manage requests fairly and efficiently.
- Reduces waiting times and phone line pressure.

**A quick note: Andi isn't a robotic sounding voice – he sounds quite natural! This may feel a little unusual at first, but we encourage you to give it a try.**

Thank you and best wishes from Woolpit Health Centre

## **NHS COVID Spring Booster Vaccination Programme**

As we move into spring, we want to help our patients stay healthy and protected. COVID-19 is still with us, and for those at higher risk, a “booster” dose helps top up your protection.

### **Who can get the spring booster?**

The booster is offered to the following people, who are most likely to get seriously ill from the virus:

- Aged 75 or over (or if you turn 75 by 30 June 2026).
- Living in a care home for older adults.
- Aged 6 months or over with a weakened immune system (for example, due to a health condition or treatment like chemotherapy).

### **Why should I get the booster?**

Protection from previous doses or infections fades over time. Viruses can also change. An extra dose:

- Reduces your risk of getting very poorly.
- Helps you recover faster if you do catch it.
- Reduces the chance of needing to go to hospital.

## **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Programme**

From 1 April 2026, the eligibility criteria for this programme will change to allow people aged 80 years and over, and all residents in care homes for older adults, to receive the RSV vaccine on the NHS.

### **What is RSV?**

RSV is a common cause of coughs and colds. Most people get it several times during their life. It usually gets better by itself, but in some more vulnerable people it can lead to illnesses with serious breathing problems. These may need to be treated in hospital and can be life-threatening.

## **How to get your vaccinations**

The national COVID spring booster programme starts on 13<sup>th</sup> April and runs through to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Woolpit Health Centre has several large clinics planned in April and May.

Eligible patients will either receive an invitation by letter, or a text message with a link to book an appointment.

Housebound patients will be notified of their vaccination date by telephone.

Whilst the RSV vaccine can be given all year round, eligible patients will be offered co-administration of the RSV vaccine at their COVID spring booster appointment.

Beyton parishioners will be pleased to learn that a solution to the grass on The Green being in such poor repair is on the horizon.

A combination of the seemingly endless rain on top of various work by contractors for Open Reach, CityFibre, Anglian Water plus others has damaged verges and in places washed away the grass at the edge of The Green, particularly along the one-way road.

Now following a helpful meeting with a Highways representative from Suffolk County Council, Beyton Parish Council is able up address the situation. The parish council, of course, administers The Green on behalf of villagers, following purchase in November 2023.

Parish Council Chairman Graham Jones said: 'We've been approached by many villagers concerned by the poor state of The Green. So I'm delighted to confirm that we are now able to take action to restore matters.'

Suffolk Highways confirmed that they are responsible for maintaining the land 50cm from the end of the road tarmac.

Armed with this knowledge, Beyton councillors can now institute a process of:

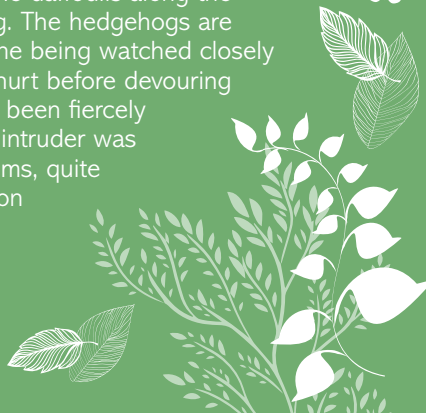
- 1) returfing land lost to mud and rain along the one-way stretch;
- 2) marking the land with stakes and string; ahead of
- 3) installing small posts, mirroring the wooden stakes that already protect the Thurston Road side of The Green.

No timetable for work has been scheduled yet though, naturally, the PC will keep villagers informed of progress.

## Nature Notes

With the days lengthening things are changing. The winter aconites and snowdrops are already over, buds are bursting and the daffodils along the village stream are resplendent. Wildlife is also stirring. The hedgehogs are waking up, feeling hungry and searching for food. One being watched closely has learnt how to trip a mouse trap without getting hurt before devouring the bait with great relish. This little creature has also been fiercely territorial. When another appeared on the scene the intruder was forced into a ball and rolled away in no uncertain terms, quite literally given the push-off. All caught on camera. Soon we'll be listening out for the first call of a cuckoo. What a lovely time of the year.

**Roger Brand**



# Farming Around Beyton

## Thurston Road

Manor Field, east of Thurston Road, between Beyton and the A14 flyover is planted with wheat. The owner commented that the crop looks good currently, and he hopes that the only applications needed between now and harvest will be fertilisers, to optimise the yield.

## Drinkstone Road, Tostock Road and Cangles Lane

Since last month's article, we have obtained the field names for this block. The field beside Beyton school is appropriately named 'School', and the field between 'School' and Cangles Lane is called 'Home'. Opposite 'School' field, east of Drinkstone Road is 'Pub' field, and opposite the Tostock A14 junction is 'Slipway'.

These fields contain oilseed rape, and by mid-March they had received one dose of spring fertiliser, applied in liquid form through the farm sprayer. During April and May treatments to protect the crop, particularly from fungal diseases, will be applied but only if necessary.

## Quaker Lane

Winter wheat in the fields to the south of Quaker Lane and east of Chevins Wood is looking healthy. The crop recently received its first dose of Nitrogen fertiliser in granular form through a tractor-mounted spreader. Spray applications of fungicide to control 'Yellow Rust' are due shortly, as well as liquid applications of growth regulator to shorten and stiffen the straw – increasing resistance to lodging (crop collapsing flat on the ground) later in the season, particularly in heavy rain. During the next few months, an application of bio-stimulant fertiliser (including Sulphur) to boost foliage will be made. Sulphur deficiency has become an issue since emissions from transport and industry have reduced. Now low-rate applications are made to growing crops to compensate. The farmer explained that liquid applications through the 30m sprayer boom are preferred later in the growing season as the crop becomes taller, as this guarantees accurate coverage right to the edges of the crop, where granular applicators might struggle.

At the other end of Quaker Lane, west of Chevins Wood, the oilseed rape is thriving, and by mid-March it was waist-high, with sprigs of yellow flowers already visible. The crop has received its full dose of fertiliser for the season, and the only additional treatments between now and harvest will be to tackle fungal diseases, if necessary, when flowering finishes and the yellow petals drop and stick to the stems and leaves.

Within this field are two crop trials areas, marked with white sticks. One is assessing performance of various seed treatments, and the other is evaluating benefits of blending oilseed rape varieties.

**Trivia Question** – ‘Park Field’, beside Bury Road, is growing sugar beet this year. If all the seeds planted germinate and grow, then how many sugar beet will be produced by the field, and how many 1kg bags of sugar could be made from them? (find the answer on page 14)

## Thurston Community College News



Our Year 9 students, 13 and 14 year olds, recently traded their school jumpers for lab coats and evidence bags during an immersive CSI Workshop which took place at the Beyton Campus. It was a day of mystery, logic, and hands-on science that saw our budding investigators putting their critical thinking skills to the ultimate test.

The atmosphere was electric as the students were met with a series of complex skills to master. To crack the cases, they had to learn a variety of professional forensic techniques, including analysing fibres, identifying footprints and taking their own fingerprints.

To finish the day, students got suited and booted in full hazmat suits and put their newly learned skills into practice and raced against the clock to solve a murder!

One student said ‘The CSI day was really fun and enjoyable. Unfortunately my team didn’t catch the murderer but it was a fun day out and I would recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity’. With another student saying ‘It was so much fun, a brilliant day, really good’.

**Miss Rolfe**





# Midsummer Madness

BEYTON GREEN

HOG ROAST  
& LIVE BAND

Book by  
10th June

TICKETS  
ONLY  
£10

SAT  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE

**FREE** Rounders on the Green 5-6pm  
**FREE** Morris Dancing by Green Dragon 6-7pm

**\*HOG ROAST** 6-8pm

**\*LIVE MUSIC** with PICTURE HOUSE &  
dancing in the Marquee 7-10:30pm

\*Book via [beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com)

## BVA AGM

We held our AGM on 12th February, the Chairmans Report on our activities for the previous year is below

## Beyton Quiz

We were delighted to have a total of 23 teams taking part in the hotly contested Beyton Quiz this year.

It was won by The Bad Baristas.

Thanks to everyone who took part and for all the help setting up and packing away on the evening.



## Midsummer Madness

We will be hoisting the marquee to stage a special Midsummer event on the Green on Saturday 20th June. Join us for rounders, morris dancing, a hog roast and live music for all of the family to enjoy. With a bar run by The White Horse and open all evening.

**FREE** for everyone to enjoy

**5-6pm** Rounders on the Green for adults and children

**6-7pm** Morris Dancing

### TICKETED EVENTS

**6-8pm** Hog Roast

**7-10:30pm** Live band 'PICTURE HOUSE' and dancing in the Marquee

The band will be playing a wide selection of Rock & Pop covers.

Tickets for the Hog Roast and live band are **ONLY £10** per person total for both food and music.

To book please specify if you want both the Hog Roast and/or entry to the live band at the time of purchase so we can monitor numbers for catering and space in the marquee. A vegetarian option of a chilli bean burger will be available.

**Tickets must be booked and paid for in advance.  
The deadline is 10th June. Email [beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com)  
with your name and the number of tickets you require.**

With the BVA are subsidising this event with some of the profits made at the Summer Fayre last year, the price for this event is so low that it really is Midsummer Madness.

## Village Walk

The next village walk is on Saturday 27th June leaving the old bus shelter on The Green at 6.00pm. The walk will go to The Dog at Norton via Grove Farm, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, which is about 6 miles for the roundtrip, so will take about 2.5 hours. There will be a refreshment stop at the pub at the half way point so allowing for this we should be back by 9.00pm.

This is less than a week after the longest day so it should be light until really late in the evening but please bring phones or torches just in case!

This is a healthy and sociable activity, as people tend to chat as they walk, so it is a great opportunity to get to know other villagers. Everyone welcome, including accompanied children and dogs (on leads). Look forward to seeing you there.

## BVA Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all the committee members who have worked so hard to organise events for the local community and also the many volunteers who have helped to run these events too. The committee has grown steadily and we now have 20 members. As Chair of the BVA it is great to not only have a large number of people on the committee but also that they are so enthusiastic and willing to get stuck in to organising activities for the village.

So thanks to the committee and the other volunteers we had another successful year in which the following events took place.

- The annual quiz at the 6th form campus had a record 26 teams take part, with questions admirably set by the previous winners, the Beyton Bad Baristas.
- VE Day celebration event in which 75 people enjoyed a 1940s style hot meal at The White Horse followed by the reading of a tribute and the lighting of a beacon.
- Open Gardens and Supercar event at which a steady stream of visitors enjoyed the 11 gardens on display and admired the Supercars on The Green.
- The first rain-free Beyton Fayre for many years resulted in a large turnout and there were new stalls to enjoy such as Welly Wanging and Beat the Goalie.
- The Barn Dance the night before was a great success with 85 people taking part and the dance floor was full all night right up to 11.00pm!
- The Safari Supper as well supported with 39 people participating, enjoying good food and good company at various houses, finishing at The White Horse.
- We had a fantastic turnout for the carol singing on The Green with almost 100 people taking part, more than double the number of the previous year.
- Village walks were held approx every 3 months, including evening walks with a pub stop and some starting from external locations, such as Blackthorpe Barns.

The BVA has continued to use any surplus generated to make donations to local charities and to invest in new equipment so we can continue running successful events in future. Any local charities who would like to be considered for potential donations in future should email [anselmgurney@sky.com](mailto:anselmgurney@sky.com)

# Reduce the cost of heating your home by joining the Beyton oil buying group.

Known as **BOBS oil (Beyton Oil Buying Syndicate)** the Beyton oil buying group is run by the BVA (Beyton Village Association), and has been operating for approximately 15 years, helping local households reduce costs of home heating as well as the number of oil tanker journeys through our village.

## How does it work?

The concept is straightforward – by placing larger group orders rather than every household buying separately, we obtain significant cost savings, and everyone benefits.

- 1) We order five times during the year – early February, April, July, October, and December. Those registered to join the scheme receive an email before each order is placed, inviting them to take part. Anyone wishing to order responds to the email stating how much oil they require. The syndicate organisers calculate the total volume needed and then call all the local suppliers to obtain the best price.
- 2) Once the cheapest supplier has been identified, then an order is placed and contact details for those wanting oil are passed on.
- 3) Buying group organisers email members who requested oil, informing them of the price achieved and the name of the winning supplier.
- 4) The winning supplier contacts each customer direct, to confirm the order, take payment and arrange delivery.

## How and who do I pay?

Payments are made by each customer direct to the winning oil supplier. Beyton group organisers don't get involved with any aspect of payments, other than negotiating the best price for the group.

## Cost savings available

Heating oil prices fluctuate, especially during conflicts in the Middle East. By combining individual requirements to create larger syndicate orders, savings up to three pence per litre are achieved, compared to those placing individual orders. This equates to just under £30 (incl VAT) saving for an average 900-litre delivery.

The more oil we can order at a time, then the bigger the potential savings for the whole group, so please encourage friends and neighbours in Beyton and surrounding villages to join our ordering scheme. Whether you require only a 500-litre top-up, or have a larger tank needing thousands of litres, we can help reduce the costs of your heating.

## Which company will supply the oil?

Put simply – it will be whichever supplier is cheapest on the day when we call around for quotes. When phoning for prices, we contact all the well-known and reputable local suppliers. Some are always expensive while there are usually three or four that try harder to win orders and offer much lower prices. There will often be up to eight pence per litre difference between the cheapest and most expensive.

## If I register, then do I have to join in?

Everyone registered receives e-mails before each delivery inviting them to take part, but there is no obligation. Members remain free to place their own orders whenever they wish to, although we encourage group ordering as far as possible as this benefits everyone.

## Environmental benefits

Rather than multiple tankers from various suppliers delivering oil on different days, buying as a group means transport can be more efficiently arranged so that all the Beyton deliveries are completed on the same day by a single tanker. Obviously, this is better for the environment and reduces heavy lorry movements through our village.

## Is there a cost?

No, there is no cost to join the scheme or when placing orders, so members benefit from the full cost savings achieved. The scheme is run by volunteers who receive no commission, to benefit local households by reducing costs of home heating oil and traffic through our village.

However, we do invite members to make a £5 donation to the BVA each time they place an order, if they can afford to. This is entirely voluntary.

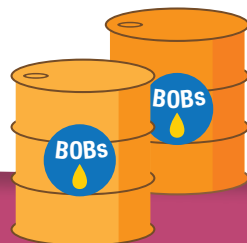
## What about those using gas?

Sorry, but the Beyton Oil Buying group is only for those with oil-fired heating.

## How do I join?

To register to receive e-mails from the Beyton Oil Buying Syndicate, please send an email to; [bobsoil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bobsoil@hotmail.co.uk)

You will then receive an email inviting you to join our next delivery, for which the group order will be placed week commencing 5th April with deliveries expected the following week.



## Rodney Scott BEM – a personal memory

Rod was a family man, a collector of military memorabilia, builder, musician, district councillor, charity supporter, local storyteller and probably a lot more.

I have had the pleasure of knowing him for over thirty years. Our initial contact came when Rod suggested to my wife Barbara that our front door looked far from perfect (a mess actually) and could do with a good coat of paint, special paint as he called it. Rod's process consisted of many alternate layers of base paint and solvent thinner, with several hours drying between coats. Of course, the door had to remain open during each drying sequence, not too much of a problem you might think, except Rod chose the month of January to do the job.

I must admit, however, that the finished door looked beautiful and he never charged me, just asked for a donation to Beyton Church.

Connection to the armed forces was never far from Rod's life, especially his world-famous collection of memorabilia and his association with the Desert Rats for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal. I remember how proud he and Tina were to be honoured in a ceremony held by the Royal Family. His military volunteering extended to poppy collection for the Royal British Legion. Again he was awarded, this time for his longevity to the cause and received a special badge for over seventy years' service. He was always the star collector in Beyton – no doubt his gift of the gab served him and the RBL well.

Beyton Church has a lot to thank him for as he painstakingly repaired large parts of the boundary wall, I know that he gave his time for this and many other activities free of charge. Beyton has a lot to thank Rod for, service over seven decades.

It is probably his historical storytelling that will be remembered most.

My own memory is encapsulated in the following sentence: "I discussed this with Rod, he did the talking and I did the listening"

Rest in peace old friend.

**Graham Jones**

**Trivia Answer** – Approximately 1.28 million sugar beet seeds will be planted in 'Park Field', to grow 1.28 million sugar beet – enough for 140,800 1kg bags of sugar.

# Contact Information

## Beyton Village News Comments & Contributions

Email: [editor@beytonvillage.news](mailto:editor@beytonvillage.news)



### Websites

<https://beyton.suffolk.cloud>



### Facebook

Beyton Village Community  
Beyton Village Association  
The White Horse Beyton



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@beytontweets  
@thurstoncollege



### PC Clerk

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5 Sand Martin Way, Needham  
Market, IP6 8FH

## Beyton All Saints Church

The Rev'd Canon Julia Lall  
Email: [rector.roughambenefice@gmail.com](mailto:rector.roughambenefice@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07543 824837:

The Rev'd Sarah Lock  
Email: [revsarah23@gmail.com](mailto:revsarah23@gmail.com)  
Mobile 07510 114359

## Shops

**Thurston – Co-Op**  
Tel 01359 230803  
Opening hrs: Every Day 7am-10pm

**Station Garage Thurston**  
Tel 01284 834145  
Opening every day 7am-10pm

**Thurston – PO Londis**  
Tel 01359 230450  
Opening hrs: Mon-Sat 6:30am-8:30pm, Sunday 8.00am-6pm

**Rougham – PO**  
Tel 01359 270201  
Opening hrs: Mon-Fri 7.30am-6pm,  
Sat 9am-12.30, Sun 9am-12

## Garages

**Beyton Garage**      Tel 01359 271166  
**Thurston Cracknells**      Tel 01359 270256

## Pubs Restaurants

**The Bear Chinese Takeaway**      Tel 01359 256788  
**The White Horse**      Tel 01359 270324



## Knit and Natter

**Do you fancy spending a sociable morning with coffee, tea and a chat?**

Our friendly Knit & Natter mornings take place in Beyton Church Vestry from 10am to 12 midday normally on the first Monday of each month. However, by popular request, we are trialling additional midweek meetings.

No need to book, just come along. Bring any yarn or craft project along with you or just come for a chat!

**Knit & Natter mornings coming up on:**

Monday 13th April

No meeting on Mon 6th April (Bank Holiday) or Thursday 16th April

Monday 4th May

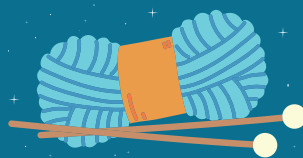
Thursday 21st May

Monday 1st June

Thursday 18th June

**For more information, please contact:**

**Debbie on 01359 271314**



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