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Thursday, November 19, 2020

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Special school site sought

TWO Andover teachers are seeking a site for a new school for children who struggle with mainstream education.

Husband and wife team Mark and Tori Rist from Springfield Close have been working on plans for the 'Andover Small School' since lockdown and are currently looking for a suitable site for the independent special school.

Parents to two children, the project is inspired by their daughter 6-year old Florence, who struggles with the social and environmental demands of a mainstream classroom.

Former Portway teacher Tori shared: "When we started to look at ways we could support Florence, it became really clear that she wasn't the only child struggling and that hundreds of children are either struggling each day in school or not even in school because there isn't a suitable provision for them."

The Andover Small School will educate children aged 5 to 16, providing an alternative for children who are unable to achieve their full potential in a conventional school environment.

National statistics show there is a

growing number of children who, despite their inability to cope in mainstream are not classed as having 'high enough needs' to access a more traditional special school. It is estimated that thousands of children, across the UK, are currently being home-schooled or not accessing education at all because they either cannot obtain an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) and the funding to access a specialist provision or cannot find a special school that is right for their particular needs, despite having an EHCP. For some families

home-schooling works well, but many parents feel that their child would benefit from learning in a school environment.

Tori, 43, an original founder of the Love Andover Isolation Group, now focusing her attention on developing the school told Love Andover: "During their time with us, children will access a full academic curriculum, placing their individual needs and interests at its core.

Children will also be encouraged to develop life and social skills in a safe, nurturing and aspirational setting. We are also extremely confident in our abil-

ity to show academic and social and emotional progress of our pupils as well as ensure that our staff are up-to-date with pedagogical research and current educational strategies."

Children at our school will be encouraged to challenge themselves both academically and socially, whilst having their social, environmental and emotional needs met. Some of us have been that child who found school too noisy, overwhelming and socially difficult

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We're getting married in the morning!

AN ANDOVER midwife woke up on Saturday 31st October to be surprised by her fiancé with the news that they were getting married the very next day!

Ellie Dunlop and Alex Millar were originally due to be married in April, but like so many other couples, their plans had been rescheduled. With a third wedding date of 7th November in the diary, Alex woke up to the news that another lockdown was going to stop their big day.

Alex explained: "It was a strange one, I woke up on the Saturday morning, heard the news and thought; not again! Could we bring the whole thing forward? Ellie was still asleep as she had been working as a midwife and so I made a few calls to see if it was possible for us to be married the next day. Everything just came together as everyone wanted to help so by the time Ellie woke up about 11am, I asked her if she would like to get married the next day!"

The couple were moved by how quickly everyone pulled together from James, the vicar at St Mary's Church in Overton to Ikebana florist Jonathan and local hairdressers at Toni Hair. Alex also had to find a venue to accommodate the fifteen strong wedding party at such short notice and Newbury landlord at the Crab and Boar stepped in to save the day.

Alex continued: "It is the best thing we did, and I really wouldn't change it for the world, even if we could go back to our original April wedding with 90 guests. It was such a special day and I just want to thank everyone who made it all possible, including the 30 or so friends, family and villagers who stood outside in the rain to support us on the day!"

The newlyweds enjoyed last week off at home going on long walks with their spaniel Stanley and are looking forward to a honeymoon in Kenya sometime in the future.

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Andover toddler to star in national military calendar

A three-year-old from Andover has been chosen from more than a hundred children to feature in a national charity calendar which shines a light on the unique experiences of military children during the last twelve months.

Peter Thackery, who's Dad Will serves with the British Army in Andover, will feature as the June entry the Little Troopers 'Through Our Eyes' 2021 calendar. Peter, who is known as Petey by his family, is pictured trying on his Dad's helmet while he was helping him pack for his first deployment overseas. Will was deployed to Iraq in September for six months.

Petey's photo will appear alongside other heart-warming photos and stories of real-life military children as seen through their eyes. The calendar also includes a monthly positive message from a celebrity who has either served in the military or grown-up as a military child. Celebrities featured include Mark Ormrod MBE, Colonel Dame Kelly Holmes, Jordan North, Joanna Lumley and Andy McNab. Petey's photo will appear alongside a message from Jenny Eclair.

Petey's mum, Charlotte, commented: "This is the first time that Petey's Dad has been deployed so it's been a bit daunting and sad for Petey and his sister, but we are all so proud. Petey loves dressing up in his Dad's army uniform and helmet and he's been wearing his replica helmet from the tank museum every day. We've also been using some of the Little Troopers resources to help the children including the Little Troop-



Petey Thackery (age 3)

ers separation pack. As autumn is our favourite time of year, we also collected conkers and leaves and stuck these on paper to make a replica fairy tree of the one in our garden and took photos of our trees and sent these to Daddy so that he could enjoy a bit of an English autumn."

Louise Fetigan, founder of Little Troopers, added: "2020 has been a challenging year for children generally, but lots of military children have carried extra weight on their shoulders due to cancelled postings, extended deployments and other pressures. Petey's photo and the other images in the calendar really capture some of the highs and lows of military life and we hope that by sharing these stories, other military children will see that there are lots of Little Troopers in the world who share

similar experiences and are part of this very special community of amazing and resilient young people."

The Little Troopers 2021 calendar is now on sale with all proceeds helping Little Troopers to continue providing fundamental resources and initiatives to support military children.

Little Troopers has had a busy 2020 following the launch of its Little Troopers Letters pack for service children who are due to move home soon and wish to keep in touch with a close friend they will be leaving behind. The charity has also just launched a free secondary school resource hub for teachers to support older military children in school and is planning a primary school workshop roadshow in 2021. For more information visit www.littletroopers.net

Trio arrested in Andover Drugs Investigation

THREE men were arrested on November 12 following warrants linked to Class A drug supply in Andover and Basingstoke.

Officers from local Neighbourhood Teams and Northern Investigations searched three Basingstoke addresses and one in Goddard Square, Andover.

Items seized during the warrants included quantities of suspected Class A drugs, suspected Class B drugs and a quantity of cash.

Chief Inspector Karen McManus said: "As part of our ongoing work to tackle drug-related crime in Andover and Basingstoke, we have arrested a number of people suspected of being involved in dealing Class A and Class B drugs.

Using and dealing illegal drugs causes so much damage to people, families and communities and very often is linked to other types of crime and violent offending.

We want to assure the public that we take drug dealing extremely seriously as these warrants show."

Do you know Alan?

DO you know a gentleman called Alan who was friends with the late David Blight?

Misty lives in North Devon and is trying to track down Alan, unfortunately she can't recall his surname.

Alan and David served together in the Army many years ago. Sadly David passed away recently and Misty is keen to get in contact with his friend. If you can help connect Alan and Misty, please contact Love Andover on 01264 883100.

Controversy between councillors

COUNCILLORS in Andover have called for cohesion and the curbing of personal attacks after a recent social media spat.

The request follows a series of social media posts by Andover Independents

Party councillor Christopher Ecclestone which appeared to incite discrimination by singling-out individual councillors.

Long-standing borough councillor Iris Andersen (St Mary's Ward) said

she was saddened but not surprised at the Millway Ward councillor's tirade of social media posts which tried to provoke negative comments against councillors who did not vote for his recent motion.

Cllr Ecclestone as part of the newly-formed Andover Independents Party (AIP) proposed at last week's full borough council meeting for Shepherds Spring Car Park to have four hours' free parking. The attempt was to bring parking charges in the north (Andover) and south (Romsey) of the Test Valley inline with each other.

The motion was rejected at the virtual meeting, at which AIP leader David Coole said, "There were good arguments on both sides."

Cllr Andersen told Love Andover: "You can't really compare Andover and Romsey. Also, we have a Masterplan for Andover being put in place, it just doesn't make sense to cost the taxpayer money now for a system of change that is already progressing."

On the Politics in Andover Facebook group, Cllr Ecclestone said, "I am surprised no-one has called out Cllr Victoria Harber on her vote against. Maybe it's [Shepherds Spring] too far from the Queen Charlotte for it to be of interest." Cllr Harber is the landlady of the London Road pub. He later added, "The biggest shocker was Iris Andersen. The Tories were whipped to within an inch

of their lives to get in line."

Lee Fort who stood for the now defunct Andover Alliance party in last year's borough elections responded to Cllr Ecclestone saying, "Not all your proposals will be supported, particularly if they are not constructed properly. Might I suggest not sulking about it?"

AIP leader Cllr David Coole (Anna Ward) explained, "At the moment, there is inequality within TVBC in the form of car parking fees across the Borough. The Andover Independents Party wants to see car parking fee parity introduced across the Borough, for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors alike. Bringing them into line will only reap benefits for all."

"Councillors should be putting our efforts into working together for the benefit of the town", Cllr Iris Andersen told Love Andover. "Cllr Ecclestone is like a petulant child who throws himself on the floor in a supermarket because he can't have any sweets."

Cllr Harber told Love Andover, "Let's stop the abuse. An elected member inciting online harassment is not appropriate behaviour for a borough councillor. Residents who wish to discuss issues or voting reasons know how to get hold of their local councillor."

Love Andover understands that a formal complaint has been made against Cllr Ecclestone.

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One moment in time

IN 1983, the people of Test Valley made a time capsule tapestry with thread, capturing a moment in the Borough's history for future generations. Now, nearly 40 years later in 2020, it is happening again, but this time, instead of thread, video is going to be used to create a digital tapestry.

It's a similar idea - to weave together what makes us who we are - the things we care about, the people we care about and why 2020 has been such a memorable year. And it has been quite a year.

How will we look back at our lives in Test Valley 2020? What will we remember and what was most significant? Where is the place you have found inspiration or comfort? What makes us who we are? Who are the people and what are the things that we most care about? How are you at this moment in time? How have you coped with getting through the last year?

What does your community mean to you?

Test Valley Borough council, supported by Peter Thompson and Anna Vickers from TV Capsule are inviting people from all over Andover and the Test Valley to take part in a community film project.

The project is designed to get people to record something that either matters to you, that you care passionately about or how you feel about living in Test Valley during 2020.

2020 has been an interesting year to say the least and has thrown the unthinkable to many. This community project is about bringing people together to showcase what Andover and Test Valley's local people have been up to during the pandemic and how we have adapted this year.

All you need to do is record a short film on your phone or camera and send



Peter Thompson

it to TV Capsule. They are asking to hear about the things that matter to you, what you care about, who or what is important to you and how you feel about living in the Test Valley at this memorable time. We'll be bringing all these films together in a kind of video 'time capsule' for 2020

Local artist, Andy Pomphery who was involved in the making of the promotional video told Love Andover: "The project is generating an authentic visual experience of Andover and the Test Valley. It's accessible for all and can be filmed from the comfort of your home."

The project is open to everyone and anyone, whatever your level of experience with film.

The deadline to get submissions in is the 31st December 2020.

You may be apprehensive if you have never made a film before but it couldn't

be simpler with the tips given by the team to get your message across in the best way possible.

Preparation: What is it that you want to say? You've got up to three minutes, so think about a beginning, middle and end. Keep your film short and concise if you can - you can submit anything from between 1 - 3 minutes - it's all welcome.

Keeping it steady: One thing that will automatically improve the quality of your film will be to keep the camera still, or steady. Shaky footage is difficult to watch.

Getting the right sound: It would be easy to assume that because you are making a film that the sound or audio would not be so important - you may want to think about any background noises such as pets, radio, the wind. Before you start recording stop and have a listen.

Composition: Before you press record, there are some more decisions to make - how are you going to frame your shot and what are you going to include. TV Capsule recommend using landscape, ensuring that you check all four corners to make sure no one is in the background.

Exposure and light: Important tips from TV Capsule suggest avoiding filming in front of a window, turn the camera around and you will have even natural lighting.

All the films submitted will be added to the TV Capsule collection, to be kept for future generations. The team will be creating an edited longer version featuring a selection of the submitted films.

For more information can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/463748305>.

Ten years of TARCA

THE Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA) is marking its tenth anniversary in helping to look after and care for Test Valley's popular nature reserves.

The association is made up of volunteers from Andover and the wider area and, alongside Test Valley Borough Council officers, help to ensure the reserves, and the species who call them home, continue to thrive.

Since 2009, when the group was first created, thousands of volunteers have spent time conserving a number of reserves that are loved and regularly used by residents of the town. Combined, volunteers have contributed more than 11,000 hours of their time to sites including Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve, Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve, Ox Drove Meadow, Harewood Common and Ladies Walk.

To celebrate the occasion, a special commemoration 'TARCA' bench was commissioned last year for the Anton Lakes reserve. The bench has been carved to show a trout and an otter, just two of the members of wildlife which can be regularly spotted at the nature reserve. The artwork has now been unveiled with chair of TARCA, Kate Savage and secretary, Mervyn Gist, after the bench was completed by late local artist, Richard Austin.

Community and leisure portfolio holder, councillor Ian Jeffrey, said: "Although we've done our best to cal-



Councillors Tony Burley and Ian Jeffrey alongside Kate Savage (upper left) and Mervyn Gist (upper right) alongside the new bench.

culate the hours put into the reserves by our volunteers, the work that they've done to keep them thriving, really is immeasurable.

"Anton Lakes is one of the best-loved features of Andover and it's a fantastic haven for wildlife, and for our residents who love to come down and make the most of what it has to offer. This was highlighted during the national lockdown earlier this year, and with the restrictions that are currently in place. Green spaces and access to wildlife is absolutely vital, and that's why I'm so grateful for the work that TARCA has done across the town, and further afield.

Hopefully this is just the first milestone of many, and the volunteers who put such dedication into their work, can continue to do so for years to come."

Andover Small School

Continued from page 1

which meant we didn't meet our full potential."

School Trustees are currently looking for a physical site for the school in Andover. The site must allow the school to grow.

39-year old Mark, Assistant Head at Anton Junior School explained: "We were told, by another school we visited, that finding our site would be the trickiest part of the project. There are possibilities that we are currently exploring but we are still very much on the search for the

perfect site."

Some investment has been sought by the team, but it's "not all sewn up" adds Tori. "I really hope we can find a kindly local farmer with potential space.

We've looked at old pubs, grain stores and disused community buildings so want to get across that nowhere is a silly suggestion, as long as it's within 5 miles of Andover.

We would be very open to anyone wanting to support our aims, with premises, land or investment solutions."

With a focus on both STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and outdoor education, children will learn at their own pace, whilst being actively encouraged to challenge themselves; allowing them to realise and achieve their full potential.

The school has already begun to create synergies with companies and organisations in Andover and beyond, to provide young people with access to 'real life' learning opportunities and expose them to the different career choices that will be available to them when they leave the school.

Tori concluded: "We have already had interest from both local and national businesses who are inter-

ested in sponsoring the school. Many companies now run large projects around neurodiversity and see how those of us who look at the world differently can bring an exciting and innovative edge to different business sectors - we just need our environment to be right so that we can flourish. We are not a state maintained school and as such, we need to ensure that we can raise sustainable funding, whilst keeping our fees as low as possible so that we are accessible to as many families as possible."

Once established, the school will also support local families and neurodiverse individuals within the Andover and surrounding community.

Tori has already started the Andover Neurodiverse Adults Group and hopes to open the Andover Neurodiverse Teens group once Covid restrictions are eased. Various parent, sibling and mental health groups will also be run from the school.

If you are a business or organisation who would like to become involved with the project, an individual who would like to know more or perhaps a prospective parent, please contact Tori on tori@moreeducation.co.uk for more information.



Family is George (2), Mark (39), Florence (6) and Tori (43)

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Temporary closure of car park



DISAPPOINTING news for local users of Anton Lakes Nature Reserve, situated just north of Andover town centre as Cllr Phil North announces the closure of the car park from 9pm Sunday 22nd November for 5 days.

Cllr Phil North confirmed on Facebook, the closure comes "due to the essential felling of diseased ash trees around the parking area and entrance road to Anton Lakes. The site will, of course, remain open for pedestrians, who will be asked to

adhere to a designated route around the car park. Similarly the field to the rear of the car park will also be closed during this time to facilitate the works. I know this will be inconvenient for those who park up and enjoy the nature reserve, which is why we're avoiding any weekend closures but it's also a good opportunity to visit some of the other great nature reserves and green spaces in and around Andover like Rooksbury Mill, Watermills Park, Ladies Walk and Charlton Lakes."

The sky's the limit for new nursery

A new nursery in Middle Wallop has been awarded a £750 Business Incentive Grant from Test Valley Borough Council.

Feathered Skies has been opened by Joanne Littlejohn, who decided to take on the venture due to an increase in demand for nursery places. Joanne has refurbished the old Army Air Corp pre-school to create the nursery's new home.

The name of the nursery reflects the fact that the Army Air Corps' Chinook and Apache aircraft are named after Native Americans, who wear feathered headdresses. The grant has helped Joanne transform the nursery, which also has themed rooms with an animal on a carved totem pole.

There are four members of staff and the nursery has 38 places for 0-5-year-olds, offering after school provision and holiday care.

Joanne said: "I have worked in early years childcare for some time now and when the opportunity arose to lease and refurbish the old Army Air Corp pre-school building to open a new nursery in an area where there is an increasing demand for places, it made sense. I am grateful to the council for awarding us financial support to help get us started."

The grant has been issued by

the Mid-Test ward to help towards meeting the demands for childcare in the community in these challenging times.

The council's £750 Business Incentive Grants are available to

anyone looking to set up their own full-time business in Test Valley. Anyone who successfully applies for the grant will receive £750 if their business is still going strong 6 months later.



Youth battles wind and rain for sustainable cabin

AFTER setting out to complete the 175-kilometre distance in late October, Dmitrijs Meiksans has completed the fundraiser for Andover Trees United.

The Member of Youth Parliament for North West Hampshire set out to walk 175.6 kilometres over a fortnight, from the 2nd - 15th November, in late October and has recently finished the fundraiser, walking 5 kilometres more than he initially planned to.

Dmitrijs shared: "It was most definitely a challenge and I have never done anything like this before but it was gratifying to see the local community gathering to support me as I walked quite a long distance and for such an important local cause."

All of the monies raised will be going towards local environmental charity Andover Trees United's fundraising to build a sustainable cabin which will encompass a volunteer base, a classroom and more storage space for the charity's equipment. The charity continues to fundraise to build the Cabin which will be located on its 44-acre-site behind the East Anton Sports Pavillion in Augusta Park.

"My legs are most definitely sore and a lot of my shoes need a good clean, especially after some of the days I walked during heavy rain, which had caused a lot of mud to build upon the paths around the site," he continued.

Dmitrijs documented his daily adventures on his Instagram page, allowing his followers to see how the fundraising attempt was going. "I felt it was really important that I kept people up to date with how I was doing," he said, "and it was a great opportunity to promote the work of Andover Trees and how people can get involved."

Wendy Davis, Projects Coordinator at Andover Trees United, said, "We are feeling inspired by, and hugely grateful to, Dmitrijs for completing this challenge and raising much needed funds for the cabin. It's been a tricky week both in terms of bad weather and the rise in local infections but he has not been perturbed and we applaud his resilience. Well done Dmitrijs!"

The fundraiser has so far raised £250 and it will continue to be open until Monday 23rd November 2020. Dmitrijs walked 179.54 kilometres, totalling 111.56 miles. Anyone can donate towards Dmitrijs' efforts by going to www.tinyurl.com/WalkWalkWalk2020.



Dmitrijs Meiksans MYP at Harmony Woods



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Toby's delight at special delivery

AS previously reported in the Love Andover Observer, a huge fundraising effort resulted in the funds being raised to purchase a new wheelchair for Andover's Toby Pearce.

After weeks of anticipation and to the delight of Toby and his family, his new chair has now arrived.

Toby's mum Gemma shared: "So very happy to be able to tell you we now

have Toby's amazing new wheelchair! All the months of hard work fundraising, the tears and worry that we were never going to get there were absolutely worth it! Toby's new wheelchair is honestly the most amazing chair and has already made so much of a difference to his life! He is so happy in it.

We are looking forward to many great adventures now that we know we can safely and comfortably take Toby anywhere. Knowing this chair can handle any of Tobys needs!

It wouldn't have been possible without all of you that donated, shared posts, bought raffle tickets and did individual fundraising. You all made this possible and we will forever be grateful to you all! You will never know how much this has meant to us as a family so thank you so very much from the bottom of our hearts!

Gemma added: "A special thank you to Danny Frendo at DF Mobility for providing Toby with this amazing chair, and for putting up with my many messages etc with more things I needed to add/change and my many questions - you have gone above and beyond to make sure this chair is perfect for Toby, I don't know any other company that would have done as much as you have!

Also a thank you to Darren Legg from Dietz power for listening to all of Toby's requirements and along with Danny created this amazing chair!"

14-year old Toby suffers Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy. Toby can suffer up to 100 seizures a day.



College goes live with series of online events

ANDOVER College hosted its first Live Online Open Event on Tuesday 17 November.

Visitors signed up to attend Talks and were able to pose questions in real time and hear from teaching and student support teams from across the College

Visitors interested in becoming students at Andover next September had the chance to build their own personalised event schedules and met with expert teaching teams and Student Ambassadors to find out more about courses, facilities and the student experience.

In addition to live Q&A sessions from Andover's tutors, the finance, transport, wellbeing, admissions and careers teams all hosted chatrooms and 1:2:1 pop-up chats to answer any student or parent queries.

Andover College Principal, Julie Milburn, said: "Andover College are delighted to give our prospective students the opportunity to ask all the questions they have of our expert tutors and support teams in person

at these live online events.

At the moment everyone has to stay at home to stay safe which is why we have also loaded our website with lots of inspiring content such as video tutor and 360 degree facilities tours to give you a flavour of our campus. But we can't wait to see everyone again once we are able to invite visitors to come along in person. We hope visitors enjoy joining us at our live online events and this helps them in their decision to apply to start their unique journey with us in the future."

Andover College has enjoyed welcoming its new and returning students safely back to campus this autumn and look forward to greeting new students to their learning journey in 2021.

If you're interested in joining in September 2021, you can apply now at www.andover.ac.uk

Future Online Open Event Dates include: Thursday 11 February 2021 (4:30 - 7:30pm); Wednesday 28 April 2021 (4:30 - 7:30pm); Thursday 24 June 2021 (4:30 - 7:30pm).

Harrow Way contributes to national Ofsted work

HARROW Way school recently hosted Ofsted who was gaining insight into the impact the extended schools' closure has had on students across England. The fact-finding visit will feed into a national report for the government and the education sector with Harrow Way's views and experiences helping to inform future policy.

Harrow Way was one of approximately 1200 schools across all Ofsted grades selected for the visit. Although not an official inspection, the inspectors provided the school with some positive feedback acknowledging their swift return to full teaching.

Commenting on the visit Head-teacher Michael Serridge said: "Establishing how schools across England have bounced back from the extended closure is an important piece of work being conducted by Ofsted. We, like Ofsted, want to see students fully caught up with their studies and a full curriculum being taught. We were very pleased to be able to contribute to this important national work and that the measures we have introduced to ensure our students experience a full and meaningful education have been noted by the inspectors."

With regard to their specific observations on how Harrow Way was helping students catch up, the inspectors commented: "In all sub-



jects, teachers have checked what pupils remember. Teachers are supporting pupils both individually and as class groups to catch up with any learning they have missed. Year 7 pupils are getting extra help with their reading."

The delivery of a full curriculum was also explored with the inspectors noting: "Pupils are studying the range of subjects they normally would and the vast majority of Year 11 pupils are continuing to study all of their planned examination courses."

Harrow Way has also introduced effective measures to ensure

they can deliver a full curriculum remotely with the inspectors commenting: "Pupils who are off school are supplied with remote education which mirrors what is being taught in school. Leaders have combined publicly available resources with material which the school's teachers have produced. Plans are in place to deliver the full curriculum remotely if, in the future, the school is fully or partially closed because of COVID-19."

In Harrow Way's last official Ofsted inspection in 2017 they were rated a 'good' school with a number of areas receiving high praise.



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Pupils enjoy new school environment

A recently completed loft conversion at Icknield School is now being enjoyed by many of the pupils.

The project began to ensure inclusivity for all and was achieved through a combination of fundraising and donations.

Headmaster Sean Cannon



explained: "The trust had raised a significant amount of money but this was doubled by successful bids to the Wolfson Foundation, Bernard Sunley and St James Place foundations. These donations were achieved by our school fundraiser Tracey Allen. Tracey organised two Jazzifest music festivals which also raised a lot of the money.

We started in March and the lockdown worked in our favour as the building was shut for students and Brett was able to work uninterrupted from March until September. We have created a fantastic space for our students and we thank businesses big and small that helped us. We had donations of paint from Wickes and Jewson in Andover. Many suppliers were badgered by Brett to offer products at reduced rates. We used all local suppliers and trades people. We are hugely grateful to Alan Stannah for the generous donations and helping us with the vital lift between the floors. We would like to thank the

people of Andover who all helped in whatever capacity."

Unfortunately, the school has been hit with positive Covid cases and pupils have already missed two weeks of school and now they are all isolating again for another two weeks.

Sean concluded: "We are still living with our new accommodation and adapting as we go. We wanted to have an afternoon tea to celebrate its opening but Covid has put paid to that too.

The students really like the new accommodation and particularly like the lift!"

The new accommodation has been opened as the news was announced that Icknield School is set to be remodelled with an investment of up to £2.5 million after approval was given by Hampshire County Council to progress design work and open a public consultation.

This will also allow the school to expand its capacity to admit up to 10 additional pupils from September 2022.



A word from Kit Malthouse MP

"THERE is hope for beating Covid.

I know that many people have gone through some of the toughest months of their lives this year, however we are coming to the end of 2020 with hope and good news.

As we edge towards Christmas, we have the prospect of an effective Covid vaccine, it's a major breakthrough. Safety trials are ongoing with several vaccines, tens of thousands of people are being tested around the world, with the leading contenders being over 90 per cent effective.

We've secured some 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine and over 300 million doses of other leading candidates – including the latest jab from Moderna. And we're advancing our plans to distribute a vaccine once one is approved.

We're also rolling out 600,000 rapid tests across England so that people in high risk groups can be tested weekly. These tests can tell whether you're infectious in minutes.

We are getting through this, and I look forward to Andover opening back up and resuming a sense of normality as soon as it is safe to do so. People being able to do the everyday things – go to the pub, see their family and go to church. Until we get there, please keep following the rules and let's continue to look out for each other."

Town improvements agreed

IMPROVEMENTS to the town centre were unanimously agreed with a 'Love-In' motion at a council meeting.

On Wednesday's full borough council meeting last week, Cllr David Coole (Anna Valley) proposed improvements to the street furniture in Andover high street, including the removal of the 'caged plants' that are strewn across the area.

The Andover Independents Party leader's proposal was seconded by Test Valley Borough

Council leader Phil North. Among the cross-party agreement was the removal of the seven caged plants known locally as the 'triffids'; each of which are in various states of growth.

Cllr Coole told Love Andover: "The Andover Independents Party is delighted that TVBC unanimously voted in favour of my cross-party Motion, seconded by Cllr Phil North, to ask Andover Vision to formally progress improvements to Andover Town Centre Street Furniture and Vigo

Recreation Ground. These areas have been seriously neglected and under developed by all previous Borough administrations, despite continual residents complaints."

Andover Vision is a Test Valley Borough Council funded initiative to 'look into the town's future over the next 20 years'. With Andover Vision, TVBC recently undertook an audit of street furniture earlier this year to identify possible high street improvements.

Cllr Coole added: "In May 2019, the current Andover Independents Party borough councillors were elected to deliver these improvements and we are delivering. We are particularly delighted that the Leader of the council supports us and we look forward to achieving further collaboration to help deliver our other Manifesto Promises."

The borough's 'first citizen', The Worshipful Mayor of Test Valley Cllr Martin Hatley, who chaired the full council meeting, light-heartedly referred to the agreement between the usually dissenting parties as a "Love-in" between the council leader and Cllr Coole.

Cllr North shared online: "Top of my list is the removal of the horrible and unsightly plant cages – which can best be described as being; of their time. I'm keen that we consult more widely with the people of Andover to make sure the right improvements are made. Crucially, this includes talking to disability groups to ensure any new street furniture doesn't become too much of a hazard."



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College builds relationships with employers

AT Andover College, the team ensures that its students have both the knowledge and experience to go into industry and are aware of all the opportunities awaiting them.

To help them to achieve this, the college is building strong links with employers to enhance students' job prospects once they've finished their studies at Andover College.

Over the past couple of years, the college has formed a strong link with Persimmon Homes. The development group has previously taken on Andover College Bricklaying Students to work on their Picket Twenty site and have recently done the same with four of the 'Class of 2019' now working for Persimmon after a successful trial.

Persimmon has not only supported college alumni but has also recently donated tools and resources to our Bricklaying Department to benefit our current students.

David Wales, Assistant Principal (Professions), shared: "Working with a company like Persimmon gives our students a fantastic opportunity to put the skills they learn with us to good use as they take the first steps in their careers."

Persimmon Homes South Coast construction director Paul Coombes added: "An ever-increasing demand



for new homes means there is no shortage of career opportunities within the construction industry. Persimmon is proud to work in partnership with Andover College in the training and development of future skilled craftspeople to help deliver quality new homes in the community. We were delighted to take this one step further with the donation of around £1,500 worth of tools for the college's bricklaying workshop and aim to support carpentry students in a similar way, ensuring they gain the professional experience to set them on the path to a long and successful career."

Think local when buying Christmas presents this year

HAMPSHIRE County Council is urging people to back local businesses during this second national lockdown by shopping locally where possible. The County Council is also supporting Hampshire Fare's initiative to buy one local gift this Christmas as part of its ongoing campaign #staylocalstaylocal

Councillor Rob Humby, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at Hampshire County Council said: "November is usually a busy time for retailers as people shop for Christmas presents. With the national lockdown now in effect, our high streets will once again see reduced footfall. But we can support Hampshire's economy at the same time as playing our part to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, by doing some of our Christmas shopping with local businesses."

In Hampshire, 100,000 people are employed in non-essential retail and 72,000 in hospitality; and almost one in four of all jobs in the wider Hampshire

area are in sectors that will have to shut down this week.

In April this year, during the first national lockdown, national economic output in accommodation and food contracted by 87%, and in wholesale and retail, it contracted by 28%.

Councillor Humby continued: "With farmers' markets remaining open, and many independent shops offering click and collect, ring and reserve or delivery services, there will be plenty to choose from. Many pubs and cafes are also once more offering takeaways, which is another way for Hampshire residents to support their local community – by helping businesses get through."

Tracy Nash, Commercial Manager at Hampshire Fare, added: "If we all buy just one local gift or local treat for the Christmas table, it will make a massive difference. This not only helps local businesses to survive at this difficult time, it also supports our local communities and the local economy – both dependent on local businesses to flourish and thrive."



High Sheriff ready to honour our heroes

THE High Sheriff of Hampshire Rev Sue Colman is calling for public servants, individuals, volunteers, charities and community organisations to submit their nominations for the High Sheriff Community Awards, to celebrate the good work of those making Hampshire a safer place for all residents.

The High Sheriff, Rev Sue Colman, said: "The awards honour those who deserve special recognition for their good work in the field of law and order. It is important that we take the time to celebrate those who enhance safety and cohesion and go beyond the call of duty in their everyday activities to make Hampshire a better and safer place to live and work, particularly this year with Covid-19 impacting on all of our lives. I would particularly like to honour organisations and individuals who, during this time of pandemic, have adapted their practices and innovated new ways of working to ensure others have remained safe and supported. This is an integral part of the High Sheriff's role and I very much look forward to honouring the unsung heroes that achieve so much across our Hampshire communities."

Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.hiwcfc.com/high-sheriff-community-awards-2020-21/ and should be returned by email to marketing@hiwcfc.com before 6pm on 29th January 2021.

Grant Cornwell MBE, Chief Executive at HIWCF added: "HIWCF is delighted to be partnering the High Sheriff of Hampshire Rev Sue Colman in administering these annual honours and we urge Hampshire residents to make a nomination for any person or organisation working in the area of



law and order that has gone above and beyond expectation. Every year, we are inspired by the great work of those receiving an award, which has included police constables, probation officers, street pastors, search and rescue dog handlers, stalking services and domestic abuse centres. The Community Awards enable us to appreciate the efforts of those that

have made a real difference to the lives of local people, many of whom have experienced very difficult times."

The awards will be presented by the High Sheriff at a ceremony on Thursday 18th March 2021, subject to Covid-19 restrictions. More information and contact details for the High Sheriff can be found on www.hampshirehighsheriff.org.uk.

Warning after rise in investment fraud reports

HAMPSHIRE Constabulary is informing the public of how to protect themselves from investment fraud, after reports spiked.

Between September 2019 and September 2020, Action Fraud received just over 17,000 reports of investment fraud, amounting to £657.4m in reported losses. However, reports spiked in May, June, July, August and September – covering a large proportion of the first phase of the UK national restrictions – and is likely due to the nation adjusting to life after the easing of restrictions.

During this same time period, Hampshire residents reported 396 incidents of investment fraud – a 5% increase (377 reports) on the previous reporting year (Sept '18 – Sept '19).

Detective Inspector Sue Orr, Economic Crime Unit at Hampshire Constabulary, said: "Now that England is facing another lockdown, we'd like to remind Hampshire residents that if you're contacted out of the blue by someone not known to you, pertaining to provide you with an 'excellent' and 'very profit driven' investment, to be cautious.

We would implore you to think twice before handing over bank account details or sensitive information and consider whether this opportunity is too good to be true – and if it seems so, decline the opportunity.

To keep yourself, and others, safe, take a look at the Financial Conduct Authority's ScamSmart warning list if you're considering making an investment. Please always report suspicious investment opportunities to Action Fraud."

To protect yourself from investment fraud:

Be suspicious if you are contacted out of the blue about an investment opportunity. This could be via a cold-call, an e-mail or an approach on social media.

Don't be rushed into making an investment. No legitimate organisation will pressure you into making a transaction, or committing to something on the spot. Take time to do your research.

Seek advice from trusted friends, family members or independent professional advice services before making a significant financial decision. Even

genuine investment schemes can be high risk.

Use a financial advisor accredited by the Financial Conduct Authority. Paying for professional advice may seem like an unnecessary expense, but it will help prevent you from being scammed.

Use the Financial Conduct Authority's register to check if a company is regulated. If you deal with a firm or individual that isn't regulated, you may not be able to get your money back if something goes wrong and it's more likely to be a scam.

Just because a company has a glossy website and glowing reviews from 'high net worth' investors does not mean it is genuine – fraudsters will go to great lengths to convince you they are not a scam.

Remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If you think you've been a victim of an investment fraud, report it to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. For more information about investment fraud, visit www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart.

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We will remember them

ON a Remembrance Sunday like no other, residents across the region took time to pay their respects and show we will remember those we lost.

Amid the current restrictions in place for Andover, people from the town still made their way to the War Memorial in St Mary's Garden of remembrance to reflect on the sacrifices made by others to keep our freedom.

On what was a grey day, not so many were present at the service in light of the restrictions, and social distancing was maintained by all as people gathered to pay their respects to those who paid the ultimate price in service to their country.

TVBC Mayor Cllr Hatley led the service, with the verse from the poem 'For the fallen', by Laurence Binyon following, after which Last Post was played to indicate the start of the two minutes silence, followed by the Exhortation. Reveille was played after the silence followed by the wreath laying.

A virtual remembrance service was also recorded by Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary Joint Operations Roads Policing Unit to commemorate the lives of those lost on the roads in Hampshire as a result of road traffic collisions.

The services, dedicated to each force area, were available to view online on Sunday 15 November. This coincided with the United Nations World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims, which is recognised across the world.

The Hampshire service, recorded at Andover Baptist Church, was led



by Force Chaplain Reverend Dominic Jones. Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney was also involved in the recording for the service, along with officers from the Roads Policing Unit, and representatives from other emergency services.

The names of those who have sadly lost their lives in collisions will be commemorated during the service, which will be available to view online for two weeks.

Superintendent Colin Hudson, Head of the Roads Policing Unit for Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary said: "Sadly, in 2019, 56 people lost their lives on the roads in Thames Valley and another 43 people in Hampshire.

During the ongoing pandemic it hasn't been possible to hold our services as we usually would however it is important that we remember those who have lost their lives, provide support to their family and friends, and recognise the professionalism and courage of the emergency services."

Remembrance Sunday in the surrounding towns and villages was also very different but still importantly marked by many.

Whitchurch resident Sarah Dutton shared her village's experience which was reflected by so many others across the area: "Whitchurch was about as strange as it could be this year. With the traditional parade through the town

cancelled, the townspeople looked for other ways to commemorate those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

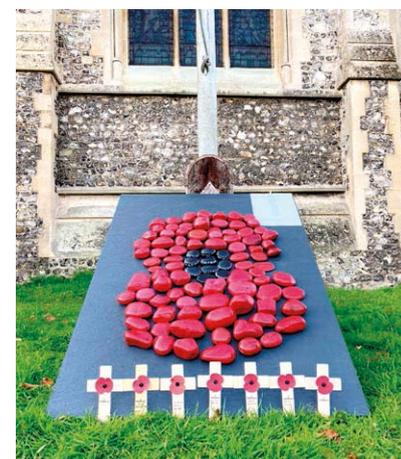
This led to myself, husband Simon and Caroline Hawrylak of the Whitchurch Wocks group coming up with the idea to create a "Wock Poppy". In case you're wondering, "Wocks" are stones that are decorated by children and adults alike before being hidden around the town for people to discover, move on and re-hide, whilst posting their adventures on the group's Facebook page.

Members of the community came together to paint 96 Wocks, each adorned with a name from Whitchurch's Roll of Honour. Once painted and named, the finished Wocks were then assembled together to create a Wock Poppy for display."

Caroline added: "Creating the poppy wocks was a moving experience. When writing the names upon the wocks, it really hit home once again what a terrible loss it must have been for everyone when these 96 men died. So hopefully seeing this poppy will help us to remember how, even in difficult times, we are so lucky to be here because of the sacrifices these men made."

Jeannette Oram commented: "This idea was a brilliant way of showing that Whitchurch still remembered our fallen heroes. I was proud to make a small contribution to the Poppy work in honour of my Great Uncle, Cpl. Alfred George Piper."

The finished display was placed



beneath the flagpole outside All Hallows' Church.

Priest-in-Charge Rev. David Roche shared: "At All Hallows we pre-recorded our service the day before the second lockdown ready for 11am on Sunday to be broadcast on our church YouTube channel. At 11am some of us gathered for private prayer for two minutes to pay our respects, and I must say the sense of occasion, though different, was not lost. For our community in Whitchurch, Remembrance this year was very much enhanced and made visible because members of the 'Whitchurch Wocks' kindly hand made a beautiful community poppy for public display, each rock with a name on it from the Roll of Honour. Lots of people have commented to me on how well made it is and quite fitting. We have proudly placed this at the front of the church by our flagpole so that all who walk or drive past may themselves remember each person represented are themselves like a poppy, be a symbol of hope as we look forward to building on the peace that they bought for us - We will remember them!"

Villagers were on the run



RESIDENTS from the villages of Thruxton, Kimpton and Fyfield took to the streets on Saturday 7th November to honour and remember our Armed forces.

The Annual Remembrance Run was slightly different this year so there was no socialising, no running in groups of more than two and staggered times throughout the day.

Event Organiser Richard Smart shared: "Thankfully the weather was kind this year and residents either walked or ran the 11.11km route - even Skipper the dog joined in! This year we were raising money for the amazing charity <https://www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk/>.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a national charity dedicated to supporting children and young people who have lost a parent who served in the British Armed Forces.

Inspired by the experience of Army widow Nikki Scott, following the death of her husband Cpl Lee Scott in Afghanistan in 2009, the charity provides assistance to hundreds of bereaved British Forces children around the UK.

There were some impressive times among the group, not least WO2 Neil Coleman of the Royal Engineers who ran the whole way round pushing his son Max who has a broken leg! He was even carrying his Bergen as well which contained a speaker that was blasting

out tunes to raise his spirits and those of passers-by. Other residents carried flags with them and it was great to get honked by cars passing by and cheers from people out for a walk. As a result of their efforts a staggering £650 was raised for the Charity which we hope will make a difference as Christmas approaches.

This was our 5th Remembrance Run and was a fabulous event. Thanks so much to all the residents who took part and observed the rules and all those who generously donated. Honouring our Armed Forces is very close to our hearts in this community and I'd just like to say a huge thank you and well done to all involved."

Enham Trust Marks Armistice Day

ANDOVER'S Enham Trust marked Armistice Day as CEO Heath Gunn laid poppy wreaths at both the Ned on the Green statue and the Battle of El Alamein Memorial Stone in the village centre of Enham Alamein.

Coronavirus lockdown restrictions meant the occasion was marked in a more isolated fashion, but one important to take place along with others across the country.

Enham Trust CEO Heath Gunn

said of the ceremony: "100 years ago today the unnamed soldier was brought home from foreign fields and saluted by King George VI before being buried on home soil. He represented the hundreds of thousands of people who gave their lives to protect our freedom. Our link at Enham Trust, through the gift from King George and the formation of Enham to aid those who came back from the war, needing support

to rebuild their lives is as strong today as it was then. We stand in silence at 11.00 am with people across the country and lay a wreath to honour the dead from battles throughout our history. We will remember them."

Enham Trust will mark its centenary in 2021, 100 years after its incorporation following the Great War, as the first village centre for the medical treatment and training of ex-servicemen suffering from the effects of amputations, neurasthenia and shell shock.

To find out more about what's happening at Enham Trust, head to their website (www.enhamtrust.org.uk) or follow them on social media.



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Andover Pledges to Help Children in Need

By Sarah Gisbourne

BBC Children In Need has raised more than £37 million following its 40th anniversary show. The programme was presented by Mel Giedroyc, Alex Scott, Stephen Mangan and Chris Ramsey.

Opening the programme, Alex said: "You may be at home again, but you are not alone. Together we can get through this and more importantly, together, we can help change lives."

Despite the lockdown, some local people still managed to have fun and raise some money for Children in Need.

Jiggly Wrigglers in Andover held a fun packed session morning on Zoom to raise money for Children In Need. Alice Kew, who runs the group in Andover, encouraged local parents who signed up with their little ones: "Wear your brightest colours, your Pudsey clothing, or fancy dress."



Enham Village Post office and shop had a whole day of spotty fun, with the staff dressing up, selling spotty cupcakes and holding a guess the amount of smarties in the jar competition.

Leslie shared: "What a fun day we had, Thank you for all your support, we have raised £156.08 for Children in Need."

England rugby star stands up to bullying

ANDOVER Radio has been nominated for a national award, hosted by England rugby star Ben Cohen.

The local radio station will be attending a virtual award ceremony this evening Thursday 19th November after being shortlisted for the 'StandUp 2020 Community Group Award' which recognises organisations and people that make proactive efforts to reduce bullying while supporting their communities.

The Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation was started in 2012 by former rugby union international Ben Cohen. A spokesperson for the Foundation said, "Ben was moved to launch the Foundation following the terrible events of his father's death when he was fatally injured trying to protect an employee. The Foundation is the world's first that's dedicated to raising awareness of the long-term, damaging effects of bullying."

Andover Radio's Community Manager Ella Palmer added: "We are so



honoured to be considered for this amazing award. To be nominated is a real testament to our growing group of committed and passionate volunteers and community workers who work tirelessly to support others around Andover.

As a volunteer organisation, we understand and support those who may have had difficult lives, in particular those who find it difficult to integrate with society because of previous bullying, troublesome or other 'psychological preventative progression' issues."

New rehabilitation and therapy use for Rendezvous

THE Rendezvous building off Andover's Union Street is set to be rented out to a charity which helps members of the public with therapy and rehabilitation.

The building, owned by Test Valley Borough Council, has been available for the public to book for some years as community space for hire. However, the number of bookings has been very low over the last three years. In spite of very low hire charges, the building has been empty and unused for most of the time, costing the council thousands of pounds each year.

In addition to the number of bookings falling, more community space has now opened up across Andover since The Rendezvous was opened to the public, including Augusta Park's community centre and similar at Picket Twenty. The majority of groups which had first used The Rendezvous after it was opened as community space, have instead now been using the Upper Guildhall.

The building is set to be rented to Valley Leisure Ltd, subject to planning permission being granted for a change of use for the building, for their rehabilitation and therapy work as an I Can centre, which is currently located within the Salto centre in Charlton.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said: "This is a decision that we have been considering for a long while, certainly before the pandemic."

In the last full financial year before lockdown the Rendezvous was used by community organisations at a concessionary rate just 15 times. The vast majority of these bookings were for



the Freedom Programme run by the Andover Crisis and Support Centre, who have now migrated to the Upper Guildhall. If you add in all the private bookings, it was still being hired out less than once a week."

Instead of letting the building sit empty for a vast majority of the time, it's wonderful that Valley Leisure can make use of the premises for such a fantastic purpose, and with the George Yard car park being so close, it's an ideal location for them. I hope that it will also boost footfall in the town centre."

With other community space around the town and the Upper Guildhall, we know that with the current usage of The Rendezvous, we can comfortably accommodate those who need that

space, elsewhere."

Chief Executive of Valley Leisure Ltd, Chris Attrill said: "The move to Union Street is ideal for this bespoke service. The team are looking forward to the move as it provides the perfect environment in which to create the warm, welcoming and friendly setting in which they can best encourage and enable customers to gain physical, mental and social benefit from the service in addition to combatting the impact of loneliness and isolation.

We know that the I Can service in the town centre will also bring additional footfall and the fantastic parking facilities and ease of access that the location brings, will help encourage more customers to engage with the service."

Firefighter fighting for families

ANDOVER and Basingstoke based firefighter Kev Dyer has been reaching out to the community in his spare time to provide food parcels for struggling families in his home town of Whitchurch, and extended to Andover, Hursbourne and Longparish.

Kev spoke to Love Andover: "Initially I reached out on Facebook, knowing that families may need help during half-term and offered cooked meals. I soon realised as the donations can pouring that it would be easier and better to provide parcels so they could cook for themselves."

The 39-year-old has since started accepting food donations from the local community and is putting together the packages for the families in need, and even delivering them all himself.

Each parcel Kev makes contains enough meals to feed a family for at least 3 days. They include meat, vegetables, pasta and even a few household essentials.



The offer doesn't just extend to families, but also to adult or elderly Whitchurch residents who feel they need the help.

Kev added: "I know what it's like to struggle and I just couldn't bear to think that people would suffer, I see in my job, how many people struggle and barely have food in their fridge. Being a firefighter has inspired me to help my community and I want to do more. I know these small tokens will make a difference to anyone who is uncertain about the times ahead. I will help anyone that asks if they are in need, no questions asked, I will get something together for them."

Although Kev doesn't have a definitive answer for how long he'll keep providing the parcels, he says he will "carry on until people stop asking."

So far the father-of-four has helped over 30 families and has even had support from other local businesses, including Bere Mill Butchery.

If you would like to get involved, donate or need help, you can contact Kev at kev.dyer@hantsfire.gov.uk or Via his Facebook page Kev Dyer.

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Lockdown Help Available

FOR those residents struggling with the current lockdown, help is at hand.

Residents can access a range of support through the Test Valley Community Helpline on 0330 400 4116, run with the council's community partner, Unity. From food deliveries and prescription collections to a friendly voice at the end of the phone, the helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

As well as a dedicated helpline, there are a number of community groups that have been set up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic who will also be able to help those in need as communities continue to come together. There are more than 50 groups set up across the borough who can help deliver food or other vital supplies, from volunteers to parish councils and other organisations. Information on these groups, including where they are based, who to contact, and how to get help, can be found via the council's website and via unityonline.org.uk.

TVBC will also be suspending all charges in its car parks for the duration of the lockdown period, as in March, to enable those collecting essential supplies to do so speedily and safely. This will also ensure adequate parking for those who live in the town centre who will be confined to their own homes.

Businesses which will now have to close can also receive grants worth up to £3,000 per month, with the council

responsible for administering these grants. When guidance is received from government, the council will be publishing further information on this help, as soon as possible.

Councillor Phil North, commented: "This is an incredibly difficult time for our communities, and we're determined, as an authority, to do absolutely everything we can to help our residents. This year has really shown just how strong a spirit we have, with volunteers, parish councillors and other amazing people stepping forward when their communities needed them most."

I would urge residents and businesses to keep up to date with the council's social media pages and website for the latest information and financial aid that may be available. While we await information from government, a number of grant schemes will be open to those who need help in various industries through discretionary relief.

I know many worry that this lockdown may be harder than the first, in part due to the time of year, but also because people have already spent so much of 2020 separated from their family and friends. It is vital, however, that the government does all it can to protect lives and protect the NHS.

While this is undoubtedly a worrying time, Test Valley Borough Council stands ready, once again, to support its communities."

Bid launched to ensure people are connected

LOCAL charity Valley Leisure's I Can Connect project is aiming to raise £5000 to help older people and those managing long-term health conditions to stay connected, keep mobile and remain healthy and well in the comfort of their own homes.

'I Can Connect' went 'live' online on Tuesday 10th November having been selected by the Aviva Community Fund to take part in the latest round of fundraising, powered by online fundraising platform Crowdfunder.

In March 2020, the I Can Therapy Centre team, Ann, Sam, and Jayne, created the idea of I Can Connect. Initially a weekly newsletter, it featured brain teasers, healthy recipes, mindful quotes and links to online exercises. The concept quickly progressed to include contact phone calls.

Voluntarily made by the team, the phone calls were met with joy by I Can customers who valued being thought of. Feedback revealed they would have liked to see the I Can team themselves delivering ideas to keep active. The team remaining personally connected with people is considered of great importance especially with a second lockdown now in place.



Frances said: "I love hearing Jayne's friendly and enthusiastic voice during the I Can Connect phone calls; I feel supported and part of the I Can family. I am able to share the exercises I have created at home with Jayne and she is able to help me stay motivated and progress."

After reopening the I Can Therapy Centre service in September, Dr Sam Meredith (PhD), Assessment Practitioner at the Centre in Andover led the team in developing the I Can @ Home exercise book.

Dr Sam said: "We've noticed significant changes in people's health and wellbeing since reopening the service in September, people are less mobile, stiffer and achier. I Can Connect is a way in which we can help people move more and feel better at home. We can help increase people's confidence, help them stay motivated and welcome them as part of the I Can family."

With a second national lockdown

now in place, the I Can Therapy Centre facility is again closed. The impact of this, coupled with the effects of winter mean that staying mobile, motivated and connected with others becomes increasingly challenging. The I Can team know they can help older people and those managing long-term conditions to stay connected, keep mobile and remain healthy and well."

Ann Jones, Centre Manager at I Can Therapy Centre said "We've seen first-hand the impact of COVID-19, our customers are not as strong, their mobility has reduced, and they are not as steady on their feet. We know we can help people with I Can Connect, we can improve people's self-value and their confidence."

For more information and to pledge your support visit the I Can Connect project page - www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/i-can-connect today.



New fund set up to feed local families

FOOD banks across the south are set to benefit from a new fund set up by a regional co-operative.

Southern Co-op has made an initial donation of £5,000 to its Feed a Family Fund so local food banks can start applying for help straight away.

The independent co-operative is also asking its customers and members to donate to its fund which will enable local groups to purchase essential equipment or cover running costs.

The micro grants of £200, which will be distributed via the online platform Neighbourly, will ensure the funding helps a wide number of food banks and reaches those who need it most.

Holly Bramble, Southern Co-op's Community and Campaign Co-

ordinator, said: "Our customers, colleagues and members have been incredibly generous throughout the pandemic. They have been donating goods at all of our stores that have collection points and have helped thousands of people being supported by 44 different food banks. At the start of the pandemic, we also donated £100,000 to help a variety of local causes including FareShare - the UK's largest hunger fighting charity. But more needs to be done. There are pockets of poverty in a number of areas where we have colleagues working in retail stores, funeral care and coffee branches. We know this won't solve the crisis but we really hope this fund will help reduce the strain faced by so many families."

Donations to the Feed a Fam-

ily Fund can be made at the till in a Southern Co-op retail store or via www.neighbourly.com/FeedAFamilyFund. Or visit the website to find out more information about applying for the grants.

Steve Butterworth, CEO of Neighbourly, said: "Small amounts can make a big difference for local causes, who have proved themselves to be some of the most innovative through the pandemic, and we need to make every effort to ensure that all at-risk people get the help they need as we continue to respond to and recover from this crisis. UK charities face a massive funding gap. If we can get immediate support to existing local causes, we'll go a long way to ensuring the resilience and recovery of our communities."

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Six For Sixty

TO commemorate her 60th birthday, Appleshaw resident Caroline Ward wanted to undertake a challenge befitting of the occasion and opted to complete 6 triathlons.

When I caught up with Caroline, she explained that she is not an experienced triathlete, but a novice which made her challenge even more impressive. Inspired by daughter Emma and husband Mark who had both previously completed the London Triathlon, the trio hatched a plan for Caroline to join the pair in July 2019. She successfully finished the route in just 2 hours and 5 minutes and was hooked.

After months of training and competing, in January, Caroline decided to embark on her own personal challenge; Six for Sixty in 2020.

Caroline explained: "I set myself a huge and slightly scary challenge. To celebrate my 60th, I'm going to do 6 Endurance Events this year."

Months more training followed and in May this year, Caroline completed



Challenge One: Running and Cycling from John o'Groats to Land's End in 3 weeks. This was closely followed by Challenge Two when Caroline ran and cycled the height of Everest, 8848m of ascent, again in 3 weeks.

August saw Caroline complete The Unofficial London Triathlon as Challenge Three when she

swam in London Docks, transitioned on the Emirates Airline back to Greenwich, completed a 20km cycle ride through London with traffic, red lights, potholes and cobbled streets before completing a 5km run in 34 degrees heat.

Blenheim Triathlon followed in September along with the Ampus Triathlon before Caroline completed her challenges in October with the Appleshaw Triathlon when all of the family joined in.

Caroline enjoyed the experience so much that she decided to complete not just one, but two cores, competing in the King Alfred's Way and New Forest Rattler Challenges to complete her amazing experience in style.

Caroline shared: My overriding feeling is what on earth have I done? This has been a huge endurance challenge for me, from the lowest and most unfit start, and I'm unbelievably proud of the achievement. I have also badly injured my shoulder but I am very very grateful for the support of my family who've been unwavering in their support, especially my husband Mark and of the patient and encouraging support of the Andover Triathlon Club, who I joined a year ago.

The club has athletes of all levels, from me to many GB triathletes and many superb IronMan athletes. I've always felt completely welcome, they've helped me learn front crawl from scratch, and supported me learning to run (still rubbish at it!), and I have made many good friends there.

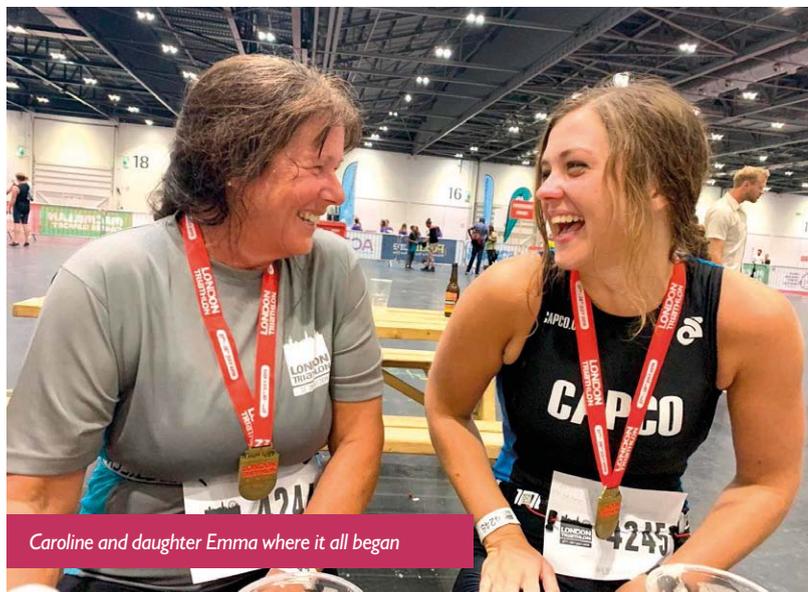
Personally, now, I feel great (apart from the shoulder). Have never felt fitter, more alive, more energetic, more happy. I even miss it if I don't go out for a ride or a run for a couple of days. I never ever would have thought it would have been me to say something like that. It's changed everything." Congratulations Caroline!



Appleshaw Triathlon Family



Caroline arrives in Ampus square



Caroline and daughter Emma where it all began

Andover Salvation Army Big Toy Appeal

THE Salvation Army has once again teamed up with The Entertainer, to deliver presents to children who need them the most in a year when many family budgets have been hit hard.

The Big Toy Appeal asks customers to consider picking up a toy online or in-store in areas where non-essential shops remain open to donate to a family in need at Christmas. For every toy donated, The Entertainer will also donate a toy, doubling the number of donations and increasing the number of families supported.

For parts of the UK in lockdown shoppers can easily take part in The Big Toy Appeal and donate a toy to The Salvation Army by adding a £5 toy to their basket at the checkout on the www.TheToyShop.com and www.elc.co.uk websites. These toys will then be sent directly to Salvation Army centres for delivery to children.

This is the appeal's third year with nearly 60,000 toys and books



being donated through the scheme so far, thanks to shoppers and The Entertainer. It has meant children up and down the country were able to receive the gift of play, when they otherwise might have gone without

on Christmas Day.

Many people have turned to The Salvation Army's frontline services for help since the start of the pandemic due to job losses, furloughing and livelihoods disappearing. Corps

have mobilised to offer vital support including food banks and hot meals for people self-isolating, those shielding or simply unable to afford to cook. As a result, additional financial pressure to provide presents at Christmas will likely increase family hardship further.

Tony Daniels, Director of Community Services for The Salvation Army said: "The pandemic has brought some extremely difficult situations for families throughout this year. Christmas always brings extra demands on family budgets, but this year we're anticipating it will be even more difficult for many. The Big Toy Appeal allows us, with The Entertainer, to bring Christmas joy to families who need it the most right now."

Gary Grant, Founder and Executive Chairman at The Entertainer said: "We are so grateful for the generosity of our customers. Each year, our Big Toy Appeal supports an

ever-increasing number of families. The financial difficulties we are facing this year will mean overwhelming difficulties for families trying to give their children a joyful and magical Christmas. Every child deserves to know they are special and the Big Toy Appeal is an opportunity for us to work together to help families celebrate the wonder of Christmas.

"For every toy bought and donated to the Big Toy Appeal, whether online or in one of our open stores outside of lockdown regions, The Entertainer will also donate a toy, doubling the number of toys given and increasing the number of families that together we can support this Christmas."

Andover Salvation Army normally asks people to take unwrapped new toys to their Charity Shop in Bridge street, but as the shop needs to remain closed at the moment, they can only receive toys at their hall in Winchester Street. Please phone (01264) 352129 for drop off.

Festive Fun At Finkley Down

FINKLEY Down Farm Nursery has been getting in the festive spirit by making Christmas shoe boxes for Andover Foodbank.

A spokesperson for the nursery shared: "We are very excited and overwhelmed with our children and families supporting the local community, and overall created an incredible 51 shoe boxes to donate! Bethan who is daily lead at the nursery, has been busy organising and wrapping shoe boxes, and has been working her Christmas magic over the last few weeks to spread the word. One of our parents was even kind enough to put a box and the poster at her workplace, and several colleagues made very generous donations.

This project is a wonderful experience for our families, especially during the current situation we really wanted to do our bit and give back to the community. At Finkley we make this experience accessible for everyone in our settling by asking for any donation possible. Our children love working with their parents to create a box full of joy.

At nursery we encourage children to talk about their experiences when making their box, who they

made it for and what they got the child. These boxes also allow the practitioners to talk to the children about the diversity in the world and the experience of Christmas. There is also great pride and confidence shown when each child brings them to nursery is amazing. We appreciate working with our families and children to give back to the local community. This year has been difficult for many families, and this experience allows us to help and bring a little bit of joy to children in the local area.

The project has been a huge success once again and we are incredibly grateful to have such supportive parents and families, and a huge well done to Bethan for organising it all!"



Help a stranger when you buy a hug in a mug



LAST week saw the launch of a new initiative at Prestons in Overton. Customers are being invited to purchase an extra item or two and leave the details on a post it note for others who are looking for a treat, and who can then pop in completely free of charge.

The owner of the establishment explained: "Doing this is so important right now! So many people are suffering silently, and are feeling lost, angry, upset and feeling like there is no where to turn. Losing jobs, businesses, and our normal life is being turned upside down.

So doing this is to help a stranger, who is having a hard time right now. Someone who needs a hug in a mug, a little treat.... or just a chat.

We just want everyone to come into Prestons no matter what or who or why.

Our customers have been absolutely amazing and we have appreciated their generosity in helping us help someone else. Since shutting I have also received a phone call and ten coffees were paid for, which is just wonderful. I cannot thank everyone enough!"

As one customer said when she purchased a couple of drinks for a stranger: "I want to buy something for a family and not forget the children so a whole family that may be going through a tough time can come out and all enjoy a lovely treat."

Customers can use the pay forward initiative to buy drinks, cakes or hot chocolate.

So if you would like to treat someone else or are looking for a treat for yourself or your family, pop down to Prestons where you will be sure of a very warm welcome and some delicious cake.

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Keeping active



By Sally Miller

WITH a second lockdown upon us, this time around it might not be so appealing to get outside and go for those walks. Not to say that if you have the right warm weather gear a brisk walk in the elements is not enjoyable but it's certainly less tempting. As an alternative, here are some simple ideas for getting moving from the comfort of your own home adaptable for all levels of fitness.

You will need: a fitness mat or a towel on the carpet if you do not have one; a free interval timer app downloaded from your smartphone; a jar or similar paper and a pen; Yourself!

A Fit Lucky Dip is a fun way to start exercising. Copy out this list of exercises, cut them out and fold them up and put them in the jar: Jumping Jacks; Burpees; Bicycle Kicks; Bodyweight Squats; Alternate Lunges; Press ups/ kneeling press ups; Tricep Dips (off a chair/step or from the floor); Floor Runners/Mountain climbers; Long Jumps; Toe touch sky reaches;

Plank shoulder taps; Sit ups; Bird Dogs; Walkouts; High Knees; Calf Raises; Pike Press.

Decide how many exercises you want to do or set a time limit. Pick out an exercise to perform and repeat until complete. Adjust the number of reps depending on your current fitness. For example as a beginner try five of each exercise and as you become fitter, you can increase the number or reps. If you are not sure what they are – simply google them, there are plenty of easy to find demo videos.

You could also try EMOTM (Every Minute on the minute).

Set up an interval timer that has one minute work, one second rest for 10 rounds.

Every time the buzzer goes you perform 5 -10 exercises depending on your fitness levels - you have a minute to complete the number of reps then rest between the next buzzer, if you want to make it more challenging, jog on the spot in between rounds. Your exercise could be anything, burpees or press ups works particularly well.

Finally, the Daily Plank Challenge is another great way of keep-

ing fit at home.

Planks are a great exercise If performed properly using many muscles. Performing the classic plank on a regular basis significantly reduces the risk of lower and upper back pain, improves posture and definition. One way to improve on them is to do them every day and use a timer to improve incrementally over time. Even if it is just by one second!

To get into the perfect plank, lie face down on the floor with your hands underneath your shoulders and your toes making contact with the floor, drive up through your elbows and try to clench your glutes. You should be completely flat, not peaking or sagging in the middle.

Set the timer and get into your plank. Make a note of how long you can hold it for - each day try and beat the previous days' time.

All exercise should be undertaken within each individual's own capability and fitness, don't push yourself too hard and if in any doubt about your health, consult a medical professional before undertaking any exercise.

Air Ambulance appeals for gift of time

HAMPSHIRE and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) is calling on its communities to give the gift of time this Christmas, as the Charity braces for a challenging winter period.

Last December, HIOWAA responded to 195 potentially life-saving call-outs, up by 35 on the same period in the previous year, their busiest December on record. Due to the totally unpredictable economic effects of Covid-19, the life-saving Charity is calling on its communities to donate £5 this Christmas to help keep them flying and saving lives.

In 2019, Mike suffered a cardiac arrest when he was at home with his wife, Dolores. After nearly an hour of treatment and CPR, the HIOWAA Critical Care Team miraculously managed to get a pulse. Mike said: "Had it not



been for the Critical Care Team responding so quickly, I would not now be looking forward to celebrating Christmas with my wife and family, making plans for the years ahead. I cannot express

how thankful we are to the Air Ambulance. I owe them my life."

HIOWAA CEO, Alex Lochrane, said: "The quicker we get to our patients, the more their chances of survival and recovery increase: it's as simple as that. Our Doctors, Paramedics and Pilots will be on the front line using all their skills to provide each and every patient with the best chance of survival this Christmas. For us to carry on saving lives, or in some cases transforming a patient's final moments into days, the support of our communities is crucial. As we all face the turmoil of another lockdown our Critical Care Teams are ready, as always, to be there in people's darkest moment of need. Without the support of all our communities, however, we just could not do what we do, and now: we need it more than ever."



Loose change raises thousands for NHS

BUS firm Stagecoach South have donated over £31,967 of excess change collected during lockdown to NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Appeal that supports NHS staff, volunteers and patients in ways above and beyond what NHS funding can ordinarily provide.

Under a temporary scheme, the bus company, which operates across Hampshire encouraged the use of exact fare to provide reassurance and added protection for drivers and customers. Where change cannot be given the money is collected ready to donate to the charity.

Keith Gait, Customer Service Director for Stagecoach South said: "We really appreciated customer's co-operation when the temporary exact fare scheme was implemented. Most people are now paying via contactless methods but we do recognise that some of our customers still rely on cash to pay for their journeys. The scheme helps to keep handling of cash to a minimum and we would like to thank everyone in keeping both customers and drivers safe during this difficult time. We're pleased to be able to donate these funds to a very worthy cause."

NHS Charities Together is the umbrella organisation for the country's NHS charities and is the official national charity partner of the NHS with more than 230 NHS Charity members. The Covid-19 Urgent Appeal supports NHS staff, volunteers and patients with immediate and urgent needs as well as supporting the long term recovery from the impact of the crisis.

The charity has received over £130 million from donors, fundraisers and supporters across the UK. So far the money raised has been used to support 1.5 million NHS workers, provided staff and patients with well being hubs, ipads, activity packs and long term mental health support.

Commenting on Stagecoach South's donation Ellie Orton, Chief Executive of NHS Charities Together said: "Thank you, Stagecoach South and customers, for your kind donations. The money raised is funding grants to help NHS charities support NHS staff, volunteers and patients in ways above and beyond what NHS funding can ordinarily provide, from meeting immediate and urgent needs to supporting the long-term recovery from the impact of the crisis. Thank you!"

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Taking control of the menopause

MENOPAUSE is a natural part of the ageing process, something that happens to everyone who menstruates. Most of us will know someone experiencing symptoms of the menopause, but despite this, for many, menopause still means mystery.

To help people better understand what the menopause is and how it affects us, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Dr Shree Datta answers ten of the most common in clinic questions about the menopause.

What is menopause?

Menopause is a stage of life which every woman experiences. It's the time when you stop having periods and usually occurs between the age of

45 to 55. This occurs as your hormone levels drop and means that you no longer release eggs to fall pregnant naturally. The average age for women to experience menopause in the UK is 51 years.

Why does the menopause happen?

Women go through menopause because their hormone levels change, specifically there is a fall in oestrogen and progesterone level as you age and your ovaries "retire". This affects periods and the ability to conceive naturally. You may notice a change in your periods, their frequency or regularity, in the time leading up to

the menopause, but sometimes they may stop suddenly. In some women, menopause may be induced by treatment such as chemotherapy.

What are the symptoms of menopause?

Most women experience at least one symptom around the time of menopause. Symptoms really vary from woman to woman, as does how severe they are and how long they last. Common symptoms include hot flushes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, mood changes (such as feeling anxious or depressed), fatigue, difficulty sleeping, headaches, a drop in libido and joint or muscle pain.

How long does the menopause last?

Medically, menopause is defined as 12 months' since your last period. However, the symptoms of menopause can continue, although they may become much more manageable. You may notice a transition period where you start to experience symptoms of menopause before your periods stop completely and this may last several years.

Is there a way to test whether I am going through the menopause?

Yes, you may be referred by your

doctor for blood tests. These will look at your hormone levels such as FSH and LH, along with your oestrogen count.

What causes hot flushes?

Hot flushes are one of the most commonly experienced symptoms for women going through menopause. They are the sudden feeling of heat, sweating, palpitations and blushing that spreads from the face through the body and lasts for several minutes. Some people only experience a few hot flushes, where others experience many a day and you may experience blushing and sweating with them. They are caused by hormone changes in the body, but may be triggered by stress, alcohol or coffee, spicy food and smoking.

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Health Matters



Trust launches online chat forum for families

SOUTHERN Health NHS Foundation Trust's Children and Family Services, supporting children from 0- 19 years through health visiting and school nursing services, have been undergoing a digital transformation.

Part of this was to launch a forum for Hampshire parents and carers. This is where Channel Mum stepped in, Channelmum.com are the UK's largest growing parent brand, which provides a safe space to open up and discuss parenting and health issues amongst their peers.

It is a great fit with the digital offering that Hampshire Healthy Families are looking for, as it brings a mix of blogs, videos and trusted articles from health professionals. ChannelMum.com is the brainchild of Siobhan Freegard OBE, who also founded Netmums, the UK's first digital network for parents back in 2000. Siobhan was awarded an OBE for Services to Families in 2014 by

Prince William, with the Royal confiding he follows her parenting tips with the Duchess of Cambridge.

Ginny Taylor, the Deputy Director of Operations within Children and Family Services has welcomed the partnership: "We are delighted to be working with Channel Mum. They have a great ethos supporting parents throughout their child's journey as well as providing great resources around maternal mental health and help to connect families with their peers, especially at the moment where new mums often feel isolated. They can reach out and connect with a whole community of other parents and carers in the same position throughout Hampshire."

Channel Mum's Online Support Group with Southern Health is now live and can be accessed either through www.hampshire-healthyfamilies.org.uk or www.channelmum.com.

How can you treat the menopause?

In the first instance we will go through a range of measures, including reviewing your diet and lifestyle prior to considering prescribing HRT. Treatment will depend on your symptoms – for example, if you experience vaginal dryness, we will consider whether an oestrogen-based cream may help your symptoms. If you experience hot flushes, we'll review your diet and caffeine and alcohol intake and consider oestrogen and progesterone therapy. Thin cotton clothing may also help. HRT comes in various different forms such as skin patches, gels and implants and we will discuss what best suits you. We will also check your blood pressure before prescribing medication

and consider your family history and medical risk factors.

Are there risks to taking HRT? HRT use in the long-term can increase your risk of stroke, blood clots and breast cancer, but this depends on your age, family history and medical history. Your Gynaecologist will review these before prescribing HRT and you will be reviewed regularly. Usually, women can take HRT for up to five years safely. We will always start on the lowest effective dose of medication and would advise stopping HRT (or reducing the dose) once symptoms are manageable.

What other treatments are there for the menopause?

Acupuncture or black cohosh may help reduce hot flushes and night sweats, but you may experience side effects such as stomach upsets or rashes when taking

black cohosh.

You might also benefit from strengthening your pelvic floor muscles, which support the bladder, bowel and affect sexual function, by regularly doing kegel exercises.

Does the menopause affect my health in the long term?

Once you have gone through the menopause you are more at risk of osteoporosis as bone loss is affected by oestrogen levels. Vaginal dryness may also lead to pain during sex, so lubricants may also be helpful.

When can I stop contraception?

It's still possible to fall pregnant as you approach the menopause, so make sure you continue contraception until you have fully gone through the menopause – so until you have stopped having periods for 12 months.

Care England Share Lessons Learned

CARE England, the largest representative body for independent providers of adult social care, has submitted written evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee and Science and Tech Select Committee's joint Coronavirus Lessons Learned inquiry.

Professor Martin Green, Chief Executive of Care England, says: "Amidst rising cases of COVID-19 and a new lockdown in England, the importance of learning lessons from the past six months is at the forefront of Care England's mind."

Care England's evidence highlights some key areas including:

"NHS community services cannot again be withdrawn from supporting the adult social care sector. In the first wave, adult social care providers were left out to dry by many services which they had previously been reliant upon. Despite rising cases and forecasts that the NHS capacity may be overwhelmed, this cannot result in the NHS being solely at the forefront of the Government's minds. This pandemic has only accentuated the intertwined nature of the health and care systems. We believe that the CQC must be more active in its support

for the adult social care sector. In the previous eight months, many providers have complained that they have not felt supported by the regulator. Government communications must be met by the reality of implementation. Previously, many government announcements have not been met by sufficient detail or implemented in a timely manner. In turn, this has led to frustration amongst the adult social care sector."

Details of the joint inquiry can be found at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/657/coronavirus-lessons-learnt/>.

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Isolation group providing vital help

Love Andover's Isolation Help Group is continuing to offer its services to those most at risk.

The Group was set up in March 2020 in response to people over 70 being told to avoid all unnecessary contact.

Today, the volunteer group continues with help from the National Lottery and Love Andover to assist those who have tested positive, are told to stay at home, and have no other form of support.

"We continue to collect prescriptions", says Group co-founder Victoria Harber. "We are still collecting and delivering medications from all local pharmacies, including Shepherds Spring Lane. We also continue to assist with click and click services for vulnerable people."

The Group based at the Queen Charlotte Inn on London Road has retained 35 volunteers from an initial group of over 140 who helped upto 120 people a day during the first lockdown period. Currently phone lines are open from 10am to 1pm on weekdays. The service really proved of value earlier in the year, helping people over-65 with prescription collections, solving a growing problem where people were queuing at chemists for up to three hours to collect their medications.

Mrs Harber adds: "We may extend our opening hours and services if demand requires. At the moment we believe we can comfortably look after our users and a small increase in demand".

The Love Andover Isolation Help Group can be contacted on 01264 586 787 or via loveandover.com/help.



The isolation help group

Carol singing to spread some Christmas cheer

As Santa brushes down his galoshes ready for Christmas, an effort to get people carol singing on their doorstep is being organised across the UK.

Working with BBC radio stations across the UK, 95.9FM Andover Radio is inviting people from Andover to join in the effort on Wednesday December 16th to sing carols and spread some much-needed Christmas cheer.

The carols will be broadcast on local radio stations across the UK to help people across the UK stay in time. Carol sheets and simple sheet music will be available to download on the Love Andover website.

Local organiser Sarah Gisbourne from Love Andover FamilyLife says: "Tune into 95.9FM Andover Radio on Wednesday, December 16th at 6pm and join your neighbours in singing Christmas carols whilst staying in your household bubbles.

How amazing would it be to have the whole of Andover playing instruments and singing together?"

The carols being sung include 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'.

The event is in partnership with the Doorstep Carols organisation and BBC local radio stations. "Tell all of your friends", says Sarah. "Make sure you share this information so that we can get as many people as possible from Andover involved."

More information will be released in next week's issue of the Love Andover Observer and on 95.9FM Andover Radio.

And the award goes to...

The work of Andover's local radio station has been recognised with three nominations in the 2020 Community Radio Awards.

Emerging local media personality Luis Wyatt and the Love Andover #LoveBus projects have been shortlisted for the UK-wide awards which recognises the efforts of local radio stations.

Former Winton student Luis Wyatt, who last week celebrated his 18th birthday, has been shortlisted in the Male Radio Presenter of the Year and Young Person of the Year awards.

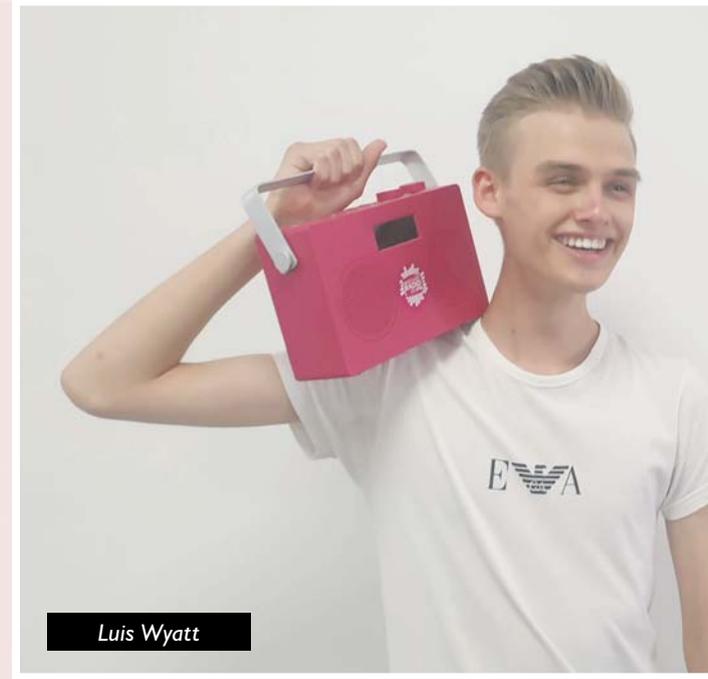
Luis who co-hosted last year's Christmas lights switch on and Andover Radio's Saturday breakfast programme shared: "I am thrilled to hear that I have been shortlisted for two awards. I was getting up at 5am on a Saturday for quite a while... That alarm feels worth it! Can't wait for the online awards show next month."

Andover Radio's community activities through its various LoveBus projects is recognised in the Community Development Project of the Year category. The LoveBus is a single-decker community bus which was pivotal in distributing over 100 prescriptions a day to people over 65 during the first lockdown period. The bus has been offered to the NHS to help reduce pressures on GP surgeries as a new Covid-19 vaccine is distributed. Awards chairman Martin Steers says,

"Shortlisting in the Awards is recognition of a commitment to community, craft and causes. More than 460 entries have been whittled down. It is clear to see from this, that passionate presenters, volunteers, and staff are really there for their audiences. These local radio stations are truly at the heart of their communities."

Last year, local singer-songwriter Alex Krupa was recognised for his country music programme on Andover Radio at a lavish awards ceremony in south Wales. This year the ceremony will be taking place virtually on December 12th and will be streamed on YouTube.

Andover Radio founder David Harber added: "Whereas these awards focus on only one small part of the continuous great work that community radio stations do every single hour of the day, I am especially pleased that the hugely talented Luis has been shortlisted. He's most remembered for his 'Superman' antics on social media during lockdown and is definitely 'one to watch' for future media stardom.



Luis Wyatt

I also want to praise the exceptional work of our LoveBus team. Their work since March this year has been unparalleled locally - or perhaps nationally - in finding new, creative and engaging ways to provide a growing range of benefits to individuals across the area. I am so proud of them all."

Linkline supports those who support others

The Love Andover Linkline is a service that promotes the work of not-for-profit groups and organisations across the Test Valley.

The free marketing tool provided by Love Andover exists to promote the work and efforts of those who provide support and assistance for others in the area. During this lockdown period, it is helping to promote the work of organisations like Andover Neighbourcare, the Andover Foodbank and the YMCA.

Linkline manager Dan Hooks shared: "Linkline is heard each hour on Andover Radio, is published on the loveandover.com website and in many cases shared across our social media network.

It exists to exhibit the great work of organisations doing great work in and around Andover".

Groups and organisations can use the free marketing tool to promote their work, encourage

volunteers or raise awareness of fundraising activities.

To apply for inclusion, please visit loveandover.com/linkline.



Dan Hooks



Andover Radio Programme Schedule

Weekdays

- 06:00 Grant Francis and the Morning Crew
- 09:00 The Mystery Year with Graham Kemp
- 10:00 David Harber
- 12:00 Ian Beverley
- 14:00 Craig Hicks including the Hall of Fame
- 19:00 Just Great Songs
- 20:00 The Fabulous Late Roy Martin

Fridays

- 19:00 The Rock Café with Martin Miller
- 22:00 60s Splash with Bob Le Roi

Saturdays

- 08:00 Graham Kemp
- 10:00 Craig Hicks
- 14:00 Ian Beverley
- 18:00 Andover's Party Anthems

Sunday

- 08:00 David Woollatt
- 12:00 Roger Clarke
- 16:00 Retro Chart with Mark 'The Prof' Fielding
- 18:00 A-Z of Rock and Pop with Ben Morris
- 20:00 60s Splash with Bob Le Roi
- 21:00 Fatal Attraction with Corrie Stanfield

Power to the people

HM government's broadcast licensing authority has granted Andover's local radio station a substantial increase in transmission power.

On Monday the Office of Communications (Ofcom) confirmed frequency clearance for 95.9FM Andover Radio to double the power of its existing transmitter.

"This is really great news", says Station Manager Craig Hicks. "It means that many people in the

outlying areas of Andover will be able to better receive our FM signal. It's been a very lengthy process to get official clearance, but we are sure that with more people being able to hear our signal in better quality, we can better serve our local area."

Andover Radio launched in April 2018 and operates as a not-for-profit organisation. As well as broadcasting local news, information and entertainment, the station is committed to managing and hosting projects, events and activities that provide 'social gain' for the town.



David Harber



Taskers and the Andover Riots

By David Denny

FOLLOWING on from the previous article, Robert Tasker and younger brother William have settled on the land in Anna Valley known then as Clatford Marsh. The waters of the Pillhill brook were held back and then diverted by creating new sluices and gates to power an undershot waterwheel. This became the heart of the new ironworks, the building housed the first tools with a forge, foundry and housing for the waterwheel.

This building was mostly brick which was the exception, as most of the early buildings would have been constructed from chalk. This technique involved the mixing of chalk with water to form a clay like consistency, this mixture was then forced between wooden shuttering. This was a common type of construction known as 'Cob'. Cob has been used for thousands of years. In Britain there is evidence of its use dating back to the 13th Century. It was used as a cheap and readily available building material, which required the minimum of tools, skills and knowledge to use. Mass cob was the traditional method of earth wall construction. It developed in areas with poor building stone or limited timber supply. Its use was predominant in the south-western counties and parts of Hampshire. During the



19th Century there was a surge in cob building as taxes prohibited the lower classes from building in brick.

This chalk construction was used not only for the works buildings but also the many cottages which were built to house his workforce. This created not just a business but a new community. A new Independent chapel was built and a school also. Taskers became the landlord as well as employer for many of the workers.

Iron castings were the main product at this time, gateposts, fencing, iron window frames, gearing and other iron work for the many local watermills. The cast iron columns supporting the floor in the Guildhall today are from Taskers iron works and show the size that could be produced, these date from 1834 and were ordered by the Town Council. The columns supporting the chancel in the new St. Mary's Church were also likely to have been made by Taskers. Examples of hand wrought

iron fencing can still be seen around the iron bridge at Ladies Walk and around the old Clatford Manor along the footpath that leads to the chalk pit and Bury Hill. In a playing field in Anna Valley there still stands an iron maypole also cast at the foundry.

One serious setback to the business occurred 190 years ago this week, when on the 20th November 1830 at 11am, a crowd of around 300 labourers descended on Andover. They carried pitchforks with crusts of mouldy bread. This 'mob' was a part of wider civil unrest that took place across Eastern and Southern England. Known as the Swing Riots of 1830, they were an uprising by agricultural workers against what they saw as new labour-saving machinery, replacing the need for labourers.

This mob converged on the Angel Inn, then known as the Upper Angel, where the magistrates read the riot act from a window upstairs. Two of

the ringleaders forced their way into the room to confront and remonstrate with the magistrates. One of the magistrates later testified that they made it clear that it was their intention to wreck the Taskers foundry. This being premeditated the foundry was aware of the threat and had shut for the day already. After roaming around the town and being paid off in beer money by another business owner the mob set out from the town heading for Upper Clatford. They didn't head up the Salisbury Road (then a turnpike) but by the road that's probably now the Winchester Road as it is recorded that on the way they damaged or destroyed several bridges. One of which was the bridge over the river Anton near All Saints Church. This was replaced by the present bridge that was cast at the Taskers iron foundry in 1843. Note the similarity in design with the roundels to the later bridge carrying the Ladies Walk over the Micheldever Road. This bridge was constructed by Tasker and Fowle and is dated 1851.

The rioters pretty comprehensively destroyed everything they could, accounts detail every window being smashed, the roof torn off and the waterwheel also wrecked. The ringleaders were arrested and sent to trial at Winchester. Robert Tasker gave evidence but refused to identify any of the men present. The trial continued two of the ringleaders were executed

and eleven others had their sentences commuted to 'transportation for life'.

The Tasker business soon recovered from this setback, replacing and rebuilding machinery and buildings. He acquired more land and owned houses as far as the bridge over the Anton where it met the Canal and built a wharf which later became a private railway siding with the arrival of the railways.

The foundry was to play a great part in later years with the coming of Steam engines and new technologies in agriculture, it supported the war efforts of both World Wars and survived 155 years from 1809 to 1968 when it became a wholly owned subsidiary of Cravens Industries Limited. which later became part of the John Brown and Co. engineering conglomerate, it was sold as part of a package of assets in 1983 to Montracon of Belfast, Northern Ireland. The final closure of the works and demolition of the residual buildings in 1984 marked the end of Taskers in Andover.

However, the evidence of their industry lives on in the bridges nearby and the many other examples of engineering from hand wrought iron fencing to the several preserved Tasker vehicles which are displayed at the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. It played a role in the lives of many local people and in the development of the character of Anna Valley and Upper Clatford.



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Bullying at Work

By Alana Penkethman

BULLYING is defined as the use of strength or power to frighten or hurt weaker people. At work, bullying can eventually end an individual's employment.

Challenging bullying is hard, and resignation may seem like the only option. However, being unemployed in the current climate is also difficult, and therefore resignation may also feel impossible. The impact of bullying on an individual's mental health can be extremely damaging, and the impact within a workplace is no different.

As well as contractual terms, employees are protected by a number of implied terms. In particular, employers are bound by a duty of trust and confidence, and a duty to provide reasonable support. Therefore, employees should be able to trust their employers to remove bullying from the workplace, and should be able to have confidence in their employers to support them in resolving any bullying behaviour.

Bullying can range from an aggressive or abusive management style to intimidating behaviour from colleagues. The employer will be responsible if it has failed to take steps to address the situation, whether the employee has



raised a grievance or not.

If an employee does raise a grievance in relation to the bullying, it should not be assumed that the employee wants the matter to be addressed by

an open investigation. It may be that a resolution can be found by simply changing the employee's role or working arrangements. Could the employee work a different shift? Or could they

work from a different location in the workplace?

Alternatively, if the employee agrees to an open investigation, the objective does not need to be a finding of dismissal. Does the bully understand the impact of their conduct? Do they understand the severity of the conduct and the fact that it could amount to gross misconduct? Is there an underlying issue between the colleagues that can be addressed?

If the matter cannot be resolved, and the employee feels that they have no alternative to resign, this could entitle the employee to pursue a claim for constructive dismissal within the employment tribunal. Where the employer has failed to provide the employee with support and cannot provide the employee with a safe working environment, this could amount to a repudiatory breach, which would entitle the employee to resign in response to the employer's conduct.

Employers should also be aware that where harassment is related to a protected characteristic, the conduct could amount to discrimination. Protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Harassment is defined as unwanted

conduct which creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. If the employee is subjected to harassment because of their protected characteristic, the consequences can be much more serious, both financially for the employer and physically for the employee.

The key with all employment matters is communication, and addressing issues as early as possible.

Employees may find that it will often be easier to speak up sooner rather than later, and therefore bullying should be tackled at the outset. Similarly, employees may find it less intimidating to raise the issue with a trusted colleague, who may be able to bring the matter to a manager's attention.

Employers may find that regular opportunities to discuss concerns, whether professional or personal, will encourage open conversations and any difficulties can be resolved without the need for formal procedures.

In the current climate, mental health is more important than ever before. Employers are battling through a difficult period, but it is paramount that they maintain their duties to their employees, and their obligations in respect of bullying and harassment remain imperative.

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Free business school for the Test Valley



THIS December, potential entrepreneurs across Test Valley can benefit from free business training through a week-long course.

Test Valley Borough Council is supporting the free event next month, run by The Pop Up Business School, to help those who are thinking of starting a new business. The course, which runs from December 7 to 11, will offer advice and guidance on how to run an organisation, and how to adapt and increase resilience during these difficult times.

The council is being joined by other authorities, including the New Forest, Eastleigh, East Hampshire and Havant in coming together to ensure that learning and networking opportunities are available for anyone who is looking to begin a new venture during a challenging period.

This collaboration means that the course can be delivered free of charge to all attendees. The course is broad and covers topics such as

sales and marketing - including advice on how to set up a website for free - as well as the professional considerations all businesses have to take around tax and legal issues.

Councillor David Drew, Economic Development and Tourism Portfolio Holder at Test Valley Borough Council, said: "We're determined, as an authority, to support residents who have entrepreneurial ambitions, and this is an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Through this course local residents can develop their business skills and knowledge alongside other like-minded people. I am delighted that we are working with our neighbouring authorities to bring such an innovative way to start and maintain a business, and I look forward to meeting the successful business people it brings together."

For more information, and to book your place, please visit www.popup-businessschool.co.uk/Hampshire

Mooch brings some sparkle to town centre



MANY town centre shops may well be temporarily closed but that has not deterred the spirit of Christmas from one independent business looking to spread some cheer in the town centre.

Mooch on Bridge Street has used the lockdown period to create an extravagant window display in preparation for when they reopen on the 3rd of December and to lift spirits in the town centre.

The display was created by owner George Roberts and her team, whilst still fulfilling online orders through their online shop, with a helping hand from John Hanson community school. GEORGE told Love Andover: "Although we always plan our Christ-

mas Window well in advance, we felt that this year needed it to be really magical to lift everyone's spirits in Andover. We love bringing a bit of sparkle to the High Street, Goodness knows it needs it! It's been a very tough and difficult year for so many people and businesses, but we wanted to show that independent shops are very much still here, and working hard despite some being temporarily closed."

George opened Mooch in 2004, the shop has been a constant in the town centre and is a well loved shop with the unique gifts and products that are displayed. Back in March when the first lockdown hit, George had to adapt

her business to be able to sell online, which has been a brilliant way for her customers to be able to continue to buy from this independent shop.

George added: "We have fantastic customers who have supported us through our website www.moochandover.com which has been very busy, and we have had some absolutely wonderful comments on our Facebook page @moochandover which keeps us going and we will hopefully reopen on December 3rd."

We look forward to many of the town centre shops reopening and for more Christmas window displays from other retailers.

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Hundreds of thousands of pounds to support businesses

TEST Valley Borough Council is set to begin processing hundreds of thousands of pounds of vital funds to businesses that have been forced to close during the Covid-19 national lockdown restrictions.

At the end of October, the government announced a new scheme for local authorities, where businesses who are required to close during the November lockdown, could apply for up to up to £3,000 which would be received every 28 days for the duration of the scheme.

Now, after incorporating the guidance from central government, businesses are being encouraged to check their eligibility for The Local Restrictions Support Grant and apply for the funding through the council's website.

Depending on meeting eligibility criteria, businesses which were trading from a premises with a rateable value of £15,000 or less on 4 November will receive £1,334 per 28 days, with those of a rateable value of more than £15,000 but less than £51,000, receiving £2,000 over the same period.

Any business with a rateable value of £51,000 or more on their premises, will receive £3,000 over 28 days.

A list of eligibility criteria, further guidance and an application form can be found via testvalley.gov.uk/business-grant. Some businesses that the council believes may be eligible have been written to, but companies are encouraged to check the guidance and apply if they believe they meet the relevant criteria. As well as the support grant, the council is also looking to set up a discretionary grant to help those whose business and trade has been impacted by the lockdown, even if they have not been forced to close directly.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said: "We have been working extremely hard to ensure that businesses can access this often vital funding as quickly and efficiently as possible. I know how difficult these times are for our local industries and we are determined to support local business.

I would encourage anyone who thinks they may meet the criteria to apply for The Local Restrictions Support Grant, or get in touch with our officers if they have any queries at all. This is only the start of the financial support, and we will do all we can to help the Test Valley economy."

Businesses struggle with late payments

BUSINESSES in the South East of England have been struggling with challenges from low demand and late

payments, a new report released by chartered accountancy body ICAEW has shown.

The Business Confidence Monitor™ (BCM) for the fourth quarter of 2020, released on 18th November, found that the number of businesses in the South East experiencing customer demand as a growing issue had surged and was now a problem for more than half of businesses.

Late payments were a more pressing issue than a year ago for nearly a third of companies in the South East, largely because of financial problems stemming from the coronavirus crisis. This is double the rate last year.

The South East was one of only two regions in the UK, along with Yorkshire and the Humber, where companies reported a rise in exports, though these are still well below historical norms for the area. This was possibly because of demand for digital goods and services during lockdown.

Nevertheless, profits were down by 3.5% year-on-year, but it is likely this would have been worse if not for relatively resilient exports growth and a cut in labour costs.

Looking to 2021, busi-

nesses in the South East expect some improvement, anticipating stronger growth in domestic sales, exports, and profits. However, these projections will be affected, at least temporarily, by the impact of the second national lockdown in England.

Business confidence in the South East was some way into negative territory, ICAEW found, and struggles with customer demand likely to have led to a fall in domestic sales. The drop in sales was comparable to the decline during the global financial crisis of 2007-2008.

Harpreet Panesar, ICAEW Regional Director for the South East, commented: "Companies in the South East have told us that a lack of customer demand and late payments are growing problems, though businesses in our region did report a slight rise in exports."

We urge the government to double-down on its efforts to secure a fair trade deal which will help stimulate and sustain the UK's post-COVID economic recovery."

Nationally the BCM findings showed that the proportion of companies struggling from a lack of demand had increased from more than a third in Q4 2019 to over half this quarter. Late payments were a rising concern for a third of businesses, indicating financial distress in the market.



Harpreet Panesar

Local eBike store makes a 'wheel' difference

LOCAL eBike store Hampshire eBikes, based in Andover's Chantry Centre, is now entering its fifth successful month in business; having opened in June this year.

Supporting Andover's key workers during this difficult time has been a priority since its opening and, as such, those behind the Hampshire eBikes store have made the decision to stay open

during the current lockdown with social distancing measures in place - offering free eBike repairs to all NHS staff.

In addition to supporting Andover's NHS staff, owner of Hampshire eBikes, Ed Thomas, also hopes that by staying open, the store can help individuals using a lower-risk mode of transport to travel between home and work or school, as well as people looking for

a safer way to exercise and enjoy some fresh air.

Speaking of the store, Ed commented: "2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us, but by offering free repairs to all NHS staff and staying open during the current lockdown, we hope that we can support the town - especially our key workers - to stay active, mobile, and doing a fantastic job looking after those in need."



Demand for retail and office space is continuing to fall

OFFICE and retail property in the South East continue to struggle with a further fall in demand, but industrial property is already showing solid signs of recovery, according to the latest RICS UK Commercial Property Survey.

The decline in demand continued in the last quarter, as a net balance of -40% of local respondents reported a fall in tenant demand at the all sector level. However, although the figure is firmly negative, this reading is less downbeat than Q2 2020.

Unsurprisingly, demand for South East retail space continued to fall with a net balance of -76% of local contributors reporting a drop. Demand for the region's office sector also saw a fall with -55% reporting the drop. In more positive news, occupier demand has turned positive across the South East industrial sector. A net balance of +11% respondents noted a pick-up this quarter, up from -22% reported in Q2.

As demand drops, availability of retail property in the UK is unsurprisingly rising sharply. Space available in standard shops, shopping centres and department stores has increased significantly since the onset of the pandemic. Likewise, across the office sector, availability is picking up at the strongest pace (in net balance terms) since 2009. Availability in the region's office and

retail sectors therefore grew, whilst the growing demand for industrial space saw -6% of respondents reporting a decline in available industrial space.

Tarrant Parsons, RICS Economist, commented: "Sentiment across the commercial property market continues to be weighed down by the challenging economic backdrop. In particular, the physical retail sector, which was already struggling prior to the latest crisis, is being hit hard by the accelerated switch into online shopping and a drop in footfall associated with social distancing. Likewise, occupier demand across the office sector remains in decline and may continue to come under pressure going forward as businesses reassess their office space requirements following the increased prevalence of remote working."

That said, some portions of the market appear to be well placed to expand in the face of these structural changes sweeping the economy. Indeed, the latest results point to a solid rebound within the industrial sector, with increased capacity in this segment needed to meet the sharp rise in online spending. As such, the twelve-month outlook for prime industrial rents and capital values has already returned to positive territory according to the Q3 survey feedback."

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Advertorial

Andover BID Supporting

We're still here for businesses during lockdown, here's how we are supporting you through this.

Throughout 2020 and during the summer lockdown period and now in this 2nd lockdown, Andover BID has remained open, pro-active, working with and supporting town centre businesses in a variety of ways. Andover's shops rely on footfall to make sales and stay profitable. The current global Pandemic has reduced the number of people visiting town centres and shops in general and

this is impacting on business sales/profits with some people resorting to online services during lockdown. Whilst a difficult trading paradigm for local shops, their evidence that the public want to support local businesses but with the least amount of risk to themselves. Local shops are competing through demonstrating that their shop is COVID-19 safe with many offering a click and

collect or delivery service. Some have the capability to offer a form of online/phone shopping capability but because of large conglomerates such as Amazon, local promotion and services can sometimes become lost.

BID on behalf of its Andover businesses is fighting back locally with a number of different initiatives either launched or underway!

Bid Helping To Develop The Digital High Street

ALSO (Andover's Local Shopping Online) channel

Andover's Local Shopping Online (ALSO) is a series of short online features with Andover based retailers designed to help people find out more about their local independent shops and to encourage them to support their local businesses. Each episode introduces the people behind the business and some of the products they sell. You can see each one on the InAndover Facebook page (www.facebook.com/INANDOVERUK) or our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/andoveralso>). Through ALSO, BID is working with businesses to create a Facebook Live shopping programme initially twice a week and it will also be available to view anytime on the InAndover Facebook Page and shared to other Facebook pages. Andover's own local young entrepreneur Luis Wyatt who previously worked with Love Andover as a presenter has partnered with BID to produce a series of ALSO videos. Luis who is at college studying a level 3 Creative Media in technology course says

"It is amazing to be given this opportunity to put my skills and personality to the test. Living locally, I love Andover and the opportunity to work with the BID and these wonderful businesses has really opened my eyes to what is available and to how much local expertise we have in the town"

ALSO has been created to provide a mechanism to promote BID members in an entertaining manner to drive interest in the business and reinforces the desirability of Andover as a Safe, Easy and Enjoyable place to do business.

ALSO uses Facebook presenting six-ten minutes "shopping channel" type show designed to highlight the town's businesses in an engaging and positive light. The initial video was released on Tuesday, 10th November 2020 and it has outperformed all previous social media posts by a significant margin and created considerable interest. Since then, two further ALSO videos have been produced with more planned during the lockdown period. www.inandover.co.uk

Andover On-Line Brochure

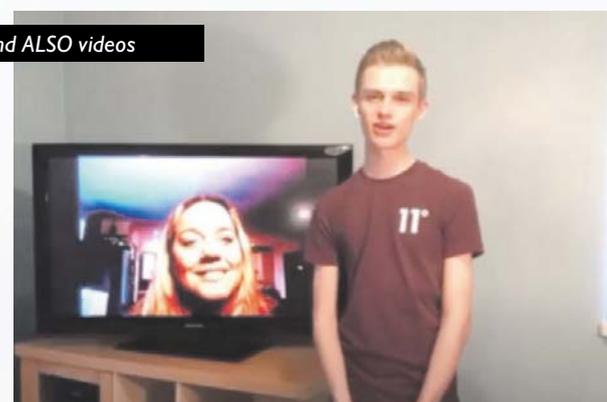
An interactive on-line brochure featuring and spotlighting local businesses, each with its own description providing ideas on where and what to buy locally for Christmas presents this year. The brochure will feature on our InAndover website and will link to individual business websites.

One-to-one professional business support

with the withdrawal of services such as Business Link, there is very little coordinated business support for local small businesses. There are many



Luis Wyatt and ALSO videos



sources of paid support, but the variety of levels in expertise and capabilities linked with the cost make this problematic to access for small businesses. Additionally, the time available to sift the competing offers, select an option and make the best choice is a major constraint. There are a variety of local sales support and networking groups, but these often require a time commitment that businesses find it hard to justify. The recent COVID-19 crisis has placed businesses in a difficult position and they are finding it tough and have a very specific set of support and coaching needs based around resilience, specific COVID-19 information, and marketing to build confidence and thus sales. Andover BID through its unique position is there to help. It already has the confidence of local businesses and knows their specific character and needs. With the easing of lockdown now in sight, BID has already demonstrated its ability to provide specific help for

businesses to reopen through "COVID Secure" readiness consultancy support. This has been well received and been a large part of demonstrating that Andover is Safe to visit for shoppers. It, therefore, makes sense that Andover BID should continue to help businesses through this difficult time with further support around the current needs of marketing to build confidence and encourage clients to visit. Also, to provide a supportive environment where matched businesses can support one another, and share ideas and capabilities aimed to rebuild the post-COVID-19 Andover economy. For the larger businesses, it provides the opportunity to reiterate their commitment to Andover and the wider business community. For smaller businesses, it will provide the opportunity to gain access to necessary skills in a time-effective manner (for them) and with minimal cost implications.



Advertorial

Town Centre Businesses

BID features Andover Town Centre Essential Businesses

Please find below a list of essential shops that are still open in the town centre, times may vary, if we are missing any businesses in the town centre please let us know and we will update the list.

Photos2print

Monday to Friday from 10.30am to



2pm for essential services

They will be offering free local delivery on all goods, printed photos, photo frames, canvases, papers, printers, ink cartridges, personalised gifts.

Ordered by phone, email or online. Whilst they will not be able to give you in-store personal service, they will be able to still offer you a great service. Click and collect or free local delivery. Shopping local has never been so important.

Ben's Quality Dry Cleaners

Mon: 10Am-1Pm , Tues: Closed , Wed: 10Am-1Pm , Thurs: Closed , Fri: 10Am-1Pm , Sat: Closed , Sun: Closed

They will be operating reduced opening hours, but we will be



continuing to offer our core services of Quality Dry Cleaning, Beautifully laundered bed linen, Crisp and Clean Shirts and our famous Duvet Service.

Unfortunately, during the lockdown, they will not be able to offer suede and leather cleaning or specialist dry cleaning

To help you stay home and stay safe our FREE Collection and Delivery Service will continue throughout lockdown. We can collect and deliver your laundry or dry cleaning direct to your door.

Mooch.....

Although the Mooch shop is closed because of lockdown, we are still



operating normally online.

If anything is out of stock on the website, please call us on 01264 334001 or 0776310296 to enquire.

Mooch are here to help you.

Burgos Pet World

Monday to Saturday 9:00 – 17:00

Sunday 10:00 – 16:00

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If you prefer not to venture into town or the store, they have a few options.

– They can talk outside and bring the goods to you.

– They can take phone orders with the collection available at the rear of the store via George Yard.

– They can offer home delivery to the Andover area free of charge for orders over £15

Gallagher's Florist are offering both, click & collect or delivery of their flowers.



Tip Top & Thornton's are also offering timed collections and a delivery service on their products.

If you are over 70 or in a high-risk group then they would be happy to delivery free of charge, any item of any value in the Andover area.

If you would like more information, then call them on 01264 366223 or contact them on Facebook messenger @cmdiy or email: cmdiy.andover@hotmail.com



Food and Drink

- Baguette de Moet
- Blue onion
- Bridge Street Café
- Cafe Nero – take away
- Cameras Fish and Chips
- Charcoal Grill
- Chick O land
- Coffee 1 - takeaway
- Costa – bus station, take away only
- Costa, High Street
- Curry Leaf
- Dominoes
- Frango Grill
- Greggs
- Grilled Cheese Café Takeaway
- Istanbul Grill
- Kathmandu
- Keskin's take away
- Light of Asia
- Pearl House Chinese
- Peking Chef
- Seamaster Fish & Chips
- Showboat Chicken
- Subway
- The Lemon Plaice Fish & Chips

Health and Beauty

- Boots opticians
- Buy Specs Direct

- Fragrance Shop
- Holland and Barret
- Leighton optician
- Spec-Savers
- Superdrug
- Vision Express

Supermarkets

- Iceland
- Lidl
- Sainsbury's
- Waitrose

Estate Agents

- Austin Hawk Estate Agents
- Belvoir Estate Agents
- Connells Estate Agents
- Graham and Co Estate Agents
- Karen Sykes Lettings
- Middleton & Major Estate Agents
- Pearson's Estate Agents
- Taylor Hill & Bond Estate Agents
- Your Move Estate Agents

Recruitment

- Abacus Employment
- Active Staff Recruitment
- Core Recruitment
- Employ Recruitment
- GI group Recruitment

Banking & Financial

- A Plan Insurance
- HSBC
- NatWest
- Newbury Building Society
- Lloyds Bank
- Santander Bank
- TSB

Other

- CEX – click & collect
- Burgos pet world
- Double discount
- Ewe Cash
- Gallagher's – *click & collect or delivery flowers*
- Just Bikes
- Martin's Newsagents
- Photo2Print
- Planet PC
- Poundland
- Poundstretcher
- Post Office (WH Smiths)
- Timpson
- Tip Top & Thornton's – *timed collections and delivery*
- WH Smith
- Waterstones – *collection only Mon to Sat 10 -5 pm*
- Wilko

EAT - DRINK - SHOP
IN ANDOVER
SUPPORT LOCAL

Arts & Culture

A few changes to festive plans

WITH the changing nature of the world, Test Valley Borough Council had taken a fresh look at Christmas activities and developed a series of community led projects to keep Christmas celebrations on track. Lockdown has forced some more creative thinking to try and keep the Christmas cheer alive, and some changes have been made to festive plans for the last weekend in November.

The Andover Christmas Tree Festival will no longer be a public event with the finished trees on display outside, but schools are still busy collecting and decorating their tree panels. They will then take photographs and videos of the creative process which the council will collate and share on social media for all to view.

To complement the Christmas Tree Festival, a Christmas Market was planned for 29 November in the town centre. This has now moved to Sunday, 13 December and will join forces with



the Artisan market which was due to take place the following weekend. The combined market will feature a wide range of stall holders, live music, hot food and pre-bookable children's festive craft activities, including Bum-

ble Bears, Four Brothers Cheese, Mr Pickles, The Gin Stall, Watson Glass and Whisp Drinks.

The festive atmosphere will be enhanced by live music in The Time Ring, and hot food and drink includ-

ing mulled wine and crepes from The Andover Tap, German sausages and hot chocolate and doughnuts.

Alongside the fair there will be a trail of hidden tags around the town centre for children to find and then claim a prize, plus Father Christmas in his grotto in the Chantry Centre. There are also free Covid-secure family crafting workshops in the Upper Guildhall at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm where you can make and take a festive paper wreath. Spaces on these workshops should be pre-booked by emailing: events@testvalley.gov.uk

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said: "Christmas is nearly upon us, and the Andover Food and Gift Fair is the perfect opportunity to support local traders and artisans, and at the same time, secure perfect gifts and gourmet treats. It is also a great opportunity to enjoy some festive family fun with the town centre trail, workshops and

Christmas Grotto; keeping both the grown-ups and the children happy."

Still able to go ahead, spreading Christmas spirit throughout the town and further afield, will be the Andover Window Wanderland walking art trail to light up the winter streets. Residents have been encouraged to decorate their windows and register on the Window Wanderland website to create a light map for the town and local environs.

Phil North, added: "The second lockdown has forced us to be more creative about how we can safely enjoy some festive fun in Andover. It may look a little different to what we had planned, and be a little less traditional, but I am delighted that residents in and around Andover can still enjoy the build up to Christmas."

These Christmas events are designed and provided by Test Valley Borough Council in conjunction with Andover Vision.

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GRANT FRANCIS and the Morning Crew

95.9FM ANDOVERRADIO
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A new pop-up shop pops up in the Chantry Centre

FROM Saturday, 5 December and each Saturday in the lead up to Christmas there will be a new pop-up shopping experience popping up in the Chantry Centre from 10am - 6pm.

Test Valley Borough Council, in conjunction with Andover Vision is delighted to have put together a group of artisans who will join together in a special limited edition indoor Saturday Christmas market during December.

It can be found in unit 16-18 in the Chantry Centre, on the slope opposite Hoggosaurus Toy Shop,

and each week will feature a core of artisan crafts, food, drink and gift providers including Little Country Lane, Mad Bag Lady, Material Moments, Neal's Yard, Candle Delites and Mr Pickles. Many of the names will be familiar to those who regularly attend the monthly Artisan Markets. In addition there will be additional new guest traders each week.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said: "Following our purchase of the Chantry Centre, the Council has already introduced easy

in/easy out terms to encourage and enable business start-ups, utilising the vacant units. Whilst our medium-term aspiration is to redevelop the centre, we're also keen to start establishing a number of indoor markets to enable small enterprises to sell their products and bring some vibrancy to the centre - and I'd urge you all to check it out."

The pop-up Christmas market will take place from 10am - 6pm on Saturday, 5, 12 and 19 December in the Chantry Centre, Andover.

Will the Christmas elf be visiting your home this year?

By Sarah Gisbourne

DURING December a special little visitor comes to stay in many family homes. It's nearly that time of year for the return of elf on the shelf.

An Elf on the shelf is sent by Santa to check on our children. The festive toy began as a children's book in the US in 2005, telling the story of how Santa sends a scout elf to check whether your children are being naughty or nice. It's now spread over here to the UK. Every day in December, once the children are in bed, the elf moves to different locations in the house, so children need to hunt for him in the morning. Some



elf's leave behind a small gift as well. Children can chat to the elf but can't touch him otherwise the magic will make him disappear forever.

We ran a poll on the LoveAndover Familylife Facebook page and

found out that feelings about the elf are split 50/50, among Andover parents, some of you love him, whilst others do not.

The poll included a comment from Ginette Pope saying, "They creep me out!!?"

Will an elf be visiting your family home this December? Or will you be using the current lockdown situation as a reason that the elf cannot visit your family home this year? Will it be a good elf or a naughty elf?

We'd love to see photos and hear of any elf activities that take place in your family home, so that we can share them here. Please email me your photos and comments to familylife@loveandover.com.

Experience a little Window Wanderland Magic this November

THIS November experience a little magic in your neighbourhood and take part in Test Valley Borough Council's Window Wanderland experience, either as a window maker or just by wandering and enjoying the results!

Residents are encouraged to take part as window makers and to open their curtains and create window displays to amuse, entertain, and create a little magic for all to share. It is completely free to take part and everyone is welcome. A display could be as simple as a candle, book or fairy-lights in a window, it could recreate some lockdown artwork or share a favourite thing about winter. Anything goes... as long as it's family friendly! Together these windows will form a wonderful winter walking trail, which everyone can participate in by coming out to enjoy.

The council has arranged a series of workshops for those who would like a little help in designing their window, and due to lockdown the remainder have now gone online. There is still a chance to book a free space on a zoom session at 10am on 21 November by emailing: events@testvalley.gov.uk by 19 November.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said: "By taking part in the Window Wanderland project - either by creating windows or simply enjoying the walking trails, you will be helping to keep the festive spirit alive in our town in a Covid-safe



Violet at The Lights Workshop

and friendly way."

This year's Window Wanderland light trail is planned for 28 - 29 November between 5pm and 9pm. This is an informal trail with no start or end point, so families can take part where and when they want in a socially distanced and safe way, and enjoy a stroll in the fresh air at the same time. This is an opportunity for residents to get creative and then get outside

to see the results!

For general information about the project, including how to take part or register your window, or to see the map of the walking trails, then visit: www.windowwanderland.com/event/andover-2020/ You can also keep up to date with all the Andover Window Wanderland news on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WindowWanderlandAndover>

Walking in Harewood Forest

By Graeme Davis

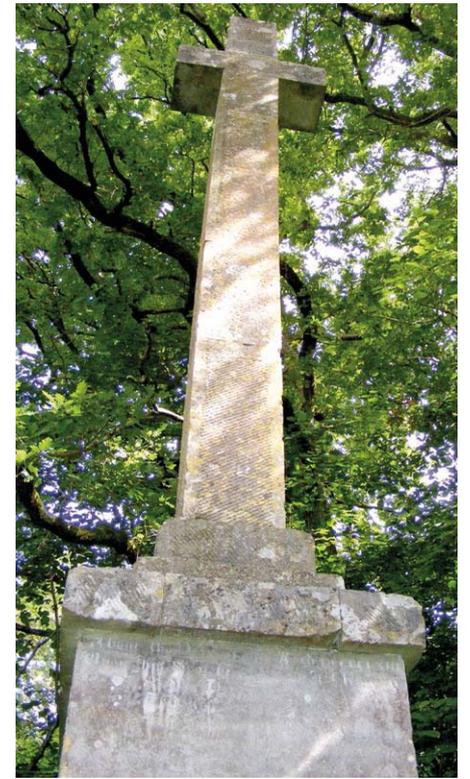
WITH so many venues and activities closed, the great outdoors is the only option for many to enjoy in the coming weeks.

Harewood Forest is a lovely place to get lost in. The mixed woodland includes stands of oak, silver birch and planted Scots pines, interspersed with pockets of open glades which the dappled sunlight breaks through.

Historically the woodland was used for military training as evidenced by the concrete tank tracks traversing and shelters dotted around. On the Longparish side of the wood is a local landmark called Dead Man's Plaque, a monument to King Athelwold's death in 963CE.

The woodland on the outskirts of Andover is bisected by the A303, which creates woodland areas with very different characters. The floor has ancient indicator plants like English bluebell, yellow archangel, dog's mercury and common gromwell as well as wood sage, spurge, primrose and bracken, important for some of its rare butterflies and moths. The glades in summer are patrolled by white admiral and silver washed fritillary butterflies, purple hairstreak butterflies are found higher in the tree top canopies, and the less colourful, but exceedingly rare drab looper moth is found perched on the flowers of wood spurge.

No matter how lightly you tread, as you traipse through the woodland you are likely to disturb roe and muntjac deer. In the fields bordering the woodland, brown hares hunker down in their 'forms', slight depressions in the ground to conceal them from onlookers.



Grass snakes, slow worms and common lizards are present in the forest, and in the past, so were adders. Hopefully one day these will be re-establish. Goshawks, impressively large birds of prey, were once common, although their numbers have now dwindled.

A fascinating place criss-crossed with public footpaths, Harewood Forest is well worth a stroll in any season.

Project Eagle Lands At Museum

DESPITE the Army Flying museum being closed currently, Dan Ball and his outreach team are inviting the community to get involved with the museum's latest community project as part of Project Eagle, the museum's National Lottery Heritage Funded project.

The Army Flying Museum is

encouraging the community to help the museum to create a mini squadron of knitted and crochet helicopters.

Outreach officer, Dan told Love Andover: "We want people everywhere to get involved as part of our 'Sky High' art series of installations next year, which will also be involving embroidery and

sewing enthusiasts to use our stories, collections and aircraft as inspiration for military inspired fashion jackets and a graffiti art project.

We are inviting people to help create as many mini helicopters as possible to be displayed around our historic helicopters which range from cobra's, lynx's, gazelle's and scouts!"

The closing date for mini helicopters is the 16th January 2021.

They can be any size or colour, the brighter the better!

Completed helicopters can be posted to the museum whilst they are closed, or if you live locally to the museum you may wish to wait until they reopen after the national lockdown.

Post to: Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants, SO20 8FB

During this very difficult time for the Museum and heritage sector, The Army Flying museum has lots to keep families entertained to find out more, go to their website or their Facebook page.



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Some dishes may contain traces of nut, wheat, gluten or other allergic ingredients.

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Seasonal Soups

NOVEMBER is awash with vegetables that love a nip of frost: artichokes, carrots, leeks and sweet parsnips shine in abundance. Nothing beats a warming bowl of soup on a cold winter's day. These recipes use seasonal vegetables and store cupboard ingredients to make hearty and delicious soups.

Spicy Parsnip Soup

IF it's a spicy parsnip soup you're after, our parsnip soup is sure to deliver. This gently spiced soup recipe is made with cumin, coriander, turmeric and ginger. This really is a heart-warming bowl of goodness.

Ingredients

750g parsnips (about 6-7), peeled
2 tbsp olive oil
¼ tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
¼ tsp ground turmeric
1½ tsp ground ginger
½ tsp chilli powder, plus a sprinkle
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 bay leaves
1.3 litres fresh vegetable stock
Fresh coriander leaves to serve

Method

Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Slice about 100g of the parsnips very thinly on a mandoline or using a sharp knife. Pat dry with kitchen paper, toss with 1 tbsp of the oil, the cumin and



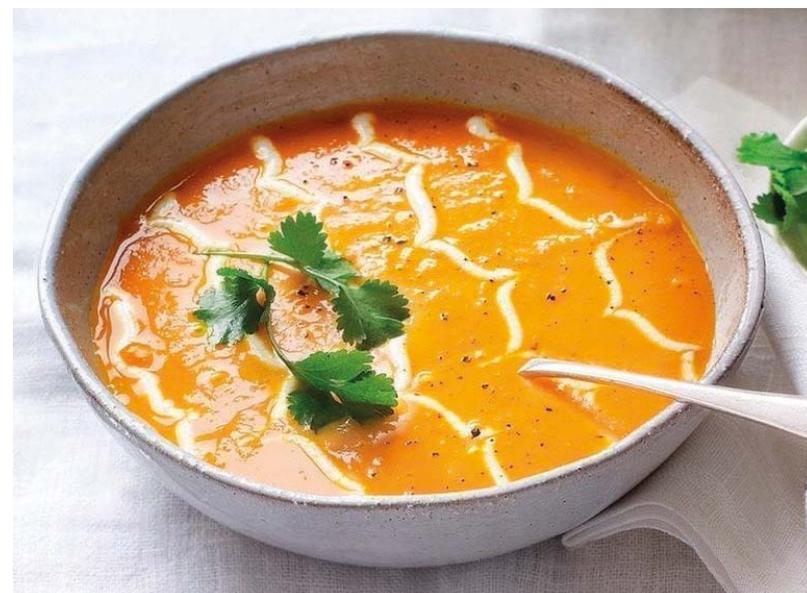
some salt and pepper, then spread out on a large baking sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes until crisp and golden at the edges.

Meanwhile, put the rest of the ground spices in a small frying pan and toast for 1-2 minutes over a medium heat until fragrant.

Heat the remaining oil in a large saucepan over a medium-high heat and fry the onion for 7-8 minutes until softening. Meanwhile, chop the rest of the parsnips. Add the garlic to the onion pan and cook for 2 minutes more. Add

the toasted spices and bay leaves and stir for a minute, then add the chopped parsnips and stock. Bring to the boil, then turn down to a medium heat and cook for 30 minutes until the parsnips are tender.

Remove and discard the bay leaves, then whizz the soup using a stick blender (or in a blender with the cap removed and a folded tea towel held over to stop the hot soup exploding out) until smooth. Season to taste. Sprinkle with the parsnip crisps, extra chilli powder and a few coriander leaves to serve.



Carrot and ginger soup

Natural yogurt and fresh coriander leaves to serve

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium-high heat and fry the onion for 10 minutes until soft.

Add the garlic and 1½ tbsp of the ginger, then fry for another minute, stirring. Add the carrots, stock and orange zest. Bring to the boil, then turn the heat down to low and simmer for 45-50 minutes until the carrots are tender.

Stir in the remaining ginger and the orange juice, then blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender (or whizz in a food processor or blender).

Season with salt and pepper, then serve with a swirl of yogurt and a sprinkling of fresh coriander leaves.

A light, flavoursome carrot and ginger soup that's ideal for batch cooking – double the recipe, eat half now, then freeze the rest for later and enjoy as an instant midweek meal.

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion, roughly chopped
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 tbsp finely grated ginger
1.5kg carrots, roughly chopped
2 litres fresh vegetable stock
Grated zest and juice ½ orange

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Homes & Gardens

Enjoy Your Own Winter Wonderland

WINTER can be a quiet time in the garden, but if your green fingers are twitching and you're craving some outdoor time, there is still plenty to do in the garden during the winter months. There are also plenty of plants to enjoy at this time of year.

Before you settle down for the winter, some preparation is key – protect tender plants such as dahlias and bring in or cover garden furniture. It's also worth planting bulbs for colour in spring.

Evergreens, from box balls and topiary to large, established shrubs, add vital structure in the garden year round but come to the fore in winter. There are many beautiful evergreen shrubs to choose from and some also have the added advantage of strongly scented flowers too.

If your garden lacks colour, head to your local garden centre, where you'll find many seasonal delights.

Spend a morning pottering about tidying your greenhouse and shed, having a seasonal tidy up. The greenhouse is less full at this time of year, so it's a good time to prepare it for spring.

Service or maintain your mower

and sharpen your tools, ready for the busier seasons ahead.

A few winter containers, planted with evergreens and plants with colourful berries or flowers can brighten a dull winter day. Position them near the house so you can enjoy them easily.

Winter is the main time to prune many types of fruit, including blackcurrants, apples, pears, autumn-fruiting raspberries, redcurrants and gooseberries. It's also a good time to tackle trees, shrubs and roses.

Many perennials are cut back at the onset of autumn, but it's worth leaving plants with attractive seedheads intact so that you can enjoy their unique beauty over winter. Cut down in spring, when you see new growth appearing at the base.

Crops to harvest in winter include parsnips, kale, brussel sprouts, leeks, winter cabbages and winter salad. If you didn't get around to planting winter veg and salad earlier in the year, you can grow pulses indoors, as well as microgreens, ready in just a few days. You can also plant for future feasts – garlic, fruit bushes and raspberries and rhubarb can all be planted in winter.



Strong demand driving activity

DEMAND for new properties as well as new homes being listed for sale across the South East housing market remained strong over the month, according to the October 2020, RICS Residential Market Survey.

With current guidelines permitting the market to stay open during the second lockdown, South East respondents expect sales growth to continue for the rest of the year. Moving into next year, the outlook for sales is negative, with respondents citing the withdrawal of government support measures and a difficult economic backdrop as a concern further ahead.

During October, the number of people looking to buy a new property across the region remained positive for the sixth consecutive month, with a net balance of +59% of respondents citing an increase in new buyer enquiries slightly down from +63% reported in September.

In keeping with the growth in demand, the number of new properties being listed for sale also increased for the fifth successive report. A net balance of +33% of respondents reported a rise in new instructions in the South East. This is the longest run of growth seen in the RICS Residential Market Survey since 2013.

The number of properties sitting on estate agents' books remains relatively low in the historical context, but October saw average stock levels

remain at 41 per branch across the region.

As we look ahead, respondents remain positive about activity for the coming three months, with +14% more contributors expecting sales to rise in the South East.

The impact of the recent increased sales activity continues to see house prices rise. The three-month price growth expectations were at +11% in October, down from +32% in September. Meanwhile, the twelve-month outlook points to a flatter trend emerging across the region.

Simon Rubinsohn, RICS Chief Economist commented: "The housing market remains very busy and despite the second national lockdown, the sense is that this will persist over the coming months and into the new year. However, there is understandably more caution about activity looking beyond the first quarter of 2021. Aside from the withdrawal of governments incentives, the market may also find the more challenging employment picture a significant obstacle even with interest rates set to remain close to zero for some time to come.

That said, medium term expectations for house prices and private rents have barely been dented by COVID according to the latest survey. Indeed, the projections still point to increases likely to exceed wage growth highlighting the ongoing issue around affordability."

Declutter your home

By Izzy Bushell

THE current lockdown is the perfect opportunity to refresh your home.

Re decorating can seem like an expensive task, however it doesn't have to be that way.

Here are some top tips to consider when you decide it's time to transform

your house into a new environment without the worry of a big financial layout.

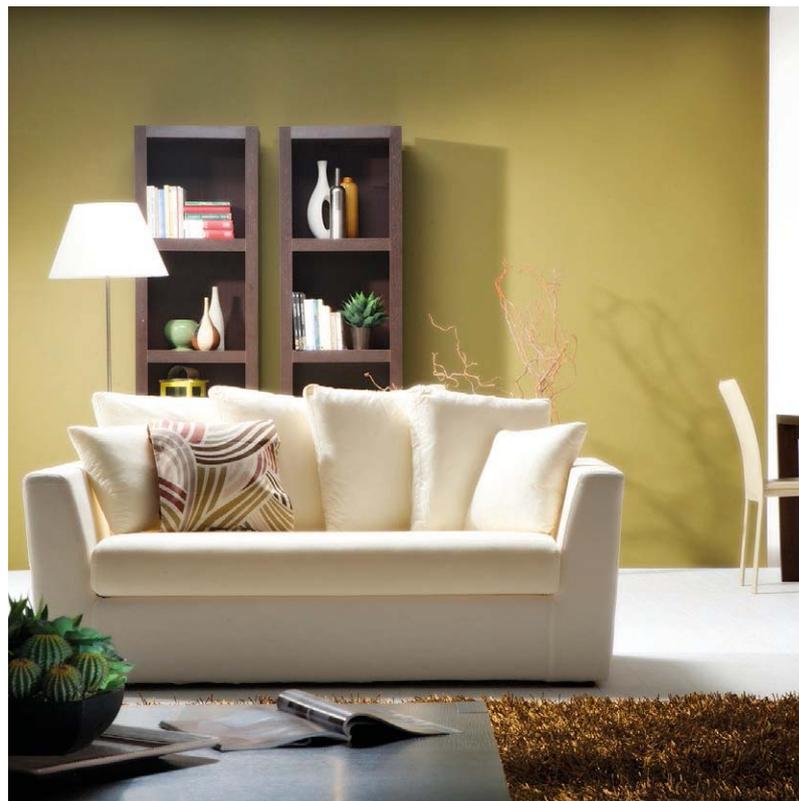
Start the festive season with fresh new tiles in your kitchen by spending just five pounds on a grout pen from any DIY store and use that to cover your old tiles. It will make them look brand new without breaking the bank.

Why not transform your living room with some luxurious new curtains without the large expense of drapes by making them at home or go to a tailor to alter second hand curtains?

Tired of your battered old sofa but don't want the large expenses of purchasing a new one? Just cover it with a simple slip-cover which will make a huge difference to your whole living room by providing it with a simple change of look.

The last tip to help you transform any room in your home without a penny going out the bank is rearranging your furniture. This can seem like an unexciting task, however just providing yourself with a little extra space by moving your bed or sofa to a different side of the room can make your space feel de-cluttered and refreshed for Christmas.

So don't let the expenses of decorating put you off creating a fresh new home. With just a little bit of thinking outside the box you can discover small and simple tasks that can make a huge difference as well as helping you avoid any big budget decorating.





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Observer Motors

Hyundai Tucson N Line 1.6

CRDi 48v 136PS 2WD Manual

By Tony Yates

THIS week put me in the driving seat of the Hyundai Tucson N Line, a vehicle that I hope will tick all the boxes for many.

Power and efficiency

Fitted with a 1,598cc CRDi diesel engine with 136PS @ 4,000rpm and 320Nm of torque @ 2,000 - 2,250rpm. 0-62mph is around 11.2sec, and fuel consumption is a decent 48.7 mpg combined with a top speed of 112mph.

Now, I know from having many conversations with many people that everyone thinks the word 'diesel' is a

dirty word. Well, I'm here to tell you it's not for me. Also, it's a mild-hybrid meaning it's playing its part in moving with the times as well as saving you some money.

So, what's the 48v system there for? Well, it's there to be on hand to help acceleration at key moments for optimum performance. It does this by recouping the energy under braking – which it then stores away for use when you need it most. To simplify that – it makes a little extra bhp when you need it most - which I hope helps the Tucson stand out as a decent mild-hybrid.

On the road

It's pretty nimble for such a large

car – and in a way, it could be classed as 'frisky'. Also, take the Tucson out on the open road, and you soon begin to feel just how well it grips. The chassis and the suspension also felt well-honed to what the wheels at each corner are doing – which makes for a thrilling ride for the driver as well as a solid performer out on the open road for someone looking for something a little bit 'sportier'.

Design & technology

The Tucson is in my book pretty good looking, and in N Line trim it's even more dashing. So, no worries in the looks department then. The swooping lines and that well designed

front end does show off just how good it looks. I was also in the supermarket car park the other day and a gentleman came up to me and said I love your new Jaguar. I responded with – 'you are very kind, but it's actually a Hyundai'. He still loved it all the same. To be honest – I don't blame him.

Standard equipment on the Tucson N Line starts with; 19" alloy wheels, N Line badging, N Line exclusive front & rear bumpers, N Line grill, N Line leather & suede seats, dual-zone climate control, auto headlights with dusk sensors, parking sensors front & rear, parking system rear camera, Bluetooth connectivity, DAB digital radio with 6 speakers, 8" touchscreen

navigation, ABS, AEB, BAS, DBC (Downhill Brake Control) ESP, ESS, HAC, LKA (Lane Keep Assist) and VSM (Vehicle Stability Management).

To sum up

What can I say – the Tucson is a great drive and perfect for someone who wants a vehicle that comes with a large amount of space and many extras for a reasonable amount of money.

Hopefully, you will now go out and give it a test drive and see for yourself what the Tucson has to offer.

Price: from £28,680.



Understand what your car insurance covers

WITH new measures in place across England, Florence Codjoe, car insurance expert at Uswitch.com explains some hidden surprises in your car insurance to ensure you do not find yourself unexpectedly out of pocket.

Non-essential car journeys during November could result in a £200 fine. If you have an accident while you're out, you may find your car insurance policy won't cover the damage and you could end up paying thousands of pounds for repairs.

If you're unsure about cover during the lockdown period then speak to your insurer for clarification. The Government's website will confirm what is considered essential and non-essential travel.

It's a legal requirement to have insurance if your vehicle is parked on the road, even if it isn't being used. If you have off-street parking or a private parking space, you can inform the DVLA with a Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN). A SORN

means your vehicle is declared officially off-road. You can't drive it anywhere, but you won't have to pay road tax and you can cancel your insurance.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has said, you currently don't need to contact your insurer if you have to drive to and from your workplace because of the impact of Covid-19. This support will last until 31 December. However, if you think you're going to be using your car a lot more during lockdown, then speak to your insurer. You risk breaching your policy and invalidating it, if your annual mileage is a lot higher than stated when you took out your insurance.

MOT test centres will remain open during this lockdown, but book as early as possible. If your MOT expires, your car insurance will no longer be valid. You can still drive your car to the test centre as long as you have a pre-booked test and insurance in place.

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2014[14] Volkswagen Polo MATCH EDITION	£7,495
2010[10] Volkswagen Golf MATCH TDI	£7,295
2013[13] Mini Cooper COOPER	£6,995
2014[64] Fiat 500 S	£5,995
2014[14] Volkswagen Up MOVE UP AUTO	£5,995
2014[14] Vauxhall Agila SE AUTO	£5,995
2016[65] Citroen C1 PURETECH FLAIR	£5,750
2010[10] Mini Cooper COOPER	£5,595
2015[15] Volkswagen Up MOVE UP	£5,495
2011[11] Vauxhall Agila SE	£3,995
2007[07] SEAT Ibiza 12V REFERENCE SPORT	£1,695

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Vauxhall Corsa-e Elite Nav 7.4kW

By Tony Yates

IF you remember, the beginning of this year I said I was going to be testing more EVs. Well, thanks to an array of vehicle manufacturers I have now pretty much tested a large selection of these vehicles throughout 2020 - and I'm happy to report most of them are pretty good.

Also, as we get closer to December, things for me get a tad quieter on the motoring front as Christmas starts to appear into the horizon. This also means I now get a few months off before it starts all over again in 2021.

Well, just as I thought it was all over, Vauxhall kindly dropped me off the new Corsa-e to test, which was pretty exciting because I have been waiting for the Corsa-e to arrive for quite a while now, and I had given up any hope of testing it before the end of the year. Well happily it's here - and now I'm finally ready to do my last EV test of 2020.

Power and efficiency

The Corsa-e is fitted with a synchronous type 100 kWh electric motor which develops 136PS and 260Nm of torque which I have to say feels very lively and more than happy to whizz you around on the motorway or rumble around in urban towns, a large city or a tiny Hampshire village.

Of course, being an (EV) means - it



goes like a scalded cat thanks to an electric motor that I'm sure was borrowed from The Starship Enterprise. All powered by a 50kWh Lithium-Ion bank of batteries that are capable of storing a large amount of electricity.

I guess you all want to know the range of the Corsa-e? Well, again - I'm happy to report that I travelled well over 180 miles on one full charge. Vauxhall pitches it at 209miles, which you could achieve if you drive better than me of course.

When it comes to performance - the Corsa-e is more than capable of reaching 0-60 in just over 7.6 seconds and in no time at all, it will reach a top speed of 93 mph. Now, I know what you are all thinking, but remember, speed is not everything. Plus remember the max speed limit on a UK motorway is only 70mph anyway. Plus, this means there's plenty left in reserve for some blistering overtaking manoeuvres. Let's not forget this also allows you to perform 'Formula 1 styled' standing

starts from the traffic lights with the Audi driver sitting next to you who still thinks he can take you.

On the road

There is the extra weight that you need to factor in due to carrying many batteries - but to be honest, it felt just like any other small hatchback you care to mention. But it does have a hefty price tag, which might put many people off the idea. Let's be clear, I'm not saying the EV option is better

than the petrol-engined version of this car overall. I'm saying I prefer the EV option.

Design & technology

Well, this is where it gets exciting. Vauxhall has upped their game with the interior of the Corsa-e, and it's electrifying! You also get a lot for your money including; Satellite navigation system, 10-inch colour touchscreen, AM/FM/DAB digital radio, Bluetooth® audio streaming, Apple CarPlay™/Android Auto™ Lane departure warning with lane assist, Speed sign recognition, Side blind-spot alert and flank guard, Driver drowsiness system, Automatic emergency city braking, Electronic climate control, Flat-bottomed leather-covered steering wheel, Heated front seats and steering wheel, Rain-sensitive windscreen wipers, Automatic lighting control and 17-inch bi-colour diamond-cut alloy wheels.

To sum up

The Corsa-e sits in my top five list of good EVs that I have tested overall - and to be honest, I like it a lot. The Corsa-e is a stylish EV for any small family wishing to find their perfect partner in the green world we now all strive to live in.

Price: £30,310, as tested, after PiCG (Plug in Car Grant) - £3000.

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New Subaru Outback

AN estate that's as comfortable on muddy fields as it is on city streets, the Outback refresh further enhances a practical, capable car that's brilliantly safe on the road. Stylish, spacious and refined, Outback takes you further. New Outback boasts an array of updates including an upgraded interior and infotainment system (with DAB radio and Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™ functionality); front and side view monitors to minimise blind spots and make tight manoeuvres easier than ever; and LED steering responsive headlights.

X-Mode with Hill Descent Control makes climbing and descending steep, extreme terrain in the Outback controlled, calm and worry-free. When activated, X-Mode with Hill Descent Control takes command of the engine, transmission, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, brakes, and other components to provide the best traction and grip in difficult conditions. Hill Descent Control moderates speed and braking for you when going downhill, allowing you to concentrate on steering.

Subaru's advanced driver assist technology which offers Outback drivers a second pair of eyes. A high-resolution two camera system detects and interprets the environment, accurately tracking things like vehicles,



motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians.

Key Features include: powered rear tailgate; keyless entry & push button start; apple car play and android auto enabled; reversing camera; boxer engine; eyesight driver assist; symmetrical all-wheel drive; 5-year warranty.

Autocar reviewer Rory White said: "The Subaru Outback is now more competitively priced against off-road estates than ever.

There remains a huge amount of space inside for four adults and the cabin quality retains its functional feel,

but the materials are improved and the switchgear feels slicker than before.

The Outback's boot is bigger, now 559 litres, and aside from some slight wheel arch intrusion, its flush lip and wide opening make it one of the more practical examples on the market.

The rear seats can be split 60/40 and lie almost flat, too.

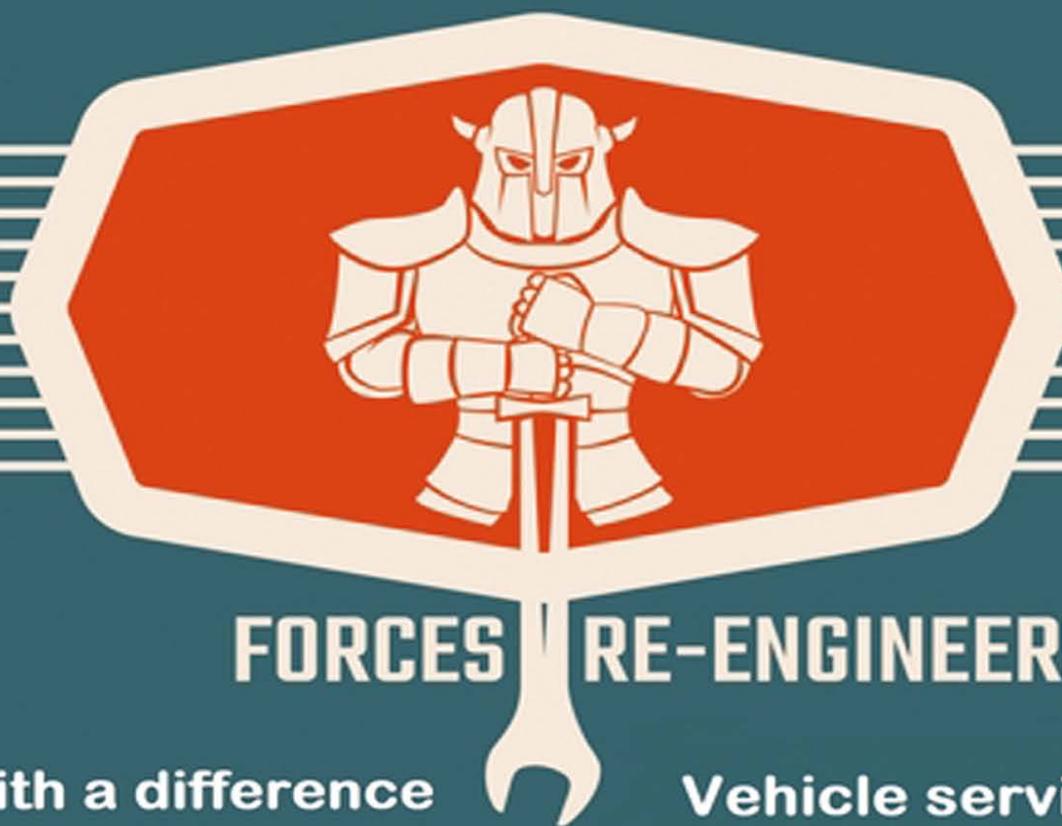
You tend to sit on the driver's seat rather than in it, but even the lankiest drivers won't have an issue getting comfy. The dash is now dominated by Subaru's brand new infotainment system, which consists of a 7.0in touchscreen flanked by menu buttons.

It's bright, responsive and a vast improvement on what went before, even if some of the onscreen buttons are a tad small. It's nice to see it's included on every car, with its integrated sat-nav as a standard feature, too.

Off-road, the Outback's permanent, symmetrical all-wheel-drive system helps it to stand out among its peers. Its approach, departure and break-over angles are greater than those of most rivals, too, helping you traverse even deeply rutted tracks with greater confidence."

For a limited time only, Subaru are having their biggest ever stock clearance and are giving customers the chance to drive away in a brand new Outback and save £4000. Limited time offer available until 30th November.

You find out more from Hampshire stockist, West Heath Garage in Farnborough by calling 01252 888912 or look online: www.westheath-subaru.co.uk.



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Local adventurer hits half way mark on world record attempt

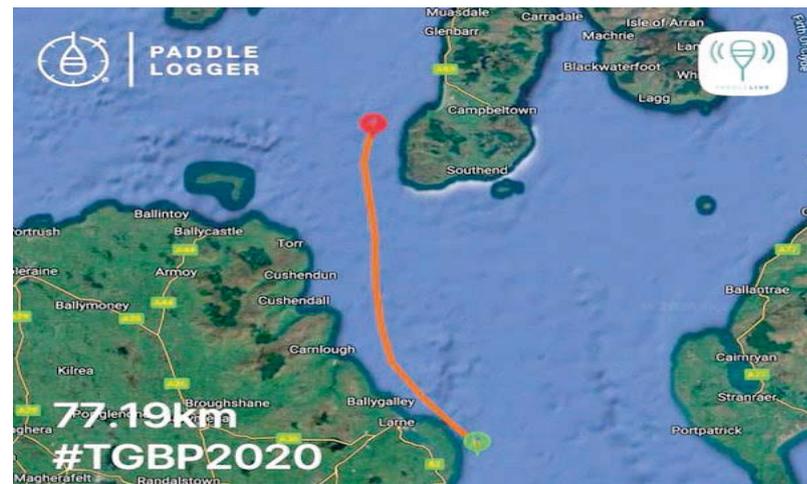
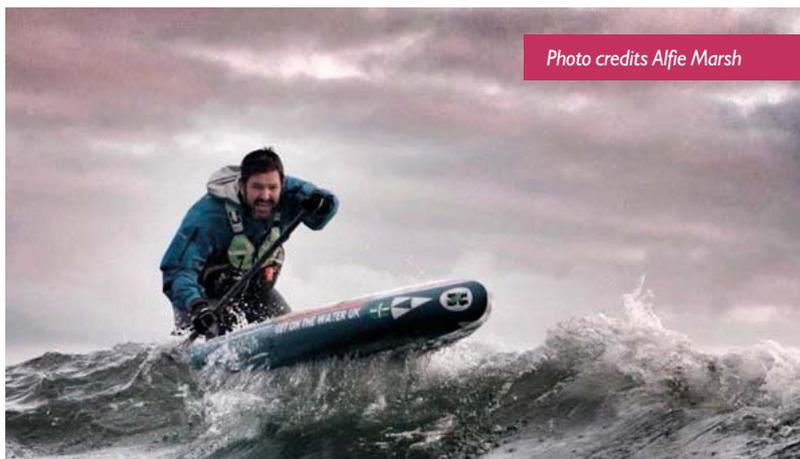
THE Great British Paddle has crossed the halfway point after Jordan Wylie made it to Scotland and has so far raised over £18,000. Jordan has now paddled to 5 countries covering more than 2000km over 117 days on the sea.

Jordan started the world record attempt at the end of July and has endured a gruelling expedition battling the elements and has suffered setbacks through injury, boat repairs and the bodies of water, but that has not stopped his goal.

Jordan is doing this to raise money for Frontline Children, the mission is to build a new school on the horn of Africa.

Reaching Scotland came with a brilliant day on the paddle board as Jordan completed a personal best by covering 77.19KM from the edge of the bay at Belfast all the way to the Mull of Kintyre. Jordan started at 1pm and kept going until 7:30am the next day.

Jordan told Love Andover: "After 104 days of paddling and crossing the Irish Sea for a second time, I've finally made it to Scotland which is the half



way marker. I've paddled over 1800 kilometres so far and I really feel like I've had to earn every paddle stroke. With Covid-19 disrupting everything we do, I still don't know when my journey will end but I will keep going for as long as I'm allowed to. So far we have raised more than £18,000 and rising which is a testament to the generosity of the public, even in these uncertain

times. It's getting colder and harder every day but remembering my 'why' is what keeps me moving forward."

This is a feat that has been attempted previously in recent years, but to date no person has been successful in achieving this highly ambitious endeavour, due to the extreme physical and psychological barriers, combined with the relentless and unpredictable

British weather system all year round.

Jordan, who is no stranger to risk or danger, served in the British Army for 10 years, and ran through the 3 most dangerous countries in the world in 2018, which was also the subject of his latest book; Running For My Life.

Jordan is supported by a team of experienced professionals on both land

and at sea including project manager Alex Alley, adventure psychologist Paula Reid, PR manager Katie Brooks, social media manager Mia Mallison and a support boat skippered by Captain Max Rivers and crewed by first mate Tori Wells and filmmaker Alfie Marsh.

You can follow Jordan by subscribing to his YouTube channel.

Getting to know: Andover Town's Football Players

WITH many sports and matches postponed or cancelled in November, we thought it gave us a good opportunity to get to know a little more about some of the players who take to the pitch every week to represent our town.

Today we introduce the second two players: Adam and Tom Pattison. In our next edition, we will meet some more ATFC players.

ATFC PLAYER PROFILE



Name: Tom Pattison
Age: 24yrs
Height: 175cm
Appearances: 39
Goals: 6
Preferred Foot: Right
Preferred Position(s): Central Attacking Midfielder

Previous Teams: AFC Totton, Oxford Brooks University 1st FC
Favourite Football Team: Manchester United
Favourite Footballer: Paul Scholes
Favourite Meal: Thai Curry
Favourite Pass-Time: Skiing
Favourite Film/TV Programme: Silent Witness

ATFC PLAYER PROFILE



Name: Adam Pattison
Age: 21yrs
Height: 182cm
Appearances: 36
Goals: 7
Preferred Foot: Right
Preferred Position(s): Right Full-Back

Previous Teams: Totton & Eling FC, Eastleigh FC
Favourite Football Team: Liverpool FC
Favourite Footballer: Steven Gerrard
Favourite Meal: Chicken Fajitas
Favourite Pass-Time: Golf, Warzone & Baths
Favourite Film/TV Programme: The Inbetweeners

Observer Sport

Inside: Local adventurer hits half way mark on world record attempt | Getting to know: Andover Town's Football Players

Formula Woman Returns

ON Monday, 16th November, Totally Motorsport Group announced that Formula Woman will be making its return following a 13-year absence.

The championship was originally founded in 2004 by motorsport entrepreneur Graeme Glew, who set out to find more novice, female drivers to become involved in motorsport.

Formula Woman's inaugural season was a nationwide success, with 10,000 applicants, and after eight closely fought races it went down to the wire at Brands Hatch where Natasha Firman became the inaugural Formula Woman Champion.

It was a huge hit, televised by ITV in its opening season, broadcast alongside Formula One, and in the second year a new world record was established for the most female drivers at a single motorsport event at Pembrey Circuit in Wales with 62 women taking part.

On Monday an 'Expression of Interest' website was revealed where novice, female drivers can register their interest to participate at formulawoman.co.uk.

Graeme Glew, founder of Formula Woman, commented: "Everyone is looking forward to 2021 and escaping this awful pandemic year. We decided to find out if women out there want to take the challenge to see how good they are at driving. The lucky winners will be driving and racing something



rather special!"

Following the EOI website, and post-coronavirus, will be an applica-

tion process. For now, it's just a case of establishing the level of interest and hopefully offering all applicants the

chance of a lifetime.

After the application process there will be assessments, which will be

televised at tracks across the United Kingdom to see who qualifies for the next stage.

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