



UK
2024
September
Noticeboard
Newsletter



September already!! Where has the year gone? Never mind, we have lots of news so welcome to our Notice Board and what is the first to come up?

International Day of Older People

1 October 2024



Each year on 1st October, people across the world mark **United Nations International Day of Older People** to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges faced by ageing populations, and to mobilize the wider community to address difficulties faced by older people. Each year in October the Andover & District Older People's Forum (AOPF) have a "Full of Life" event to mark the Day. Each year we

have taken a different subject affecting the Older Generation. Last Year we concentrated on Diabetes, the year before there was an Intergenerational theme, and before that Arthritis and Mobility Issues and many more. Does anyone remember some years ago an event, "Harnessing the Grey Vote"? It was held at the Lights and we had representatives from the main Political Parties on a Panel and we fired questions at them.

So What is Happening this Year?

Many of our members and readers of this Notice Board will already know and we are most excited about it. The Forums Full of Live event this year is:

'Ideal Home Exhibition'



Andover & District Older People's Forum's Full of Life Event is on Thursday 3rd October and is our 'IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION' event with housing advice for the over 55's



Especially for Older People with housing advice for the over 60's

Date: Thursday 3rd October 2024

Venue: Andover Community Church, Charlton Road, Andover.

Time: 1.30pm-4.30pm

There will be Speakers on housing and adaptations, Benefits and Entitlements plus the importance of Home Safety. There will be around 20 informative Exhibition Stands and we are happy to announce the Official Opening will be by the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Ian Jeffrey.

Spread the word and do come along and join us for lots of useful information and a busy Event.



Bank Closures

Our High Street Banks are gradually disappearing causing concern to many of our members, many of whom are not able, for one reason or another, or do not wish to embark on online Banking or bother with Apps and Smart Phones. The good news is that most bank services can now be accessed through the Post Office, Providing you have a Debit Card and your PIN Number you can draw money from your Bank Account and see your balance. You can pay cash in too. Even if you wish to credit your bank with a cheque that you have been given, most banks make this possible through a Post Office. You will need a paying in slip and a Bank envelope. If you do not have a paying in slip just

phone your Bank and ask. They will probably send you the special envelope as well but most Post Office Counters have some in stock.

Some Bills can be paid at the Post Office too. Utility Bills such as Energy, Council Tax, Water, and Housing can all be paid at the Post Office.

If you have a tradesman's bill or other service bill, you can pay them by telephoning your bank with details. This is usually an automated system and can be tedious but it is a safe way of paying bills.



If you do favour paying by Cheque, Action Fraud Awareness has sent out the following warning about some of the risks you face if your cheque gets into the wrong hands.

- An individual cheque or cheque book is stolen from you.
- A cheque is intercepted in the post (eg: they are sent by post to a charity or appeal – the envelope is intercepted, cheque removed, payee's name changed, and paid in online).
- A cheque provides criminals with your name, sort code, bank account number and signature – with that information they can set up a direct debit, as well as take out loans/credit in your name.
- A fraudster pays you for goods or services using a stolen cheque, or

deposits a fraudulent cheque into your account.

Please report cheque fraud to Action Fraud. Report lost or stolen cheque books (or missing cheques) immediately to your bank (they have a 24-hour emergency number printed on your account statements).

You can get free, confidential help from Victim Support if you've been affected by a scam:

Tel: 0808 16 89 111 (available 24/7)



New Law for our Pets

On Saturday the 24th August 2024 a new law affecting all dog and cat owners came into effect. The Pet Abduction Act 2024 recognises that dogs and cats are not inanimate objects, but sentient beings capable of experiencing distress and other trauma. Under this Act anyone found guilty of pet theft in England or Northern Ireland could face up to five years in prison, or a fine or both. The Pet Theft Taskforce evidence suggests that around 2000 dog thefts and more than 400 cat theft crimes were reported to the police in 2020 causing significant distress for both Pets and their owners.

The Dog's Trust has welcomed this law coming into force. Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director at Dogs Trust says, "Having your beloved pet stolen is an extremely stressful, heart-breaking experience. For most owners, pets are members of the family, and being separated from them, without knowing where they are, is devastating. However, despite the obvious emotional impact pet theft has on families and owners, until now it has been treated no differently to a mobile phone or laptop theft!

"Along with this new law, there are other ways owners can reduce the chances of this despicable crime happening to them. Never leave your dog unattended, especially in a public area, and if you are walking them off lead, always keep them in sight. You should also be careful with what details you share online about your canine companions.

"Not only is it a legal requirement for your dog to wear a collar and ID tag in a public place and to be microchipped, these two simple steps will also help to get your dog home to you as quickly as possible if the worst does happen."

Remember as of 10th June 2024 it became law that all cats in England that were 20 weeks or older must be microchipped and registered in the National Database. Hopefully with the help of these new laws we can keep our treasured companions safe.

31st October 2024

Bringing up the rear and bringing October to a close will be the next

meeting of the Andover & District Older People's Forum.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the Andover Community Church, Charlton Road, Andover on **Thursday the 31st October** at the usual time of 2pm for 2.15pm start. We are looking forward to hearing what you thought of "Full of Life" Event and sharing other news and views. There will be refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends.

An exciting Guest Speaker has been invited to come along and join us, but at the time of writing the booking has yet to be confirmed so it is a secret. Don't worry though, as soon as we know for sure, so will you. Look out for the next Notice Board at the beginning of October but do put the date in your diary now.

...and finally,...

Jack met an old friend who was retired and asked how he was finding retirement.

"Oh fine," he replied. "I was advised to take up a hobby so I took up bell-ringing, just a couple of hours a week

and I really enjoy it.

"The trouble is the Bus Driver is absolutely livid!"



The AOPF Members Noticeboard is for all of us to enjoy, read and stay connected with news, activities, ideas, campaigns and with each other – about items which affect those of us over the age of 55.

Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us to keep our Notice Board interesting. Please send your thoughts to Wendy Rayner, AOPF Secretary, 22 The Dell, Vernham Dean, Andover SP11 0LF

Take care; stay safe and well and we hope you all enjoy this lovely summer.



With very best wishes from your
AOPF Executive Committee