

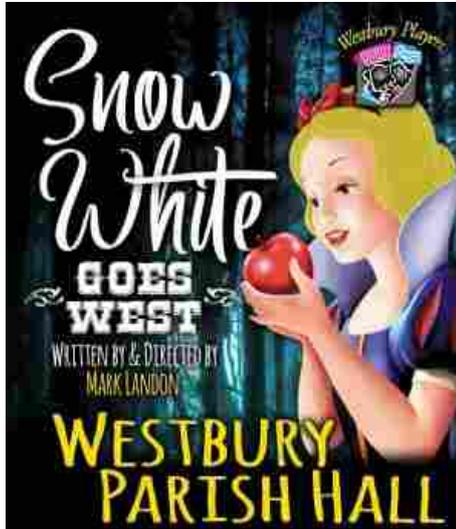


Socially distanced rehearsing!

Adele may have cried off playing Las Vegas but Westbury Players press on! Notwithstanding a slight delay due to Covid restrictions prior to Christmas, we have rearranged dates (see overleaf) and rehearsals are back in full swing. Unlike previous years, requests for the cast to learn their lines have been supplemented with requirements for lateral flow tests, face masks, checks on air quality with CO2 monitors and all sorts of things we had never heard of when last rehearsing back in 2019/2020. The sets are painted, courtesy of Sue Pemberton, and May Brass is hard at work stitching the costumes together. The cast have responded magnificently,

showing considerable forbearance in these times to bring you a night of enjoyment, laughter, excellent food and a chance to meet up with friends and relations. We have reduced the capacity a little in order that the audience may feel more comfortable, the 120 capacity of the past was always a bit of a squeeze anyway. In addition the Parish Hall has prudently invested in air purifiers which, if they are good enough for schools across the nation, are good for us as well.

We will be putting on a matinee on the Sunday for the junior members of the community whose demands for a bar at the interval are less urgent than the adults, and tickets for that are selling well.



Friday 24th Feb 7.30pm Non-meal night
 Sat 25th Feb 7.30pm—with meal
 Sun 26th Feb Matinee at 3pm
 Friday 4th March 7.30pm—with meal
 Sat 5th March SOLD OUT

TICKETS:
Meal night: £17.50
Non-meal night: £7.50
Matinée: £5
£3 child under 16
1 child free with every paying adult

We are sold out for the Saturday 5th March performance, but tickets for the February 24th (no meal), 25th (sumptuous meal) and 26th Feb and 4th March (equally sumptuous meal) are still available,

Please contact Dave D'Ambrogio on 01452 760630 to book yours if you haven't done so already - you won't find this on Netflix !

Apparently Snow White has taken up a new career as a judge. After all, she's the fairest of them all.

Parish Council

Our first meeting of 2022 was attended by the full number of nine parish councillors, our clerk Fiona Wallbank and one parishioner. Philip Robinson, our County Councillor, arrived as the formalities finished and so he then gave us his report.

This began with details of the County Council's proposed budget for 2022/23 of nearly £520m, which is a 7.6% increase on the previous level of spending. £100m of this will be spent on roads and £150m on school buildings. Each County councillor is allocated £30k to spend during the year on highways schemes within their division. A £300k Community Speedwatch Safety Fund is also being

proposed, which would enable the council to work with



district, town and parish councils and residents to identify communities where speed awareness activity like a '20 is plenty' campaign would make a difference to community safety.

The budget proposes a council tax increase of 1.99%, plus a 1% adult social care levy which, based on a band D property, equates to a monthly increase of about £3.50. Despite the increase, the county council still expects to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council. The final budget will be decided upon at the February County Council meeting.

Philip then reminded us about a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner at Hartpur Village Hall the following

day, and that applications for the Build Back Better fund need to be sent in soon as several applications have already been successful. As he is often asked to chase up Highways matters, it was good to start the year with some praise, when Chairman Simon Phelps reported that he had e-mailed Highways about broken railings on Horseman's Bridge, Boseley on New Year's Day which, in spite of the Bank Holiday, were fixed by 4th January.

Planning

There was only one planning application, which was for the erection of an agricultural storage building at Boseley Court in which Chairman Simon declared an interest and so left the room. After some discussion, it was agreed, with one abstention, to object to the proposal on the grounds that there were concerns whether this was for agricultural use. Fiona then updated us on a planning decision to refuse the change of use of an agricultural building off Goose Lane to a dwelling.

There was no further news regarding the proposed development at Churcham.

Finance

The monthly accounts were agreed and Fiona had sent us all a copy of the updated budget proposal for 2022/23.

Burial Ground As reported last month, the costs of the school playing field and the burial ground extension have meant that we now have to borrow £52,000 from the Public Works Loan Board, which has made it necessary to increase the Parish precept this year. The increase per household, based on a band D property, will be £8.55 per annum. We appreciate that everyone could do without this increase on top of other rising prices but when you consider that this equates to around 16.4p per week per household, it does not seem exorbitant when you consider that this will provide an excellent playing field for the children of the parish for years to come, as well as giving all our residents

the option of being laid to rest in their own parish near their family, friends and neighbours. The parishioner who had attended the meeting spoke about the lack of consultation with parishioners and felt that many residents would know nothing about this. However, it was explained that parish councillors had been unanimous in the decision to go ahead with this work and that they had done so as representatives of the parish population. The matter had been discussed at nearly every meeting over the last two years, the minutes of which are accessible to all, and yet there had only been three objections from over 700 households.

Highways

There was considerable discussion regarding the state of our roads and road safety in the parish. Hunt Hill, the Grange Court railway bridge, Goose Lane, Rodley Road and the road between Stantway and Gatwick House are all



badly in need of attention but Chairman Simon has checked these with our Highways manager and it appears that job numbers have now been allocated to Hunt Hill and the railways bridge which means that work should be starting soon there. He will chase up the work on Goose Lane and Rodley Road (where the potholes have at least been marked) and he is very aware of the poor state of the Stantway/Gatwick road but Highways are having to wait for Severn Trent to confirm that their works are completed before they can allocate funds to this.

Play Area

Mike Townsend has been busy carrying out various repairs and the net is next on

his list.

Footpaths

Fiona had invited Jeff Wheeler from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team to the meeting to talk about a footpath that was reported as blocked and unwalkable as far back as 2016, but he was unable to attend. However, he had written to the landowner concerned and hopes that this will lead to a satisfactory solution. If not, enforcement action will be taken. He also explained that not much work was being done in Westbury at the moment, largely because a lot of work had been done in the parish earlier in the financial year.

Climate Change

I reported that the Forest of Dean Climate Action Steering Group is hoping to set up a resource/information library and a list of trusted installers to assist people wishing to insulate their homes or install greener forms of heating. Kempley Parish Council will be holding a meeting soon about heat pumps which will be attended by a local supplier and people who have had them installed, and a Climate Action Day is to be held at West Dean Centre when parish councillors can hear about local initiatives and look at how we can increase what is already being done for the environment.

The Forest of Dean District Council is the only council in the UK to be involved in a Europe-wide project led by a university in Madrid to tackle the climate emergency at a local level. This an EU funded project

called
the
Aurora
Project
which
aims to
help
commu-



nities lower their carbon footprint and give residents the opportunity to offset some of their more unavoidable carbon

emissions. The idea is to form a group of interested residents who will pilot the use of an energy awareness app, which enables you to view your individual carbon footprint and that of your community and then try to reduce the emissions. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at next month's meeting with a view to inviting Westbury residents to participate in this exciting project.

Platinum Jubilee

The Forest of Dean District Council is encouraging the celebration of this event in June and will be planting some trees to mark the occasion. There will be a Thanksgiving service at the church and several events taking place at the Parish Hall (see page 7).

Future meetings The next meeting will be on Monday 21st Feb (the usual 3rd Monday of the month) but the March and April meetings will be on the 2nd Monday of the month (14th March and 11th April).

Di Landon

Closed Churchyard

We are having a break from our churchyard working parties at the moment. January and February are not the best months to tempt people to spend a morning outdoors and we thought that a short break will mean that we come back in March with renewed enthusiasm. In the meantime, Simon Phelps is going to deal with removing the dead branches from the cedar tree and James Walkley-Cox is doing a grand job on levelling some of the ant-hills – so much so that it has led to fears that the wild boar have invaded! So our next session, weather permitting, will be on Sat 12th March from 10am – 1pm. It is always a satisfying and enjoyable morning so do come and join us if you can.

Di Landon



Westbury Parish Hall



**Playgroup
for Grown-Ups**

**Wednesday February 16th
7.30pm**

Card night

Why not join us for some card and board games along with a hot drink and cake - £3 a session. To date we have decorated glass tea light holders and our last venture was bauble wreaths.

In March, we will start to put together our planters for the village and Parish Hall and any help and advice would be welcome.

We are applying for a grant to help us with this project.



The Parish Hall Management Committee is currently meeting via Zoom every month due to Covid. As not much has been going on, there was little to report under “matters arising” at our January meeting, although Sarah Mitten, our Treasurer announced that, as the result of the recent fire risk assessment, the plan of the hall layout had been moved to more prominent positions in both entrances, to assist the emergency services. Chair, Jan D’Ambrogio added that discussions with Alcooper, who supply the alarm system, were continuing.

Forthcoming AGM

It was proposed that the Committee write to all user groups to remind them of the AGM, to be held on Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm. Mark Brill asked for confirmation that members of the public would be welcome to attend, and Jan confirmed that they most certainly would be.

Treasurer’s Report.

Sarah had circulated the latest figures, and observed that our finances were in good health despite price rises. Funds had been allocated for the purchase of air purifiers for the hall and for the repair of the roadside sign and for the mighty extractor fan, called Edna, which has now been installed in the kitchen. Sarah added that we should publicise the installation of the air purifiers, although Gen Riley cautioned that they could not be claimed to provide covid protection. On the debit side, electricity price rises had increased our annual bill by £2,000, waste collection costs had increased by more than

10% and funds were required for the repair of the roadside sign, repairs to the toilets and a draught excluder in the bar cellar. During the ensuing discussion a wide range of suggestions to reduce costs were aired, including encouraging people to turn off unnecessary lights and the installation of solar panels. Gen Riley offered Mick Riley's assistance into looking at the possibility of solar panels but it was pointed out that flying cricket balls might be a snag. As far as Covid measures were concerned, the purchase of an awning to cover the patio was suggested in order to encourage people to take their drinks outside and enquiries about improving the ventilation are ongoing.

Severndipity Club (bar)

Gen reported that Tom Marshall-Andrews had joined the Severndipity Bar committee, bringing the complement to seven members. Ullage (waste) costs remained a concern, but measures had been taken to mitigate the problem, which arose because kegs of real ale, purchased in anticipation of a sports match, were not fully used in the event of a cancellation. In future the bar would stock more bottled beer, or smaller kegs. Money had been set aside for new tills and a time clock for paid staff. The present manager, Caitlin Riley, would shortly be off on her travels, and was thanked for her quiet efficiency in running the bar.

Gen announced that the Hall broadband provider is to be replaced, and she anticipated speeds 17 times faster than currently supplied. The costs will be shared between the Hall and the Severndipity Club.

Fundraising

There is to be a fund-raising meeting on Tuesday 1st February at 8pm at the Parish Hall. It is open to everyone so if you have any ideas or would just like to be involved, then please come along.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A programme of events is planned at the Hall for this celebratory long weekend of 2nd – 5th June. A children's picnic followed by a barbecue and band on Friday 3rd is to be followed by a streaming of the concert from Buckingham Palace on Sat 4th and a Jubilee lunch on Sun 5th.

Rent review

A meeting to look at the current rental charges for the Hall will be held on 22nd Feb after some enquiries have been made to look at what other halls are charging and at our current costs.

Other matters

The cricket building is pretty well finished now, but the rabbits are proving a problem again. The work on the trees had had to be rearranged but will be done soon and our Zoom meeting concluded with an optimistic contribution from Clive Tempest, that Westbury football is going well and that they hope to restart the 2nds next year. So on that cheery note, we waved at our screens and clicked the Leave button on our screens.



Fund-raising meeting for your Parish Hall

on

**Tuesday 1st February
8pm at the Parish Hall.**

If you have any ideas or would just like to be involved, then please come along

Nosh and Natter

Subject to government guidelines that may change

Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 10th February 2022

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm
(Please note change of time)

Carrot and coriander soup

Sausage plait with red onion
gravy, vegetables
and roast potatoes

Chocolate brownies with ice
cream

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three
courses

Please call us to say that you are
coming and please let us know
in advance if you have any dietary
requirements other than the
above

**Please either see in person or
call**

Gail on 760495/ Jan on 760630

Looking forward to seeing you
all and of course if you have not
been before we look forward to
meeting you too

Parish Hall Quiz

on
Sunday 6th Feb
at 8pm

Quizmaster Jim Brass
£2 per person – teams of 4
All welcome



*We're making plans for the
Queen's Platinum Celebrations at
Westbury Parish Hall*

*Friday 3rd June 2022 Live music
and a Pig Roast*

*Saturday 4th June Live streaming
of the Concert from Buckingham
Palace and a PCSH BBQ*

*Sunday 5th June BJC Jubilee
lunch with a bring your own Pudding
that can be entered in to the
best-looking pudding competition*

*Why not join us for one or all of
our events. A work in progress but
put the dates in your diary*



Coronation Day celebrations in Westbury

Cafe on the Green

Thank you so much for everyone who braved the weather to attend the coffee morning on 8th January. I must admit the team had their doubts, but you came up trumps and we were able to send £100.25 to the Pied Piper appeal. The next one is on Saturday 5th February and is in aid of Riding for the Disabled. They are providing the raffle, so do come and support this lovely social event.

Ann Manning

Northwood Green Gardening Club

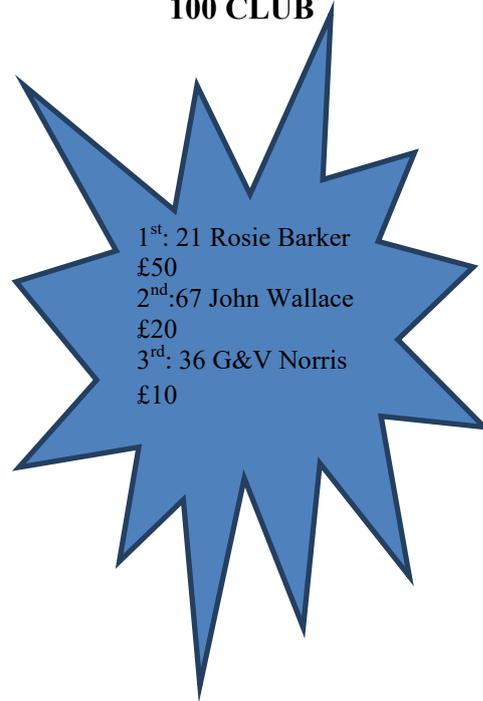
Our next meeting is on Thursday 10 February, at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. The speaker will be Kevin Alviti, on the subject of Unusual Fruit and Vegetables. Kevin is a self-sufficient smallholder and carpenter who is passionate about what he does.

On Thursday March 10th, Adam Alexander will give a talk titled "Diary of a seed saver". Adam is a consummate storyteller and has had a life as a film and TV producer. His true passion is collecting rare and endangered vegetables from around the world, and he is a seed guardian for the Heritage Seed Library.

Visitors are welcome, entrance £3. Annual membership £12. Please contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com for more information.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase....'Goodnight, sleep tight'

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends 100 CLUB



JANUARY 2022 DRAW RESULTS

If you would like a chance of winning in our quarterly draw, please contact:

Frances Down (760270).

The next draw is in April 2022.

There are numbers available for new subscribers.

Cost: £12 for the year, starting from October 2021.

THERE ARE STILL SOME OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM OCTOBER. Please pay any member of the committee.

*"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."
Groucho Marx*

Road Closures

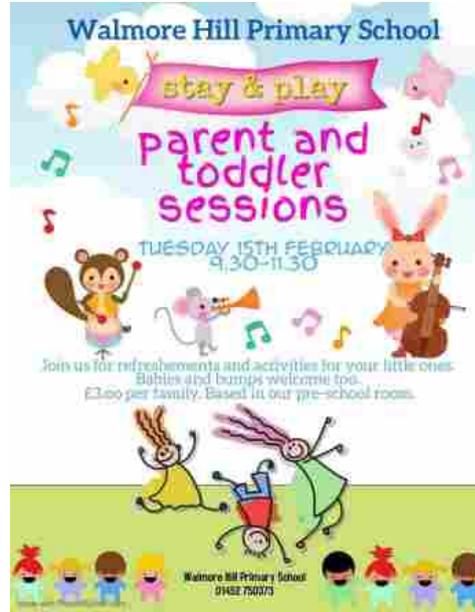
Upper Rodley Road, Bollow, will be closed on 1/2/22 from outside The Firs for approximately 127 metres to the property known as The Bungalow, in order to locate and resolve damaged ducting for the internet. The closure will be from 08:00 until 16:30.

Church Lane will be closed from 23:00 on 23/2/22 until 05:00 on the 24/2/22 from Brimstone Farm to Coldsteam for approximately 570 metres for barrier crossing repairs and line painting.

Grange Court Rd/Frowins Lane will be closed from 10/3/22 to 11/3/22 for pole Testing for BT and a stretch of **Upper Rodley Road** will be closed for the same reason on 11/3/22.

A short stretch of **Stantway Lane** will also be closed on 16/3/22 and **Flaxley Rd** will be closed on 29/3/22 to test poles for BT.

A stretch of **Public Footpath EWS 78**, which runs along the river, which was originally closed in April 2021, will remain closed. It was anticipated that it would be closed until October 2021 but apparently it has not been possible to complete the works within that timescale and an extension has been granted until 8th April 2022 or until the work is completed.



We would like to invite you to a 'Stay & Play' session in our pre-school room. Refreshments will be available for adults and children. £3 per family. It gives you a chance to come and meet our pre-school staff and talk to them about our sessions. Your little ones can try out the activities we have available. We look forward to welcoming you to Walmore Hill on Tuesday 15th February at 9.30am. If you would like any more details please email admin@walmorehill.gloucs.sch.uk



Westbury School

The children at Westbury are excited to give you a little peek into what's been happening in our school this term.

Class 1 – We are learning about animals. We went to the farm and fed cows, they were slobbery. Olivia (R)

Class 2 – Our theme is 'A light bulb moment and in forest school we've made our own inventions. We're writing biographies and learning about all sorts of inventors like George Stephenson who invented The Rocket train. Poppy (Y3)

Class 3 – We're exploring Westbury and the history of the parish in our theme 'Destination Westbury'. We've had a wonderful talk from Di Landon where we've learnt about Westbury workhouse and its dark history. Lyra (Y6)

December Weather

Warmest Days 29,30,31 all recorded 12.5c
Warmest Night 30-31 10.5c
Coldest Day 22 3.5c
Coldest Night 21-22 -6c
Wettest Days 7,25,26 all recorded 9.0mm
Total Rainfall 79.5mm
Number of Days with Rain 19
Sleet fell on the 3rd
Nights with Frost 8
Average Maximum Temperature 7.8c
Average Minimum Temperature 2.2c
Predominant Wind Direction Westerlies
December was notable for being a particularly dull, overcast and grey month. There is a weather saying which relates to when the first day of January falls on a Saturday, so expect "*a snowy winter, a blowing spring, a rainy summer.*"
We'll have to wait and see! Thanks to Simon Phelps for this.

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?



Walking in Gloucestershire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Westbury Sport

Rugby

Westbury BaBas XV 22 Drybrook 3rds 8

What a great occasion at the Ken Boulton stadium! Rugby was the winner as Westbury took the field with players from Cinderford, Chelt CS and the home team. It was excellent to see local sides coming together to get a game played.

Drybrook were making all the early inroads, showing some good attacking play, but the West BaBa's scored first.

Dave Didcote playing out of position at fly half resembled a young Andy Goode in stature and skills, and West No 8 Max Kaufmann was outstanding all afternoon and deserved Man of match. Coach Matt Hart had a good game - it's not easy playing, coaching and trying to ensure all replacements get on.

Civil Services Ash Hathaway had a great game in the second row along with Steve Yiend, Arron Hudson, Russ Williams, Joe Marcer, Justin Thackray.

Westbury's tries were scored by Max Kaufman, Alex, and Billy Head. It was great to see former West favourite Tom Cratchley back in the blue and white



Cindy boys Fin Gunter, Josh Warren, Billy Roberts and Ed Lawson all went well.

And the game was well reffed by Dave Meek. Great day.

Feeling the post Christmas bloat? Come on down to Westbury Rugby club training every Tuesday 6.45 ... great phys!! All welcome.



"The good news is you'll have a condition named after you"

On a plumber's van - "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber"

Football

As your previous correspondent has been otherwise engaged in following the fortunes of Gloucester Athletic FC, Chairman Emeritus Tempest has cleverly engaged his grandson, George Ford, to report on Westbury matches thus ensuring the team's senior management gets an easier ride. This cosy relationship between the press and executive can only end in one thing - secret parties! Which is fine, if I can come along...

Read on.... Overleaf...



**Westbury
United 6 - 1
Redbrook
Rovers**

Scorers: Harry
Howells (x2),
Morgan, Akeen
(x2), Gareth.

On Saturday 15th January, Westbury United kicked off at home against Redbrook. The first few minutes saw some struggles in the frosty, wet conditions from both sides, but it didn't take long to adapt. A Westbury cross turned volley saw them close to being the first to strike the back of the net, but soon after the opposition struck the bar and the game was on. On paper Westbury looked the better side, with Redbrook currently planted rock bottom of the table, but from how the game started - it looked like it could go either way. Westbury began to up the tempo, and a few through balls and crosses should've seen them go ahead. They looked the better side nonetheless.

At one point the ball fell to Ciaran on the edge of the box but the shot was saved once again, and a lacklustre follow up wasn't able to make the difference either. A few quiet minutes followed, before Harry Howells' howler sailed past the keeper and nestled in the bottom right. He ripped his shirt off and crowd surfed in celebration (or something like that). Afterwards Redbrook weren't given any breathing room. Westbury made it 2-0 after Morgan threaded through the defence and lashed it into the bottom right-off the post whilst off balance - which enabled Westbury to relax slightly more than before. They kept playing great football, dominating the midfield, right through to the half time whistle.

It only took 10 minutes to make it 3-0. Ciaran dinked a free kick over the top

of the defence and Akeen tucked it past the the keeper with superb composure. It was clear who the better side was today. Redbrook attempted to work their way back into the game with a few counter attacks, but to no avail. Soon after, Harry Howells managed to bag a brace.

Akeen was played through but his effort saved, and he was there to finish off the move 4-0. Westbury were awarded a free kick just outside the box, but it was blasted against the wall. However, it fell to Cieran, who faked the two men in front of him then released the shot, but the keeper did well to save it. Harry Howells looked to make it his third of the day with a volley, but the keeper got there once again. Another Westbury free kick was awarded. This time substitute Gareth Lewis stood over it. He smashed it over the wall into the top left, making for an absolutely wonderful unsaveable finish. However, Redbrook got a consolation goal to put an end to Westbury's clean sheet, following a Jay Howles goalkeeping error.

Only minutes later the quick tempo kept on giving. Akeen got another. Intricate in passing saw it laid off and smashed in from the penalty spot. Just before the final whistle blew, Westbury had a chance to make it 7. The ball fell just outside the goal, but a pea rolling shot that almost looked to be in slow motion failed to get over the line and so the game ended 6-1, and put Westbury United 4th in the table.

George Ford

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