



milton keynes

university of the third age



July
2019



Open Meeting

Meetings start at 2.30pm and are held at the Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7GZ. There is car parking on site, and bus routes 8, 24 & 25 stop on adjacent grid roads.

24 July – Photography as Art

Karen Thurmanovich



Karen will explore how movements in the photographic world mirrored movements in the art world in general, especially starting in the 1920s.

This will be followed by a discussion about photography as art and the role that photographic art plays in social change.

New Members Induction Session

Please note - There is no New Members Induction session in July.

The next Induction Session will be on 12th August. Full details in the next Newsletter.

Any queries to Claire Naismith on membersec@mku3a.org or 07425 620167.

Autumn 2019 Music Lectures



Are you interested in participating in our Autumn 2019 Music Lectures?

Led by Adrian Boynton, Director of Music at Milton Keynes City Church, the series is comprised of FOUR lectures, each lecture lasting for two hours, (so eight hours of music in total).

The anticipated dates are:

- 11 September
- 2 October
- 6 November
- 4 December

The lectures commence at 1.30 and end at just after 3.30 (depending on how leisurely our coffee break becomes).

In order to cover our fixed costs, the price that members pay will depend on the numbers that are interested in attending. The more people attend, the cheaper the series becomes.

I'm hoping that we can keep the price of each lecture at £5 or less, depending on numbers.

We have yet to finalise the programme for the autumn series but out thinking thus far has been: Adrian is likely to cover big names (Bartok, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, etc), possibly a session on the Americans (Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein) and possibly a session on the English composers (Vaughan Williams, Holst, Delius, Finzi, Walton, Britten, etc).

Sorry that I can't be more precise at this stage - Adrian will advise us of the programme shortly.

Details of previous music lectures can be found on the Music Lectures group page at <https://mku3a.org/groups>

Please email me at vicechairmku3a@gmail.com by no later than 10 July 2019 if you are interested in signing up for this next series of lectures.

Tina Two

Sneak Preview Of The Raven Conspiracy!

This beautiful portrait is of Queen Clarissa the Third, an unpredictable, rather immature monarch ... very good at collecting jewellery and designer dresses, but who is making a right pig's ear of governing the country.

Despite strenuous efforts to the contrary, it looks as if Britain is going down the pan because, well, people just keep arguing between themselves

Bring your family to see the Beefeaters and other Royal Courtiers. You can even arrange for a resident Raven to treat you as a VIP and deliver wine to you in the Tower grounds.

But keep your eyes peeled for ghosts, traitors, drunks and misbehaving Ravens. And, especially, watch out for Emery, the Ravenmaster, who should not to be disobeyed under any circumstances.

Oh, and malignant intruders from all over Europe, intent on imposing their songs on an unsuspecting crowd before going about their dastardly business.

The Third Age Players will be performing a brief extract of the **WORLD PREMIERE** at the Open Meeting at the Oaktree Centre in Shenley Brook End on **Wednesday 24th July**.

This is an opportunity for you to "try before you buy" - we will be on hand to sell Visitor Passes (otherwise known as tickets) to the "Tower of London" (at the Chrysalis Theatre, Willen).

If you can't make it to the meeting you can still book through Judy on 01908 887387*.

We look forward to seeing you there to support



not only TAP, but Great Britain in its hour of need!!

* *Please note corrected telephone number which is different from that published last month.*

They've Even Gone And Moved The Tower Of London!

Yes, The Third Age Players will be occupying the Tower right here at the beautiful Chrysalis Theatre, Milton Keynes on August 29th, 30th (eves) and 31st (afternoon).

Visitor Passes, otherwise known as Tickets (£10), are now obtainable by ringing Judy on 01908 887387 or on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/tap (booking fee applies).

It's suitable for the whole family, so do please come and support us. You might even find the Crown Jewels!

Tai Chi, A Gentle Way To Exercise And Keep Fit

Taijiquan is a Chinese form of 'meditation' within movement, a series of movements performed in a slow, harmonized and relaxed way.

It aims to improve balance, reduce stress and tension, increase energy levels, build up your immune system, loosen stiff joints, relieve headaches, neck and shoulder pain; and improve posture to alleviate back pain.

It is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Taijiquan / Quigong is with Sifu (Teacher) Peter Warr

We have two classes, Beginners and Improvers, on a Friday morning at a venue in CMK, and our waiting lists, at present, are very short.

Contacts: Shona Hall 01908, Sue Rippon 01908 239715 or taichi@mku3a.org for further details.





Anyone for Cribbage?

Put away the ipads, ipods, laptops and mobile phones - forget about emails, Whatsapp, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for a couple of hours and enjoy some face to face contact and competition.



The existing Cribbage Group is oversubscribed so, rather than have a bunch of frustrated cribbage players, we hope to start a new Group.

It will meet on Wednesday mornings between 10 am and midday at (venue to be arranged) so if you fancy brushing up on your parlour game skills or would like to learn the game from scratch, please get in touch with Shirley Dewar at groups@mku3a.org and she will add your name to the list.

We hope there will be no charge except for a small donation so that we can provide tea/coffee/biscuits during the session.

Exploring World Faith is at a Church then a Synagogue

On Wednesday 3rd July we are walking to the ruins of St Peter's Church, Stanton Low, from the Black Horse pub car park.

Please contact the Group Leader if you wish to take part.

For our August meeting we will be at the MK Synagogue. Perhaps you have never visited and would like to do so. We will be able to see the Ark and the handwritten scrolls.

Again, please email the group leader on ewf@mku3a.org if you wish to visit with us.

Linda Morris

MKU3A Choir

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Summer Concert held in the URC in Newport Pagnell on Saturday June 15th.

We sang a varied programme of music, with a scone cream tea at the end which seemed to go down well!

With your help we will be sending a cheque for £700 to Willen Hospice.

Thanks too to the helpers, Chloe and Melanie, Hilary and John in kitchen, Geoff who again did the technical stuff with the computer projections and those at URC who very kindly set up and cleared the hall for us.



Future dates for your diaries:

Saturday 12th October Voices for hospices concert jointly with the Newport Singers

Friday 13th December the Christmas Concert

More details later.

Sheila Staincliffe, Joint Group Leader

Sequence Dancing

The Monday afternoon Sequence Dancing Group meets at the Cross and Stable Church in Downs Barn at 13.45 for 2 hours each week.

We would like to thank David and Dorothy Froggatt for leading the Group since it started 4 and a half years ago, their enthusiasm has helped all of us, as has their patience when teaching us new dances.

The Group know approximately 30 dances, and we will be looking to learn a new dance every couple of months along with regular revision of dances previously taught.

New members with some dance experience will be welcomed, especially "single" men. In the first instance please contact us if you are interested in joining the Group. email sequencedancing@mku3a.org

Martin and Anne Pollard, Group Leaders

Linedance Displays Good at Ashby

The Linedance improvers group, which meets on Thursday mornings, visited for a second time Ashby Care Home at Eaglestone and did a dance display, some old and new and favourites were danced. Tea/coffee and cakes were served afterwards.

A good morning was enjoyed by all.

Brenda, Line Group Leader



News from the PlayPals



We have several dates for your diary starting with:

- Summer Fair at St Frideswide's, Water Eaton Church Centre, Drayton Rd, Bletchley MK2 3RR. This takes place on Saturday 6 July from 1.30 to 4.30 pm. We will be playing between 2 and 3.30pm and there is plenty of entertainment for all the family.
- In September, we will be playing at St Frideswide's again at their coffee morning on Tuesday 24th September between 10.00 and 12.00 noon.
- On Thursday October 17th we will return to St Mary and St Giles church in Stony Stratford High Street to play in their TT@TT (Third Thursday at 12.30) slot.

All are welcome to these events.

The photo shows us playing at the church of St Lawrence in Steppingley, where we returned in May to a very warm reception and we were delighted to support their continuing fundraising work.

We have been pleased to welcome some new members into the group this year and we have enjoyed learning a lot of new music in a sunny, swinging style.

As well as playing at events which are open to the public, we also entertain groups such as branches of the WI and the Macular Society

MK support group and in September we will be playing at private function Proms in the Park event.

If any members of the U3A would like to have live music at their events we may be able to help. Do get in touch on the email below.

If anyone has a long neglected musical instrument that they would like to take up again or is trying out playing something new as a retirement hobby (as I did with the flute) and you would like to play with others in a friendly environment, do get on touch and come and see us on a Tuesday morning to see if you would like to join in.

You can contact me by email at: musicians@mku3a.org

Marilyn Ridsdale

Group Visits

Patchwork Group (10am To 12pm)

And

Knitting Group (2pm To 4pm)

Both of the above groups are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Sandra Adkins, the Group Leader for both, holds the meetings in her comfortable home in Newport Pagnell.

Both groups are very friendly and welcoming, with group members chatting away while working on their sewing or knitting projects.

If you need any help or advice regarding a project - there is always someone who can assist.

Sandra looks after her 'broods' very well and supplies refreshments, usually with biscuits and occasionally yummy cake!

If you would like further information regarding either of the groups above please contact Sandra at knitting@mku3a.org

Thames Valley U3A Network

Report on Events Day, 28th May 2019

'History on Film – Harlots or Heroines – Women in the 18th Century on Film and TV'

It is amazing what TVN can do for us. An excellent day with a good venue, a great value lunch and worthy speakers.

It was a bit of a journey, but the school venue in Abingdon gave us space, plenty of parking and good facilities.

The U3A buffet lunch, well managed to serve in reasonable time for the 150+ U3A members present, satisfied us well with a copious variety of delicious salads to accompany the Coronation Chicken (or suitable dietary alternatives).

The two speakers were:

Laurence Brockliss, emeritus professor of Early-Modern French History at the University of Oxford, is a specialist on eighteenth-century Britain and Europe, with a general interest in the history and institutionalisation of European ideas.

He admits that his books and learned publications are rather highbrow, but are meant to be of proper historical research and content.

He is also interested in the history of childhood and is director of the Oxford Centre for the History of Childhood.

Justin Hardy, who studied History under Professor Brockliss, is a multi-award winning maker of historical films and has spent his working life developing such films as a medium to both entertain and instruct. He has specialised in directing period films with critical and popular success and is concerned in ensuring that his works



are properly researched and are delivered to give a best version of 'truth'.

He has an extensive life-time portfolio, including '*37 Days: The Countdown to World War 1*' (a British TV mini-series shown on BBC in 2014) and '*A Harlot's Progress*' (a 2006 British television film with Toby Jones, Sophie Thompson and Richard Wilson). Other works include '*The Peterloo Massacre*' (2003) and '*Georgiana: The People's Duchess*' (1999).

The day was fully occupied in examining excerpts from four films of historical bent: '**Catherine the Great**' (1995, Catherine Zeta Jones, Paul McGann, Ian Richardson, Brian Blessed); '**Marie Antoinette**' (2007, Kirsten Dunst, Steve Coogan); '**Bequest to the Nation – Emma Hamilton**' (1973, Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch, Margaret Leighton) and '**A Harlot's Progress**' (Justin Hardy's film) (2006, Toby Jones, Sophie Thompson, Richard Wilson), based around the William Hogarth series of paintings of the same name.

Throughout the day, our lead speakers held a conversation-critique of these films, from a historical validity perspective, but including their audience at all times with open discussion on entertainment value, older-age film making technique, and yore-time nostalgia appeal. Does 'truth' really matter if all one wants is a good story?

In general:

'Catherine the Great' – all about costume and sets rather than the motivation of the characters;

'Marie Antoinette' – good symbolic opening sequence as she left Austro Hungary and joined the French Court, with a sympathetic look at the course of events that took her to the guillotine;

'Bequest to the Nation' – dated, but a good example of 'staged play on film', so rather static – not a current technique – but well acted, and an intriguing look at the influence of the courtesan on the life and demands of a great leader;

'A Harlot's Progress' – well, we didn't have chance to see enough of this, but a feeling that we wanted to watch it in full. Seemingly, an atmospheric look at 18th century life but still a cautionary tale for now.

It was a thought-provoking day with good open discussion that will make one examine more critically historic truth in film and, of course, in television (but, of course, from who's outlook?).

Most interesting distinguished guest speakers, slightly surprising let down by laptop technology technique or preparedness.

Nigel Wright

Theatre Group Closure

I am sure the members who came to Les Miserables last week all enjoyed the show.

The next booking is for Kinky Boots in October and all tickets have been distributed to those who have booked.

During the last year the theatre group owning Milton Keynes Theatre has changed the policy regarding group bookings resulting in much dearer tickets and repeat shows.

This has resulted in fewer shows being available to us.

After a meeting with the Trustees it has been agreed that as the group is no longer viable it should be closed.

May I thank all the members for their kind words and support during my time looking after the theatre group.

Take care

Hilary Beckett

Free Group Venues

Can you help?

Due to the increasing new groups and established groups having to move venues, there is virtually NO free venues to be had.

Do you know of any venues in the Milton Keynes area that would let us use their facilities for free or for a small cost. The average charge for a venue is now about £15 per hour, we do have some venues that are cheaper but nearly all groups want somewhere that is free to use.

If you do know of a place that I could contact, I would be grateful if you would email me at:

ccostello01@hotmail.co.uk

Chris Costello

Milton Keynes Groups Receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



Three Voluntary groups in Milton Keynes have been recognised by being chosen for the Queen's award for Voluntary Groups, Milton Keynes Museum, The Stablemates who volunteer at the Stables, and The Old Bathhouse and Community Centre in Wolverton

This is the highest honour which can be awarded to a voluntary group

Members of Milton Keynes U3A either volunteer for or use the facilities at these venues. Congratulations for all you do and keep up the great work.

Recommended Tradesperson

Lady Painter and Decorator - Ann Todd

I recommend Ann, she decorated 4 rooms in my house recently and did a very good job.

She arrived each day, when she said she would. Very hard worker, continuously clears up any mess made during the day and left each day with the place clean and tidy.

Apart from a quick lunch break and two refreshment breaks, she worked solidly all day.

Very personable and reliable, and does not overcharge for her services - I will definitely be using her again.

Her contact details are: 07842 261403 or email info@ladypainter.co.uk

Chris Costello

MK U3A - Open Meetings 2019

25 September – The Amber Room – Mike Bartlett

Dubbed the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', the Amber Room was one of the great treasures of Russian culture, Russian history and Russian heritage – until Hitler decided he wanted it for himself – and stole it, stone by stone.

When, in late 1943, it was decided to dismantle the Amber Room and crate it away, it vanished, never to be found again ... or did it?

23 October – James Gillray: First Ever Political Cartoonist - Ian Keable

Who doesn't love a spot of political satire? But did you know that James Gillray succeeded William Hogarth as

the primary satirist of the 18th century, not only taking caricaturing to new heights but also refining the format of the cartoon to one that we are now familiar with? He is now generally accepted as the first, and the greatest, political cartoonist, still revered today by modern cartoonists.

27 November – Moments, Memories and Magic - Vic Bottrill

Do you forget other people's names? Find yourself in one part of the house and wonder why you are there. Put it down to age. Forget it. It happens to young and old alike – but not to everyone. Some mysteries of the brain are revealed. It's truly magic.

Open Meeting - IT Help Desk

There will be opportunities both before and after the Open Meetings to seek assistance with IT problems and using the MK U3A website, including setting up your login and password and updating your personal profile.

Help will be available before the meeting from 2pm and after the meeting until 4.15pm

Free Wi-Fi is available at the venue.

Support is available for:

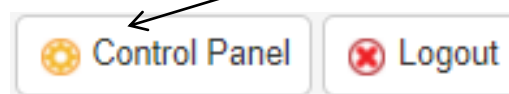
- Windows PCs
- Apple/Android tablets and phones.

NOTE: Please ensure your device is fully charged or bring your charger with you.

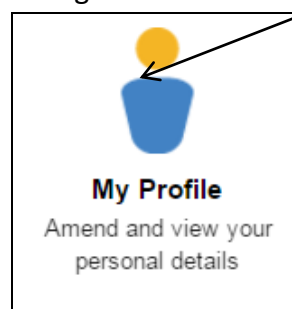


MK U3A - Making Changes to your Personal Details

1. Open the MK U3A website (mku3a.org)
2. Login to the site. (If you haven't set your login password yet please see the instructions on the LOGIN page.)
3. Once you are logged in 'click' on the Control Panel icon top right of screen



4. This will open a page showing the following icon. 'Click' on the icon



5. You will now open a page showing your personal profile. This is where you can change your contact details and add an emergency contact. **This is extremely important in cases of accident or emergency.** Make any changes necessary and 'click' **Save Changes** top or bottom right of profile screen.



6. You now have two options – Returning to the Website or to Logout. Top right of screen. Select the appropriate icon.



Fanshawe's African Sanctus

Don't forget to book for the climax of our Summer Season, a performance of David Fanshawe's acclaimed African Sanctus with the Cornerstone Chamber Choir, Cornerstone Young Voices, MK Music Service Choir and special Instrumental Ensemble on Sunday 7th July at 7.30.

The evening includes visual images of David Fanshawe's iconic journey down the Nile exactly 50 years ago, African Drumming by Nikiru Arts, traditional African songs brilliantly arranged by Mike Brewer, an action song by the young musicians of MK Music Service, and a display of African Dance.

An evening not to be missed, all in the cause of the charity 'Advantage Africa', a locally based charity.

Tickets £17 (conc £16), £15 (conc £14) child £2 available online at

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cornerstone-music> (booking fee applies), by post from Cornerstone Music Tickets, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES.

Send a stamped S.A.E. and cheque payable to Cornerstone Music; telephone 01908 246486 (ans mach) or 07961 348697, email boyntonmusic@btinternet.com or at the door.

We hope you can join us for this very special evening and bring along your friends.

A Summer Concert

The Sherwood Singers present A Summer Concert, with guests, The Cornerstone Children's Choir, at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church, Buckingham Rd, Bletchley MK3 5HH, on Saturday 13th July 2019 at 7pm.

Admission free, with a retiring collection towards the work of the choirs.

Parking at the Milton Keynes College in Sherwood Drive. Take first turning left off Sherwood Drive into Selwyn Grove, then left into college car park. MK3 6DR Church car park reserved for those with reduced mobility.

Jan Taylor, Chair, Sherwood Singers

Milton Keynes Chorale Presents

Saturday 13 July 2019 at 7.30pm

St Peter & St Paul Church, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR

Will Todd: *Mass in Blue*

Shearing: *Songs and Sonnets*

A selection of Spirituals

Soprano: Georgie Malcolm

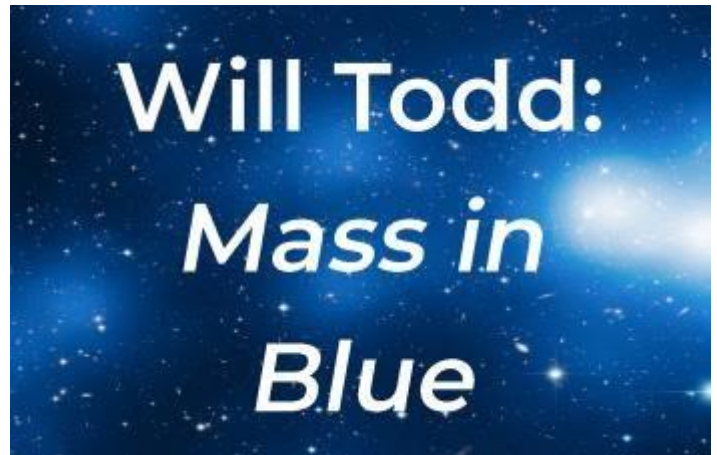
The Chorale Jazz Trio

Conductor: Mark Jordan

What happens when you fuse jazz with a choral setting of the mass?

Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* has firmly established itself as one of the 21st century's most engagingly refreshing takes on the traditional religious texts. Paired with George Shearing's highly inventive *Songs and Sonnets*, this promises to be a choral concert with a difference.

Tickets: Adults £15, Young people under the age of 18 £5, may be obtained from members of Chorale, from Clare at our box office on 01525 210030 or booked online at: <http://www.mkchorale.org.uk> (online booking fee applies).



Looking for sighted volunteers

I am a blind volunteer of a local charity supporting blind and partially sighted people in Milton Keynes.

I run a Ballroom Dancing Group for the visually impaired. We are an enthusiastic bunch of blind people keen to learn and improve our dancing skills. However, we need sighted helpers who are keen to improve their dancing skills as well as guide us.

We have an experienced teacher who is very good in teaching sighted as well as poorly sighted individuals.

We meet on the second Wednesday and last Thursday of every month in the morning at Trinity Centre, Fishermead Blvd, Fishermead, Milton Keynes MK6 2LA.

I wonder if any of the U3A members would like to join our group to learn dancing, improve their skills as well as help us.

Padma Cheriyan, Volunteer Organizer, Bucks Vision Ballroom Dancing Group

E: pscheriyan@gmail.com, T: 01908 377058: M: 07456 202707



See Around Britain

Volunteering Opportunities - Milton Keynes

I am contacting you from See Around Britain. We are a registered charity which has set up a website, www.seearoundbritain.com with the intention to provide photographic and detailed written information regarding a large variety of public venues throughout the UK.

The information we provide gives a brief description, along with contact details, transport information and accessibility information so that potential visitors, including those with disabilities, can decide whether or not a venue is suitable for their particular needs.

The charity currently has a number of exciting volunteering opportunities available and we feel they could be of potential interest to your members.

In particular, we are looking for volunteers to write venue descriptions to accompany the backlog of photographs of various venues and/or submit photos or videos of new venues themselves, all of which can be done from home and online via our website.

There are online video tutorials available to help volunteers, but we can also provide additional support via email if needed.

If you feel this would be of interest to any of your members, we would be really grateful to hear from you (contact email address: cara_sab@outlook.com and/or support@seearoundbritain.com).

Alternatively, they can register their interest and join directly via the website's volunteer section at the bottom of the About Us page, www.seearoundbritain.com/about-us

Cara Crockett, See Around Britain



African Drums at Bow Brickhill

Bow Brickhill Women's Institute usually meet on the fourth Thursday in the month. We meet at The Pavilion in Rushmere Close at Bow Brickhill at 7.30 pm.

On 25th July we are having a talk about African Drums and a chance to individually play a drum. Visitors are requested to donate £4 towards refreshments, hire of the hall and the speaker.

We are a friendly group and welcome visitors and new members.

On Sunday 4th August we have planned a boat trip from Bedford and a cream tea. More details to follow.

Further details for the July meeting can be obtained from Stephanie Warren Tel 01908 671394.

Quiz Nights in Simpson Village Hall

Suppers TBC £12.00 pp.

Sat 6th July at 7.00 pm for Bucks Vision MK

Sat 20th July at 7.00 pm for Transition Town MK (Environmental Group)

To book or for more info contact Pat Hodges on 01908 644785 or missquiz@sky.com

Saturday 27th July at 7.00 in St Thomas's Church, Simpson Village

Variety Concert "Anything Goes". Bring & Share Buffet

Collection taken for Church funds

If you would like to play, sing, join the singing group or recite please contact Pat (details above)

Pat Hodges

Key Contact details – more on the website

Chair: Lesley Sparks chair@mku3a.org

Vice Chair: Tina Two vicechair@mku3a.org

Secretary: Neill Dewar secretary@mku3a.org

Treasurer: Diana Sears treasurer@mku3a.org

Groups Coordinator: Shirley Dewar groups@mku3a.org

Webmaster: Dave Barratt webmaster@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary: Claire Naismith membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Coordinator: Simon Wong comms@mku3a.org

Datum Project: Dave Barratt datum@mku3a.org

Thames Valley Network: Fred Bass tvn@mku3a.org

Members Liaison: Dennis Revell membersliaison@mku3a.org

Assistant Webmaster: Len Barrows assntwebmaster@mku3a.org

Groups Finance Admin: Janet Thompson groupsadmin@mku3a.org

Halls Admin: Sue Giordano hallsadmin@mku3a.org

Open Meetings/Volunteers: Currently vacant volunteers@mku3a.org

Please refer to the website www.mku3a.org for statements concerning **MKU3A Policies and Guidance** on all aspects of our **admission including Data Privacy, Disclaimers and Copyright**.

Office: 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA

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