

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

April 2020

This on-line edition replaces the hard copy, which we have reluctantly had to cancel due to the current coronavirus crisis. Most of the events that would have been in the April issue have been cancelled, hence the on-line edition is inevitably short. We shall inform you when it is possible to return to hard copy, but for the next few months, we intend to post a short magazine on-line.

**Please retain your March issue for
advertisements!**

The editors would be happy to consider publishing articles of local interest in forthcoming on-line magazines. See last page for editors' contact details.

The Parishes of Ombersley and Doverdale are two of The Worcestershire Severn Parishes comprising Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock, Hartlebury, Ombersley and Doverdale, a

family of Church of England parishes in the Diocese of Worcester working together to share the love of God in each of their local communities.

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**The Parish of St. Andrew Ombersley
with St. Mary Doverdale**

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**If you would like to receive the Parish Magazine please contact one of
the Editorial Team. (Details at the back!)**

Benefice Viewpoint

Some Reflections on Our Experience of Coronavirus

I have to write my contribution to the Parish Magazines in Hartlebury, Ombersley and Doverdale, and Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge and Rushock by about the 6th or 7th day of the month and so by the time you read this, things will have moved on rapidly. Many more people will have contracted the virus and, sadly, some people will have died. I am not going to attempt to talk about the virus itself. I agree with Jürgen Klopp that football managers have little intelligence to add to our knowledge of how viruses work (what an intelligent answer to a silly question!) and I don't think that most clergy can offer any more than football managers. And having been married to a doctor for over 25 years I hope that I have learned the difference between knowledge based upon personal experience and a little bit of reading and knowledge based upon years of daily practice and study. My wife really knows things and I don't.

What I do want to reflect upon is how we react in a crisis. The very word, crisis, comes from the Greek meaning judgement. In other words, every crisis is a mini day of judgment. It shows us who we really are and if we are prepared to face this reality then a crisis can be a wonderful opportunity for personal growth.

What the crisis of Coronavirus will reveal is what the really important things are in our own lives. People who thought that they could rely on us might discover that we are not much use. Or it might be that they get a pleasant surprise. We might be revealed as someone who is really good in a crisis. Even as you read this you might be reflecting on what you have learned recently about others and about yourself. There is a marvellous passage on this at the beginning of the First Letter of Peter in the New Testament. It talks about how experience of trials and tribulations is like the process in which gold is refined. It may be that all kinds of stuff that seemed to be important will have to go in order to arrive at the real thing, the gold that the refiner has

been looking for. That gold, our best and truest self, is there in every one of us if we are prepared to allow the divine refiner to do his work. Who knows just how much gold will be revealed in the next few weeks and months?

Stephen Winter

THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S OMBERSLEY



**EASTER AT ST ANDREW'S,
OMBERSLEY**

In normal times there would be a very long list of events to be held in church to celebrate the most important Christian Festival of the year. However, these are not normal times and all public acts of worship in the Church of England are suspended in order to comply with official guidance to combat the Corona Virus.

Sadly, therefore, there is no celebration of Easter at church.

Rev Stephen Winter is planning to live stream simple church services – watch for information.

Meanwhile the church building remains open during the day, access through the side door.

It is a large space and you are very welcome to take the opportunity to pray, reflect and be

quiet. The burial ground is also a good place for wandering and thinking while getting fresh air!



So, although we won't see you in church, the churchwardens and PCC of St Andrew's wish all parishioners a happy and healthy Easter.



**Celebrate for Christ is risen -
Alleluia!**

St Andrew's, Ombersley Parish Registers

Baptism

1st March

Alfie David Forty

Funeral

18th March

Maureen Emily Burchell

Interment of Ashes

17th March

Douglas Moule

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 or mail@stephenwinter.net

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, the church is always open during the day – using the side door. There are booklets and cards of prayers available in the basket, on the table to the left of the door, which you may find helpful.

Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council

Good neighbour Network – People make Place

Helpline for anyone in need of help during the pandemic
01905 621123

The line will be open 9.00am – 5.00pm every day
and will be manned by volunteers

Please also visit the websites:

allaboutombersley.com

or the parish council site: <https://www.odpc.co.uk>

GENERAL VILLAGE NEWS

Ombersley Endowed First School

The school continues to be open to children of key workers, so please can everyone take care around school as we need to keep our staff and children safe and healthy. Worcestershire council is providing guidance on how the school will proceed after Easter.

Jane Hill, Chair of Governors

Ombersley Walk Group

We shall resume walks as soon as possible.

Peter Reynolds
Parish Paths Warden
07855 441804

The Memorial Hall will be closed until further notice.

Ombersley History Group

The film evening that should have taken place on 27th March will be rescheduled as soon as the uncertainties associated with coronavirus have passed. Watch this space for details!

Active Coffee

Continue your creative pieces at home!



Want a new social activity?

Have you thought of bowls?

- * Ombersley Cricket Club also have a bowls section.
- * We're always looking for new members of all ages.
- * We run 4 league teams, have friendlies and have Inter-club competitions.
- * We are planning an 'Open-afternoon' early May.....

INTERESTED

Contact:-

June Green: 07906 752210

e-mail:

june.green63@ntlworld.com

to go onto the mailing list – there's always next year!

Ombersley Book Exchange in St Andrews Church

Along the wall by the side door of the Church, we have a rather lovely bookcase with a wide selection of books ready to be taken or exchanged. There is also a bucket for donations. There is space for more books at the moment. If the bookcase is full or overloaded at the time of the Fête, some will be donated to the bookstall.

You are very welcome to come and browse anytime, the Church is open everyday, generally 9.00am till 6.00pm.

Calling Cricket Fans **Scorer Needed**

Ombersley CC are looking for a scorer to support their Worcestershire Division 1 fixtures. Previous experience preferred, but not essential. Renumeration TBA. If interested, please contact Tom Oakley on 07964 522121 The season will, at best, be short this year, but we look forward to 2021.

Ombersley and Doverdale **Parish Council** **Report from the Parish** **Council**

The recent weeks have been dominated by storms and flooding in the parish. Many reports of fallen trees and roads and lanes blocked by flooding have been passed onto Worcestershire Highways who have done a wonderful job keeping our roads moving. There will, of course, be pockets of residual flooding in the lanes in the parish and these will be attended to in due course.

The appearance of potholes usually follows incidents of flooding. Again

these are being reported to County Highways. However, if you are aware of any potholes which require attention, please contact the Clerk to the Council who will be happy to report them on your behalf.

The growing number of incidents of fly-tipping in the parish has also been the source of increasing but understandable annoyance amongst residents. Fly tipping can not only pose a health hazard but is a blight on the beautiful rural area we all live in.

To help combat this, the Parish Council has published some guidance which has been issued by Wychavon DC. This gives residents tips on how they can ensure that any waste is disposed of correctly along with the things to look out for when contacting companies to remove waste.

Unfortunately though, waste continues to be fly tipped so the Parish Council will be arranging for CCTV monitoring to be put in place at known hot-spots in an attempt to identify the perpetrators.

Should you be unfortunate enough to encounter fly tipping, you can report this to Wychavon DC. To make this easier a link to the relevant page (and the form which needs to be completed) has been placed on the All About

Ombersley website - www.allaboutombersley.com.

All of us can do our bit in trying to rid the parish of this anti-social activity. If we are responsible when disposing of our household waste and vigilant in reporting fly tipping when we see it, we will hopefully see a reduction in this illegal activity.

At the February meeting, the Parish Council also decided on its preferred street name for the development at the rear of Bristol House. Many suggestions had been put forward by residents and the Parish Council took all of these into consideration when making its final decision. Finally, after much deliberation the Council decided on Bristol Gardens as its preferred name.

The Council also received feedback on a meeting with County Highways looking at traffic concerns in the vicinity of Holt Fleet bridge following a number of recent accidents. Further discussions will be held in an attempt to find a solution, although a further meeting has regrettably been delayed given the focus of attention on flooding. Further updates will, however, be provided as the discussions progress.

Arrangements are in hand for the refurbishment of the

telephone box in the village and it is hoped that it will be fully restored shortly. The refurbishment of other village 'assets' is also under consideration and will be progressed in the coming weeks and months.

Details of future meetings, together with agendas and minutes from Parish Council meetings and a series of other useful information can be found on the Parish Council's website – www.odpc.co.uk. The Clerk's contact details are also provided should you need to contact him.

Fly Tipping

As a follow-up to the article in last month's magazine, a link has been added to the allaboutombersley.com website to assist with reporting Fly Tipping.

It couldn't be any easier! All you have to do is click on Fly Tipping, which is in the grey box on the front page of the allaboutombersley.com website and then complete the form.

From the Archive

Ombersley Parish Magazine: 1986-1900

School closures due to disease were not uncommon about 120 years ago, but not on the scale of what we are witnessing now. The following are notes in the Ombersley Parish Magazines for 1896, 1897 and 1899 (no magazines for 1898).

June 1897: 'Owing to an outbreak of scarlet fever, Sytchampton School has been closed by order of the Medical Officer of Health and it is hoped that the disease will soon disappear.'

July 1897: 'Ombersley School closed until further notice due to another outbreak of scarlet fever. It is hoped that with care the disease will soon be stamped out, so that the school may begin work again.'

December 1897: 'Ombersley School closed for outbreak of diphtheria.'

March 1899: 'Owing to the continuance of scarlet fever, Ombersley School will be closed until March 20th during which time it will be disinfected. Later reported that reopening was postponed until April 4th.'

The number of burials in St Andrew's Churchyard during 1896, 1897 and 1899 was 40, 28 and 53, respectively (no data for 1898).

We sincerely hope that no records are broken during 2020!

'An up-to-date nursery rhyme'

Two little Churchmen went to Church when fine,
But it started raining and then there were nine,
Nine little Churchmen stayed up very late,
One overslept himself, and then there were eight,
Eight little Churchmen on the way to Heaven,
One joined a rambling club and then there were seven,
Seven little Churchmen hear of Sunday 'flicks,'
One thought he'd like to go and then there were six,
Six little Churchmen kept the place alive;
One bought a television and then there were five,
Five little Churchmen seemed loyal to the core,
The Vicar upset one of them and then there were four,
Four little Churchmen argued heatedly over ceremonial and then
there were three,
Three little Churchmen sang the service through;
Got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two,
Two little Churchmen disputed who should run,
The next Parochial concert, and then there was one.
One faithful Churchman, knowing what to do,
Got a friend to come to Church and then there were two,
Two sincere Churchmen each brought in one more;
So their number doubled and then there were four.
Four sturdy Churchmen simply couldn't wait
Till they found four others and then there were eight.
Eight eager Churchmen seeking round for souls,
Praying, working witnessing, drew others in by shoals.
Shoals and shoals and every service, cramming every pew,
O God, supply this grace and zeal in my own Parish too.

*Published in the Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine,
August 1957*

PEAPOD



Edward Winslow a local boy who made good in America. How many people walk past the rather small statue of Edward Winslow (seen kneeling and inscribed 1620) situated in the 'square' in the centre of Droitwich and wonder who he might be and what he might have done to merit such a memorial?

His family originally came from Kerswell near Kempsey - their house is still there - but since Edward's father was not the eldest, he did not inherit and so moved to Droitwich to try his luck as a

salt trader. In 1594 Edward Winslow {Sr} married Magdalene Oliver and one year later Edward Winslow {Jr} was born locally in **Droitwich**.

In the late 16th century **Puritanism** was a religious reform movement which sought to 'purify' the Church of England. The Winslows were active adherents and so Edward grew up in a family which, to say the least, was radical in its beliefs. Seeds of discontent were already being sown in this bright young lad.

Edward was a pupil at the King's School, Worcester until he left to become an apprentice printer to John Beale in London at the age of 16. However, he fell out with his boss and at the age of 18 moved to Leiden, Holland where he joined the Separatist Church there and helped produce underground pamphlets critical of King James I's **repressive regime**, his church and bishops.

In 1618, whilst still in Holland, Edward married Elizabeth Barker, a Suffolk girl, and, over the next two years, having become one of four leaders with increasing authority in the exile Church, wrote to agents in London regarding the terms by which the Pilgrims might travel to America.

So it was in the Autumn of 1620 the **Mayflower**, having been commissioned with a crew of 30, set sail after two false starts from Plymouth under the Captaincy of Christopher Jones with 102

passengers for the New World. They had a very rough crossing and living in extremely cramped, wet & unsanitary conditions, compounded by a lack of rations, there were two deaths; a crew member & one passenger. Mind you, a baby named *Oceanus* (!) was born *en passage*.

After a 66 day voyage across the Atlantic, they arrived at Cape Cod, now called Provincetown Harbour, in November. Whilst still on-board ship, a document was drawn up called ***The Mayflower Compact*** which set out rules by which the new colony could and should be run; it was signed by most of the adult males.

The first winter was very cold and harsh and, being ill-prepared and poorly supplied, almost half the passengers died from a multitude of problems such as hunger, scurvy and disease. These sadly included Elizabeth, Edward Winslow's wife. Undaunted, Edward married again within the year, the widow of another settler, William White who'd died soon after arrival. Her name was Susanna and she already had two sons. Edward and Susanna went on to have three sons and a daughter.

The colonists worked hard to clear trees and build houses for the settlement: '***a ramshackle village turned almost into a well-defended fortress***'.



Having cleared the land, they then grew crops; they also trapped animals for their meat and fur (for trading purposes); and generally established themselves in their somewhat alien location. Accounts vary as to how well the colonists got on with the indigenous Indians.

There were also some dissenters who caused trouble by criticising the way the new colony was being run. One such, John Billington, was tried and hung in 1630.

The colony was governed, first by two other Pilgrim Fathers, John Carver and William Bradford (who incidentally kept detailed records of the colony's early years) before Edward Winslow became its governor three times in 1633, in 1636, and finally in 1644. He was

also the prime mover in setting up the first Thanksgiving sometime during the late Autumn of 1621 to which over 90 local Indian people of the **Wampanoag** tribe were warmly invited by Edward.

In 1645, Edward returned to England to work for Parliament in its fight against Charles I and later directly for Oliver Cromwell after he became Lord Protector. He never returned to the New Plymouth colony but died in 1655 of yellow fever whilst a Commissioner of an English Naval mission against the Spaniards in the West Indies near Jamaica. He was buried at sea.

There is a memorial to **The Settlers of Green Harbour Marshfield** (which Edward Winslow had founded near New Plymouth before he left for England in 1645) on which his name, his wife's and those of his children as well as that of his brother, Gilbert who'd sailed with him on the **Mayflower**, are to be seen.

Edward Winslow was an influential Pilgrim Father who was prepared to stand up for what he believed in as a Puritan and thus risk his future in an unfamiliar land: The New World. He became an experienced diplomat for New Plymouth as well as its Governor ... all this from a lad born and bred in **Droitwich**. Excellent!

Howard Robinson

THE PARISH OF ST MARY, DOVERDALE

PEW POINTS

Mid-Week Prayer

St Mary's mid-week Morning Prayer service fell on Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is a date in the Christian calendar when the focus of attention is on being sorry for the wrong things which we have done. It is a day to cleanse the soul as the Lent fast begins. Worshippers at Ash Wednesday services are often marked with ashes as a symbol of sorrow for sins.

Songs of Praise on Sunday 23rd February came from Pershore Abbey for a service of prayers, palms and pancakes. Sean Fletcher met the Rev Claire Lording in the grounds of the Abbey as she burnt last year's Palm crosses in preparation for the Ash Wednesday

service. Pershore Abbey used to be three times its current size and was part of a Benedictine Monastery. It has been a place of worship for over 1000 years.

On Ash Wednesday, a group from Churches Together always meet by Pershore Market to go around the streets to ask people if they would like a prayer said for them. This practice is a national initiative inspired in 2009 by the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr John Inge who explained its origin to Sean Fletcher. It began with his standing outside the Job Centre in Redditch collecting prayers and hoping to help those who had been most badly affected by the economic down-turn. Originally called "Say One For Me" (as he was constantly stopped by people saying "Say one for me, Vicar") the now "Pray One For Me" is used by people across the country stepping out in public to collect prayers.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday we all associate with pancakes. The word "Shrove" is a form of the English word "Shrive" which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of confession and doing penance. Thus, Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. The season when Christians give up treats and take on tasks. Hence the using up of all eggs sugar and flour so no temptation is left.

Members of the congregation braved the floods in Doverdale Lane to attend the March 1st Morning Prayer Service, 1st of Lent. Lent is the time for Christians to reconnect with the church and bible as preparations for Easter begin. James Homer led the service and David Terry played the organ. Many thanks to Ann and John Chapman for providing coffee and biscuits afterwards.

World Day of Prayer

This year it was the turn of Rushock Church in our Benefice to host World Day of Prayer on Friday March 6th. This day of celebration is a women led global ecumenical movement and each year the service is written by a different country the Christian women of Zimbabwe prepared this year's service with the focus on Peace, Reconciliation and Love.

A table had been placed in the church to display objects and artefacts representing the Zimbabwean peoples and their culture. A

bowl of maize, sweet potatoes, rice, beans and mushrooms showed the indigenous food of the country and its staple diet.

Dee Cutler led the service and as the stories and challenges met by the Zimbabwean women unfolded, everyone reflected on the difficulties and unrest that had plagued Zimbabwe over many years. Licensed Lay Minister, James Homer, read the lesson from John Chapter 5 and retired Reader Rosemary had been invited to give the address.

Many thanks to Nick Wright who led us through the songs also to all those who participated in the service which was part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, beginning as the sun rose over Samoa and ending some 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun set over American Samoa.

Afterwards the hall next door was available for people to mingle and chat and soup and rolls were served to everyone.

WELCOME to Scott Wolfenden who very kindly came to play the organ for us at our service of Morning Prayer on Sunday 8th March. Hopefully, Scott will be able to join us again at St Mary's.

Coronavirus COVID-19 Local Government Response

During these challenging and unusual times, we thought it would be helpful to outline the response from local government. The note below written on 24/3/2020 is from our three local representatives Cllr Judy Goodman – Chairman Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council; Cllr Chris Day – Wychavon District Councillor for Ombersley Ward and Executive Board Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing and Cllr Peter Tomlinson DL – Chairman of Worcestershire County Council.

Dear Ombersley and Doverdale Resident,

All three levels of local government in Ombersley, the Parish Council, Wychavon District Council and the Country Council are working together to keep essential services operating and to assist residents in meeting the challenges created by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Ombersley residents are already beginning to help neighbours with shopping, prescriptions, and keeping in touch. Indeed, it is already clear that for us to succeed we will need the help of the whole community.

The Parish Council is leading the response to bring together those able to volunteer with those who would like some help. The poster in this online edition of the Parish Magazine explains how to get help and where to get the most up to date information. **Please, if you need help, do get in touch.**

The Government has made it clear that local councils – at all levels - are a crucial part of the response to this national crisis and have asked us to not only maintain as many services as possible, but in particular to support the Government's key priorities.

These are:

- To maintain adult social care
- To support the elderly and vulnerable (this includes people suffering financial hardship)
- To support the local economy

Wychavon District Council – please see

www.wychavon.gov.uk/coronavirus for latest information.

Wychavon District Council has reviewed and updated its business continuity plans and identified the critical functions it will maintain to support the Government's priorities.

Below are details of some of these actions.

Waste and recycling/street cleansing/litter bins

Wychavon will aim to maintain waste and recycling collections for the duration of the outbreak. To do this it may be necessary to stop certain other services – street cleaning, emptying of litter bins etc – at certain times depending on how many staff are self-isolating or off sick.

Any disruption to service will be reported on the Wychavon website. You can get email alerts directly to your inbox by visiting the following address www.wychavon.gov.uk/email-alerts.

Planning

Planning Enforcement conditions are being relaxed in relation to the movement of food and supplies to support retailers to stock shelves with essential items. It may take longer to process and approve applications and Wychavon are suspending public speaking at planning committee meetings and encouraging written responses instead.

Support for businesses and people in need

The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Income Tax payments
- a Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs)
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England

- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme

Those items related to Business Rates will be administered through the District Council. As this is a rapidly changing area it is best for local businesses to refer to the COVID-19 Support for Business page on the GOV.UK website for updates.

As a council Wychavon are taking the following additional steps:

- Increasing the speed of payment of invoices to small businesses
- Increasing funding for our Council Tax Support scheme to help those in need

Homelessness

Wychavon will receive additional money from the Government to support rough sleepers the majority of whom suffer from a respiratory condition. Wychavon is working with its outreach team to identify what measures are needed to support this group of people.

Worcestershire County Council please see <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The role of the County in the current crisis is to act as a conduit to all 6 districts in the county, passing down all those measures for districts to carry out as Wychavon are doing. At the same time, we have to keep running the vital services we provide for children, adults, highways and healthcare... safely.

Currently highways are still dealing with the aftermath of the floods, additional gully emptiers are out in all districts. The worst potholes are being repaired in many cases temporarily until a more permanent fix in the summer.

All buses are running a Saturday frequency. Since Friday passenger numbers have fallen by 42%.

Worcestershire County Council is monitoring and providing the arrangement for Critical Workers Childcare. It's Covid 19 page includes guidance on social distancing and protecting the vulnerable as well as links to the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Worcestershire County Council website also has the following links that may be of help and interest to some Ombersley residents:

- Guidance for schools, colleges and universities
- Guidance for those involved with foster care, social or community care and residential settings.
- Guidance for unpaid carers
- Advice for the transport sector.

The biggest burden as you might imagine has fallen on our Director of Public Health Dr Kath Cobain and her team. They have been on duty 24 hours a day. I have been in touch with her and her team not only as County Chairman but as someone in rigorous self-isolation with a wife undergoing chemotherapy, and therefore especially vulnerable. One of the biggest problems has been to get the general public to follow the advice of self-distancing and self-isolation. Please see #Here2Help on the Worcestershire County council website. I urge everyone to take the Government advice seriously. Let me give you an example. It has been calculated that 8% of people over 70 with underlying health problems (i.e. most of us) will die if we catch Covid-19, that doubles to 16% if we happen to be on chemotherapy. That

leaves only one option for us. Make sure we don't catch it. Please play your part.

We hope that all Ombersley residents keep safe and closely follow the Government's advice over the coming months.

With kind regards,

Cllr Judy Goodman – Chairman Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council

Cllr Chris Day – Wychavon District Councillor for Ombersley Ward and Executive Board Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Cllr Peter Tomlinson DL – Chairman of Worcestershire County Council

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From the Editors

Please note that from now on, content should be sent by email to BOTH Lynne and Maureen. Items that cannot be sent by email should be delivered to either Lynne or Maureen. Judy Baer will still be part of the editorial team.

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