

Cricket Dinner



Clive Tempest presenting Devin Rogers with one of several awards for a great season of both batting and bowling. Thanks to Pete Wilson for the photos.

Westbury Cricket Club celebrated a successful 2022 season with the end of season dinner at the Parish Hall on 21st Oct. Club Chairman Ian Dunn gave us a round up of a season where the 1sts maintained their position in Division 1 of the County League - a remarkable achievement as the only side without a paid overseas player, which is seen as an essential for other clubs.

The seconds had a solid season and are hoping to improve next year to push for promotion back into the County League structure. The ladies team also goes from strength to strength, as well as the youth section, to underpin the whole club.

The focus of the evening, however, is the award ceremony for individual awards climaxing in the award of lifetime membership to exceptional members.

Firstly the players awards, and Devin Rogers rather dominated events here after a tremendous year and, critically, a match winning, relegation-avoiding innings in the last game of the season. He has excelled with bat and ball and, whilst mild mannered, unfailingly polite and positive, he also has steely determination and thoroughly deserved the recognition. For the record, he won overall batting and first team bowling award and individual performance (113 in the aforementioned

game against Thornbury.)

My detailed notes were slightly less clear than I hoped the following morning but Greg Artus won the catching award with ten. Ted Edginton won Clubman of the Year for his tireless efforts on the wicket and outfield, as part of a team with Mike Edginton, Ian Dunn, Fran Stirrup et al.

The Edginton family was also represented by Rich, who won the overall bowling award having finished the season very strongly. Will Hargreaves won the second team batting award averaging 35, with Ian Martin a creditable runner up, considering his dodgy knees. Poor Fran Stirrup was neither Arthur nor Martha as he bounced from 1st to 2nds and back again, so wasn't in the running for the batting award for either, but he did score lots of runs anyway. Alex Wyman also had a strong season with the bat and, possibly, won the batting award (my notes are a little ambiguous at this point). He certainly scored the most runs in total all season, falling an agonising 1 run short of 700 in total.

The Golden Moment award was, I suspect, a unanimous decision with Talia Scott winning with her astonishing hat



Talia Edginton receiving her Golden Moment award for her hat trick against Woodpeckers Cricket Club.

trick against Woodpeckers CC. Andrew Cueto received the Most Improved Player

award to reflect his much improved batting this year, and also the Spirit Award for his tireless and dedicated work with the youth team.

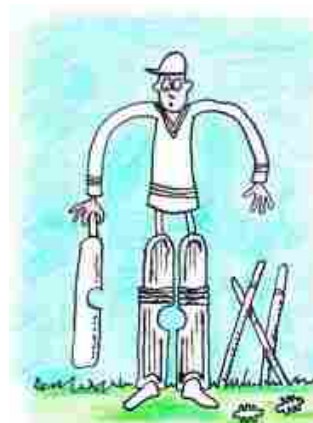
Lastly Mike Edginton gave a heartfelt speech supporting the award of lifetime membership to Ian Martin for his many years of playing and organising at all levels, including captaining the firsts for several years. Brian Wyman, another life member, then gave the award of lifetime membership to Rich Edginton, who has represented the club for pretty much 40 years with never less than 100% commitment and effort and has achieved considerable success through the years - he even picked up the bowling award this year.

Both awards were well deserved and warmly received by all those attending.

Clive Tempest gave a mercifully brief speech thanking all the players for giving the oldies hours of entertainment on a Saturday afternoon. The evening was expertly MC'd by Pete Wilson as ever, who also acted as photographer, multi-tasking expertly. The food was excellently prepared by Jan D'Ambrogio and her team.

Congratulations to all, particularly to Chairman Dunn for managing to keep the bandwagon rolling ! On to 2023...

Mark Landon



Parish Council

At our October meeting, we welcomed Ben Stephens as our new Parish Councillor. There had been no applications when the official vacancy notices were displayed, but Ben has since expressed an interest and has now been co-opted on to the council. We were delighted to have him join us, especially as he brings the average age of the Parish Council down had been given all the necessary forms to complete by Fiona, we ran through the usual formalities and agreed the minutes of the previous meeting. Our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, had sent his apologies and there were no members of the public present.

Planning There was only one planning application which was for the erection of a portal frame barn at The Paddocks in Goose Lane, for the storage of specialist forestry machinery and trailers for offsite woodland management. There were no objections to this application although it is always disappointing when applications are retrospective. Fiona then updated us on the result of previous applications concerning Little Oaklands Farm and Bojean in Grange Court Road, both of which had been granted.

The District Council's Second Preferred Options Strategy, which proposes major development at Lydney and Newent as well as redevelopment and regeneration of land at Beachley Camp, has encountered opposition from Monmouthshire County Council because of fears about severe traffic congestion in Chepstow. The suggested solution would be a bypass north of Chepstow, but this would be extremely costly and require funding by Central Government.

Finance Fiona had sent us the financial accounts and the list of payments and receipts was agreed.

Highways Enquiries about the new speed cameras are ongoing as it appears that if an automatic number plate recognition camera is to be installed, we also have to have a Community Speedwatch Group on the roadside at regular intervals with speed guns. It also appears that it may only be repeat offenders who are contacted by letter and therefore it is unclear whether this is going to be as much of a deterrent as the now fairly frequent presence of a police van in the layby at the Water Gardens. Fiona will find out more before a decision is made. Two recent and serious accidents at Chaxhill and Elton have highlighted the issue of road safety on the A48. The crossroads by the Parish Hall is busier since the Doctor's Surgery has been opening every weekday and we have heard no more about our request for consideration to be given to a 40mph buffer zone on the A48 between the village and the top of Wintles Hill.

Hopes of repairs to the road surface at Hunt Hill were raised when white marks appeared around the pot holes, but apparently the amount of subsidence on the road is a serious problem, making lasting repairs extremely costly, so we should not get too hopeful. Other pot holes in Grange Court Road and Brook Lane were reported and Simon had asked for the gratings on the A48 to be cleaned out as many of them are sprouting weeds.

Burial Ground and School Playing Field The new school playing field has been drained, seeded and rolled and the fencing work will now be carried out next year. Fiona has been in touch with the County Council regarding the new lease and agreement regarding the rent and is awaiting a reply. Various ideas have been put forward regarding possible uses for the remaining small parcel of land that is not required by the school, but any expenditure on this will have to wait until the

Parish Council finances have recovered from the high costs incurred by extending the burial ground and draining the playing field.

Footpaths We are still awaiting a date for a meeting with Jeff Wheeler, the Public Rights of Way officer, to discuss a footpath which has been blocked for a considerable time.

Around the Parish Mike Townsend has now got all the kit that he needs to repair the worn patches of the wetpour in the play area. We had all carried out inspections of our allotted bus shelters and Fiona now has a list of all the work that is needed on them. This mostly entails clearing overgrown vegetation, replacing the odd missing roof tile and securing a loose plank on the one at Stantway Lane. A lot of rubbish had been dumped in the one at the top of Wintles Hill and the street wardens have been asked to deal with this.

Risk Assessment Fiona had completed the long and unenviable task of updating the Parish Council Risk Assessment which covers 34 different aspects of the Council's responsibilities, ranging from things like the security of records, the safety of village seats and the closed churchyard, to the adequacy of our insurance. We went through the list and it was all correct apart from adding the four ex-telephone boxes which are now the Council's responsibility.

Correspondence The recent news that Stagecoach is to cut bus services in the Forest of Dean is causing considerable concern and Westbury



will be particularly affected by the loss of the 748 service which takes children to school. Simon has contacted our County

Councillor and efforts are being made to get another bus company to adopt the route. Leader of Forest of Dean District Council, Cllr Tim Gwilliam, has said "Because of the devastating impacts on our residents, we will be writing to the County Council who hold responsibility for transport to ask some serious questions about what they are going to do about the situation. In particular we will be asking them to investigate the potential for local operators to step in and take over routes as they once did."

We have heard nothing from the County Council regarding the future for the now-closed Westbury Court and Philip Robinson will be asked to let us know what is planned for the site. Fiona will also be enquiring about whether there are any plans for the return of the Mobile Library to Westbury.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 21st November at 7pm *Di Landon*

Advance notice for road closures

December Closure of Green Bottom from Tibbs Cross Farm to junction with Abenhall Rd from 19/12/22 - 23/12/22 and

Closure of Flaxley Rd from junction with Abenhall Rd to Lower Steam Cottage on 19/12/22

January Closure of Stantway Lane for a short distance between the junctions with Rock Lane and Rock and Fountain Lane to allow drainage works from 10/1/23 to 27/1/23.

Closure of A48 by Jordan Hill Bridge from 10pm on 16/1/23 to 6am on 17/1/23 to allow bridge inspection for Network Rail.

February Closure of Frewins Lane from 20m north of bridge to 30m south of bridge for rebuilding works to the bridge from 27/2/23 until 10/3/23

Litterpick

As you drive along our roads and lanes, you notice the odd bit of litter, but it is only when walking that you become aware of the scale of the problem. We did not have as many volunteers litterpicking this time as we have had on previous occasions, but we know that a lot of you do this on a regular basis and that this helps a great deal. We still collected a fair amount of litter and unfortunately a lot of this appears to escape from the bin lorries as they do their rounds. Happily we had a bright sunny morning for the task and I hope that all of you who help keep this problem under control know that their work is much appreciated by those who care for our beautiful parish. A big thank you to all of you.

Di Landon



A dozen of us met for our October Parish Hall meeting which, although it seemed rather a small turnout to us, by all accounts is nowadays an incredibly good number to be active in the management of community assets like the Hall.

At our previous meeting, Max Skipsey had agreed to look into the options for magnetic door locks and he now has details of costs and availability of these. So we now need to look again at our security system as a whole.

Jan has check with the Surgery and found that they have no objections to us installing CCTV at the Hall. This is becoming increasingly necessary as people keep

dumping domestic waste in the Hall bin. Recently an exercise bike had been dumped, and each time something of this sort happens, it leads to increased costs for the Hall.



The Hall's broadband contract is coming to an end shortly and it has been agreed that the Hall will then share the Severndipity broadband. There were a few queries about this but we're confident that these can be sorted out.

Treasurer's report Sarah Mitten had circulated her report to the committee. The utility bills are the big concern at the moment but Jan had received an email from EDF, with whom we have a contract until July, which confirms that our supply will continue at a cost of 16p per unit until then. The new contract from July was quoted in the email as 58p per unit, but had since risen again to 78p per unit. Following discussion, it was agreed that as prices are fluctuating so much at present, the decision about renewing this contract should not be made until May. However, the contract for the gas supply needs to be renewed now. There is no government refund due to the Hall for electricity charges, as these have not yet been increased. Electricity usage still needs monitoring and the Rugby Club agreed to reduce the number of floodlights that they use on training nights.

Severndipity Report The bar is now opening on Tuesdays and Saturdays but if sales of beer are slow, there is a problem with the residue in kegs being wasted, which has been quite costly over the past year. However, the bar made a profit in September. Following last month's discussion regarding underage drinking at parties and people bringing their own alcohol, the suggestion that a sizeable deposit be charged and retained if the

rules are broken has now been decided against. It is felt that this would be excessive and go against the welcoming attitude that we want to show to future hirers. Instead it was agreed that, if this sort of problem arises again, the bar steward should feel free to close the bar.

Fundraising A Jumble Sale was scheduled for Sunday 23rd Oct and on 19th Nov, we have a host of burlesque entertainers coming to take part in our Kebabaret (see p8) Local businesses are being asked to donate raffle prizes. On 26th Nov we will be beating the Christmas rush with a **Pre-Christmas Bash** which will take the place of the usual Christmas party. It will also help to raise funds for maintenance of the Hall's defibrillator. Jan requested that we all think about some suggestions for fund-raising events in 2023.

Amongst the "any other business", Max Skipsey reported that there is a problem with people parking in front of the chain across the ambulance access to the playing field. A new sign is needed to ensure that this potentially vital access is maintained.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 8pm. *Di Landon*

Letter from Jan



A few tickets are still available for the burlesque night on Saturday November 19th so get and book them to avoid disappointment.

On Saturday November 26th, the Steel Weasels are playing at the Hall as part of our Pre-Christmas Bash. There will also be a 2 course meal and tickets will be £10. This pre Christmas bash would be a

great night out for the office party, £10 a person...bargain.....why not get a table of your work colleagues or your friends together and have a bash? This is a fundraiser for the maintenance of the defibrillator which Stuart Hawke (a member of Steel Weasels) was instrumental in raising funds for initially. The Christmas Parish Party will no longer be held in December but if you want a good night out come along to the bash on 26th November.

Thank you.

If you want to contact us, please feel free to on info@wosph.co.uk or ring 01452 229570

Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 10th November 2022

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Broccoli and Stilton soup

Beef stew and dumplings

Treacle tart and custard

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three courses

Call us to say that you are coming
and please let us know in advance if
you have any dietary requirements

Please either see in person or call
Gail on 760495/ Jan on 760630



Don't forget to get your team together for
the festive Christmas Quiz at the Parish
Hall on Sunday 4th December.

Our Good Old-fashioned Jumble Sale

This was a bit of an experiment, as Jumble Sales seem to have become a thing of the past, but we were delighted that it proved very popular. Lots of really good clothes, accessories, toys and bric a brac were donated and by 2.30pm, there was a queue across the car park waiting to come in. The sale made £250 (which will help with the Hall's fuel bills), lots of people went off happy with their bargains and it was good to see so many things being reused rather than thrown away. With the unsold clothing recycled via the school and the best bric a brac going to Joe Liddington for the Age UK Charity shop, there was very little that had to be thrown away. We were so pleased with the result, that we plan to hold another one in the Spring, so please think of the Hall when you have your next clear out.



Cafe on the Green

What a joy to see so many regular and new faces all happily chatting away at our October Cafe on the Green. Your support raised £135 for the Westbury Church Fabric Fund. On **5th November** the team will be back, this time supporting Gloucester Samaritans. To make things go off with a bang, waiting for the fireworks to start, we will be holding a Tombola in place of the raffle. Everyone will be a winner see you there.



The Cafe Team

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th November, at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. This meeting is our AGM. Afterwards, Alun and Jill Whitehead, who hold the National Collection of Siberian Iris at Aulden Farm, will be giving a most interesting talk about the Bearded Iris, their history, what varieties to choose and how they are grown.

The December meeting, on 8th December, is our Christmas party. There will be no speaker at this meeting, but instead we will have a quiz and games, with a bring-a-plate buffet. This is always a fun evening and a highlight of the club's year.

Non-members are always welcome. Non-members £3, annual membership £12. Please contact

karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com or call 01452 760970 for more information.

Westbury-on-Severn Young Farmers



The 'Westbury Wheelers' at their journey's end

Six current and former members of the Westbury-on-Severn Young Farmers Club took on the huge challenge of cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats in September, and have since raised over £34,000 for The Brain Tumour Charity. Fran Smart, George Beddis, Becky Hewlitt, James Smith, James Griffiths and Will Snowden cycled over 988 miles, arriving at John O'Groats on 20th September. They had a wonderful support team of drivers, and also had the backing of many local businesses, which helped to make this amazing feat possible. George Beddis, who planned the route, explained that "All six of the team know someone personally who has been affected by a brain tumour and therefore the Brain Tumour Charity seemed like a very worthy cause. We faced some 'tough' days on our 10-day journey but were extremely lucky with the weather. It was an amazing experience and we are all proud to be able to say we have done it. The ride went really well much to our surprise and all six of us made it to the end. We also held a celebratory BBQ at the end of the event to boost our fundraising."

This achievement has also led to them being named Club of the Month by the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. To donate to the group's cause, go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/westbury-wheelers.



The YFC who meet on Monday evenings, at 7:45pm at Flaxley School Rooms

Westbury-on-Severn Young Farmers

Annual Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display

Saturday 5th November

The Red Hart Inn, Blaisdon, GL17 0AH

Gates open at 6pm
Fireworks to be set off at approximately 7pm

Entry: £5 per person, £1 for under 10s

Hog roast, sausages and burgers on sale

FREE parking

CASH ONLY EVENT

Raising money for
Farms For City Children
and Club Funds



Tues 22nd November 2022

Come and join us – a warm welcome awaits!

The Memory Café aims to provide a fun, friendly, safe and supportive space for people living with dementia or memory loss, their partners, families and carers. Supported by Artspace, Cinderford as part of the Mindscape Project, people can expect to enjoy a variety of craft and activities.

11.00am arrival and enjoy a cuppa and a cake

11.30am activities provided by Mindscape tutors

12.30pm – 1.15 Soup and rolls served. Finish

The December café date is: Tues December 20th.

There is no charge for attending this event so why not pop along and join us? For further information: Call: 07926 986 247

The centre is located beside the A48, and has on-site parking, disabled access and facilities. Stagecoach Bus No 22/23 also stops and departs every ½ hour from outside the centre.

**The Harvey Centre, Main Road,
Minsterworth, Gloucester, GL2 8JH**

Churchyard Working Party

Our next working party will be on Saturday 12th November between 10am and 1pm — weather permitting. We would love to see you if you can spare an hour or two to help us look after this large and beautiful space.

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends 100 Club

PRIZE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2022

1st	21	Rosie Barker	£50
2nd	40	Marylyn Nelson	£20
3rd	58	Caroline Phelps	£10

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

westburychurchfriends21@gmail.com

The next draw is in January 2023.

There are a few numbers available for new subscribers. Cost: £12 for the year, starting from October 2022.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL SUB-
SCRIPTIONS DUE NOW**



It's Panto Time!

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

BOX OFFICE

SUN 20TH NOV

AT 11AM

at the Parish Hall

Performance dates

Friday 20th Jan without meal

Sat 21st Jan with meal

Sun 22nd Jan Matinee

**Frid 27th Jan and Sat 28th Jan
with meal**



Remembrance Day



12 noon.

Collecting boxes and supplies of poppies and other British Legion merchandise have been placed at numerous local outlets and door-to-door collections will also be taking place, although we are a little short of collectors this year. Please give generously if you can.

This year, the Remembrance Sunday service will be held at Minsterworth Church at 10.45am on Sunday 13th November followed by wreath laying at Westbury Church at

Vale of Castiard WI

The Vale of Castiard WI meets on the third Wednesday of every month, at 7.30pm in the Flaxley Schoolroom. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 16th November, when we will be holding our AGM, followed by a wine and cheese evening. We will not be having an outside speaker for this meeting.

The December meeting, on Wednesday 21st December, is traditionally a time to socialize and eat and drink! The Blaisdon carol singers may join us towards the end of the meeting.

Visitors and new members are welcome to join us for any of our meetings. For more information, please contact our President, Gill Western, on 07879 532060 or Secretary Sue Stephens on 01452 760773.

September Weather



September was a warm month with the temperature reaching 23C on three of the days and an average maximum temperature of 19C and average minimum of 8.5C. The last day of the month was the coldest at 12.5C and there were four nights when it was only 4C. There were 11 days with rain, with the 6th being the wettest with 17mm of rainfall and a total of 51.5mm for the month. The winds were predominantly westerly and there were thunderstorms on the 5th and 6th of the month. Thanks to Simon Phelps for these figures.

"Conjunctivitis.com – that's a site for sore eyes." – Tim Vine

Sport

Sports Editor—Mark Landon

Football

On 1st October Westbury AFC played Harrow Hill, winning 4—2, but unfortunately we don't have a report of that game, although we do, at least, have a photo, thanks to Pete Wilson.



*Jamie Ward
leaps into
action
against
Harrow Hill*

On 22nd Oct, Westbury AFC travelled to Elwood FC, in the depths of the Forest, to face one of the league's title contenders with what can only be described as a weakened team due to injuries. Apart from training ground injuries to key midfielders Harry Howells and Lewis Cromwell, the central defence was also shorn of club stalwart Alex Maton. His injury was a little less football related as he inadvertently chopped the top of his thumb off on a cucumber slicer. Whether future training drills will now incorporate watching what you are doing whilst using kitchen appliances was unclear but it wouldn't be a bad idea.

However, Westbury started off brightly and the first half was an evenly matched affair with Elwood looking slightly more threatening, although they were playing down the slope. Ben MacEnergy made a welcome return in central defence with Andrew Cueto and Gary Morgan operating efficiently in the full back positions. Sadly MacEnergy limped off in the first half and was much missed. On the cusp of half time, disaster struck as a speculative shot ballooned off Morgan's solid

head and looped over the stranded keeper, Jay Howells.

As the team walked off at half time with the game poised at 1-0 and Westbury due to play down the slope in the second half, club President Tempest strode across the pitch from the supporter's area to provide tactical advice to the management, who had been hiding from him on the far side dugouts.

Ten minutes into the second half, Tempest's influence had had a Trussesque impact as Westbury found themselves 4-0 down and frankly all over the place. In their defence, two of the goals were of extremely high quality and basically unstoppable but as the storm clouds rolled in ominously a rout was feared.

Things got worse when Jay Howells launched an attack via a powerful throw but bashed his hand on the head of the opposition centre forward leaving him in severe discomfort. This was helped by shortly afterwards having to face a well struck penalty kick which he foolishly, but athletically, saved leaving him in yet more agony.

Poor Akeen was left effectively trying to score every time he got the ball as his colleagues up front showed rather less movement and appetite for the battle than hoped for, and also received a certain amount of abuse from the raucous home crowd.

However, the team collectively pulled their socks up and actually finished probably the stronger side to limit the damage to 4-0.

STOP PRESS On 29th Oct, they travelled to Prestbury in the County Cup and won 5—3.

A man says to his wife, "Grab your jacket I'm going to the pub." She asks, "Oh, are you taking me with you?" "No, I'm turning the heating off."

Rugby

On 7th October a large crowd enjoyed the sunshine on an excellently prepared Berry Hill RFC pitch and some excellent rugby ensued, but it was another tough day for the boys in blue & white (that's Westbury, by the way). There was real end to end stuff with two tries for Westbury from Harry Johnson and by half time the scores were fairly even, according to the rugby reporter at 19-12 (although that's not really even to the neutral observer! Ed).

The second half saw the Berry Hill flying No 6 putting Westbury to the sword (are those allowed now?) with a brace of break-away tries ...a couple of them against the run of play – with the end result being Westbury going down 31-12.

A special mention for our loyal spectators and Man of the



Match, Alex Pearce, and some excellent performances from the rest of the team ...of note Scrum half Ben Stephens who teamed up excellently with fly half Rychknyx McKenzie.

On the 15th, Westbury RFC welcomed the big city boysfrom Gloucester Old-Boys 2's to the highly manicured Ken Boulton field of dreams and another great game ensued. In the first half, an evenly fought encounter saw tries from both sides and at half time the massive crowd saw the scoreboard, newly painted by physio Michaela, sitting at 25-5 (any physio that can get a scoreboard to sit gets my vote – Ed).

The second half saw a few injuries taking their toll on both sides & some further tries, including an excellent breakaway try for Max Kaufmann and skipper Robbie Pritchard. There were some excellent performances from Italo, Shay and scrum half

Justin – and the spectators Man of the Match this week goes to a veteran (try scorer) Lee 'Flea' Prine, who is back fit as ever playing a 'blinder'. The end result was 52-12 to Westbury !



A massive thanks to Gloucester Old Boys RFC for the game.

On 22nd Oct, Westbury played Bream RFC. The game was excellently officiated by Dan 'Stan' Hardy after the allotted referee cried off at the 11th hour. It was a frenetic event with many end to end phases interspersed with a mixture of power runs, chip & chases, with the odd interception thrown in for both sides and at the half way whistle the scoreboard sat at 19-12.

Some heroic efforts from Italo, Robbie, tartan Max and a special mention for stand in hooker Russ who put in a performance that belied his 'rugby age' of 30... The on field battle took its toll forcing a few changes in the second half. The WoS try scorers this week were Shay, Max Skipsey, Dan 'the man', skipper Robbie Pritchard (with one of the best side steps seen in many a year at Bream) & Paul - great efforts lads. The end result was 31 -26 to Bream. Thanks to Bream 2's for a great game played in great spirit & an extra thanks to all of the travelling support & a special mention for medic Michaela.

Simon Roberts

Don't forget training Tuesday at 7pm.

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