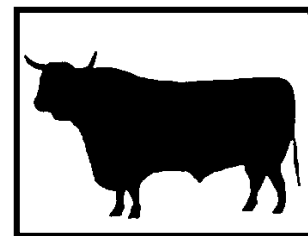




# HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Edited by Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall Committee  
Further information of events and news on [www.halsvh.org.uk](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)

December 2025

## Editorial

Are your festive preparations underway? Have you started peeling those sprouts; have you got your chestnuts roasting by the open fire? Or maybe you're just enjoying the calm before the Christmas chaos!

Welcome to our December newsletter—there is lots to talk about.

We have Dates for the Diary, updates on local happenings, Christmas Cracker jokes, and even a festive quiz. Everything you need to get into the Christmas spirit!

We also have news about this newsletter – it's now going to come out every 3 months, rather than bi-monthly. However, just so you don't miss out on what's happening, we are going to send out a 'one-pager' at the start of each intervening month, letting you know about forthcoming events. In other words, you will be getting a "news-sheet" in January and February, and the full newsletter in March ... and then the cycle continues.

So, if you have anything you would like included in the next news-sheet or newsletter ... from the school, from the church, from the Social Club, from local organisations and clubs, or from anything happening in the village, then please let us know – e-mails sent to [newsletter@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@halsvh.org.uk)

Thank you !

**And ... we hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.**

## Dates for the Diary

**Here is a list of what will be happening in and around Horton & Little Sodbury in the next few months**  
**You can find out more details when you keep reading this publication.**

A Pre-Christmas Get together @ HVH  
Christmas Party for the Self Employed @ Social Club  
Carol Service @ St Adeline's Church  
Carol Service @ St James' Church  
Christmas Evening Tractor Run @ Social Club  
Christmas Eve Service @ St James' Church  
Christmas Day @ Horton Social Club  
KNEAD bread van @ HVH  
Benefice Service @ St James' Church  
New Year's Eve @ Horton Social Club  
The return of the Horton Quizzes #1 @ HVH  
Rockhampton Wind Quintet @ HVH  
The return of the Horton Quizzes #2 @ HVH  
Horton Spring Bull Run, starting at HVH  
Ninebarrow coming back to Horton

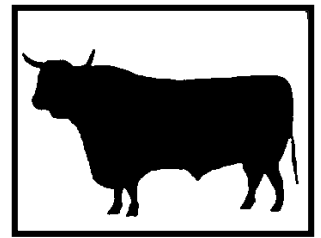
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 7pm  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Fri 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11:15am  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm  
Wed 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm  
Thu 25<sup>th</sup> December from 11am to 1pm  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15 to 12 noon  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am  
Wed 31<sup>st</sup> December from 7pm  
Fri 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7pm  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 2:30pm

**Boxercise classes** are every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 7.30pm at Village Hall.

**Pilates classes** starting again – contact Sue Webb on [sue@coreandmore.co.uk](mailto:sue@coreandmore.co.uk).

**Zumba classes** starting again – contact [andrea.benson1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrea.benson1@btinternet.com) to express interest.

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## What's in the Diary in detail

### A Pre-Christmas Get Together

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ Horton Village Hall**

OK, so I may have mis-represented this – apologies.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a pre-Christmas get-together at Horton Village Hall.

The evening starts at 7pm, and yes, there will be cheese & biscuits and other festive delights to sample (free, but with donations going to St Peter's Hospice), and "interesting" wines (and other beverages) available to purchase at the bar; and yes, there will be a bit of a quiz as well.

And of course, there will be Christmas music playing in the background.

Also, that night, we will be launching the traditional Village Christmas e-Card, which, this year, will be supporting St Peter's Hospice – a local charity that provides free adult hospice care for everyone that needs their support.

So, please, please come along – it costs nothing to join us for this pre-Christmas get-together ... although we really would like to raise a lot of money for St Peter's Hospice, so all donations gratefully received.

See you there.

*(Ed – Christmas joke anyone ?? If 2x2 makes 4, and 3x3 makes 9, what does 0x0 make ? Gravy !)*



### Christmas Evening Tractor Run

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December @ Horton Social Club**

The traditional Christmas Tractor Run is happening on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, starting and finishing at Horton Social Club. Registration is at 2:30pm, with the Tractor Run starting at 4pm sharp. All tractors welcome !



Also, joining the float, will be the Original Santa Float, with Santa & Mrs Clause, Elf on the Shelf, the Grinch, Bubby the Elf, Stitch and loads of dancing elves.

Please come along and cheer the tractors around the route. All welcome back at Horton Social Club for some great family entertainment including a raffle and auction.

All money raised will go to "Time is Precious" and St Peter's Hospice.

If you want more information, please e-mail [mel@lowerkiltcottage.co.uk](mailto:mel@lowerkiltcottage.co.uk) ... or contact them on Facebook – Horton Tractor Run

*(Ed – please check out the poster at the back of the PDF for more details.)*



### Things happening at the Social Club

#### Christmas party for the self-employed

**Friday 12th December**

The Social Club is hosting a Christmas party for the self-employed. (Don't have to be self-employed)

Live music. Free entry. All Welcome.

#### Christmas Day

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

Don't know what to do before Christmas Lunch ? Why not come along to the Horton Social Club and show off what you got from Santa ! The club is open on Christmas Day from 11am til 1pm

#### New Year's Eve

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

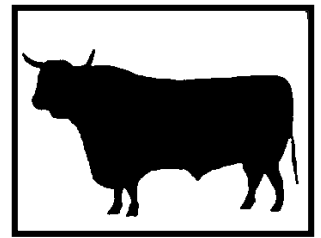
See in the New Year at Horton Social Club. The club is open on New Year's Eve.

Entry is free. Bring your own food.

More details available at the Social Club.

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## The return of Quiz nights

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan + Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb @ Horton Village Hall**



Yes, the great Horton Quiz Nights return to Horton, starting at 7pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, and then again on the 20<sup>st</sup> February.

Watch this space for more details nearer the time

*(Ed – for info, we don't allow animals at our quizzes – one of them might be a cheetah !)*

## Rockhampton Wind Quintet Concert

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February @ Horton Village Hall**



A definite date for your 2026 diary. ☺

The Rockhampton Wind Quintet (including our very own Mike Lea-Wilson) return to Horton Village Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> February for an entertaining Sunday matinee performance, showcasing a variety of music written for wind quintet.

More information and tickets are available via [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)

*(Ed – If you play “name that tune” in a monastery, is it a game of chants ?)*

## What's been happening

### First aid awareness course for the over-50s

On 24th November, fuelled by tea and cake, about a dozen villagers spent an interesting morning at the village hall learning about various issues we might encounter such as preventing slips, trips and falls, what to do if someone has a fall (including how to help them get up without you putting your own back out), scalds, burns, stroke, heart attack, choking, dehydration, recognising and managing diabetes, the basics of CPR and using defibrillators and much more. The idea was to raise 'awareness' of what to do, rather than us crawling about on the floor trying to put it all into practice.

The reason the session is aimed at the over 50s is because that age group is likely to have elderly relatives who might have medical needs that we should know how to recognise and seek help with.

The session was delivered by Sergiu from TodayCare, sponsored by Age UK. He was a very engaging speaker. We were the 9th community in the area to whom he had delivered his talk.

We all learned a lot from the session. Do get in touch if you would be interested in attending another session if we run one. Sergiu is very happy to come back to us if there is sufficient interest.

## What's happening elsewhere

### Church News

#### Update from St James' Church, Horton

The PCC write :-

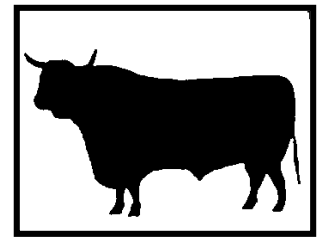
We are approaching a busy time in the Church, yes it's Christmas!

- Our Carol Service will be held on Sunday 21st December at 11.15.  
Expect some hearty singing from the choir and of course some tasty refreshments.
- On Christmas Eve we will be holding a communion service at 5.00pm.  
Mulled wine to be served from 4.30 before the service.
- To finish off the festive celebrations there will be a benefice service on Sunday 28th where we will be welcoming congregations from Chipping, Old and Little Sodbury.  
A 10.30 start with some nourishments after.

We look forward to welcoming you to one or all of the above.



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Recent events in the church included the Harvest and of course Remembrance service, both of which were well attended. We also enjoyed our annual Harvest Lunch with all profits going to the general upkeep of the church.

Our thanks as always to the people who make things happen at the church, be it cleaning, flowers or refreshments.

We hope to see you at St James the Elder at one of our normal Sunday services, the Carol Service and the Communion...or all of them! If you cannot join us, may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful new Year.

## Update from St Adeline's Church

Linda Hurst & Brenda Cordy write :-

St Adeline's Church would like to thank Dave Ferris for his vigilance and on-going work of opening the church in the morning and closing the closing at night. We are very grateful.

Our Carol Service will be held on Friday 19th December at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome and our gratitude is given to Hobbs House Bakery for the delicious mince pies which will be served, along with some liquid refreshment.

Church Wardens  
Brenda and Linda.

## Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall news and events

If you want to know about that is happening in Hawkesbury Upton, then please check out their newsletter by contacting Colin Dixon on [colindixon365@btinternet.com](mailto:colindixon365@btinternet.com)

## School news

### A Warm Welcome from the New Executive Headteacher

Dean Hudd writes:-

It is with great joy and a deep sense of responsibility that I introduce myself, I am Dean Hudd, the new Executive Headteacher of Sodbury Vale Federation. In my role I oversee and work at both Horton CE VA Primary School and St John's Mead CE VC Primary School. I spend half of my week at each school. Joining Horton is both an honour and a privilege, and I am excited to work alongside our dedicated staff, enthusiastic pupils, and supportive families to continue building on the strong foundations already in place.

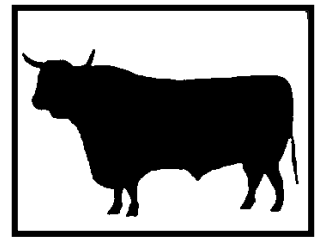
I have over two decades of experience in primary education and more than twelve years in headship roles. I began my teaching career after earning a Bachelor of Education from the University of Wales, Bangor. My career has been based in North Somerset and I am excited about the move to South Gloucestershire.

Our school is more than a place of learning — it is a community where every child is valued, nurtured, and encouraged to flourish. My vision is simple: to ensure that every child feels safe, inspired, and challenged to achieve their very best, both academically and personally. Rooted in our Christian ethos, we will continue to foster kindness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all.

Community partnership is vital, and I welcome your ideas and support as we work together to make Horton CE VA Primary School a place where children thrive and families feel proud. Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities we will create for our children.

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## Old Sodbury news and events

Sam Newick writes :-

- Old Sodbury WI last met on Wednesday 5th of November 2025 at Old Sodbury Village Hall.
- This was our annual AGM where we voted in our committee for the year.
- Our book club meets monthly, and we are currently reading 'The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock', by Imogen Hermes Gowar.
- Old Sodbury WI won the Skittles Tournament this year and we look forward to a new tournament in 2026.
- We recently celebrated the change of seasons with a Harvest Supper in October, and we are looking forward to our Christmas Party in December.
- We have lots of events already in the diary for the new year including a jigsaw race, barn dance, walking tour and much more.
- We meet on the first Wednesday of every month.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th of December 2025 at Old Sodbury Village Hall at 7.30pm.

If you would like to know more or attend a meeting, do get in touch. You would be most welcome to attend one of our future meetings.

Kind Regards

Samantha Newick



## Parish Council news

### **Representative required to join the Y8 Bus Service Group**

Jo Baker writes:-

Sue Hope is looking for a representative from Horton to join the Y8 Bus Service Group. There were no takers from the PC however, a resident could also take a place if they'd like.

The Y8 are there to give feedback on the bus - so a bus user would be preferable, not necessarily a parish councillor.

They meet usually in the afternoon and it is about every 3 weeks, but no fixed time or date as dependant when The Big Lemon (the bus service provider) can come along All meetings are by Zoom.

If anyone would like to take this up, perhaps they could contact me in the first instance and I will pass on to Sue

If you have any other questions you would like to ask of the PCC, please e-mail :-

Jo Baker, the Clerk, on [hortonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hortonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

The last Parish Council meeting was on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Horton Village Hall.

If you want to know more about Horton Parish Council, then please check out their website :-

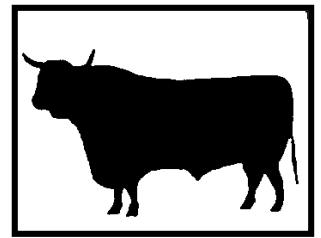
- <https://hortonparishcouncil.co.uk/>





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## The Village Agent Update

*New Village Agent for the West of England Rural Network (WERN)  
Serving the communities of the Cotswold Edge.*

Andy Hiscox, our Village Agent writes:

Hello Everyone,

My name is Andy Hiscox, and I am the newly appointed WERN Village Agent for the villages of Wickwar, Horton, Little Sodbury, Acton Turville, Hawkesbury Upton, Badminton and Little Badminton.

I have been in post since June 2025, and my role as a Village Agent is to support residents to stay as independent and connected with their local community for as long as possible. This can be achieved through various means whether it be by accessing local services, supporting care givers, or simply to give free confidential advice on matters that you may require help with.

Having previously worked with homeless Armed Forces veterans and other Armed Forces charities, I understand the importance of having someone locally who can give assistance when times seem challenging. So, please do not hesitate to contact me should you, or someone you know, require any help or advice.

I very much look forward to supporting our great, resilient and diverse rural communities that make living in them so worthwhile.

You can contact me on 07795 442 272 or email [andy@wern.org.uk](mailto:andy@wern.org.uk)

Further information can be found here - <https://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents>

*(Ed – for more info, please check out the posters at the back of the PDF – including info re foodbank vouchers.)*

## Recipe of the month.

Ok, so it's Christmas, so we thought we would have a traditional Christmassy recipe for this feature in the newsletter – a side dish that goes perfectly with your main event.

Tina Hildick-Smith has kindly submitted a recipe from her new book – her slant on Red Cabbage.

### Red Cabbage

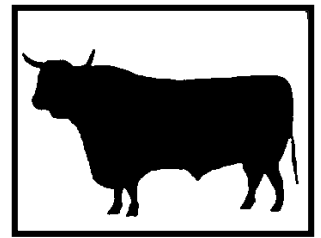
This makes a large saucepanful, and keeps for several days in the fridge, so it is a very useful dish for Christmas time when there are so many other things to be cooked.

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- 4 oz streaky bacon, chopped
- 4 oz soft light brown sugar
- 2 red onions, thinly sliced.
- 1 red cabbage , outside leaves removed , very thinly sliced
- 1-2 eating apples ,cored and chopped but not peeled
- 5 fluid oz. red wine
- 4 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon red currant jelly
- 2 oz. sultanas
- 2 teaspoons cumin seeds
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- Salt and pepper.



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## Method

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan and add the chopped bacon.  
Cook for 5 minutes, until just beginning to change colour.
- Add the sugar, cook gently for a couple of minutes stirring to ensure it doesn't burn.
- Add the onions, red cabbage and chopped apple.
- Mix well, and cook on a medium heat for about 5 minutes, stirring a few times.
- Pour in the vinegar, wine, stir in the red currant.
- Add the cumin seeds, sultanas, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt and pepper, and mix well.
- Cover the pan and cook over a medium heat for 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Leave to cool in the pan, and place into serving dishes, pouring over any juice left in the pan.
- Chop some fresh parsley over to bring out the colour.

*(Ed – I've tried this – it's sooo good !)*

## Want to hire out the hall ??

Are you looking for an event venue for 2025, then look no further than Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall. Our village hall is perfect for birthday parties, wedding receptions, craft fairs, musical evenings, business meetings, off-site away-days, or team building events. Our rates are very competitive and you can host whatever kind of event suits your social or business needs.



We have free high speed wireless internet and a screen for you to project slides or other presentations.

The hall seats up to about 100 people theatre style, and about 60 cabaret style.

Outside we have space for a hog roast or a barbecue. Our well fitted kitchen means that food can be cooked on site if you wish. We have a plumbed in water boiler to provide copious cups of tea or coffee.

Tables, chairs, use of the kitchen, crockery, cutlery, glasses, teapots and cafetieres are included in the hire charge. And we have a bar area. No hidden extras.

Outside we have a patio, a large car park and also a large playing field where you could have teambuilding

events. We are within easy reach of Bristol, Bath, Yate, Stroud and the M4 and M5 motorways.

Check out our web site <http://www.halsvh.org.uk/>

or contact Emma on [emma@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:emma@halsvh.org.uk) or 01454 322879 for further information and to arrange a visit.



**-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-**

*(Ed – I've been told that there are 4 stages of a man's life ...*

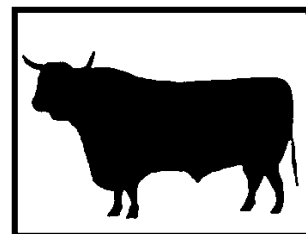
1. *You believe in Santa*
2. *You don't believe in Santa*
3. *You are Santa*
4. *You look like Santa.*



***The HVH Committee would like to wish you a very merry Christmas  
and a bright and prosperous New Year***

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## Useful Local Information

### Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall

Web site: [www.halsvh.org.uk](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)  
Chair: [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)  
Hall bookings: [emma@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:emma@halsvh.org.uk) or on 01454 322879

### Village Agent

Andy Hiscox [andy@wern.org.uk](mailto:andy@wern.org.uk) or on 07795442272

### Horton Parish Council

<https://hortonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

### Nearest Defibrillators

(<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>)

Horton Village Hall	BS37 6QN (available 24/7)
Horton School	BS37 6QP (restricted availability)
Little Sodbury End	BS37 6QE (available 24/7)



## Some More Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

Where do elves vote?	The North Poll !
Why does Santa go down the chimney?	Because it soots him !
What's green, covered in tinsel, and goes ribbet ribbet?	Mistle-toad!
What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?	He got 25 days!
What do you call a vicar on a moped?	Rev!

*(Ed – apologies ... but it just had to be done !!)*



## Quick Quiz

### Answers to last edition's quiz

1. What is the more popular name for the portrait officially titled "La Gioconda," ?
2. What star signs cover the month of September ?
3. What was the first book published by Jane Austen ?
4. What country consumes the most chocolate per capita ?
5. How many children are in the Von Trapp family in The Sound of Music ?

**Mona Lisa**  
**Virgo and Libra**  
**Sense and Sensibility**  
**Switzerland**  
**Seven**

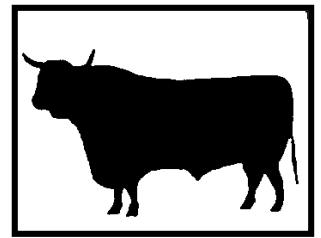
### Five quick questions to test your knowledge ! Answers provided in next edition

1. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
2. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the ninth day of Christmas?
3. How many of Santa's reindeers' names start with 'D'?
4. True or false - Santa traditionally wore a green suit until Coca Cola changed it to red?
5. When making mince pies which way should you stir your mincemeat for good luck?



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## The Poster section

### Christmas Evening Tractor Run

**Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**  
Start & finish at Horton Social Club  
Tractor registration from 2.30pm  
Tractor Run starts at 4pm sharp  
All Tractors welcome

We are so excited to announce we will be joined by the **Original Santa Float**, who will be bringing Santa & Mrs Clause, Elf on the Shelf, the Grinch, Bubby the Elf, Stitch & loads of dancing Elves

The amazing Henry and Ivy of Scarrotts Catering will be serving delicious hot food, before & after

As usual we will be holding our popular Raffle & Auction straight after the run

Santa will be giving presents to the children and taking last minute Christmas letters back to the North Pole

Please do come and give us a wave & a cheer around the route.  
All welcome back at Horton Social Club after the run, for some great family entertainment. All characters from the float will also be available for pictures after the run

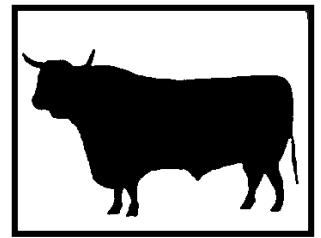
**All money raised for  
Time is Precious & St Peter's Hospice**

If you want more information email [mel@lowerkiltcottagefarm.co.uk](mailto:mel@lowerkiltcottagefarm.co.uk)  
Or contact us on Facebook – Horton Tractor Run



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## VILLAGE AGENT

*Covering Wickwar, Hawkesbury Upton, Little Badminton,  
Acton Turville, Badminton, Horton & Little Sodbury*



Free confidential  
one to one  
support



Help to  
connect with  
others



Signposting to  
information and  
professional  
services



Provision of  
foodbank  
vouchers



Help with financial  
concerns  
(including claiming  
of benefits)



Advice on  
transport to  
medical  
appointments



### HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

You can reach your local Village Agent by:

- **07795442272** Call, Text or WhatsApp
- Emailing [andy@wern.org.uk](mailto:andy@wern.org.uk)
- Or by visiting [wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents](http://wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents)

*This service is available for anyone over 18 years old*



## FOODBANK VOUCHERS



Get in touch with your local Village Agent who can help you access the  
foodbank network and provide further support if needed.  
100% free and confidential service.



[andy@wern.org.uk](mailto:andy@wern.org.uk)



07795442272

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