



Welcome to our Notice Board for **May/June 2022**

A SPECIAL INVITATION

At our AGM meeting in April it was suggested that our next Committee Meeting should be open to any of our members that would like to share their views or advice or simply listen in. The next Committee Meeting is on **Thursday 9th June 2pm to 4pm** and will be held at Riverside Bowls which is 22-30 Bridge Street, Andover (above Wilko Store). It is on the first floor but there is a lift.

If you are interested and can make it can you let Wendy, our Secretary, know... on 01264 737 251 or email andover.opf@gmail.com as **we need to know numbers**. Thank you. Look forward to hearing from you.



INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT - 'TALKING ABOUT OUR GEN..GEN..ERATION

Everyone worked really hard to get this show on the road; no one more so than Mollie, our Events Organiser. It was held on the 18TH MAY 2022 AT ANDOVER BAPTIST CHURCH here is Mollie's Report on the great day.



Well our event has come and gone – leaving us members of Andover and District Older People's Forum with much to think about!

We would certainly want the 'Andover for all Ages' that Stephen Burke, our guest speaker from the national group 'United for all Ages' talked about. He gave an excellent talk and a slide-show citing different ways and models of achieving this in small and larger ways, and hopefully sowed a few seeds of possibilities amongst our audience of stallholders, public and members. We would have liked a bigger audience but realise that Covid has slowed down attendance at such events. None of the local nursing or care homes who were doing so much good intergenerational work 'pre Covid' felt safely able to attend. Like their hospital colleagues, they are still adhering to Covid safety procedures about avoiding too much public mixing to avoid risk to their patients.

This week was also dedicated to 'Mental Health Awareness' which can affect any age group and it was great to have displays from Andover MIND, the Older Persons Community Mental Health Team and Sporting Memories. Apart from our Forum for older people, we were fortunate to have displays from Age Concern Hampshire, Brendon Care Clubs, and 'I Can therapy' and Valley Leisure.

The Voluntary Sector organization Unity which supports us all across the age spectrum was represented and positive health advice came from the Proactive Care Team and the Falls Team as well as the British Red Cross with first-aid guidance. Test Valley Borough Council was consulting on the Local Plan and the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group were asking about our local health concerns.

It was lovely to see a display from Bawksbury Federation of schools and hear from teachers and pupils about what they are doing now and possible thoughts on intergenerational linkages for the future. The display board was an excellent example of intergenerational collaboration. Stephen, our guest speaker, was certainly impressed by this and all our displays. Many thanks to all stand holders for all the hard work they put into the event.

What crowned the event for me was the empathy and enthusiasm exhibited by Andover Town Deputy Mayor, Cllr Rebecca Meyer, who opened our exhibition and showed such an interest in all the displays.

We hope that further initiatives will develop from this launch event which will benefit all age groups and my thanks to my AOPF colleagues who helped the day run smoothly.



Hampshire County Council to cut £320,000 from adult social care budget

Readers of Notice Board will recall we reported that cuts in non-statutory provision proposed by Hampshire County Council were the subject of a public consultation exercise which ended on 21st March 2022. Our Vice Chairman followed it up and gave an update of their response in our last Notice Board.

The following article by David George appeared in "The News" (Portsmouth.co.uk)

The fear now is that if these charities cannot provide the service, more people will enter the health and social care system, costing the county council more money than is being saved.

MHA Communities is one of the services supported by the county council, which gets elderly people out in groups and offers one-to-one support.

Scheme manager Anna Miles branded the cuts as 'short-sighted'.

She said: 'We understand the need to make savings across the board, but I believe services like ours justify the continuation of funding. 'We help to keep people active and out of the health and social care system. No savings made outweigh the benefits of these services.'

Opposing Liberal Democrat spokesman for health and social care, Councillor David Harrison, said: 'What is sometimes regarded as a saving can become the complete opposite of that. 'I believe we are making a huge mistake. Do we really want to compound the social care problem by having more people seeking help at an earlier stage?'

The Platinum Jubilee

70 years since the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. Where has it gone?

What do you remember of the Coronation?

Our Secretary said she could remember the Street Parties and Dickie Valentine's "In a Golden Coach" continually being played on the wireless as it was then. "However when the day came we were one of the few with a television so my parents invited everyone round to watch. The front room was full of people all looking at this 9 inch black and white screen and my Mum, always a generous hostess, provided plates and plates of sandwiches and endless pots of tea."

We asked one of our Members, Peter, what he remembered and here is what he said.

What do you remember,.... what do I

remember? Not much these days!

But I do remember it rained. I remember it rained and to me it seemed it rained all morning! And I mean from early morning, and as the day wore on my uniform absorbed water and became heavier and heavier! Like many hundreds of service men and women I spent the day, sort of on parade, or marching, or worse still, standing at ease in the rain, waiting to move on. I was doing my National Service at the time.

Although on the day, my rainy day, I saw little other than those in front of me, listening to the music of regimental bands as they passed; like many others I remember the Queen of Tonga who appeared to enjoy it more than anyone else! She had shunned the covers put over the carriages of the dignitaries and happily braved the British weather to smile and wave at the gathered crowds.

Come to think of it, since then, often when miserable or nervous, saying what a pleasure this was or that was, when it wasn't! Like when making a speech or giving a talk, her cheerful example has stayed with me.

All because of the Queen of Tonga!

In later life I have been privileged to be officer in charge of the Royal Train and to take our Queen to many places of work and have seen that same smile. The Royal smile first witnessed all those years ago.

So finally, may I say... "God Bless the Queen"

Peter

MEMBER'S NOTICE BOARD

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