



Welcome to our February 2024 Noticeboard

Our second NoticeBoard of 2024. The snowdrops have faded but the primroses are peeping from the hedgerows and the daffodils give a welcome flash of colour. Spring is almost here and it is so good to have the lighter evenings. There is much to look forward to and a lot has been happening in the Forum so where shall we start?.....



<https://www.aopf.co.uk/campaigning> or if anyone would like a hard copy please contact our Secretary, Wendy. (details at the end of this Newsletter).

Social Prescribing Day



Social Prescribing Day is about celebrating our community achievements and thanking all who help make them happen and this year it will be held from 2pm to 5.30pm on Thursday 14th March at the Health Hub, Chantry Centre (formerly the Vaccination Centre). The most exciting thing is that this year Andover & District Older People’s Forum will have a stand at the Health Hub. We hope to be displaying all the things we have been doing and chatting to people about the Forum. So **do**, if you can make it, come along and support **your** Forum. Bring your friends, partners, sons, daughters as well – the more the merrier.

New Hospital Consultation



The New Hospital Consultation ends at midnight on Sunday 17th March and many of our Members have participated in on-line sessions and some live Question and Answer presentations. In addition our Forum has sent an Open Letter to Hampshire Together in response to a previous Open Letter from doctors. Andover Forum’s letter is entitled “**Déjà vu or Lessons Learned**” and can be found on our website here....

Test Valley Draft Local Plan



TVBC are consulting on the draft Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 2 between Tuesday 6 February and noon on Tuesday 2 April. The consultation is your chance to

get involved in shaping the future of the Borough. The plan can be accessed online however there are also hard copies available at Beech Hurst and Former Magistrates Court in Romsey. Also at local Libraries including Andover, Romsey, North Baddesley, Lords Hill and Chandlers Ford.

AOPF will be submitting a response to this latest TVBC Local Plan consultation and will focus on housing for older and disabled people plus threats to the Iron Age Museum due to cuts in funding and how this will counter TVBC's focus on preserving our heritage.

Digital Skills for Health

The Social Prescribing Team at Andover PCN are working alongside Unity to provide support for those unable to access NHS services such as the NHS app or would like to build their confidence in accessing on their personal device(s).

The next Digital Skills session they are running is on the **25th March at King Arthur's Hall from 10am to 12pm**. This session is to provide information to those in the community about the NHS app including its benefits of use and to support individuals to download and access the app on their devices. All are welcome, even those without their own personal device.

Booking is required by telephoning the **Health Hub** on **07436145096**. Further Digital Skills sessions will be available throughout the year.

Recycling Update

We were in Sainsbury's in Andover recently and noticed they had a battery recycling area which is really useful. Apparently they do a plastic bag recycling service as well.



Remember too Dobbies Garden centres still recycle all compost bags and plastic plant pots.

SuperDrug is still collecting all our empty pill packaging / blister packs for recycling.

Also at our last meeting Claire Godding of The Countess of Brecknock Hospice Trust told the Forum that they have a green collection bin outside the ambulance station where they collect clothing for which they receive money towards their Charity.

Cat Lovers Countdown



Do you have a feline friend – or two? Did you know that as from 10th June all cat owners in England must ensure their furry companions are microchipped? This measure is aimed at making it easier for lost

or strayed cats to be returned home which has got to be good news. If your cat is found without a microchip after that date you have a grace period of 21 days to have one implanted or risk a fine of up to £500. Microchipping is a one-time expense lasting the lifetime of your pet.

Update from the Force Crime Prevention Team



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary have recently issued a warning regarding **Sheep Worrying**. They tell us: - *Sheep across the county will soon be bearing lambs and we are urging people to take care now to ensure they are not disturbing pregnant ewes. Whilst the majority of dog walkers are responsible, there are a minority who put the welfare of other animals at risk. When walking with your dog please keep these key points in mind to help with the welfare of sheep:*

- *Keep dogs on leads or under close control around livestock.*
- *If there is no livestock nearby, keep your dog in sight at all times and be confident it will return when called.*
- *It is a criminal offence for a dog to actively worry livestock and the owner can be prosecuted.*



They also remind us of the **Blue Lamp Trust's Bobby Scheme**.

The Bobby Scheme is a free service where trained police-vetted fitters will visit a home to carry out a full crime prevention and fire safety survey and fit items such as locks and smoke alarms.

It is free to those who are vulnerable due to age, circumstance, disabilities or a victim of a household crime. Anyone can make a referral, including individuals, friends, family and doctors.

To find out more call 0300 777 0157

Meals on Wheels

Health and Independent Living Support (HILS), now operates a meals-on-wheels delivery service across Hampshire.

- They operate from four sites across Hampshire (Winchester, Fareham, New Milton, Andover), six in Hertfordshire and two in West Sussex.
- They employ 430 team members, many facing barriers to employment
- They provide a range of services that support and promote independent living for older, disabled, and vulnerable people
- They support around 18,000 people each year

They deliver meals across Hampshire 365 days a year, all hot and fresh. We know it can be confusing for people to know what they are entitled to when it comes to meal delivery services, so we are hoping that at our next meeting (which is also our AGM)

someone from HILS will be coming along to enlighten us and tell us all about the service.

Our next Meeting

Our next meeting is an important one as it is also our AGM so we hope all our members *old and new* will come. It will be at the usual time of 2.15pm start, doors opening at 2pm and finishing at 4.15pm and is on **Thursday 25th April 2024**. It will be held at our usual venue **Andover Community Church, Charlton Road, Andover, SP10 3JH**. As well as the usual business of the day we will have a guest or two, all to be revealed nearer the time.



activities, ideas and campaigns which affect those of us over the age of 55.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us to keep this Notice Board interesting.

Please send your thoughts to us at andover.opf@gmail.com or by mail to:

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Take care; stay safe and well and we hope you all have a very enjoyable summer.

With very best wishes from your
AOPF Executive Committee



The AOPF Members Notice Board is for all of us to enjoy, read and stay connected with each other with news,

