

THE SEAVINGTONS' NEWS

October 2015



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The Seavingtons' News

The Somerset Waste recycling lorries carry the proud boast that recycling saves the County Council £3 million each year.

To judge from our own experience this seems entirely plausible. Our fortnightly "landfill" bin is rarely more than a quarter full these days and our recycling bins get amazingly full. When I visit the recycling site in Chard it is always buzzing with folk discharging their bigger items and I usually have to queue. Our waste paper, of course, is always saved for the villages' monthly skip at the Millennium Hall.

Given this success story I am at a loss to understand why the Chard site is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and why, increasingly, I am told that the waste I take there is chargeable. Surely some of the £3M could keep the site open for longer and, probably, generate more income as a result.

Further, there is some illogicality in what the domestic kerb-side collectors will take. For example, a steel baked bean tin is acceptable whereas another steel item of the same size and weight eg an old hinge, is refused. Such items are too small to justify the time and fuel (and resultant carbon pollution) for a drive to Chard and therefore end up in the landfill bin. There is similar illogicality over which plastic items are accepted.

Is it too much to ask our local council administrators to inject some logic into the waste collecting and increase that £3M?

David Froome

DON'T FORGET

The Newspaper Skip!

**pm Friday 9th October
until am Monday 12th October**

**The Latest Copy Date
for the next issue**

is the 15th October

Editorial content and diary entries to:

David Froome, Middlefield Barn, Church Lane, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster,
TA19 0QP Tel: 01460 249445; e-mail: news@theseavingtons.org

Village Diary—Forthcoming Events

All events, unless otherwise shown, are held in the Millennium Hall
For bookings call 07914 710926

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| 4th October | 11.30 am | Harvest Festival at St. Michael's Church – |
| 6th October | 2.30 pm | Sport50—pp 7 & 26 |
| 8th October | 6.30 pm | Gardening Club Guests Night—p18 |
| 10th October | 7.30 pm | Flix in the Sticks: “Far from the Madding Crowd” - Hinton St. George—p 17 |
| 15th October | 7.30 pm | RSPB Talk: “Long-term Changes in British Butterflies”—p27 |
| 16th October | 7.30 pm | SPFA Apple Harvest Supper—p 26 |
| 17th October | 8.00 pm | Country and Western evening—p 5 |
| 29th October | 7.00 pm | Punkie Night at Hinton St George, starting in St George's Hall—p 8 |
| 5th November | 10.00 am | RNLI Coffee Morning at Hunts House—p7 |

Regular Activities

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| 1st & 3rd Tuesday | 2.30 pm | Sport 50 in the Millennium Hall |
| 2 nd Monday | noon | Pensioners' Lunches in Village Café |
| 1 st Saturday | 9.00 am— | St Michael's Church Seavington Trust Book Sale |
| | 2.00 pm | at 2, Winchester Cottages (opp. The Volunteer) |
| 3 rd Wednesday | 10.00am | “GET2GETHER” Group in Village Café |
| 2 nd Thursday | 7.30pm | Seavington Gardening Club |

To keep up to date, check out the village web-site which is updated regularly and brings you the latest information on village matters, the programmes of village organisations and much more. Pass the address to your friends and relatives and let them keep in touch as well.

www.theseavingtons.org

St Michael's Church, Seavington

4th October	11.30 am Harvest Festival
11th October	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11th October	11.30 am Café Church at Seavington Café
18th October	11.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
25th October	11.30 am Matins

Rev Tom Handy telephone: 01460 240377; revdtomhandy@hotmail.com

The Seavingtons' News Team

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Village web-site: www.theseavingtons.org

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Please do not hesitate to telephone David Froome on 01460 249445 if you have any questions.

Advertising Rates

	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	£ 100	£ 12
½ Page	£ 50	£ 6
¼ Page	£ 28	£ 4

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Quail

Coturnioco coturnioco 7"

Annie (01460 241762)

I love to muse o'er meadows newly mown
Where withering grass perfumes the sultry air
Where bees search round with sad and weary drone
In vain for flowers' blooms but newly there
While in the juicy corn the hidden quail
Cries "wet-my-foot" and hid as thoughts unborn

John Clare (1793-1864)

As mentioned in the poem above, "wet-my-foot" or "quick-me-dick" or "wet-my-lip" are all countryside interpretations of the Quail's call, "whip-whip-whip", as it runs through the long grass.

More easily heard than seen and mostly around dawn or dusk; the male has an odd growling noise. During mating the hen's call has a curious effect on the cock! He will run up and circle the hen, puffing up his neck and chest feathers, following this by dragging his wings along the ground. When the female succumbs the pair will often "duet" together.

It is much smaller than the grey partridge. The male has yellowish-brown streaked upperparts with paler underparts. The crown is darker brown with a yellow stripe running through it. The breast is reddish-brown with dark bands around the throat and eye. The female has a freckled breast but is, overall, less colourful.

The Quail's habitat is open country, where there are a few trees and bushes, grass meadows, crop and vegetation fields. They feed on seeds from such plants as poppy, hemp-nettle, dock and also insects, larvæ, beetles, ants and grasshoppers.

In springtime a nest is made by a scrape in the soil in dense undergrowth lined with bits of grass. The female incubates 7-12 buff coloured eggs for about three weeks. The young feed themselves soon after hatching but may take up to fifty days before becoming fully independent. The male will mate with more than one female but does not stay around to help with their upbringing!

SPFA Village Lottery

Lesley Gudgeon (01460 240236)

Here are the winners of the September 2015 SPFA Lottery draw:

September 2015

First	£35	Chris Reyland
Second	£20	Pauline Parsons
Third	£15	Lesley Gudgeon
Fourth	£10	Peter Lister
Fifth	£10	Aubrey Peckham

Proms in the (Car) Park

Sally & Chris Gough (01460 240897)

We would like to let you all know that the bucket collection at the Proms in the car Park event (and the band's performance in Lyme Regis) totalled £543.40 for St Margaret's Hospice! This is an amazing amount!

Thank you again to everyone for your support.

Country & Western Evenings

Carol Rogers (01935 881510)

There is a County & Western dance at the Millennium Hall on the third Saturday of every month (in December the first Saturday). The dancing is free style and everyone is welcome to come along.

The doors open at 7.00 pm for an 8.00 pm start and the cost is £6, payable at the door. There is no bar so you are invited to bring along your own drinks, glasses and nibbles; there is free tea and coffee.

There is a New Year's Eve dance which is a "ticket only" evening at £10 each, purchasable in advance from Carol Rogers (01935 881510). You need to book early for this event which is already half-sold.

All profits go the Childrens' Hospice South West.

A Farmer's Diary

Farm Boy

It is almost mid September, and I find myself asking where has this summer gone?

I feel rather sorry for those with young families if they holidayed in this country during August because they must have found it rather disappointing. It is a good job that there are now many more varied entertainments to be found here in the West Country. But most of them involve a lot more cost than a day on the beach.

Looking around, although the harvest seemingly started later than normal, the majority of the corn fields have now been cleared, yet it turned out to be far from straight forward because of the limited number of consistent dry sunny days.

It is impossible to ignore the benefits of modern farm machinery that can now minimise the problem of unfavourable weather; they are now so efficient and can cover a lot of ground in a very short space of time.

In my youth we were taught that simplicity was the mother of invention, I think this line of thought has somewhat been superseded. Tractor cabs can now appear more like mobile offices with computer style screens provided with a lot of the more sophisticated implements, these can deliver all kinds of information that helps the operator manage the complicated technology.

For those of us who thought a quick clout with a hammer or a piece of baler cord might put something right now seems to be long gone. However, this is not entirely true back on our own farm, because one afternoon during August I was called back to help beat the weather, so consequently I found myself enjoying a few hours at the controls of the combine harvester that we had purchased second hand almost forty years ago.

I am very pleased to report that it has once more harvested our few fields of wheat without major incident that is apart from one clout from the hammer after I noticed a finger on the cutter bar had gone off line. So the old theory can be applied under certain circumstances, as long as it is not carried out in frustration on a computer style screen, which is showing false information because of a dirty or faulty electronic sensor.

As I have stated in the past I love September, but it still makes me feel a little melancholy, (This I remind you I still blame on the late Nat King Cole for his delightful rendering of his “September Song and Autumn Leaves”).

September is a very busy month in the farming calendar. Because once more it is the beginning of a new annual cycle in cultivation for the following year’s crops, which naturally coincides with nature’s seed time pattern.

One thing is certain: the seasons seem to slip by much quicker as we grow older. I am hoping the weather will be kind so we can all enjoy those things that makes autumn special, which of course includes “Autumn Leaves”.

Sport50 starts again in Seavington

After its summer holiday Sport50 will re-start in the Millennium Hall on Tuesday 6th October at 2.30 pm and on the first and third Tuesday of each month thereafter. This South Somerset District Council scheme is to help the over 50s keep fit.

These sessions proved very popular and great fun during spring and summer and are highly recommended for both their physical and social content. These indoor sports are not demanding and are tailored, on the day, to the participants’ wishes and ability.

For a small charge Sport50 offers anyone over the age of 50 the opportunity to try a wide range of adapted sports which can include badminton, short mat bowling, short tennis, boccia, table tennis and seated volleyball.

RNLI Coffee Morning for your Christmas Cards, Calendars, Diaries and Stocking Fillers



Lifeboats

Hunts House, Seavington St Michael

Thursday 5th November at 10.00 am

Entrance fee £1.50

Its Punkie Night in Hinton St George

Sheridan Casson (07783 069196)

No one knows quite when the first Punkie Night took place, but the tradition of celebrating it dates back beyond living memory. Other villages in the area, including Chiselborough, also have Punkie Night celebrations. It may well be that Punkie Night is connected with the ancient Celtic festival of Samain, when the death of the old year was commemorated and bonfires lit to regenerate the earth. This occurred at the end of October and become All Hallows Eve (or Halloween as it is now known).

The story goes that the men from the village of Hinton St George had travelled to the fair at Chiselborough, to sell their wares. They had promised their families that they would be back by nightfall, but darkness fell and they were nowhere to be seen (having partaken of a fair amount of cider). So the women and children set out to find them, their way lit with Mangle worzel lanterns. The men, inebriated and tired were shocked to see what looked like eerie faces coming through the gloom towards them. Many ran away, thinking that the lights were ghosts or witches coming to haunt them.

Perhaps there is a connection between the ghosts of Halloween and the "Punkies", as ghosts of All Hallows are said to be the souls of the unburied and in her book "Somerset Dialect" Ruth Tongue talks of the "Spunkies" the local name for the little balls of marsh gas, often seen on the Somerset Levels, which local tradition believed were the souls of unbaptised babies.

So we celebrate the event every year on the last Thursday of October (this year October 29th), around 7pm, in Hinton St George, by gathering at the St George's Hall, with carved out Mangle Worzels, to troop around the village, singing the Punkie Night Song. This is followed by a contest to win the trophies for best Punkie lantern, alongside games and Punkie treats.

It's Punky Night Tonight
It's Punky Night Tonight
Give us a Candle, give us a light
It's Punky Night Tonight
It's Punky Night Tonight
It's Punky Night Tonight
Adam and Eve won't believe
It's Punky Night Tonight



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The Seavingtons' Celebrations Grand Draw

Dennis Smith (01460 249138)

On August the 1st at the end of "Have a Field Day" the draw took place for the Grand Draw. The winners were:

Prize	Winner	Donor
£100 Cash	Mr M Harrison	Branston
Ariel Atom Experience	Mr Ensor	Ariel Motor Co
Helicopter Ride	Mrs Gudgeon	Lift West
Meal for 2 at the Volly	Mr M Ellis	Volunteer
Stihl Strimmer	Mrs Berkeley	Loxton Groundcare
Day course for 2 at Dillington House	Mrs R Bennett	Dillington House
Fishing trip from West Bay	Mr Rutter	Ash Bros
Dinner for 2 at Cricket St Thomas	Mrs Thompson	Warner Leisure Hotels
A nights B & B at The Beeches	Mr D Wills	The Beeches
iPod Shuffle	Mrs A Robbins	Probiotics International Ltd (Protexin)
Decorator for a day	Shirley	Ash Bros
Vegetable Box	Mrs S Yearley	The Trading Post
Bonnors Gift Voucher	Mr P Ashley	Bonnors the Butchers
4x25kg bags of potatoes	Mrs V Dew, Mrs L Stevens, Mr Whitefield & B Sharley	N Reyland & Son
2 x gift sets of hair products	Mrs T Smith & Mrs V Dew	Mark Hebron

The Committee would like to thank the donors of the prizes for their generosity and support.

Future plans. The team is currently working behind the scenes on a number of areas both for the shop and the café. Things such as obtaining replacement furniture and replacement cooling equipment, obtaining a barcode system (which will speed things up at the till), improving our stock levels of goods on sale in the shop, funding a manager, improving our daily bread on offer, obtaining air-conditioning so the chillers can work effectively to keep food at the correct temperature, purchasing new equipment for the kitchen, increasing the services we are able to offer are some of the items we are working on to improve what the store provides the village. Please bear with us as all these improvements will take time to source, fund, install and operate.

Arts and Crafts. The regularly changing mixture of art and crafts on display and sale in the shop and café are beginning to have a positive effect. The number of people visiting the village and using the shop and café is increasing. This is no longer solely due to the draw the café has on non-villagers but we are now also seeing people visit from outside the village to view the art and craft displays. This increased footfall is affecting sales which is all to the benefit of the shop, the café and the village.

Survey. Over the next two weeks we will once again be conducting a survey into what you want (if anything) of the shop and café. The survey will be a simple affair covering no more than 5 shop related areas of interest such as advertising, stock we hold, services we provide etc.

Wine stock. You will notice over the next few months that the wine stock held in the shop is changing. We already have some French and Italian wine and more and more we will be including in the stock a number of bin ends (which are often not available in the local supermarkets) of several nice wines. As they are bin ends you will need to get them whilst we have them as we probably won't be able to stock them permanently. Ian Gibson will be championing these changes and has asked if you have any requests that you contact him and let him know your wishes. He is at igchichester@gmail.com. Once you have tried the wine, if you want more, then again let Ian know and he will keep his eye open for more of the same for you.

Christmas!! Believe it or not our thoughts (or at least the purchasing team's thoughts) are already wending their way to ordering Christmas

goodies for the shop to stock. These Christmas offerings will be on sale from 1st Nov onwards.

Donation. Thank you all who contributed to the collection for the Baker children. As a result of this collection the Seavington shop was able to pass a cheque for £100 to add to the fundraising effort of other surrounding villages for this local family.

Community shop contact no 01460 249730

Village Celebration week

David Bennett (01460 249522)

SPFA and the Shop/cafe made a combined profit of £3,506 on the week, over the following categories:-

Have a Field Day	£1,161
Rest of Celebration weekend, including Grand draw and donation from Branston's	£1,476
Quiz night	£ 869

Also, the bucket collection at the Proms in the Car Park Concert raised £543 for St Margaret's Hospice.

Our thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the Village Celebration a success, and to those of you who came and spent your lovely money.

SPFA News

David Bennett (01460 249522)

The main section of the new path in the playing field was recently completed at a cost of £15,814. We are grateful for grants received amounting to £14,112 - £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund (A4A) and £4,112 from South Somerset District Council. Congratulations to Ry Coffman on raising the finance and organising the construction. The result seems to have been well received by the community.

Recycling memories

Oldtimer

Checking out at the shop, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment. The woman apologised to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young cashier responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations".

The older lady said that she was right -- our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain: Back then, we returned milk bottles, Tizer bottles and beer bottles to the shop.

The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery shops bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household rubbish bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbblings. Then we were able to personalise our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have a lift in every shop and office building. We walked to the grocery shop and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two streets away. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 230 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of London. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to

do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the post, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a Tap when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's £40,000 SUV or car, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing".

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest chip shop.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

Flix in the Sticks

Bob Kefford (01460 72563)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents 'Far From The Madding Crowd' (PG), on Saturday October 10th in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

A new adaptation of Thomas Hardy's famous novel about a free spirited young woman torn between three suitors. Carey Mulligan stars in this production which has been described as 'ravishing' and was filmed extensively in Dorset.

Seavington Gardening Club

Kate Mulligan (01460 242023)

10th September 2015 – A Talk by Phil Kerton about Sweet Peas.

Phil Kerton can certainly be described as an expert on Sweet Peas. He has been involved in growing, showing and judging them for the last thirty years.

At his home near Bridgwater he grows them on a huge scale dealing with up to 35,000 seeds each year – all the more remarkable given the fact that this is done by hand except for the initial preparation of the outdoor beds. He uses thousands of support sticks and miles of string to produce his award winning flowers.

The seeds begin life in pots in a poly-tunnel from early October and usually only take 7-10 days to germinate, so long as the mice don't get them first! In March they are planted outside to cope with the cold conditions which toughens them up – after all they are hardy annuals.

Life for Phil revolves around Sweet Peas and his knowledge and enthusiasm is infectious. He dispelled a number of myths about growing them successfully and his talk was educational whilst at the same time entertaining as it was interspersed with several humorous anecdotes about his experiences.

Flower of the Month Competition:

1st Karen Day – Dahlia “Thomas A Edison”

2nd Anne Wills – Gladiolus

3rd David Wills – Dahlia

Forthcoming Event:

The next meeting is on Thursday 8th October. This is our guest night which is open to members and invited guests only. There is a change of speaker for this and John Horsey will be talking about: The John Tradescants.

This father and son team – both called John – were responsible for the introduction of many of the garden plants we use today. This talk describes their lives, their work in royal gardens, their travels collecting plants, some of the plants they introduced and their famous “ark”.

Please note the start time for guest night is 6.30 and not the usual 7.30pm.

St Michael's Church, Seavington

Harvest Festival at the Church

Sunday 4th October 2015 at 11.30 am

Boys and Girls, Mums and Dads, bring your gifts
and join us at St Michael's to celebrate the Harvest



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Village Mart

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Shepton Beauchamp Art & Craft Evenings



We are a small friendly social group that meets on
a Friday evening in Shepton Beauchamp Village Hall
We paint (using all media) Knit, Sew, Jewellery making to name a few.
The choice is yours.

The session is a Pay-as-you-go £2.50pp. Doors open 7.00pm – 9.30pm

If you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome.
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for more details, or just ‘turn up’!

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St Michael's Church Seavington Trust

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The Warehouse Theatre Ilminster

is a little gem which can be found right in the heart of the town. It brings high quality entertainment throughout the year to audiences of all ages, as well as running a thriving youth theatre and being a venue for local groups and clubs to hire.

Run by Ilminster Entertainments Society (IES) it represents one of the best equipped, professional-standard amateur theatres in the county and facilities include:

Seating for 150 people, fully licensed bar, coffee area, disabled access and T-loop hearing system.

Details of future productions can be found in the local press or on our website: **www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk** (plus details of audition nights, youth theatre, IES Membership and more) or call **01460 62739** or email: **info@thewarehousetheatre.org.uk**

Your theatre needs you! *The Warehouse is run entirely by volunteers and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved by helping backstage or front of house during show weeks, or simply by becoming a member of IES. Can you help?*

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MEET UP WITH FRIENDS AT SENIORS' LUNCH (or come by yourself)
on Monday 12 October at 12noon. Please book to avoid disappointment
Seavingtons' Village Store & Cafe, Water St, Seavington St Mary. 01460 249730

SOUTH SOMERSET RSPB GROUP

‘Long Term Changes in British Butterflies’

An illustrated talk presented by Tom Brereton, Head of Monitoring at the Butterfly Conservation Trust. Tom will describe 20,000 years of change in UK butterflies. It's a fascinating story and special reference will be made to changes in Somerset butterflies.

Thursday 15th October 7.30pm The Millennium Hall,
Seavington St Mary

Entry: Group members £2.50, non-group members £3.50, under 18's free
(tea/coffee & biscuits included) – wheelchair access

NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For further details contact: Denise Chamings (group leader) on 01460 240740
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southsomerset

A registered charity: England & Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC37654

Autumn Fair

Meet different artists and crafts people each weekend
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Saturday and Sunday 10/11 October
or
Saturday and Sunday 17/18 October

Art & Crafts at Stourhead

Free entry in the memorial hall (opposite the Spread Eagle
Inn) Stourton

The Seavingtons' Weather in August 2015

This year—2015

Previous year—2014

Temperature

Average Minimum	11.46°C	11.40°C
Average Maximum	20.64°C	20.18°C
Mean	15.75°C	15.97°C

Rainfall

Monthly Total	111.4mm (4.46")	87.6mm (3.50")
Total for the year	443.7mm (17.75")	792.7mm (31.71")

What a cold, wet, summer month!



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