

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



WE BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO
TAKE ACTION IN THEIR COMMUNITY



GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY BUILDING COLLECTIVE CIC

About Us

We work with people in Gloucester to encourage them to make meaningful connections with one another and in their communities, to discover and pursue their passions and interests, share their skills and to be valued for their contribution. We work this way because we know this helps to build resilient and strong communities where everyone can thrive and have a good life.

Our Vision

Gloucester is a great place to live,
where everyone can have a good life.

Our Mission

Bringing about people-led action to realise their dreams and passions for themselves, their neighbourhoods and communities.

Our Values

People-Led
Strengths-Based
Relationship Focused
Rooted in Local Communities
Inclusive



WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome you to our annual report.

This year, we have been working in many different local communities throughout Gloucester, and this is a chance to share some of our projects with you. We have started working in a number of new areas, with our community builders beginning to discover local neighbourhoods and the unique strengths they hold. Equally, we have continued to work in places where we have been working for a number of years and here we have seen communities lead their own projects and come together to make lasting change.

This year, we have explored new approaches by focusing on specific themes rather than particular areas. This includes our community builders working with children and young people and our work on digital inclusion. Learning from both approaches will inform our community building practice.

We have also looked into the governance of the organisation and

how to better represent and involve the people of Gloucester in our work and on our board. This is work in progress which will continue in 24/25.

We have started working in a number of new areas too including Tuffley, Parry Hall and Westgate and with All Nations Community Centre; We have stepped back to allow the community's own work to grow in an area - Longlevens and Elmbridge - having been there since 2019.

Once again, we have succeeded in gaining sustainable support from key funders and partners for the way we work in local communities. We have continued to advocate for strengths-based working and remain passionate about supporting people living in Gloucester to make a difference in their communities.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce the appointment of our new Chair, Tracey Thomas, and look forward to working with her over the next year.

GCBC Board and Team

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

For the year ending 31st March 2024

Company Number

12354927

Registered Office

Morroway House

Station Road

Gloucester

GL1 1DW

Directors

Anne Brinkhoff (Chair)

Candace Plouffe (Deputy Chair)

Miranda Eeles (Executive Director)

Mark Gale

Ruth Saunders

Sally Byng

Paul Hooper

Becki Barrow

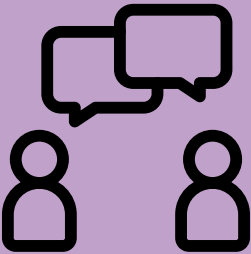
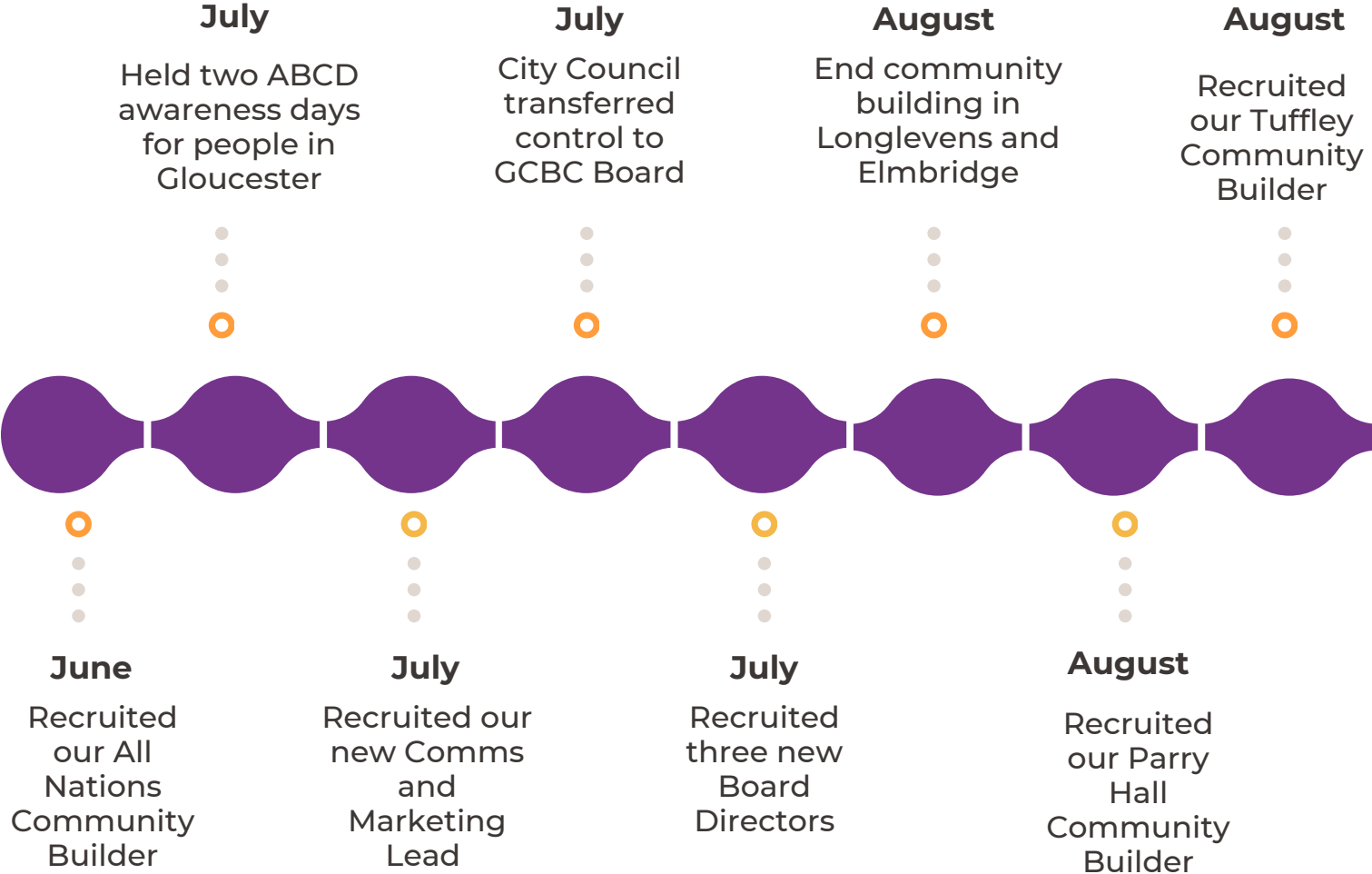
Anne Radley

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ending 31st March 2024

	2023	2024
TURNOVER	£263,382	£178,674
Staff Costs	£166,666	£159,556
Other Charges	£33,274	£30,246
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	£63,442	(£11,128)
Tax	£1,147	£271
NET (DEFICIT) SURPLUS	£62,295	(£11,399)

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



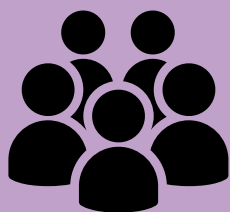
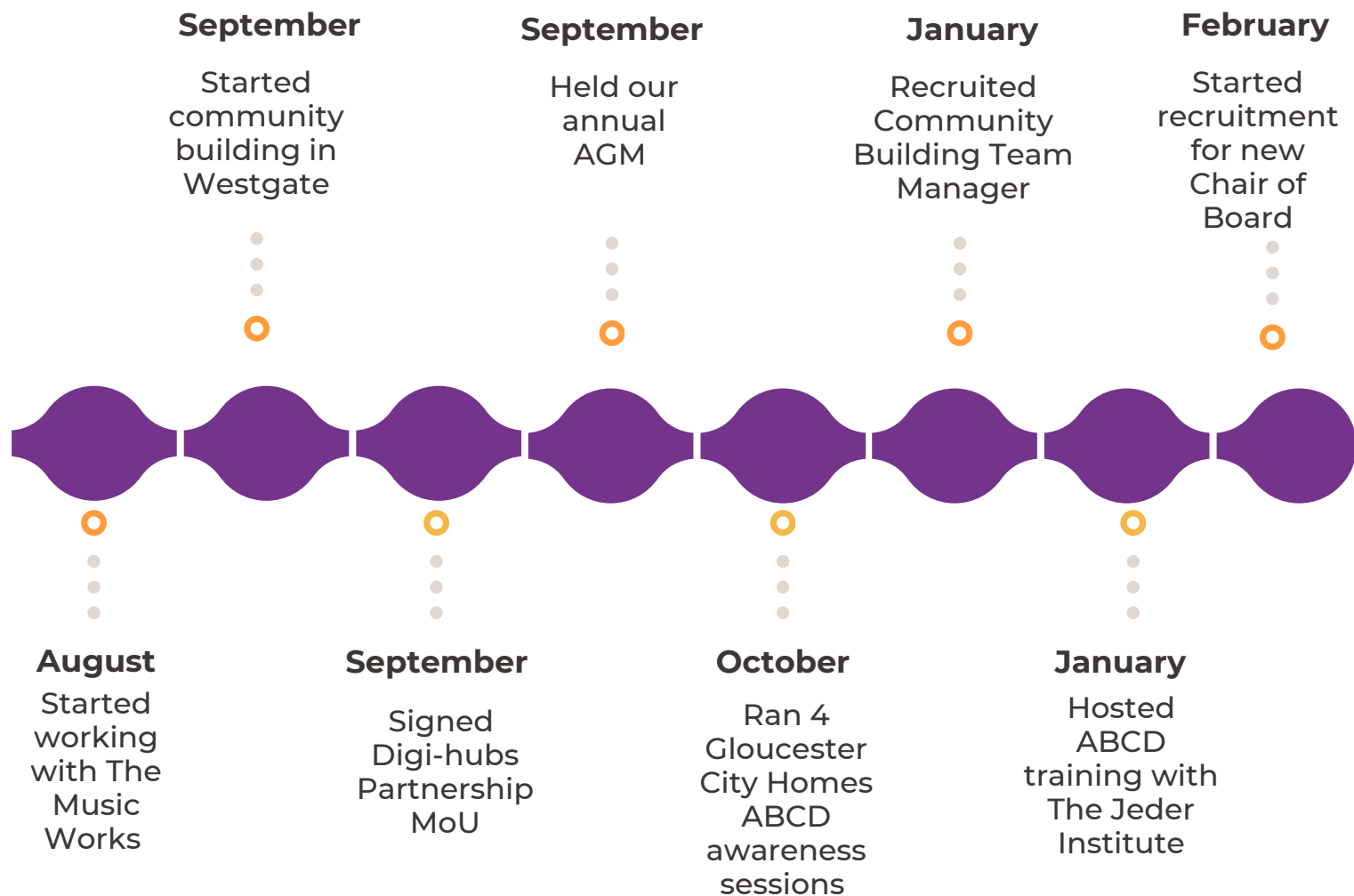
5,567 conversations



705 connections made between people



635 connections made between people & organisations



36 new groups formed



Handed out 13 Community Spirit Awards



Set up 3 Digital Hubs to help people develop their digital skills



OVERVIEW

We are a group of passionate people working in a strengths-based way, rooted in local communities within Gloucester. We are a team of thirteen which is led by Executive Director, Miranda and includes nine community builders who are made up of employed staff and secondees.

Communities are at the heart of what we do and this year we have seen local people come together more than ever. Communities are connecting through common goals and are starting to make decisions about what happens in their neighbourhood. The people we work with have connected through many different avenues; from creating an IT support group, to litter picking at their local park. Whatever the reason, once people get together, they start to support each other in many different ways, creating more thriving communities.

This year, we have said goodbye to Julian and Matt but welcomed Derrick, Megan, Antony, Sarah and Susi to the team. We are excited that our organisation is growing and look forward to working in new places.

We look to work in collaboration with other organisations, both in the voluntary sector and with statutory services. This year we have continued this trend, working with a number of Gloucestershire based organisations, focusing on encouraging hyper-local ground-up community building. We have continued our work as a member of the Hotspots Network, looking to unlock community wealth in Gloucestershire. We are a member of the Gloucester Integrated Locality Partnership and the Stronger, Safer, Gloucester Partnership, advocating for a strengths-based, community led approach to improving health and wellbeing and building resilience. We are also working in partnership with the Gloucestershire wide Digi-hubs project, Together Gloucester and The Music Works.

This year we have focused on expanding into new areas and working in different ways. Looking ahead, we want to learn from our work so far and further understand how we can best work in a strengths-based way in Gloucester.

LEARNING

Young People



We have continued this two-year pilot project which will end August 2024, working with young people (under 25) in Coney Hill, Matson, Robinswood and White City. The project looks to get young people involved in their community, understand the challenges that they face day-to-day and empower them to influence local issues. This is the first time we have worked with a specific demographic of people whilst ensuring our focus continues to be on strengths-based activity.



We have been learning a lot through the project; our community builders Kyla and Kiara have been focusing on building trusted relationships with the community and other organisations that work with the city's young people. In particular, Kyla and Kiara have been working with Gloucester Academy and Robinswood Primary Academy, engaging some of the students with their wider community, encouraging them to take action on issues that are important to them and helping them to take pride in the places that they call home.

Longlevens and Elmbridge

Our Community Builder, Carena, has been working in Longlevens and Elmbridge for over four years. In August this year, she finished this long-standing project and moved to another area of the city.

Deciding to leave an area is something new for us, with the idea materialising when Carena took a three month sabbatical, testing whether the need for community building support arose. We took careful time to consider whether a move would be taken positively by the community and ultimately decided that the community in Elmbridge and Longlevens were ready to work together without a dedicated community builder's support. As this is the first time we have intentionally left an area, we have started the process of producing an in depth evaluation of the project. We know there will be lots of learning we can take from this experience and look forward to hearing from the community next year.



NEW PLACES

Parry Hall



Through Levelling Up funding, Antony started working in Parry Hall in August and has so far spent his time discovering the area, getting to know residents and the organisations that are based there. Antony has focused on building trusted relationships with people living and working in Parry.

Thanks to a variety of funders including Levelling Up, Gloucester Community Foundation, Gloucestershire Gateway Trust and Summerfield Charitable Trust, we recruited Sarah as our community builder in Tuffley. Sarah also started in August, focusing on exploring the area and learning about its people and assets.

Tuffley



All Nations



Derrick started working in June, piloting a new way of working where he is based at the All Nations Community Centre, working with the black-African and black-Caribbean communities. Still focusing on strengths-based working, Derrick is creating good relationships with the communities that use the centre and is encouraging people who live near to All Nations to come together and connect.

Westgate

Carena started working in Westgate in September where she has been focusing on the Northgate, Southgate, Westgate and Eastgate streets. Carena has been engaging with the many groups that meet in the city centre and building connections around The Folk of Gloucester and the residents of St Oswald.





GOVERNANCE

We are passionate that GCBC becomes a community owned and community-led organisation. Creating an organisation that is representative of the communities we work in is challenging but something that we take seriously; it is important that we recognise it will take time to achieve.

This year, we have started this process. Firstly, we became fully independent from Gloucester City Council in July, with the termination of the Membership agreement. Now all of our Board Directors are Members, enabling us to have overall control and oversight of both levels of governance.

Having people who live in Gloucester on our Board is really important to us. We feel that people who live here in the city have more authority to make decisions on the way we work with the communities of Gloucester. For this reason, we have recruited three new members of the Board who all live in Gloucester and are passionate about seeing the city thrive.

In September last year, we hosted our AGM at All Nations Community Centre. This is a chance for us to get together with the people who we work with day-to-day and celebrate the many achievements that have happened throughout the year. This year, 70 community members and key partners attended and we were able to gather feedback from them around the future direction of GCBC.

Following the resignation of Anne Brinkhoff at the end of March, we have recruited a Tuffley resident – Tracey Thomas as the new Chair of the Board. Tracey brings a wealth of experience from her extensive NHS career, where she held both local and national roles. She's currently leading on a programme at Create Gloucestershire that aims to unite cross-sector partners and community members for fairer health outcomes in the county.

The next steps of our governance project will now focus on representation, accessibility and how best to keep the community involved in our work.

PARTNERS

We prioritise working in partnership with other organisations locally, both in the voluntary and statutory services sector. This year we have made a number of new partnerships and have continued to build relationships with organisations who we have worked with in the past.

Firstly, we have collaborated with The Music Works and NHS Gloucestershire to work on a ground-breaking project where young people from diverse backgrounds have worked alongside us to co-create a project aimed at addressing inequalities in uptake of mental health services. They have helped write job descriptions for key roles as well as shared their lived experience of some of the daily challenges their community face.

The next stage is to recruit up to three Community Connectors who are tasked with finding out why young people from diverse communities are less likely to access NHS support services around mental health. These roles will be instrumental in making recommendations to the NHS Integrated Care Board when considering what changes can be made to make their services more accessible, giving communities a voice.

Bringing communities and services together like this is key to the way we work. We want to see services listen and take note of what communities on the ground are saying and look forward to continuing this project into next year.



Secondly, we are the Gloucester lead on the Digital Hubs project, working in collaboration with seven community partners across the county's six districts. This project aims to tackle digital exclusion by offering free, accessible, tailored support to individuals. Our Digital Community Builder works alongside the rest of our team (who are rooted in the areas they work) to reach people who need help and support to become digitally confident. Over the last year we have started a number of digital hubs where people can come together to learn about technology and the internet. They support each other to learn new things and are consequently able to access services, such as online banking and GP appointments, as well as keep in contact with others, through online video calling and messaging. This not only helps people feel more connected to

society through technology, but also creates small pockets of community at the digital hubs themselves, encouraging people to connect and support each other in person and online.

Finally, we are a proud strategic partner in an exciting city-wide project called 'Together Gloucester' which is funded by Arts Council England and the National Lottery. In this project, we are working alongside a number of partners, led by Gloucester Culture Trust, to co-create an ambitious arts and cultural programme in Gloucester. The project looks to put communities at the heart of its decision-making, encouraging people living in Gloucester to co-create events, sit on a citizens panel and develop a talent programme, all aiming to make Gloucester a hub for arts and culture.



NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

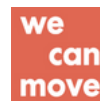
In partnership with Active Gloucestershire, we have created a small grant scheme that is accessible to residents and community groups in Gloucester who want to become more physically active. This year, we have seen a number of groups access the funds. Here is the story of one:

Ebony Carers is a group which supports Black and Minority Ethnic carers. It has been running for over 20 years and supports people who have caring responsibilities to improve their mental and physical wellbeing. They have run chair yoga sessions for a number of years, funded by a local organisation. This year however, the funding became suddenly unavailable, leaving the group unable to continue their chair yoga sessions very abruptly. The thought of this had a dramatic impact on the group as the sessions provided physical support but also respite to the carers.

The group were successful in their application and were able to continue the chair yoga sessions without a break in classes. This was key to

ensuring the group stayed connected as many of the individuals face significant stress and isolation. It also gave the group time and space to apply for further, more long-term funding, enabling them to have a more sustainable future.

Now, over fifty people join the chair yoga sessions each week. The group is more than just an exercise class. For many of the people who join in, it is a place that is safe and joyful and an opportunity to connect together and support one another when needed.



Active
Gloucestershire



'We wanted to create a space where our community comes together to feel supported and welcomed.'

- Ebony Carers



COMMUNITY STORIES

One of our community builders was a guest speaker at an International Women's Day Event at All Nations Community Centre where she encouraged the community to come together and connect.

The Recycled Teenagers (a group for over 65s) celebrated their second anniversary in style. They had a party where members shared snippets of their life, through stories, song and poetry.

The students at Gloucester Academy created a mural designed to represent what their community means to them.

Through our digi-hub in Linden, the members have come together and taught an individual how to use Facetime. This has meant that she has been able to connect with her family who live abroad and feel less isolated living in a new country.

Communities in Linden have been looking after and taking over their local green spaces. They have adopted planters on The Lannett, held gatherings at The Oval and created small spaces to grow fruit and vegetables in the most unexpected of areas!

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

Here at GCBC, we celebrate the achievements of people and groups in the community. We like to recognise those people that are working or volunteering in their local neighbourhood day in, day out and whose passions bring people together.



Carol

Carol has supported the accessible yoga group in Longlevens selflessly with her 'can do' attitude and willingness to step up.

Cleo has been volunteering at the All Nations Community Centre for over 25 years and is a vital force in supporting the elders of the community.



Cleo



Viv

Viv cares deeply about her community and her church in Linden. She makes connections wherever she goes and is friendly and welcoming to everyone.

Alex works at The Folk of Gloucester and is keen to turn the ancient building into a vibrant community space. She helps showcase local traditions and ensures it's a welcoming space for all.



Alex



John

John has an unwavering positive attitude and is passionate about the community where his church is. He loves to see people come together in his church; everyone is welcome, regardless of faith.

Julie and Francis started an accessible yoga group in Longlevens where their enthusiasm for the group is infectious. They love their group and are keen to get additional funding to keep the group going!



Julie & Francis



Jackie

Jackie gives her time every week to open the committee room of the Westgate Residents Group where the local Knit and Natter group meet. This wouldn't be able to happen without Jackie!

Thomas has helped create the 'Friends of Tuffley Avenue Rose Garden' which has begun transforming the space into a beautiful outdoor area.



Thomas & volunteers



Linden Community Garden

A group of people, including Kiri (pictured) are transforming an unused and overgrown space on Seymour Road into a flourishing community garden.

WHATS NEXT 2024 -2025

Learning

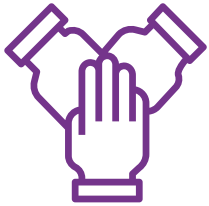
We want to develop a decision making framework that sets out when and how to start in a new area, who to work with, if, when and how to leave an area and what may be needed if we do. This will be informed by our evaluation of our work in Elmbridge and Longlevens and our Children and Young People's project and an organisational review.

Collaboration

We are excited to be part of the Together Gloucester programme, helping to discover creativity in the communities where we work. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Music Works and NHS Gloucestershire on the Community Connectors' Project as well as co-hosting events and networks that support strengths-based working and a community-led approach.

Innovation

We will be working with a software engineer to develop a web application that will enable us to monitor and record the impact of our work as well as generate reports for funders. This will make it easier for our team to capture what they do via their phones and or other devices.

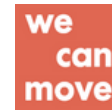


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the whole team, we would like to say thank you to all the people we have met and worked with over the past year, hearing your ideas and thoughts about your area, making us feel so welcome in your communities. It has been a pleasure being involved in so many different projects, events and activities across the city over the last year.

We look forward to an exciting year of seeing the power of people taking action in their communities.

Thank you to our funders & partnerships who make our work possible.



Active
Gloucestershire





GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY BUILDING COLLECTIVE

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Gloucester Community
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