

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 1

January 2023

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 24 years



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Monday Afternoon Tea continues



Overton Community Council invites Overton residents to come to the Parish Room on Mondays between 2.00pm and 4.30pm for a spot of afternoon tea, warmth and company. There is no charge; all we ask is that you come and have fun.

Tractor Runs raise money for local charities

The Llangollen & District Young Farmers Association and Brian Jones' Charity Christmas Tractor Run brought delight to Overton with their spectacular tractor runs.



Llangollen TR raised money for the Welsh Air Ambulance, The DPJ Foundation (farmers mental health) and the Vale of Llangollen Rotary. Brian's Tractor Run raised money for Nightingale House and Hope House Hospices.

The Maelor Music Society

presents soloists and ensembles from the very best students at Chethams Specialist Music School in Manchester on **Wednesday January 25th**, 7.30pm at the Maelor School, Penley. The next generation of music stars will entertain and impress. Their last concert featured a virtuoso performance on trombone from one of the finalists in the BBC's "Young Musician of the Year" competition!

Trees, trees & more trees

Overton's Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, opened with a real fanfare, (photo right) ably performed by



Overton's own brass



quartet, before carol singing and a chance for everyone to admire the trees decorated by community groups and businesses. Photos of all the trees are on Page 5 or the Oracle website www.overtonoracle.com



The Christmas Tree in the Lady Chapel recreated a scene of



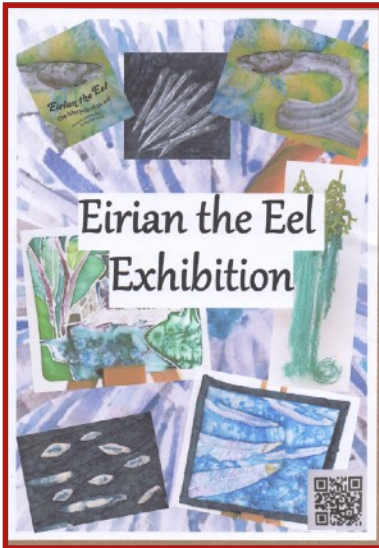
children gathered in their living room. (photo left) Many people left children's Christmas presents under the tree. Tracey and Samantha wish to thank every one and said, "We hope you all enjoyed our display in the Lady Chapel this year, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated gifts.

All presents were taken to the Salvation Army on the 18th December, who distributed them on our behalf to children who would not have many presents. It is wonderful to know, even in these trying times we find ourselves in, that God's love shines through us more than we know. Happy New Year and God bless."

St Mary's would like to thank all the organisations who are taking part in the Advent Tree and adding a decoration each day, many of them home made. (photo right) It is brilliant and as ever Overton is showing its creative talents once again.



And a big thank you to the Overton Community Council for the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall (photo left) and for the lighted trees along the High Street, and to all those residents who lit up their houses to make our village so festive.



Eirian the Eel Exhibition comes to Overton Library!

From Monday 9th January 2023, Eirian the Eel exhibition will be in Overton Library! The exhibition started in St Mary's Church Overton before touring to Wrexham Library and then the headquarters of the North Wales Wildlife Trust in Bangor before returning to Overton for the month of January 2023.

The exhibition will be open during library opening hours, 2pm to 6pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Families will be able to drop in and hear the story and join in activities between 10am - 12pm on Saturday 14th and Saturday 28th January for some Eely fun!

The book "Eirian the Eel The lifecycle of an eel" is by Overton author Rachel Harris.

For more information please go to the website <https://echoesofeels.co.uk/>



My First Overton Year

I sit in the bakery writing this, still warm from the ovens with customers popping in for their bread and a chat. I can't quite believe we have been in this beautiful part of the world for just over a year. What a year it has been. The renovation of the old chemist shop was a big piece of work but we are delighted with the beautiful space it has now become. I have been overwhelmed with the village support for my little business. Good bread is certainly proving popular and it has been lovely getting to know all my customers. Bread Classes have become much busier now as Covid has eased. I love teaching people the joy of bread and I keep the classes small and very hands on, so that a lot of fun is had by all. I think a lot of people may have found a bread class voucher under their Christmas tree.

Michael and I really enjoyed being a part of Renovation Nation which aired in October on Channel 4. We had the film crew visiting us over an 8 month period and very quickly, you forget that you are being filmed! Wasn't it great seeing the village from the air? When it was televised, it reminded us of what we have actually achieved with the house, rather than always thinking about what has to be done. We have now moved into the house, but there is still a lot of work to be done and, one day, it will be beautiful.

Other highlights of the year include visiting Downing Street with my bread for a Christmas Fair, having doughy fun with lots of kids from St Marys, enjoying my first ever bread queue at the Jubilee celebrations, selling out at Hanmer and Overton Christmas Fairs, demonstrating at a number of local WI's, being a regular at The White Horse's Quiz Nights, tripping the light fantastic at the Village Hall dance classes, trying my hand at bowls, and taking part in the OAD's sell out performances of Fawlty Towers. It was a big move from London, but we both feel it was the right one. It is such a lovely community here and we are so pleased to be part of it.

Liz Wilson



Winter fair and the Jubilee Community Fund

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make OCC's inaugural Winter Fair such a success! (photo right) This includes the stall holders, raffle sponsors, anyone who submitted photos for the photography exhibition, and of course everyone who came to buy things from the stalls, purchase raffle tickets, munch mince pies and drink mulled wine during the evening. Together, we raised £850 all of which will go towards OCC's Jubilee Community Fund. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Now, to give you more information on the Jubilee Community Fund itself. For those of you who can visit the website, further information can be found here overton-on-dee.co.uk/grants-funding/ In essence, applications for a grant may

be made by an Overton resident or proposed by Community Agents, a Community Councillor, a Medical Practitioner, a Social Worker, a Carer, a Teacher, a Neighbour, a member of the Clergy, an official of any village organisation, or other resident of the village. The Fund Trustees may make grants for the following reasons:

- to alleviate sickness, hardship or cashflow problems as determined by the Trustees in their absolute discretion. The maximum any individual may receive on each application is £50 and any family is £100; both these may be increased to up to £250 in exceptional circumstances)
- to meet any other reasonable expenses that the Trustees determine in their absolute discretion would provide assistance, support or relief up to £250
- in exceptional circumstances, to enable or support community facilities aimed at providing a warm community space, refreshment and food, or food bank, the making of grants to organisations providing such facilities up to £250 may be considered. Organisations should normally apply to the Community Chest Fund.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website or by applying to OCC clerk David Williams



Musings from the Manse

.....
by Rev'd Richard Parkes



Who is time actually for? For thousands of years, people needed to know the time in a fairly general way – you needed to know when it was early Spring, perhaps, so you could plant your seeds, or take your flocks higher up the mountain – what John Arlott called our 'calendar of care'.

Gradually, however, as we in the West began sailing vast distances, knowing the time accurately became vital so sailors could know where they were. Once, all that mattered was the time the sun rose – and then along came the railways. Since the sun rises about 7 minutes later in Bristol or Edinburgh than it does in London, a national standard time was needed. Sailors needed the standard time (GMT) before the railways did.

And since then we've been measuring time with ever greater accuracy and precision. We didn't need nanoseconds in the stone age! Time was measured with nature. Now, nature isn't accurate enough – the earth's speed of rotation varies ever so slightly, and that is a problem for some physicists (not me – I only did 'A' level physics, or 'Maths with attitude' as I like to call it).

Who is all this time measuring for? A finance company recently spent around £300 Million laying a new fibre optic cable from New York to London. They wanted to reduce the time it took messages to travel across the Atlantic by 6 milliseconds – 6 thousandths of a second. £50 million per millisecond! In the world of finance, a lot of money can be made in a millisecond. Kipling told us that 'if you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run ... then you are a man. And there are times when that is good advice. But 'what is this world if, full of care, we have no time to stop and stare' (W H Davies)? That is also true. Are we slaves to our watches and diaries? Do they control us or do we control them?

One day is much like any other – but we humans put our stamp on the calendar, and some days have more significance. Birthdays, anniversaries. At Christmas we think about family and friends – but also faith, justice, and the meaning of life. At New Year we like to make resolutions – we will be better at, well, whatever it might be. New Year is just a day, but it is a day when we humans have decided to reset ourselves and begin again.

I hope you have a good New Year – I hope that 2023 brings you joy and peace.

Peace to you all,
(Rev) Richard Parkes

Country Beat



.....
by PCSO Dean Sawyer

Before setting the amount that people in North Wales pay for policing through the precept, the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, Andy Dunbobbin, wants to hear what you think about the plans as part of a public consultation and survey.

As well as having your view on changes to the amount paid towards policing, you will also be able to say what priorities you want to see North Wales Police act on. The survey will also give you the chance to comment on how you see policing in your own community more generally.

The survey closes on the **11 January 2023**.

Please visit the link below and fill in the short survey to make your voice heard. Paper copies of the survey, in Welsh and English, are also available at libraries and police stations across North Wales. You can also get the survey in Easy Read format.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DWKGQVB

Alternatively, to receive a paper copy by post, contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the following ways: Phone: 01492 805486

Email: OPCC@northwales.police.uk

or by post to Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales, Police Headquarters. Glan y Don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW

Keep the Oracle going

You are invited to the AGM of the Overton Oracle on Tuesday January 24th at the Overton Recreational Club at 7pm. We welcome new members to the committee, and support for keeping our local newspaper going.

Support Your Village Hall

You are invited to join Overton Village Hall Trustees at their AGM on Wednesday 22nd February. The business will take place in the main hall at 7.00pm.

For and on behalf of Overton Village Hall Management Committee.



Colouring picture for lazy people.

Could setting up your own enterprise offering care & support in the Overton area, be for you?

I am Jen Naylor, a Wrexham resident, running my own part time business, plus working part-time for social enterprise Community Catalysts. We are helping local people to set up and run their own micro-enterprises offering care and support to older and disabled people. We're working in partnership with Wrexham council to help you get set up for free! We have already supported 53 amazing new community based micro enterprises across Wrexham offering a range of things: from help with cleaning, cooking, getting washed and dressed, trips out and more. But with a rising population of older people and more people choosing to remain independent at home, demand for care and support is out stripping supply.

Jen's 10 Good Reasons to Start Your Own Enterprise Offering Care and Support in and around Overton

1. Living and working in Overton. Opportunities to work, as well as live, on your home patch
2. Choose your own working hours
3. Take advantage of start-up support and a grant to help cover insurance, DBS checks and professional memberships
4. Make a difference in your community
5. Offering care and support can be a very rewarding role
6. Be part of a peer network of micro-enterprises
7. Feedback from the micro enterprises, 'I get so much satisfaction knowing I make a difference to someone's life'
8. A market for your new enterprise exists - and it's growing!
9. Provide quality care the way you've always hoped care could look like
10. Give yourself a confidence boost - being your own boss could make you feel proud

You can find a list of micro enterprises offering care and support in the Wrexham area on www.smallgoodstuff.co.uk/Wrexham To arrange an informal chat about your ideas – call or text me - Jen Naylor on 07398 335 037 or Amy Kordiak on 07880 195 114 or get in touch via our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ComCatsWrexham

Visit by his Majesty the King and Her

Majesty the Queen Consort to mark the granting of City status to Wrexham on Friday 9th December 2022.

What a wonderful day for the people of Wrexham. The Royal visit has created a renewed sense of cultural and civic pride. I was fortunate enough to be invited to St. Giles Church and took my daughter Eleanor as my plus one. We witnessed the King signing the City declaration. The King's speech referred to "The Seven Wonders of Wales" so obviously included St. Giles, and Overton's yew trees got a mention as well. The Rhos Orpheus Male Choir were in fine voice and the Royal couple were applauded by all in attendance both inside and lining the streets.

Cllr John McCusker

The Oracle Editor was also privileged to meet and talk to His Majesty later that day, during his private visit to Erddig, where he planted a sapling, cloned from the Pontfadog Oak, in memory of his mother, the late Queen.

News from the Recreational Club

We hope you all had a relaxing enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for the new year. No doubt it will continue to be a challenging time in so many ways and for this reason we thank all our customers, especially our regulars for your continued support and welcome you back this coming year! As you know the Recreational Club is now a pub with no membership required and has been part of the village for over FIFTY years and continues to be a valuable asset to our village.

We have bingo twice a week, pool, snooker ,darts, Sky and BT Sports showing all the big sporting events with regular quiz nights and discos. Even with so much going on there is always a quiet corner to chat and relax if you prefer. We cannot wait for the new year with faces new and old, who can be assured of a very warm welcome!

As well as this we start off January with a New Year's Quiz on Sat 7th Jan. Teams of up to 4, starts 8.30pm. Keep an eye on our facebook page for info on other events.

Try something new for the New Year

Why not join the Art Group at Penley Rainbow Centre or Piercy Hall, Marchwiel. The groups welcome people of all ages and abilities. You can explore a variety of themes, artists and techniques in a mix of mediums. It's a wonderful opportunity to explore your creative side in a warm and welcoming environment. Sessions are at Penley on Tuesdays 9.30am to 11.30am or at Marchwiel on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The cost is £6 a session including tea and coffee on arrival. Booking is essential, ring 01948 830730. Come and explore your artistic side!



WI Update

Overton W.I. have enjoyed a busy month again. We always aim to support local businesses and this year we went to The Trotting Mare for our festive celebrations. It is always sad to lose local pubs and restaurants, but we look forward to supporting the next hostelryes whatever they may be.

Our December Meeting was a joyous mix of games and seasonal readings accompanied as always with good food and friendship. Our next meeting will be January 19th in the Village Hall if you would like to come along. We would like to thank everyone involved with the Christmas Tree Festival this year, the Church looked beautiful and the trees were creatively presented. A credit to all.

As we move into the New Year, we would also like to thank The Oracle team for continuing to supply us with such a wonderful informative Village newsletter every month. A lot of work goes into its production and distribution and we are a very lucky village to have such a great source of news and local information.

Happy New Year to our local businesses who have looked after us all throughout the last few very difficult years, and to every Overtonian!



Don't Forget

From January 31st 2023, regular Royal Mail stamps will have a barcode on them. Old style regular stamps (without a barcode) need to be used up or swapped out before the end of January.

Save the date!

And start the New Year with some crafting, painting, photographing or wood carving. Start planning what you will make for the Village Handicraft Show which will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday May 20th 2023. Schedules available in February. Enquiries: Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" for December 2022. 120 members entered. The draw was made on 13th Dec. Winning numbers were selected by Peter Hughes.

A Bonus Draw with 10 winners each receiving £60. Winners:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| No 78. Huw Birrell | No 92 Claire Williams |
| No 119. Richard Jones | No 18 William John Vaughan |
| No 76 Raymond Austin | No 65 Freddie Peter Knight |
| No 2 Leo, Mollie & Sophie Picken | No 12 David Austin |
| No 5 Anne Billington | No 7 Francis Glynne Jones |

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Tuesday 10th January
If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678 or contact him by Facebook Messenger.

"IF YOU DON'T PAY --- YOU DON'T PLAY"
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS & BEST WISHES FOR 2023

Adverts are not included in the on-line archived edition of the Oracle.

This is because the archive of the Oracle is available on-line going back many years and the adverts and contact details would be out of date.

More Maelor Music Society Dates

Wednesday February 15th. 7.30pm at the Maelor School, Penley : Northop Silver Band.

Saturday February 25th. 3.00-5.00 pm in Overton Village Hall : Afternoon Tea.

Following the success of last summer's highly sociable and gastronomically satisfying gathering in the excellent setting of the village hall, we hope the daylight schedule and the outstanding reputation of the MMS bakers will encourage many to join us!

Further details can be obtained from Geoff Mason
Tel:01978 710486 or email: gcmason47@yahoo.co.uk

More photos of the Christmas Tree Festival



Far left: Overton Playcentre

Left: Overton Bellringers
THE WINNER

Right: Overton Amateur Dramatic Society



Left: Overton on Dee WI

Trees on Page 1 from left:
Knit & Natter
St Marys School
The Twinning



Left: Overton Branch Royal British Legion

St Mary's School Christmas Festivities

Our Christmas festivities at St Mary's started off in style with Nursery and Reception children's performances of 'The Little Blue Star' for parents and KS2 pupils. It is a joyous story of a Little Blue Star who doesn't fit in until she is taken under the wing of the Star of Bethlehem. Becoming part of the Nativity scene, Little Blue Star's journey teaches us all about valuing differences and being inclusive. The show had a very fitting ending with the song 'Merry Christmas' performed in Sign Language. It was the first time on stage for the little ones but they were amazing - true professionals! *(photo right)*



Children in Years 1-6 performed two Nativity Concerts in St Mary's Church for parents, friends and family, with a blend of readings and songs both modern and traditional. It was the first public Christmas performances since COVID, and it felt special to be back celebrating Christmas together in the traditional way. *(photos left and below)*



On Thurs. 15th December, the whole school took a trip to William Aston Hall to watch Delta Academy of Performing Arts panto, 'Beauty and the Beast'. It was a great production with superb costumes, lighting and dance routines. The actors were fabulous and we were thrilled to meet with some of the cast afterwards, including ex St Mary's pupil, Lotte Rebel, who played one of the lead roles. *(photo left)*



St Mary's have followed on from last year's success in the Christmas Card Competition run by the Bishop of St Asaph, with a number of pupils across KS2 being awarded certificates for their efforts. *(photo right)*



Receiving Very Highly Commended certificates: William Parry and Caitlin Rooney. Receiving Highly Commended Certificates: Charlie Allwood Reid, Joseph Atherton, Aneira Barlow, Noah Bell, Ava Buckley, Rowan Farrow, Eva Holland, Grace Horrocks, Emily Hughes, Grace Hughes, Jake Latham, Ryleigh Rowe, Bella Skillicorn, Millie-Jane Whittingham and Robyn Wild. Pupils were presented with their certificates by Reverend Peter on behalf of the Bishop of St Asaph. Well done to you all!

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At Overton Playcentre we are looking forward to our Early Education Children joining us on 9th January. This is always an important and exciting day for our 3yr olds and their parents as they enter their Education journey for the first time! This year is particularly exciting as this year's cohort of 3yr olds are the first ever children in Wales to take part in the 'Curriculum for Funded Non-Maintained Nursery Settings' as part of the New Curriculum for Wales 3yrs-16yrs. Which means that these children will be the first to have gone through the whole of the new Curriculum in Wales by the time they leave school! We are really excited to see where our children lead us in their learning journey and what adventures we will have on the way in this new child led curriculum! We look forward to sharing some of the highlights with you during 2023!



On a fundraising note we are extremely grateful to all the amazing prizes donated to us for the Christmas raffle, including ME Evans, Two Doves, Ego Xcentric, Lewis farm shop, Lucy's Candle range, Llanymynech Golf Club, signed Eirian the Eel book by local author, and a large number of wines and spirits donated by staff and parents. We hope that all the winners enjoy their prizes! This term we look forward to fun filled fundraising events and activities - so watch this space for more details! So here is wishing everyone a happy and joyful year ahead together!

What's On

January Diary for St Mary's

Sunday January 1st 11.00am Joint service at Bettisfield
 Sunday January 8th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday January 15th 9.30am Morning Prayer
 Sunday January 22nd 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday January 29th 11.00am Joint service at Marchwiell

For all service details see

<https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/worship>

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Jan 1st 2.30pm Rev Richard Parkes
 Sunday Jan 8th 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
 Holy Communion & Covenant Service
 Sunday Jan 15th 2.30pm Mrs Sian Williams
 Sunday Jan 22nd 2.30pm Mr David Young
 Sunday Jan 29th 2.30pm Mr Tim Guy

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

Every Monday 10.00am-12.30pm from January 16th Overton Art Group in the Catholic Hall, Wrexham Road.

Every Thursday 11.30am - 1.30pm Knit and Natter group at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

Saturday January 7th 8.30pm New Year's Quiz at the Overton Recreational Club

Monday January 9th-31st 10am Opening of 'Eirian the Eel' exhibition at Overton Library.

Tuesday January 10th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Saturday January 14th Real Christmas Tree collection in aid of Nightingale House

Saturday January 14th 10am-12noon Family Story and Activity Drop-in session at Overton Library

Thursday January 19th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall.

Tuesday January 24th 7.00pm Overton Oracle AGM at the Overton Recreational Club. All welcome.

Wednesday January 25th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society in The Maelor School Hall with Chethams Music School

Thursday January 26th 7.00pm Overton on Dee Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Saturday January 28th 10am-12noon Family Story and Activity Drop-in session at Overton Library

Saturday January 28th 10am - 12pm Overton Methodist Church Coffee Morning.

Dustbin Days

Thurs Jan 5th **General Waste & Recycling/food**
 Thurs Jan 12th **General Waste & Recycling/food**
 Thurs Jan 19th **Garden Waste & Recycling/food**
 Thurs Jan 26th **General Waste & Recycling/food**

Family Announcements



Happy January Birthdays to Graeme Clarke, Mary Jones, Alice and Victoria O'Brien, Micki Blair, Jim Eastop, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard, Lucy Edwards, Karen Jones Roberts, Caroline Wason, Russell Jones and Raymond Austin.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Les Hughes who passed away in December.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sheila Miller and Pam Roberts who decided to raise money for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Sheila said, "Pam and I managed to raise just over £650 between us by walking 30k in November. In actual fact we probably walked nearer to 40k just to make sure my step tracker wasn't cheating. Thank you everybody who donated to the worthy cause, and most with gift aid attached which raises an extra 25% on each donation. We were truly grateful for the support we got from Overton."



Nightingale House Xmas Tree Collection

A team of volunteers will collect and recycle your REAL Christmas tree in return for a donation towards Nightingale House hospice.

Visit charityxmastreecollection.com or call 01978 314292 to book your collection by 9th January. Leave your tree outside your house in a visible location before 7am on Saturday 14th January 2023

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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 Treasurer Barry Metcalfe,
 Distribution Cynthia Davies, Euan Stevenson,
 Jenny Bellis, Gwynneth Austin & Claire Williams

Advertising & Editor - Jill Burton.

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The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by Minuteman Press, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
 e-mail: Bpd.uk201@minutemanpress.com

The Oracle is delivered FREE to more than 650 homes in the Overton Area. Our thanks go the volunteer distributors who make sure you receive your copy each month. We operate a postal service for our long distance readers, and we are also on the Web. www.overtonoracle.com You can also e-mail us at overtonoracle@gmail.com

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