



Noticeboard July 2021

NEW VENUE ANNOUNCEMENT

As you may know, we have been looking for somewhere new to hold our meetings since The Rendezvous has become unavailable. Thanks for the suggestions many of you shared with us.

After much research we are pleased to announce we have found a good alternative and we have already booked it for our first 'proper' meeting in what seems like a long time. It is the Gilliat Hall at 28 Marlborough Street, Andover SP10 1DQ. It is wheelchair accessible, and whilst there is some parking on site, there is additional parking nearby. There is also a kitchen so we can look forward to preparing our own refreshments. Many of you may know it as the Scout Hall.

Our first meeting there will be on Tuesday 28 September 2021. Do please put it in your diary - this is going to be a celebration!

See the photo below taken from Marlborough Street.



You may have seen that Test Valley Borough Council are holding a consultation to gather people's views of Vigo Road Recreation Ground. The Andover Masterplan sets out a number of exciting possibilities for spaces in and around the town centre, one of the suggestions being to extend the Vigo Recreation Ground. They are therefore keen to get as many ideas from locals on how this may look and work. Imogen Colley of TVBC said.....

"We would like to speak to different groups, one being Andover's older residents, to understand your thoughts. For example: do you use the park, have you used it in the past, what would make it a place you would like to visit?"

We appreciate that currently people may not feel comfortable meeting face-to-face so we will be carrying out this consultation in different stages.

- We are holding a socially distanced event to chat in person about ideas for the space – this will be on the 27th July 10am – 11.30am at St Marys Church, Andover where refreshments will be provided.*
- There is also an online survey which can be accessed via this link: www.testvalley.gov.uk/vigosurvey2021. Please do share this with friends and family members to complete too.*
- We will have a shop unit in the Chantry Centre on the 30th and 31st July for you to pop-in to give us your views if you would*

prefer to do this, rather than to complete the online survey.

It would be enormously valuable to hear your views, thoughts and experiences; and your involvement would be greatly appreciated. Anyone is welcome to attend either event or indeed all events, to contribute to the suggestions.

If you are interested in attending the socially distanced, in-person meeting on the 27th July then please call Imogen Colley (TVBC Community Engagement Officer) on 01264 368 958 or email to book a place.

Thank you

OPCC Hampshire Community Group Outreach

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire is hoping to set up a network of Older People's Groups across Hampshire to exchange views on what they feel is their biggest concerns of crime in their area. The aim is to gather public opinions, ideas and identify priorities. Our Committee Member joined a virtual meeting with other Groups in Hampshire, even as far away as the Isle of Wight, which he found most interesting. He has agreed to be our contact so now it is up to us. What are your concerns? Is it a lack of police presence; is it Scams, anti-social behaviour? Please let us know either by mail or email and Brian will put it all together and put our views forward.



TOOLS WANTED!

AOPF Member, Peter Pontin tells us that **Tools with a Mission (TWAM)** is a charity that collects unwanted trade tools, sewing machines and haberdashery.

Trade tools include builders', carpenters', electricians', gardeners', plumbers', motor mechanics' and garage workshop tools.

At TWAM headquarters at Ipswich tools are cleaned, sorted and put into kits and shipped to the developing world to enable families to break free from poverty, to earn a living, to feed their families and to send their children to school.

A TWAM van collects from Peter's home every ten weeks, and he would be happy to collect tools from you. So please start looking in the shed, the loft, the garage and let Peter know if you've managed to find useful tools. His number is 07813 702 911



NHS UPDATES

In our last Special News Bulletin we told you of the plans to transfer patient data to NHS Digital on 1 July 2021. Due to the general outcry of the plans not being consulted on or made general knowledge, this date has been extended to 1 September 2021. In this extra time it is hoped

that debate will take place with a greater understanding of the implications.

On 1st July the government published a consultation on aligning the upper age exemption for NHS prescription charges with the state pension age. [from 60 to 66] This would bring it in line with other concessions such as the Bus Pass in England.

The [consultation](#) seeks views from the public, healthcare organisations and staff on options for implementing a change in the age at which people in England become eligible for free prescriptions from the current age of 60, to 66 years of age. The Consultation will last until 1 September 2021.

Garden Corner

What to Plant and Garden Care in August



For much of the country, the growing season is in high gear with temperatures soaring and gardens overflowing with their bounty. While you may think it's too late to sow anything else this year, that's simply not so! You still can plant some short-season edibles and other ornamentals to refresh faded flower beds. For edibles, pay attention to how long it takes them to mature to decide if you really do have enough time for a harvest before the frost arrives. If your first frost is usually mid-October, and the seed package or plant tag says an edible is "45 days to maturity," you likely still have time for a

harvest—especially plants that prefer cooler weather, such as greens. If your flower pots and beds are looking saggy, it's also a good time to add perennials that will have time to establish root systems before winter. And no matter what you plant now, keep watering during dry spells! Typically, here are two planting suggestions for August:



MARIGOLDS: These sturdy annuals will keep going strong until the first hard freeze, so add some to fill in sparse containers or to dress up beds that need late season colour. Marigolds come in bright yellow, orange and cream so they complement autumn's hues if you plan to decorate later with gourds and pumpkins. Varieties to try: Cottage Red, Endurance Gold



RADISHES: Talk about instant gratification: Radishes are one of the fastest-growing crops around. In about 30 days, some types are ready to pick; in fact, you don't want to wait too long to harvest because they can become woody. Varieties to try: German Giant, French Breakfast



TOMATOES: To care for your Tomatoes, remove the lower level leaves from your tomato plant to help reduce its risk of disease and keep it thriving for longer. When a tomato plant's growth is dense or when the leaves lie too close to the ground this can mean that the leaves are permanently in the shade. By removing the lower level leaves from the plant the remaining leaves have more space and access to sunlight so are

more likely to stay drier and free from soil containing pathogens, thus they are more protected from disease

MEMBER'S NOTICE BOARD

The AOPF Members Notice Board is for all of us to enjoy, read and stay connected with news, 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 we look forward to better and safer times ahead.

With very best wishes from your AOPF Executive Committee.