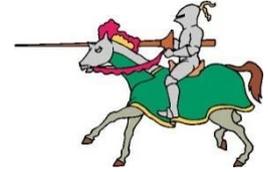




Ashby de la Zouch

U3A



Newsletter January 2018

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at
2pm on 27th February 2018
at The Congregational Church, Kilwardby St, Ashby De la Zouch

Members of the Ashby de la Zouch U3A are hereby formally notified that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ashby de la Zouch U3A will be held on the above mentioned date, and before the usual monthly meeting, for the following purpose:

To pass a resolution replacing with immediate effect the objects clause in the Constitution of Ashby De La Zouch U3A, namely the following clause :

'(1) To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full gainful employment in Ashby and its surrounding locality. (2) To provide of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare ' (the old clause)

with the following objects clause (the new clause) namely :

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.'

Following long discussions with the Charity Commission, The Third Age Trust are recommending all U3A's to adopt the new objects clause as the vast majority of activities currently taking place in the U3A's are encompassed by this clause. As we are insured through the Third Age Trust, the insurers have advised that only U3A activities that fall within the charitable objects will be insured, hence the reason why your committee are proposing this change.

All fully paid up members of Ashby De La Zouch U3A may attend, make nominations and vote.

Dated this 25th January 2018

Interest Groups Timetable for February

Interest group	Mtg Date	Time	Venue
Arts & Crafts	Thu 22nd	2 pm	Shirley's house
Bird Watching			Nothing yet planned for February
Bridge	Mon 5th	7 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 12th	2 pm	Ivanhoe Social Club
	Mon 19th	7 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 26th	2 pm	Ivanhoe Social Club
Calligraphy	Tue 13th	10 am	Gill's house. To practise a new script
Canasta	Thu 8th	10 am	The Masseys'
	Thu 22nd	10 am	The Masseys'
Computer	Wed 7th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 19th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photos	Thu 1st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 21st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Family History	Wed 14th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 15th	2 pm	Packington Hall. A talk on garden design by Byron Lewis. Entry £3
History	Thu 22nd	2 pm	Packington Hall. David Oakley – "Seek and you may find"
Industrial Heritage	Wed 28th	9.30 am	British Motor Museum, Gaydon
Italian	TBA		
Literature	Tue 13th	1.30 pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	Thu 8th	12 for 12.30 pm	La Zouch restaurant, Ashby
Medium Walks	Mon 12th	9.45 for 10 am	Meet at New Lount Nature Reserve, LE67 8JH
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	9 Ashtree Rd
Quiz	Wed 21st	1 pm	Bull and Lion, Packington for winter lunch. Quiz starts at 2.30 pm as usual
Recorder	Thu 1st	10 am	Joan's house
	Thu 15th	10 am	TBA
Short Walks	Fri 19th	10 am	Meet at Moira Furnace for a walk via Conkers to Donisthorpe
Supper Club	Thu 22nd	7 for 7.30 pm	The Hollybush Inn, Breedon
Walking	Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am	The Globe Inn, Snarestone
	Tue 20th	9.45 for 10 am	The Malt Shovel, Worthington

Early March

Interest group	Mtg Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 5th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 7th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photos	Thu 1st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	TBA
Recorder	Thu 1st	10 am	TBA
Walking	Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am	The Bulls Head, Hartshorne, DE11 7ET

*For trips, outings, walks and other events which meet away from the usual venues, see further details in the relevant Group Reports below, or on our website www.ashbyu3a.co.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Last meeting, 23rd January – John Wilton Railway, Journeys around the World

John was born into a Railway Family in Church Gresley. He developed an interest during the last days of steam in the late 1950's and made it his life's work. So much so that his honeymoon train was hauled by the Battle of Britain class loco Wilton! He and his wife have since travelled all over the world by train, in fact travelling exclusively by rail if possible.

John retailed some of his more adventurous trips:

His first Sleeper trip: London to Inverness, proved an eye-opener, but convinced them they could travel overnight by train, so their first foreign sleeper trip was across Canada in old fashioned coaches with a corridor down the middle and bunks in tiers either side sheltered only by curtains.

Mountain railways: Up the Jungfrauoch. A journey from 5000 feet to 11000 feet via rack and pinion with twist and turns, tunnels, jaw dropping cliffs and amazing vistas. Well, they would have been amazing but for the clouds!

Their longest trip whilst remaining on board was in South Africa: 940 miles, 5 nights en route. Extreme luxury was there! 1st Class throughout, all the best food and wines. The locos varied from old steam locos to electric and diesel locos. The train stopped for side jaunts to places of interest including a winery and they even stopped to go swimming in the Indian Ocean.

Their longest single journey: Chicago to San Francisco (Not via Route 66!) 2420 miles in 3 days. Across prairies and through 9000 foot high mountains in double-decker coaches. The train of enormous length was hauled by a trio of diesel locos. As the lines are owned by the freight companies, frequent delays were caused waiting for two mile long freight trains with nine locos to rumble slowly past.

Steepest: A 7500 feet climb up a mountain near Alpenstadt in Switzerland. The gradient was at times one in two. The train was electric running on 3 1/2 foot gauge track, using double rack and pinion traction. The angle of the train was so steep that the seats rotated to stay level. You did not want to sit on the offside of the coach as there was a sheer 1000 foot plus drop off on that side.

Their fastest. This was on the latest French TGVs. John and his wife travelled on the section of track where in 2007 the world record for such trains was set at a blazing 357 mph. On this trip the train 'only' got up to 200 mph. John had much detail to add to his trips but there is no space for it here. It was a most enjoyable ride across the Railways of the World.

Next Monthly Meeting on 27th Feb at 2 pm: Fran Sandham will give a talk on “A solo walk in Africa”

Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings

2017-18	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
February	Glenys Morrice, Maggie Rice, Bill & Avril Wilson	Catherine Hardy	Drawing & Painting, Gardening
March	John Howlett, Neil Roberts, Joyce Ottey, Mary Gough	Val & Trevor Reed	History & Industrial Heritage

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

The group didn't meet in January and so their first meeting of the year will be on 22nd Feb.

Bird Watching – Leader Anne Donegan 01283 760348- birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The group have not been out this month and the date and venue for their next trip has yet to be decided.

Bridge – Leader Neil Roberts 01530 455957

This is Bridge for players of all levels playing friendly Contract Bridge with some chatter. Several of our number are "beginners" or "returners" and we have experienced players who are happy to help others improve their game. We now have about 20 active players.

The group has 2 new venues. They now meet at the Hood Park Leisure Centre in the 1st floor function room for afternoon sessions and at Ivanhoe Social Club in the front lounge for the evening sessions. Free car parking is available at both venues, but must be signed in at Hood Park.

If you would like to know more contact Neil on 01530 455957 or Pat Ford on 01827 830672

Calligraphy – Leader Jenny Slawson 01283 229718

9th January

Our first meeting of 2018 involved a lot of discussion about which aspect of calligraphy we wanted to focus on - modern or traditional and everyone had a personal preference which we attempted to address. It was decided that we would like to extend our writing skills by introducing a new script - Gothic Texture Quadrata - quite a mouthful! However, we also felt we would like the opportunity, in the second half of the year, to update the skills we have acquired using Uncial and Italic scripts, perhaps in a less formal style. We also discussed the need to have some input from a calligrapher and although we have occasionally paid someone to come to a meeting, it was felt that such a short time didn't have enough impact so considering the number of tutorials there are on line we felt that individuals could use those if they wished.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

Tom and Gill's canasta group has been running for some months now and last week they were up to 6 members. There is space for more. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings each month at 10 am to 12. If you are interested in joining, then contact them on the above number or email canasta@ashbyu3a.co.uk

For the 1st meeting after Xmas we had 2 tables for canasta, last week we had 2 people. The next meetings are 13th and 22nd February.

Computers – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet twice monthly to try to solve anyone's computer problems and to better learn how to use them whether they are PCs, Macs, iPads or Android Tablets. All are welcome. No experience necessary.

15th January

Six stalwarts turned out today.

Two significant tasks were either completed or set on their way to success.

Jane sat down with Steve and John H to set about assembling PowerPoint slides for her talk to the History Group on 'Finding the Foundling'. This involves her in acquiring pictures from different sources and assembling them into the necessary Folder for PowerPoint to use. Steve and John H guided her on the various ways this can be done, relevant to the different sources, such as email attachments, Web pics, screen grabs and so on. They were able to find an original photograph of Mozart conducting one of his symphonies. Well, that's what they said...

Colin W and John H had a go at helping John D delete an old copy of Windows 10 from his tablet. Not easy as the various menus indicated it wasn't there to be deleted, but the folders said it was. When the miscreant was located, it was found to be hiding in the Music folder, and moving it back into the Windows folder allowed a clean up to proceed.

Digital Photography – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet to try to understand how to get the best out of our digital cameras whether they are simple compact cameras or full-blooded DSLRs and how to edit or modify the pictures afterwards. We try to get out and practice every other month. We do not as yet enter competitions.

4th January

For our New Year's meeting five photographers turned out.

We discussed a number of technical subjects, including a) the use of telephoto lenses and the difference between these and zoom lenses, and b) working very close to the subject. Tele lenses are for photographing things at a distance, and are usually of fixed focal length whereas zoom lenses can change focal length (hence they zoom in and out) but can cover any range from wide-angle to telephoto. Generally, getting closer to the subject, or zooming-in on it to fill the frame will give more scope for enlarging the image later. When using a telephoto the perspective is foreshortened and things at different distances will look closer together. It is important to take care with the background, as it will tend to be out of focus with respect to the subject, but that may be just what you want!

We briefly discussed planning some visits, and the gardens at Melbourne were mentioned as a good summer visit, and the Statfold Barns Railway near Tamworth. Suggestions for visits are always welcome!

Our next meeting will be on 1st February. If the forecast is good, turn up 15 mins early for a visit to Dimmingsdale hopefully for some snowdrop photos.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

17th January

Three of us did some drawing and painting, Lesley painted some ugly sisters, Sandra drew Snow White and I painted a beanstalk and a castle in the clouds and if you try hard enough you can see Jack. A good time was had by all.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

10th January

This was our first conclave of the year, and we had four round the table.

John H worked with John D on his maternal grandmother and great grandmother. These now appear to be established. We then went on to see if we could pin down his great, great aunt Johanna Fehilly. So far we have not found her marrying or dying either side of the Irish Sea. The search continues.

Sue has been making great strides with her grandmother's line, but so far hasn't been able to pin down her paternal grandfather. He won't get away!

Audrey is working on her family story and showed us documents covering her ancestor in the Great War. An engineer, he seems to have been most versatile, working on vehicles for the RFC.

John D worked for a while on his piece on the history of education and teaching in the 19th century. He is waiting for a contact to look over records of the Durham Bluecoats School, which his great grandfather attended, in the Durham Archives this month. Much yet to do there!

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean 01283 295987

The Gardening Group is one of the largest interest groups. The committee try hard to provide a selection of activities suitable for all, including talks on various topics, trips out to well-known gardens and social events where plants are swapped and garden problems are solved! There is always food and drink at the end of each meeting and occasionally prizes to be won! Please come along and meet us and give the gardening club a try.

18th January

Guest speaker Alan Clements gave a talk on the creation of Cascades Gardens in Bonsall village near Matlock. This will be followed up with a visit to the gardens later this year.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

25th January

Due to David Oakley, our planned speaker being unwell, Colin Ellis did his now traditional job of stepping in at the last minute to give an alternative talk as he has twice done for the Main Meeting. This time it was the talk on Isambard Kingdom Brunel that he had planned to give next month. He managed that admirably, despite technical gremlins with the projector.

Colin took us through the early life of IKB, his education in England and France and how he gradually took over and expanded on the pioneering work of his father Marc. Colin showed how he had no fear to tackle almost any engineering project from tunnels, bridges, ships and of course railways, even a flat-pack hospital for the Crimea War, whilst always pushing the boundaries of engineering and science. His first ship's propeller is still only 5% less efficient than the best we can do today. The SS Great Britain and the subsequent SS Great Eastern were by far the largest vessels ever built at the time.

Civil engineers have tried to improve on the design of the Saltash Bridge over the Tamar. Every attempt has made it weaker. He died of a stroke aged 53 after working himself to death. Colin ended his talk with a reminder that a BBC poll had placed Brunel second only to Winston Churchill as "The Greatest Briton" The TV program about Brunel had finished with Concorde flying over Clifton Suspension Bridge as a suitable tribute to the man. As Colin said, he would have loved Concorde but he would have made it twice as big and 3 times as fast!

A fascinating story of a fascinating man, and a very worthwhile introduction to the Groups coach tour to Bristol in May.

David's will hopefully give his talk this month.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

24th January – Pickford House and Derby Museum & Art Gallery

18 members arrived at Pickford House to park and walk to the Art Gallery. After the obligatory coffee, we ventured upstairs to the Joseph Wright of Derby Gallery to view his many pictures of the start of the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment and also his portraits of his many friends and acquaintances involved in both. For those that don't know of his work, his paintings often appear to be illuminated by a single light source in the middle of the picture, whether it be a candle or a furnace and his handling of light (and dark) is quite remarkable. The rest of the museum has many fascinating displays related to the area from the Jurassic, through early human habitation up to the Jacobite Revolution and Bonnie Prince Charlie's invasion of England which reached as far as Derby before he turned back. We happened to be there the day before Burn's Night. From the museum we went to the pub booked for lunch who denied any knowledge of our booking! And they'd run out of beer!! Fortunately after a brisk walk back into the City centre, Wetherspoons was able to provide fine food and drinks in short order without any fuss. And it was next door to the birthplace of Joseph Wright! How auspicious. At Pickford House we were greeted by our Paul, our costumed guide for the afternoon who took us "beyond the velvet rope" i.e. right into the various rooms of the house normally roped off and once owned by the nowadays little remembered architect Joseph Pickford. His work was at one time confused with that of Robert Adam, and he was responsible for designing and constructing every building of Josiah Wedgwood's empire from factories, showrooms, workers' house and the family home Etruria House. Pickford House is excellently restored and Paul explained everything about how the house was used from the opulent front rooms to the downstairs rooms of the servants and how it evolved after his death under other owners. A very entertaining day out.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

Only one pupil, and one potential pupil, turned up today, so Lynda postponed the class until next month. The date is yet to be decided

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group met on 9th January to discuss "The Siege" the first of two books by Helen Dunmore which the group are planning to read. The second, "Betrayal" will be read next month.

Luncheon Group – Leader Ray Bentley 01530 412505

We are a group of men and ladies who enjoy a meal together, we take it in turn to choose a venue and organise it. Everyone is welcome, all we ask is that you sign the form below the notice board at the monthly meeting prior to the lunch, so we can book the relevant number of seats. If you cannot make the monthly meeting please use the contact phone number.

11th January – The White Hart, Ashby

We were given a room to ourselves in the new conservatory out the back, whether to keep us from the other clientele or the other way round, I'm not sure. Although there were about 20 of us, and we ordered on arrival, the food came up pretty quickly. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and the service was friendly and welcoming. This really was Ray's last time organising our outings despite several attempts to step down earlier. Colin and Sharon Woodland will be organising us in future - good luck to you both!

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

The Group didn't meet in January, and our next meeting will be on Feb 7th hosted by Paul Bennett.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872

The group meet at the Bull and Lion, Packington. The Start time is 2.30 and involves tables of four. You do not need to arrange a team before the meeting as teams will be organised on the day. This enables single individuals to take part - and to make new friends by joining an ad hoc team. Tea and coffee are served. Total cost £1.20 of which 20p goes to a kitty for prizes.

Nineteen quizzers turned out for the January battle and a fun filled time was had by all. The February meeting on 21st will be preceded by the "Winter Lunch" at 1 pm. The usual quiz will follow at 2.30 pm. Nineteen people have booked lunch and the list is now closed. Anyone who has not booked for lunch is still welcome to the quiz as usual.

Recorder group - Leader Joan Gibson - recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The recorder group meet to make music in a relaxed, fun way. I would hope that we would be able to cater for a wide range of experience and skill. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings each month. New members would be very welcome. Complete beginners would find it difficult to catch up though.

18th January

Today we returned to Book 2 of the descant tutor book, and continued to work on the higher notes (watch out, Squeaky!).

P. 7, nos. 16, 17

P.11, nos. 34 to 37 (new F#)

Then, in 3 parts :

Eriskay Love Lilt

St Anthony Chorale

No. 1 of "Four Handel Minuets"

"All in a Garden Green", arr. Steve Marshall.

We felt we had been working hard, but realised we have definitely improved. The Eriskay Love Lilt felt much easier, and sounded better, than when we first played it.

The new notes we are learning feel difficult now, especially when we have to fit them into a tune (especially allegro!) , but are getting easier as we work on them. I won't mention the P word.

I have just discovered a couple of descant duets which involve our new notes, so I will try to get them ready for you next time.

I may have duets for treble and tenor which similarly stretch the treble range. If I can, I will email them to you, and print them for those without printing facilities..

Supper Club – Contact Colin Ellis 01530 272592 - supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk

This is a new group which aims to visit local pubs and restaurants for an evening meal. At the moment we aim to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm for 7.30 (This is a fortnight away from the Lunch Group), but the date may change depending on what the Group decide. The intention is that we will jointly decide on venues and members will take it in turn to organise it.

Everyone is welcome, all we ask is that you sign the sheet by the display board at the monthly meeting prior to the supper, or contact Colin or Mike, by phone or by email, so we can book the relevant number of seats.

There may sometimes be a limit on numbers depending on the venue's ability to cater for larger groups, in which case places will be offered strictly on a first come, first served basis. There may also need to be a cut-off date for bookings. This will be stated on the bookings list.

25th January - The Globe Inn at Snarestone

The supper club went to the Globe for its first ever outing, where they made us very welcome in our own private room upstairs seated around one large table. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, with many anecdotes and tales been told, whilst the food was excellent and the service exemplary. A good start to the group and everyone is looking forward to the next outing at the Hollybush Inn at Breedon on Feb 22nd. If anyone wishes to join us but has difficulties getting there, contact Colin at the number/email address above, and we will try to arrange for some car-sharing.

Trips and Outings Group - Contact Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

“Warhorse” at the Theatre Royal Nottingham on Wed 21st March at 2 pm. This is now sold-out. If you have bought tickets but have yet to pay for the coach, please contact Margaret as the £10 is due to be paid by 27th February

The trips to Birmingham Symphony Hall for the Grieg Piano Concerto, to De Montfort Hall for the ballet, and the coach trip to Bristol and now all sold out.

WALKS

The walk leaders will be at the meeting place whatever the weather and will only cancel the walk in consultation with those who turn up on the day. All dogs must be kept under control at all times. Walking boots or strong shoes are recommended. Be prepared for bad weather by taking warm waterproof clothing. Leaders act in a voluntary capacity. All ramblers walk at their own risk.

Walking Group - Leader Bob Baxendale 01530 481435

The walking group usually does walks of between 7-8 miles, twice a month, and we normally have a lunch stop at a pub near to, or at the end of, the walk.

16th January. Burton on Trent, Tatenhill & the Trent Valley

Twenty walkers gathered at The Albion public house in Burton upon Trent for the walk in sunny and mild weather. After a short walk along Shobnall Road we turned onto the footpath and over two stiles that led to a climb up to the ancient Sinai Park House. The next 2 miles were very wet underfoot with a couple of difficult stiles because of the amount of water and mud around them. On the plus side, the strong winds did not materialise and we enjoyed good views...when you could look up from concentrating on avoiding the next mud patch! Onward into Tatenhill village we turned at the Three Horseshoes public house towards Branston Water Park. Here we had a well-earned coffee break with the luxury of picnic tables and pleasant views over the water. It was then relatively easy going along the Trent and Mersey canal towpath, over a bridge and into Shobnall playing fields. One last challenge awaited; a hundred steps up a steep bank in Oaks Wood and then it was a short descent back to The Albion for food and drink.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

The Medium Walk group do walks of up to 6 miles. Anyone interested please contact Carole.

8th January

Seven of us set off from the Ferrers Arms on a sunny but cold morning. We were grateful for the hard overnight frost as the first part of the walk over three fields can be muddy in warmer weather, but Jack Frost gave us a helping hand as the mud was frozen. Our route took us on a path between a thatched cottage and small lake where six curious sheep and a gaggle of more aloof geese saw us on our way to join the driveway taking us to Staunton Harold Hall. After leaving the Hall we took the footpath into Dimminsdale woods, crossing the tail end of the reservoir to Springwood car park where we had a short coffee stop. Then the climb up wooden steps back into Staunton Harold land, through the wooded area to arrive at a high spot with a lovely view of the Hall. After descending to

the path, we skirted round and to the back of the Hall where we took the path through Jaguar wood which proved to be a long and winding route back to the Ferrers Arms. A total of 5.75 miles.

It was then into the pub for lunch. We don't normally finish the Monday walk with lunch but this walk was originally planned for December when we do finish off with lunch, but the snow and ice we had that week meant the walk was cancelled.

Thanks to Carole who organised this walk but unfortunately could not attend today. We followed your clear instructions, Carole.

Short walks Group – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

The short walk group organises walks using well defined paths and routes without stiles. The maximum length is 3 miles. All are welcome.

19th January. Around Ashby

8 walkers met on the Green on a perfect day for walking except the ground was icy and we had one faller but that came later. Two of the party were new to the group as we set off through the park as far as the new bridge where we crossed into the estate where the soap factory had been. We then crossed the Smisby road into the French homes estate and climbed up to the path to the flour mill but instead turned right to come to the Burton road opposite Hill street. We turned right along Burton road and thence into Churchill Close. We took the path from Churchill Close to Highfields and then up the Moira road to the footpath leading through the allotments and onto Wilfred Gardens where the fall occurred. We then took the new path around Bath grounds onto Prior Park Road, then into South Street to the cafe replacing the forties themed cafe.

Your Committee

Tony Smith	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822
Colin Ellis	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 760348
Dorothy Chapman	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413042
Peter Clement	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 560894
James Bloor	Groups Coordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 224468
Sheila Dean	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 295997
Isobel Salt	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 222869
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