



THE **VENUE** | THEATRE &  
RATOATH | COMMUNITY CENTRE

# NEWS & VIEWS

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2025

In Ratoath we are extremely lucky to have many first-class facilities and restaurants, businesses, schools and associations, to name but a few.

However, what we also have which makes us unique and we have it in abundance, is a giving kind people, who come together for the better good of all in our community. These people who give their time, expertise, commitment, knowledge and skills, we extend a huge thank you for your support.

In Ratoath Community Centre it is our aim to enrich the quality of life and well-being for all residents. While we have a core team in the centre, we could not do our job without our community who are beyond supportive to us.

## Community A Shared Meaningful Experience!



To those, we are forever grateful, whether you are walking the streets to entice groups to get involved in our St Patrick's celebrations, local Cllrs who kindly support us, local Ratoath Boxing Gloves Coach, Martin Suriak from C. H. Robinson Ireland who kindly donated beautiful office desks and furniture to our centre, whether you pop in to tell us your mum's lifeline is the group she attends in our centre, we extend a heartfelt thank you.

This is where the magic happens. Never forget the kettle is always on.

Ratoath Municipal District

**Cllr. Nick Killian**  
Meath County Council  
Peace Commissioner

If you need help with... **Here for You**

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Medical Cards
- ✓ Social Welfare Queries
- ✓ Resident Association Supports
- ✓ Home & Business Energy Grants
- ✓ Housing Adaptation Grants
- ✓ Community Grants

Get In Touch:

T: **087 2596753**  
E: **nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie**  
Advice Centre: First Floor, Riverwalk Court,  
Fairhouse Road, Ratoath (over Tesco)

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PATIENTS FOR TWENTY  
FIVE YEARS

**NEXT GENERATION DENTISTRY**

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PHONE: 01 8256983  
EMAIL: [INFO@RATOATHDENTAL.IE](mailto:INFO@RATOATHDENTAL.IE)  
WEB: [WWW.RATOATHDENTAL.IE](http://WWW.RATOATHDENTAL.IE)



With so much happening since the previous edition of our News & Views FREE community newsletter we are delighted to share our Spring edition, which we hope you enjoy.

We've witnessed a new government elected and locally the election of Cllr. Gillian Toole to the Dáil as an Independent TD. We take this opportunity to wish one of our own the very best of luck in this new role on the national stage.

The recent celebration of St Brigid's Day, 1st February, quickly has us turning to our National day, March 17th, St Patrick's Day. Over the years Ratoath has been blessed with a dedicated committed group of local individuals who selflessly gave up their time to organise amazing jam-packed fun parades and festivals. Some of these people have stood down for a truly well-earned rest and we extend a huge thank you. While some original members remain, we have an eager group of wonderful new volunteers led by Chairperson Michelle Crowley. The committee have signed up and are doing their utmost to ensure we have another fun weekend, ending with the entire community celebrating on Monday 17th March.



## RATOATH ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

14th - 17th March 2025

**CALLING ALL**

- Community groups
- Sports groups
- Businesses
- Volunteers
- Individuals

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Let's celebrate our National day together.**

To book a market stall, register a float or a walking group, to support the festival by a sponsorship or donation please get in touch with us.

Contact Us  
[ratoathst.patricksday@gmail.com](mailto:ratoathst.patricksday@gmail.com)

 <b>St. Patrick's Day Parade</b>	 <b>Live Music</b>
 <b>Artisan Market</b>	 <b>Fun Fair</b>
 <b>Face painting</b>	 <b>and more</b>

Please email [ratoathst.patricksday@gmail.com](mailto:ratoathst.patricksday@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering or getting your group, team, association in the parade. These events do not happen without volunteers!

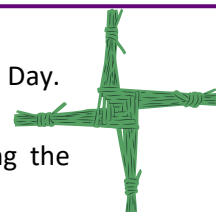
If you are interested in putting an article or ad in our News & Views please feel free to contact: [newsletter@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:newsletter@ratoathcc.ie).

We welcome spring!

## ST BRIGID'S DAY

Across Ireland 1st February marks the beginning of spring and the celebration of Lá Fhéile Bríde - St Brigid's Day.

This day symbolises hope and renewal, while across the globe we see the day marked by celebrating the creativity of women through many initiatives.







## RATOATH A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE VILLAGE - UPDATE



Since our last update a number of meetings and training sessions have taken place in Ratoath Community Centre in partnership with Friends of ASI.

We are overwhelmed with the community response.

The next training sessions are on Thursday, 20th February at 1pm, 4pm and 7pm. All are welcome.

If you or your organisation wishes to take part in the training sessions or help in any way please contact [friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie](mailto:friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie)

**DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**  
FRIENDS OF ASI  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
1800 341 341

### A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

**What is A Dementia Inclusive Community?**

A Dementia Inclusive Community is one in which People living with Dementia and their families fully participate in society and is one in which the people in the community are aware of and understand Dementia.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**Venue:** The Venue Theatre, Main Street, Ratoath, Co. Meath



### Ratoath Alzheimer Social Club

Friday 28th  
February 2025  
from 11am - 1pm

**JOIN US!**



Ratoath Community Centre

Ratoath Co.Meath

Contact - Liam Burke

phone number - 087 9740871

email address - [liam.burke@alzheimer.ie](mailto:liam.burke@alzheimer.ie)

Our Club is a fun social gathering where anyone affected by Alzheimer's can access information and support each other and exchange ideas/experiences.

For more info: [www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, National Office,  
Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin Charity Number: CHY7868



## WE ARE LENDING €2M AVAILABLE TO LEND TO OUR MEMBERS

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01 825 1122







## GIVING BACK TO NATURE WITH RATOATH SCOUTS

In 2024, 9th Meath Scout Group, started a Biodiversity Project at Ratoath Scout's Den, Jamestown beside Ratoath College.

The goal is to create an area to balance biodiversity while allowing scouts to appreciate nature and the environment through learning and play. The group is promoting the importance of biodiversity by involving members in all aspects of the plan.

A focus group was set up within our ranks to manage this project.

So far, 25 native Irish trees from Freetrees.ie. have been planted to create a mini woodland. Future scouts will eventually see the benefit of mature trees where they can hang hammocks, build shelters and do woodland-based activities.

A no-mow area has been established to encourage natural wildflowers to return. Yellow rattle seeds and bulbs have been planted here.

Two water butts to gather rainwater have been installed. These ensured we had water during the warmer summer months to keep our new trees alive.

Log piles have been created as a natural habitat for insects.

In October 2024 we won the Ratoath Municipal District Youth Project Pride of Place Award. This gave us the pride and confidence to keep going and keep developing our plan.

We held a large den 'Clean Up Weekend' in early February 2025 supported by scout leaders, youth members and parents.

In 2025 we will keep building on the work done to benefit wildlife and provide an area of curiosity for our children.

A living willow hedge and structure has begun to be planted. In the future we will be able to harvest sally rods from this to make further structures and teach our scouts basketry

50 native hedgerow trees from "Trees on the Land" will be planted in the spring. These include blackthorn, hawthorn, crab apple, hazel and rowan. Work has also started on building a wildlife pond.

There will be educational signage erected at each area to highlight what has been done and why it's important.

These measures will benefit wildlife such as hedgehogs, frogs, newts, birds, butterflies, insects and the community.

Much thanks to Sweeney's Centra, Ratoath Garden Centre, Ashbourne Tool and Plant Hire, Ez Living Furniture, Ratoath Tidy Towns, Corbett's Tree Services, Gillian and Gabriel Toole and parents of youth members who have given invaluable support.

A discretionary grant from Gillian Toole, local T.D. has helped cover costs at the initial implementation of our plan.

We would especially like to acknowledge the vision and support received from the Scout Group Council, scout leaders and youth members which continues to drive this exciting project!

Article by James O'Brien and Jess Downey.



## RATOATH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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THEORY

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18 - 22 AUGUST 2025



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info@ratoathschoolofmusic.ie  
www.info@ratoathschoolofmusic.ie



## TEA DANCE

FEB Sunday  
16 3PM - 5PM  
free admission

The Venue Theatre  
Main street, Ratoath

- Music
- Refreshments
- Tea/Coffee







### BUILDING COMMUNITY IN RATOATH WITH FRIENDS OF BREASTFEEDING

The Friends of Breastfeeding Mum2Mum Group in Ratoath, County Meath, has gone from strength to strength since its reestablishment in 2023, becoming a cornerstone of connection and encouragement for local families. In just a short time, the group has blossomed into a vibrant community where mums, dads, and children of all ages come together to share experiences, offer support, and build lasting friendships.

Meeting every Friday from 10am to 12pm at the Scouts Den, the group is open to everyone. With coffee, cake, and plenty of friendly chats, it's a space where mums can relax and feel supported in their parenting journey. A second "Baby and Bump" meet-up, happens every Tuesday at 10am in Avoca, offering another opportunity to connect midweek.

In 2024 the group was awarded the Mum2Mum Group Award, recognizing their outstanding work in creating a supportive and inclusive space for families. Members also had the privilege of attending the 'Latching On' morning at Áras an Uachtaráin, hosted by Sabina Higgins, which celebrated breastfeeding and the strength of shared support among parents.

The group is also lucky to have Breastfeeding Buddies. Specially trained through Friends of Breastfeeding, these Buddies provide personalised support to mums, offering a listening ear, guidance, and encouragement.

You can easily connect with a Buddy through the Friends of Breastfeeding website, ensuring that no mum has to navigate their breastfeeding journey alone.

Reflecting on its achievements and the strong connections built since 2023, the Ratoath Mum2Mum Group has become a beacon of friendship, community, and encouragement. Whether you're a first-time mum, a parent navigating toddlerhood, or simply looking for a warm and welcoming space, the group offers something special for everyone.

To get involved, join the group at any of their meet-ups.



## OPENING SOON IN RATOATH VILLAGE CENTRE

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**Reach out to your local connection.**

Consultations are available for any circumstance, without obligation.

**PAUL WARREN**

[pwarren@uptonryan.com](mailto:pwarren@uptonryan.com)

Contact Details: Telephone: 01 4780044 • Email: [info@uptonryan.com](mailto:info@uptonryan.com) • [www.uptonryan.ie](http://www.uptonryan.ie)





Happy Days Community Childcare creche. Some of our children celebrate music week. There was lots of fun had by all.



**RATOATH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME**

**We Are Hiring**

**JOB POSITION**

**CLEANER  
CARETAKER  
GROUNDS PERSON**

**JOIN OUR TEAM**

CONTACT KEN ON 0861585854  
ken@ratoathces.ie

**VENUE THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE RATOATH**

**Knit & Natter**

**Every Tuesday  
11am**

**the kettle is always on**

## DUNSHAUGHLIN DENTAL CENTRE

**DR REGINA FLANAGAN & DR NIAL CONATY**

We are delighted to announce we have taken ownership of Dunshaughlin Dental Centre and wanted to extend a warm welcome to both new and existing patients.

With over 16 years experience working in the area, you can trust that your family's dental care is in capable and dedicated hands.

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- Skilled Root Canals

**Your smile is our priority.**  
**Book your appointment today!**  
**(01) 825 9787**

**WHERE TO FIND US**  
Conveniently positioned on Dunshaughlin's main street, we provide **FREE** parking at the rear of the building for our patients' convenience.

**Suppletown House, Main St, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, A85 R803**  
Phone (01) 825 9787 | Email [info@dunshaughlindental.ie](mailto:info@dunshaughlindental.ie)

**VENUE THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE RATOATH**

**Ratoath Parent & Toddler Group**

**Ratoath Community Centre**  
**Every Monday**  
**9:30 - 11am**

Mums & Dads, Nannies & Grandads, Childminders  
Bring the little ones to play amongst themselves while you enjoy a cuppa & chat

**THE BOOK CLUB**

**RATOATH READERS**

**Every 1st Tuesday of each month**  
**8pm**

COME AND JOIN US IN OUR MONTHLY GATHERINGS  
IN RATOATH COMMUNITY CENTRE  
MONTHLY PICKS. RELAXED CHAT. OPINIONS. SHARING





## DUNSHAUGHLIN PLAYERS

Dunshaughlin Players present their full length Spring Production of "The Kings of the Kilburn High Road" By Jimmy Murphy directed by Sharon Carroll At the Venue Theatre Ratoath Thursday to Sunday, 10th to 13th of April 2025; 8pm

### Synopsis:

In the mid 1970s, a group of young men left their homes in the West of Ireland, took the boat out of Dublin Bay and sailed across the sea to England in the hope of making their fortunes and returning home. Twenty five years later only one, Jackie Flavin, makes it home - but does so in a coffin.

The play takes place on the day that the winners and losers of the group meet up to drink to Flavin's memory and looks at their lives, lost dreams and their place in the new Ireland.

Wonderful play full of humour and human sadness. A play not to be missed! That remembers the "forgotten generation" of Irish men who emigrated to London.

With an all male cast played by: Kieran Rushe, Greg Marks, Derek O'Brien, Anthony O'Boyle, Eugene McCarthy

This amateur production of "The Kings of the Kilburn High Road" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

DUNSHAUGHLIN PLAYERS  
PRESENT

PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
ADULT CONTENT

dp

THE  
KINGS  
OF THE  
KILBURN  
HIGH ROAD

By Jimmy Murphy  
Directed by  
Sharon Carroll

**The Venue Theatre Ratoath**  
**Thursday to Sunday**  
**10th - 13th April @ 8pm**

Admission €17 includes booking fee

Tickets available at the door or box office Phone (01) 689 5600

[WWW.VENUETHEATRE.IE](http://WWW.VENUETHEATRE.IE)

This amateur production of "The Kings of the Kilburn High Road" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

-Oscar Wilde-

**Sponsor a seat**

The Venue Theatre

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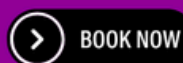
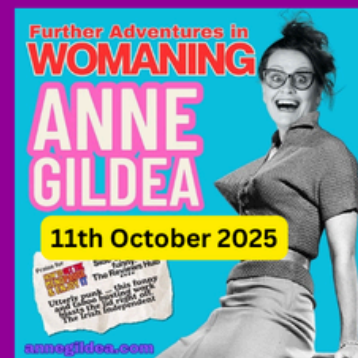


Tel: 01 825 7606  
Mob: 087 271 3071 / 086 843 9772  
[info@leeveroofing.ie](mailto:info@leeveroofing.ie)  
[eddie@leeveroofing.ie](mailto:eddie@leeveroofing.ie)

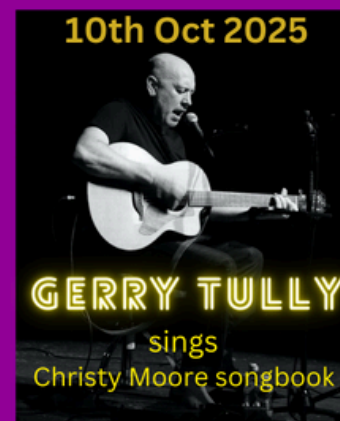




# COMING SOON



Box office 01 689 5600  
www.thevenueratoath.ie







## The Venue Ratoath 2025 Show Schedule

Date	Time	Event
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	8pm	Karl Spain – The One Show
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2025	8pm	The Fureys
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	7:30pm	Stage Performers – 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Showtime
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	8pm	Chris Kent - Offline
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2025	8pm	Seán Keane
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	2pm	Fairytale Stageshow – Baby Shark
10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	8pm	Dunshaughlin Players – The Kings of the Kilburn High Road
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	8pm	DirtBirds – Girls on Tour 2025
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	8pm	Luke Thomas & The Swing Cats
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	8pm	Rory's Stories – Keep 'Er Lit
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	7:30 pm	Sarah Bass presents Vocal Vibes Summer Concert
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	8pm	Don Baker – My Story – The Tour 2025
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	Eddi Reader & The Alan Kelly Gang 2025
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Gerry Tully sings the Christy Moore songbook
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Anne Gildea – Further Adventures in Womening

### RATOATH NEWS & VIEWS

ISSUE 53 Submissions

Call 01 689 5600 or email:  
newsletter@ratoathcc.ie

Normal editions are partially funded by advertising and we are grateful for all continued support. We receive 10% of our annual funding from Pobal under their Community Services Programme.

Editor: Laura Murphy

Advertising: Renate Koutanena



## HILLWOOD

**GUESTS: INDECISION**  
**TICKETS €10 | SHOW 7:30 PM**  
Doors open at 7pm

**FRIDAY 14TH MARCH '25**

The Venue Theatre  
Main St, Ratoath

[www.thevenue ratoath.ie](http://www.thevenue ratoath.ie)  
Box office 01 689 5600.

[BOOK NOW](#)

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

**GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE**



**Gift Voucher**  
THE VENUE THEATRE & RATOATH CENTRE



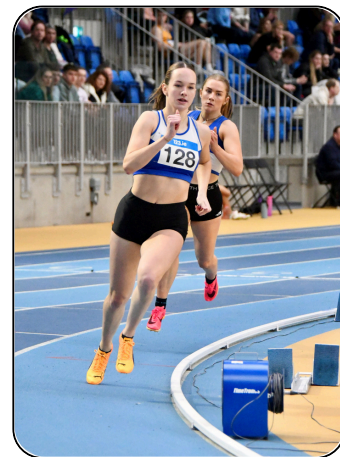


## RATOATH ATHLETIC CLUB

Congratulations to Ratoath Athletic Club athletes on their selection for the Athletics Ireland 2025 National Relay Squad, this is a massive achievement to have four athletes from the Ratoath Club make this squad.

National Relay Squads for 2025:

- 4 x100m U20 Women: Katie Doherty
- 4 X 100m U20 Men: Jesse Osas
- 4x400m U20 Women: Eve Mooney
- 4x400m U23 Women: Aisling Stratford



Pictured Aisling Stratford (above) and Katie Doherty (left).

# PICKLEBALL

RATOATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

EVERY TUESDAY 11:30 AM

ENTRY €3



Adult Group who took part in the Trim 10 mile road race.

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# RATOATH GAA

## GIRLS U7S

Girls Born 2018  
Starting February 22 at 10am-11am  
Contact Lyndsey Mulvenna 086 967 1704

Ratoath GAA, Sean Eiffe Park

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## RATOATH COMMUNITY SPORTS CAMPUS

### ASTRO PITCHES AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING

Booking can be made between  
9am – 5pm and must be booked one day  
in advance to avoid disappointment.

**BOOKINGS:**  
BOX OFFICE 01 689 5600



## 20th Anniversary Gala 2025

Join us for a spectacular evening as we mark this momentous occasion.

Saturday, March 29th | Dunboyne Castle Hotel  
Formal Attire Essential

### Evening Highlights

Drinks Reception at 6:30pm  
3 Course Gourmet Dinner  
Inspiring Words from Guest Speaker Bernard Jackman  
Live Auction with Exciting Prizes  
Unforgettable Live Music with The Bentley Boys

Tickets €100 | Tables of 12

Tickets Available from Katie on [ratoathrfc@outlook.com](mailto:ratoathrfc@outlook.com) | 085 805 0843

## RATOATH BOXING CLUB

The Venue Theatre hosted the very first Level 1 (County) IABA Referees and Judges course of 2025 in Leinster. The Leinster Register, Mr. Dermot McDermott, delivered the course on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January in Ratoath, Co. Meath. Special thanks to Co. Board Secretary, Seamus Harrington (Dunboyne Boxing Club) and Meath IABA Co. Board for organising and hosting the course.



Participants included club We are also so very volunteers from across the excited to host the province including 4 from annual Ratoath Boxing Ratoath - Gary, Michael, Club Fight Night. This is Aidan and Marty. With this a wonderful family participation it is hoped event while Ratoath with greater qualifications boxers put their wrists like this one for our against boxers from coaches this will enhance clubs around Ireland. their knowledge and skills Year after year this thereby helping maintain night delivers an success for Ratoath entertaining evening Golden Gloves boxing club with over 15 fights and into the future. fabulous spot prizes.

Great turnout on the fight night on 8th February for the annual club show in The Venue, Ratoath. There were close on 30 bouts across all ages from the clubs around Ireland.



## RATOATH GOLDEN GLOVES FIGHT NIGHT

A word of thanks also to referees Stephen Kelly and Barry Murphy and to our MC, John McEvoy.



Special congratulations to our three awards recipients: Mark Marikhin winning most improved junior boxer, Colm Traynor winning best Junior boxer (aged 11-17), and to Gavin Ryan winning best club boxer.

A final congratulations to the winners of the fight of the night: Abi McLoughlin (Ratoath) and Maisie Flanagan (Castleblayney).



## SUNDAY EVENING BINGO RATOATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

A great opportunity to come together and have some fun.  
All welcome.

**THE VENUE RATOATH THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**EVERY SUNDAY 8PM**

**BINGO!**

QUICK LOTTO

FREE BOOK DRAW

LUCKY LINES

BONUS PRIZES

JACKPOT GAME

## GILLIAN TOOLE TD

Thank you for your support in November's General Election.  
I promise to work hard on your behalf as an Independent TD representing Meath East.

### COMMUNITY CLINICS

Weekly Community Clinics since 2018 - these will continue but will now be expanded to cover more areas. Times, locations and dates will be posted on my Social Media pages or you can contact me for details.

SCAN HERE TO FOLLOW MY FACEBOOK PAGE



Tel: (086) 2441973  
Email: gillian.toole@oireachtas.ie



**For any Local Meath County Council issues**

Please contact Cllr. Yvonne Everard

Ph: (085) 2285700

[yvonne.everard@members.meathcoco.ie](mailto:yvonne.everard@members.meathcoco.ie)



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