

In Touch

<https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

News for the villages of Colsterworth, Woolsthorpe, Stainby, Gunby, North Witham and Lobthorpe

Edited by Stuart Whitcombe 5 Stephenson Close, NG33 5GP 0777 323 0815 InTouchCopy@gmail.com

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Colsterworth & District Parish Council

COLSTERWORTH AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS AND OFFICE HOURS

From 1st January 2026 the Colsterworth and District Parish Council office hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Worked flexibly over 17 hrs per week.

The Parish Council email address remains:

clerk@colsterworthanddistpc.co.uk

The Parish Council telephone number remains:

01476 861888

Eleanor Parfitt: Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Colsterworth and District Parish Council.

A note of thanks from the outgoing Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer - Sue Grant

"Thank you to all Parish Councillors, past and present, especially Cllrs Caroline Hainsworth (Vice Chair) and Ellis O'Neill (Chair) for their continued support; to Mo Taylor and the dedicated Nature Trail volunteers who have made the trail such a treasured community asset; to the 'In Touch' volunteers; and to everyone else whose contributions are too numerous to list. I would also like to thank my husband Steve, whom I have called upon on numerous occasions for support with various Parish Council practical tasks—some easier than others.

As I prepare to retire from my role as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for all of your hard work and unwavering support over the last eight years. This job would not have been the same without your dedication and positive attitudes. I will treasure the memories of working alongside the Parish Council on projects such as War Memorial Restoration Project, The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for the late Queen Elizabeth II, installation of five Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and many more achievements. Your contributions have made a real difference to our parish, and you have certainly touched my life along the way.

I'm incredibly excited for this next chapter and wish you all the very best for your own futures. I hope retirement brings me more time for travelling and seeing family.

With warmest thanks, best wishes and welcome to the incoming Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Eleanor Parfitt.

Sue Grant



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Parish Council Report

Your headlines from the Parish Council (PC) Meeting
2nd December 2025

Parish Clerk - 01476 861888
clerk@colsterworthanddistpc.co.uk

Full minutes and reports are available on the Colsterworth and District Website (Search "Colsterworth and District Parish Council" and find the agendas and minutes under "Council Business": <https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business>

PUBLIC FORUM:

Cllr E. O'Neill (Chair) opened the meeting and invited the one member of the public to speak. They said they had come to raise four issues listed below: -

1. Waste collection issues on Reeds Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth. Pre-dating collection changes, collections are being missed. They would like small-van collection re-instated as it is not practical to drive a full-size bin lorry along Reeds Lane.
2. Request for a permanent fix for the A1 North junction at Bridge End which regularly floods. Cllr C Vernon stated that it's a Highways England issue, but she will raise with Alicia Kearns, MP. A short discussion followed regarding A1 gap closure timeframe and the current speed limit. Cllr C Vernon explained the work is planned in stages.
3. Request that the Parish Council write to the occupants of two properties on Woolsthorpe regarding hedge maintenance as the hedge is encroaching on the footpath.
4. The member of the public expressed their thanks to outgoing Clerk Sue Grant and for her support over the years.

Cllr E. O'Neill (Chair) thanked the member of the public and expressed that these points will be raised on their behalf.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Cllr E O'Neill (Chair) thanked everyone for attending the meeting. They stated that this was to be Clerk S. Grant's last meeting as Clerk with new Clerk E. Parfitt receiving training until the end of December ahead of a formal handover in January. They thanked Clerk S. Grant for their service and efforts regarding recruitment and handover.

Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Councillors Report:

LCC Cllr C. Vernon reported: -

1. Avian flu cases locally. All registered owners will have received a letter.
2. LLC led research on accessibility and opening times for Household Recycling Centres. Request for feedback via <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/hwrc>.

3. There was a short discussion regarding local government re-organisation with a timeframe of 2027/2028 for decisions.
4. A1 gaps – Alicia Kearns, MP pushing hard with Highways England on gap closure. Local lay-by closure being investigated.

SKDC Cllr D. Bellamy reported: -

1. Reported attendance of SKDC Local Plan Working Group meeting earlier in the day. Final Document planned to be ready by February 2026. Changes to include the new targets. Advised Cllrs to view 2024 version for comparison. Raised concerns over impact to infrastructure i.e. oversubscribed school and GP surgery in Colsterworth.

SKDC Cllr B. Green sent their apologies. Report circulated to Cllrs following the meeting.

Updates for Council administration:

1. Draft 2026/2027 Budget unanimously agreed.
2. 2026/2027 Precept Setting of £44,801.00 unanimously agreed.
3. Mid-Year Internal Audit Report unanimously accepted.

It was agreed to take the following actions for the incoming Clerk E. Parfitt:

4. To add the incoming Clerk to the HSBC Signatory Mandate and associated permissions for them to .

Finance:

Accounts for payment were approved by Council.

Highways & Footpaths Working Group Report (Cllr C Hainsworth) Ad-hoc report:

No report this month. All Fix My Street (FMS) Reports can be found at <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Nature Trail:

The volunteers are looking forward to the Christmas Break after all their hard work on the Nature Trail this year. A gathering has been arranged for Friday 12th December at the White Lion pub. Thank you to Bob and his staff for offering to provide the snacks.

Nature Trail Information/Map Boards:

It was agreed to create a Highways and Footpaths Working Group with Cllrs D. Heath French, C. Russell, and T. O'Regan volunteering to take the project forward.

Clerks Report & day to day business:

1. Three blocked drains on Steels Lane and the High Street reported to FMS Refs: 2860349, 2860348 2860347. On 7th November Highways reported they were not taking any action because they did not consider the blocked drains were causing a serious highway safety or property flooding issue.

2. Further information requested and submitted by the Clerk for SKDC Planning Application S25/1979 Cemetery Extension Old Post Lane, Colsterworth. 17/11/2025.
3. New Clerk E. Parfitt appointed on 17th November 2025. The outgoing Clerk S. Grant will provide training to the incoming Clerk E. Parfitt until 31st December 2025.
4. The Internal Audit was carried out by Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils on 21st November 2025.
5. The SKDC Precept Calculator and Form were received on 21st November 2025. Submission deadline 16th January 2026.
6. Woolsthorpe Road, Kiosk defibrillator found to be not rescue-ready due to low battery. Replacement battery received and installed.
7. Cllrs Steve Jordan-Bird, Caroline Hainsworth and Clerks S. Grant and E. Parfitt attended a meeting with the site Manager of Heritage Quarry Group Limited (HQGL) regarding the quarry lorries using Woolsthorpe Road. Agreed to send a map of the preferred route avoiding Woolsthorpe Road to HQGL to be shared with the contract drivers.

Correspondence received:

Summary below: - Full details can be found on the Parish Council Website

<https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business>

SKDC Planning Applications:

S25/1979 - Change of use of agricultural field to cemetery Old Post Lane Cemetery Extension, Old Post Lane , Colsterworth
 S25/2188 - Erection of boundary fencing and gate, Manor House, Church Street, North Witham, Lincolnshire, NG33 5LH
 S25/2189 - Erection of boundary fencing and gate, Manor House , Church Street, North Witham, Lincolnshire, NG33 5LH
 S25/2259 - Trim overhanging branch of Horse Chestnut tree (TPO-243). The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, North Witham, Lincolnshire, NG33 5LQ
 S25/2264 - First floor extension over the existing garage and two storey extension to the rear of garage. 6 Turnor Close, Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, NG335JH.

Planning Inspectorate Appeal

APP/E2530/W/25/3368705 - The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for change of use from Use Class C3 (Dwellinghouse) to Use Class C2 (flexible use under Part 3, Class V of GPDO) as a children's care home at 9A School Lane, Colsterworth NG33 5NW

SKDC Planning Permission

S25/1437 - Installation of three items of interactive equipment for children to the lower farm-yard.
 Location: Woolsthorpe Manor 23 Newton Way, Woolsthorpe By Colsterworth Lincolnshire NG33 5NR

S25/1469 - Submission of details reserved by conditions 3 (proposed joinery works), 4 (boundary treatments), 5 (noise and dust management plan) and 6 (local plan policy SB1 and SD1) of planning permission S24/1505 (Conversion of an existing outbuilding to form one separate dwelling)

S25/1484 - Single storey extension.

8 Back Lane Colsterworth Lincolnshire NG33 5NJ

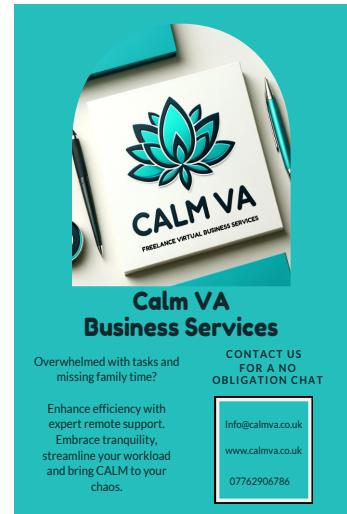
S25/1696 - Proposed new garage. 37 Woolsthorpe Road Woolsthorpe By Colsterworth Lincolnshire NG33 5NT
 S25/1469 - SKDC Planning Refusal of Trees Protected by Tree Preservation area. S25/1807 - Crown reduction works to a mature Horse Chestnut tree (TPO 59). 21 Woodlands Drive Colsterworth, Lincolnshire NG33 5NH

Matters Requiring attention:

Cllr D. Heath French requested investigation into storage of the road closure signs for Remembrance Sunday.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting is
 Tuesday 3rd February 2026.

Methodist Church Hall, Back Lane, Colsterworth.



Colsterworth WI November 27th 2025

A change of venue and a week later than normal for the November meeting of Colsterworth WI. Instead of the usual Village Hall, there was a warm welcome waiting at the White Lion pub on the High Street. Blazing fires and superb Christmas decorations greeted the ladies as they gathered for the 108th Anniversary lunch.

The Women's Institute movement was begun in Canada in 1897. The first group was started in Great Britain in the village of Llanfairpwll in Wales in 1915. Colsterworth WI was the first in this area being set up in 1917. We are proud of our place in history as the oldest active Institute in the South Lincolnshire Federation. Ironically, the first Women's Institute meeting was held in the building known as the Men's Institute! Situated on the High Street, nearly opposite the old Co-op, it was also known, perhaps hopefully, as the Reading Rooms when it was endowed by Christopher Turnor in 1830 to try to counteract the pernicious influence of inns and beer houses! Fortunately, the ladies of Colsterworth WI were more than happy to frequent the White Lion public house for their anniversary lunch and 24 members sat down ready to enjoy themselves.

Helen, our President, had wisely decided to have the business section before the food arrived.

She rattled through it with her customary aplomb. Birthday cards and good wishes were given to Gillian, Sue and Brenda.

Members learned that this year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held in the church of St John the Baptist from 19th December until January 6th. It was agreed to revisit the theme of 'Bells' for the decoration of the WI entry. Names of volunteers to help set up the tree will be taken at the December meeting. There was an invitation to attend the Deeping St James Annual Carol Concert on Monday, December 1st and details of the forthcoming 'Resolutions Day' at Cranwell Village Hall on Friday January 16th were given. This last notice reminded members that the 2026 Resolutions process is already well underway. Five resolutions have been put forward for members' perusal culminating in a vote at next year's annual meeting to be held in June. Colsterworth WI has been selected to attend the meeting. Sadly, on this occasion, as the meeting is to be remote, members will be listening and watching on Zoom. The live event is in 2027, probably at the Royal Albert Hall in London, but Colsterworth will not be in the running to go, having been selected for 2026. Heigh ho, such is life, as they say. Helen finished by announcing that the 2026 Federation Annual Meeting will be held at Springfields, Spalding on Saturday, March 26th next year. Something to look forward to, the speakers are always excellent. Our next general meeting will be at Colsterworth Village Hall on January 20th 2026 with us having a go at "Seated Yoga".

Plenty to discuss as Helen sat down and the ladies prepared to start their lunch. With the wonderful, ever helpful Ellie in charge of the dining room, ably assisted by Luke and Evie, the first course was soon on the table. Members had the choice of baked Stilton mushrooms, soup, King Prawns or tomato and mozzarella salad. Plates were soon emptied and cleared, making way for the main course: salmon, braised beef, creamy chicken or mushroom risotto with the usual White Lion array of freshly cooked seasonal vegetables. Phil and his team worked their customary magic, everything was spot on and the ladies thoroughly enjoyed their meal. Several members had a pudding, there was a good choice of hot or cold offerings, all looked delicious.

As Ellie, Luke and Evie served the coffee and tea, Helen called the raffle, honouring that well-known tradition: 'If it's Colsterworth, there will be a raffle!' After such a delicious meal, members were relaxed and enjoyed chatting with their fellow diners. The room was warm and cosy, there was a good excuse to linger, the last members leaving at about 3.30pm. Many thanks to Phil, Bob and team for the excellent food and the friendly hospitality.

Colsterworth Women's Institute

Diary Dates 2026

Tuesday 20th January, 2pm
Colsterworth Village Hall

Tuesday 17th February, 2pm
Colsterworth Village Hall

Please Don't Litter



Help Keep Your Community Clean

COLSTERWORTH  **RTH**
Festival of Remembrance

Military Plaques Required

Have you ever served in the Armed Forces or have a family member that has in the past? If so then we would love your contributions to our military wall within the White Lion.

If you have any Unit, Division, Corps or Single Service plaque then we would love to see them placed on the village military wall.

Any donations to Bob Prentice

This is in support of the Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance (CForR).

Any questions to David Heath French at davidheathfrench@gmail.com



www.cfor.org.uk

Dog waste bins provided by the Parish Council which are situated in the following locations.

Old Post Lane junction Water Lane

West End of the Nature Trail

The Nature Trail behind Woolsthorpe Play Area

Footpath 18 near river

Stamford Road near allotment

School Lane where it meets footpath 20



If the Parish Council Dog waste bins are full you can use an SKDC litter bin with the dog waste accepted logo.

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The White Lion

Date	Opening Hours	Food
Thurs 1st Jan	12-9pm	12-6pm
Fri 2nd Jan	12-11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Sat 3rd Jan	12-11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Sun 4th Jan	12-8pm	12-4pm
Mon 5th Jan – Sunday 11th Jan	CLOSED	

Winter Opening Hours Starting Mon 12th Jan

Day	Opening Hours	Food
Monday	12-11pm	12-3pm
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday	12-9pm	12-3pm, 5pm-8pm
Thursday	12-11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Friday	12-11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Saturday	12-11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Sunday	12-8pm	12-4pm




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FOCUS

The FOCUS Group has been quite busy since our last In Touch report. The summer has been and gone and we have had our yearly members barbecue, fully subsidised by the club funds. Always a popular event with around 30 members attending, that was August the 4th and then on the 13th August 30 members and friends went on the Trent from Colwick for a 3hr cruise with lunch and the weather was glorious. Everyone was on very good form and really enjoyed the fact that we are getting out and about as a group, more like old times.

We regularly have between 25 and 30 members attending our Monday sessions, still very good value for £2.50. We have just celebrated 13 years since the FOCUS Group was formed. So much has happened in that time. Not least the COVID outbreak which did have somewhat of an impact on our members, but we bounced back and here we are today, still enjoying our Monday mornings with the great support of our stalwart members.

We held our yearly in house competition in November with 32 members taking part, Stewart Atkinson won the trophy and Diane Lacy came a close second, after which we all enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch. At the height of our membership we had around 74 names on our books, we had a waiting list to join, all wanting to play Kurling and it was in 2017 that we started the Thursday group. The two groups ran side by side until 2 years ago when it was decided to go our separate ways. I was sad at the time but like all things, change happens, fortunately the two groups are now running very successfully, independently. Kurling has become such a popular activity in the village, enough to keep the two groups going.

By the time this goes to print, FOCUS will have had our Christmas Lunch at the White Lion which once again we were able to subsidise from club funds and we are always grateful to Bob and Phil for putting on such a good lunch for us. FOCUS is a member's club and we do like to give our members as much back as we can. The friendship and camaraderie is evident on a Monday morning, our youngest member being in their early forties and our oldest members are in their early 90's and everyone else somewhere in-between, age is not a barrier, Kurling is for everyone.

Monday mornings at 10am in the village hall is where we like to be, it puts a smile on everyone's face. If you are new to the village or are interested in finding out more, come along, first session is free, it's a great way to meet new friends and you might enjoy it! Perhaps see you there sometime.

From the FOCUS Group, we'd like to wish our members and all the In Touch readers

A Very Happy New Year and of course, keep Kurling into 2026.

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Poet's Corner

Changing Times (1)

She sits at the old cottage window
And watches them pass to and fro.
She wonders aloud as she watches the crowd,
'Where do they come from? Where do they
go?'

The cars drive past, quickly and slowly,
Lorries, trucks, vans and some bikes.
Some folk walk out with their dogs on the
lead,
Some of their phones count their 'likes.'

And some wheel their prams and their
pushchairs
With their infants all facing away.
They talk on their phone, but not to their
own...
"It wasn't like that in my day!"

Peter Baldock

Changing Times (2)

In my Grandmother's time, she would go to
the shops,
And she'd walk there, or go on the bus.
She bought what she needed for two or three
days,
And it didn't seem much of a fuss.

She would meet up with friends, as they did
the same thing,
And she'd stop in the street for a natter.
If she travelled by bus, there'd be people she
knew,
So she'd sit on the seat and just chatter.

We now shop online; the van comes to our
door
And the shopping is put in the hall.
We unpack the bags, and we put it away,
And we've spoken to no-one at all!

Peter Baldock

A Fairy Story

I walked along the nature trail,
It was just becoming dusk,
To take the little children,
To see the fairy dust.

We sat there very quiet,
And did not make a sound,
Looking at Christmas glitter,
Hanging all around.

All of them were put up,
By lots of volunteers,
To decorate the nature trail,
So give them three big cheers.

Then we saw some movement,
Coming through the trees,
It was the Elves and Fairies,
In ones and twos and threes.

They waved their golden wands,
And with a flash of light,
They lit up all the baubles,
What a lovely sight.

JDD Hincks

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Treasurer	Carol Wheatley	07936 437018
Secretary	Peter Baldock	860293
PCC Members	Jan Sweetland	07969 666525

Services for January at St John the Baptist Church:

4 th January	11:00am Morning Prayer	Peter Wheatley Churchwarden
11 th January	11:00am Morning Prayer	Steve Potts Reader
18 th January	11:00am Holy Communion	Revd Jill Potts
25 th January	11:00am Morning Prayer	Angela Grimwood ALM

OTHER EVENTS

Church Cleaning: 13th January 9:30am with coffee and chat after

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED OR SUPPORTED THE CHURCH IN 2025 AND BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR 2026.

As we are without a resident vicar, our services are led by visiting clergy or lay volunteers, with tea, coffee and biscuits after each service. Wedding, Baptism or Funeral Services can be arranged, please contact Peter, Churchwarden.

For more information on services, or the church, please see social media, our website www.achurchnearyou.com/St-John-the-Baptist-Colsterworth or Peter, Churchwarden.

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Minister: Rev'd Neil Maynard,
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 Tel: 01476 564191
 Email: neil.maynard@methodist.org.uk



Village Contact :
 Pamela Harrison – 07716 427995

COLSTERWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

January 2026

Our services will be in the church, however we will also be zooming 2 services a month from the building internet permitting. If you are interested in joining our services by zoom, please email helenscorpor@outlook.com or phone 07921 914461 for more details.

Our services for January are:

Date	Time	Service	Preacher	Flowers
4 th	10:30am	Morning Worship	Elaine Robinson	Gill Dexter
11 th	10:30am	Morning Worship	Marion Hingley-Hickson	Margaret Winn
18 th	10:30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Hinch	Gill Senescall
25 th	10:30am	Covenant Service at Skillington		

Open Door Lunch – Wednesday 14th & 28th January 11:45am – 1:30pm.

During the Winter months we will be opening over lunchtime and serving soup and a roll followed by either a hot pudding or cake plus of course offering lots of chat. We welcome people of all and no faith to join us and of all ages. Our book and jigsaw library will be available for you to browse and borrow from.

Games/Craft & Chat Group – Wednesday 7th & 21st January – 2:00-3:30pm.

Bring your own craft along and join our group for a cuppa, a chat and maybe an opportunity to learn new skills. Or alternatively come and have a chat over a game of dominoes. Everyone welcome.

Villages Diary January 2026

Wed 7 th	2-3:30pm	Games/Craft & Chat	Methodist Church Hall
No data yet available		Mobile Library	Colster Way
Wed 14 th	12 noon-1:30pm	Open Door Lunch	Methodist Church Hall
Mon 12 th	7:30pm	Garden Club	Colsterworth Village Hall
Wed 21 st	2-3:30pm	Games/Craft & Chat	Methodist Church Hall
Tue 20 th	2pm	Women's Institute	Colsterworth Village Hall
Wed 28 th	12 noon-1:30pm	Open Door Lunch	Methodist Church Hall

Weekly

Mondays	10am-noon	FOCUS Kurling	Village Hall
	12:30pm	Merry Widower(s)	(1 st Monday) White Lion
	6:30pm-7:30pm	Pilates	North Witham Village Hall
Tuesdays		Dementia Singing Group	(1 st Tuesday) South Witham Village Hall
	1pm	Free Chair Yoga	(2 nd Tuesday) Methodist Church
	6pm-7pm	Yoga	Methodist Church
	6pm-7pm	Beavers	(Term time) Village Hall
Wednesdays	11:45am -1:30pm	Open Door	(2 nd & 4 th Weeks) Methodist Church
	12:30pm	Lunch	(3 rd Wednesday) North Witham Village Hall
	6:30pm -7:30pm	Pilates	Methodist Church
Thursdays	2pm-3:30pm	Craft & Chat	(1 st & 3 rd Weeks) Methodist Church
	10am-noon	Rolling Stones Kurling	Village Hall
	6pm - 7:15pm	Cubs	(Term time) Village Hall
	6:30pm-7:30pm	Pilates	North Witham Village Hall
Fridays	7:30pm-8:45pm	Scouts	(Term time) Village Hall
Saturdays	7:30pm-9:30pm	Weekly Bingo	Sports & Social Club
	10am-12noon	Football Coaching	Sports Field
	10am-11am	Breakfast	(1 st Sunday) North Witham Village Hall

Copy for next month's issue of In Touch must arrive by noon on
 Tuesday 13th January 2026

Email contributions to InTouchCopy@gmail.com

The deadline date is final and copy may not be included if there is a shortage of space.

Please submit your copy as early as possible.

Images and/or artwork submitted in digital formats **MUST** be at a resolution of 300dpi.

Ensure that you put your contact details on any submission.

Send or deliver hard copy to 5 Stephenson Close, Colsterworth NG33 5GP (Tel: 07773 230815).

Remember to give dates of future meetings if you want them to appear in the Villages' Diary.

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