



Welcome to the first Noticeboard of 2024



So far the year has brought wind and rain but we are all hoping for better weather just around the corner.

One AOPF Member has already seen the first daffodil in the garden so perhaps Spring is on its way.

Our first Meeting of 2024

The first meeting of the year of AOPF took place on the 18th January with a full Agenda covering the New Hospital Consultation, Iron Age Museum closure, Hampshire County Council cuts but more of that later on. After refreshments we were glad to welcome our special guest speaker Anne Godding from **The Countess of Brecknock Hospice Trust**. Anne was able to tell us all about the new facilities and the work that went into the fundraising and getting the new build completed. We heard about the day-care room, the support given to patients living at home and how they did everything they could to cater for all their inpatients' wishes and needs in the hospice which could be anything from a party to having a cuddle with their pets. If you were one of the audience I am sure you agree Anne's talk was enlightening and inspiring and we thank her for taking the time to come and speak to us.

Now on to other news

New Hospital Consultation.

Have you heard? The NHS in Hampshire is consulting on proposals to build a new hospital,

invest in Winchester hospital and make changes to acute hospital services in Basingstoke and Winchester. It is important that we have a say in how services could be delivered in the future.

The consultation finishes on 17th March 2024 and live and virtual meetings are still being held so please take part if you can.

Consultation dates by Virtual meeting on-line are:

- 10th February 2024 10.00am
- 14th February 2024 7.00pm
- 24th February 2024 10.30am
- 1st March 2024 2.00pm

If you wish to attend one of these meetings

- request a ticket by email : hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net
- or by telephone on 0300 561 0905

or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER Additionally we can join with Andover Breath Easy at their Zoom Meeting when a presentation will be made. Please let Mollie Antrobus know if you are interested so she can share your email address confidentially for a link to be sent.

We have also been invited to join Romsey STOIC to attend their listening meeting on 12th March 2024 at Crossfield Hall in Romsey. There will be a Pop-Up display in the Chantry Centre later in the month and details of the consultation will be in GP Surgeries and Community Centres.

The Forum had hoped to arrange a special meeting with a Speaker and Questions and Answers and give our views on the proposals in the early part of February. Unfortunately the dates we offered have not been taken up at this time.

Hampshire County Council Budget Cuts

Jenny Kay, our Chairman, together with Brian Kay attended one of the Virtual Consultation meetings and here is their report.

We joined the virtual meeting half an hour late owing to a prior engagement but we felt we got the main gist of the meeting.

We were given an outline of the three proposals that are in place which can be found via the following:

<https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/>

After this we were split into groups headed by one of the speakers present at the meeting. We all had an opportunity to put our views; I was able to quote from the comments that had been voiced from our members at our AOPF meeting the day before.

I brought up the question about the lack of a heliport in the new plans that Haydn Watkins, our Vice Chair, had brought up and although it was agreed it would help to have one and may still be considered the Dr leading our group did comment that the money could be spent in other areas rather than solely on the heliport.

I brought up the point Mollie Antrobus, our Events Organiser had mentioned, whether the new plans would make a difference to the AWMH outpatient facilities and was assured that we will still get the full amenities including outpatients.

The plans are for more Rehab facilities in local areas. To increase specialist nurse run care in the community to enable patients to return home sooner and relieve hospital places and to receive more treatment such as cancer care in our own homes.

We did get the impression that our voices are being heard and that they hope people will come along to the meetings that are arranged to inform us more about the three alternatives proposed.

One of the consequences of the HCC budget cuts could be the closure of the Iron Age Museum. Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), which has been warned of a £600,000 grant cut, said it may close five venues.

Launching a consultation on planned service cuts on Monday, Hampshire County Council leader Rob Humby said "tough decisions" were needed to find the necessary savings.

The authority said household waste sites at Alresford, Bishop's Waltham, Fair Oak, Hartley Wintney and Hayling Island were most at risk of closure.

It said it planned to withdraw all funding for homelessness support services, which could result in the closure of emergency hostels.

Street lights in some areas would be switched off from midnight until 05:00 GMT, instead of the current three-hour period of darkness.

The council said it would also end funding for community transport schemes, bus services, some school crossing patrols and three adult social care grant schemes for organisations.

It said 4,000 people would also be asked to pay more towards their home care.

How to have your say.

The consultation runs from midday on 8 January to 11:59pm on 31 March 2024. There are 13 service change proposals in total and views can be provided on some or all of them, as preferred.

Responses can be emailed directly to Hampshire County Council via: insight@hants.gov.uk or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE. (Please also write PandO, IEU, FM09 on the back of the envelope). Copies of the information packs are available at the Hampshire library.

Where possible, residents are encouraged to consider completing the consultation Response Form online as this will help save money, both in postage and in staff time in manually entering responses to the consultation. Maybe a friend or member of your family can assist with this?

For any queries about the consultation or if a paper copy of the Information Pack or the Response Form does need to be requested, or a copy in another language or format (such as audio, large print, or Braille) please contact: insight@hants.gov.uk, or call: 0300 555 1375.



The Social Prescribing Day is about celebrating achievements and thanking all who help make them happen making a difference to people’s health and wellbeing.

This year **Social Prescribing Day** is on **Thursday 14th March 2024** at **2pm-5:30pm (set up time from 1pm)** **Health Hub, Chantry Centre (formerly the Vaccination Centre, Chantry Centre)** and the Andover Forum have been invited to take part to showcase our community group. We have confirmed that we would be delighted to have a stall but will need some help from our Members. If you can help in any way, either setting up or with the manning of the stall please email us or telephone Mollie direct on 01264 354134.



Firstly did you know that Hampshire County Council has a resident’s forum called ‘Hampshire Perspectives ‘ which was set up

during the Covid shutdown and which consults through short surveys on various issues of relevance to the public?

Secondly, do you understand what is meant by ‘SAFEGUARDING’?

The following information is taken from the Hampshire County Council website but leaflets are available at Adult Services Offices.

Report Concerns

The well-being and safety of local people is our main concern, and we adopt a zero tolerance stance on the abuse, neglect or discrimination of any person but particularly people at risk or in vulnerable situations in whatever setting. There is good partnership working at the local level when concerns are raised and services work together effectively to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

If you are concerned that you or another adult is being neglected, harmed, or abused in any way, please do not ignore it. Any suspicion of abuse or neglect should be reported to Hampshire County Council Adults’ Health and Care.

- If you or someone else is in imminent danger, phone the police on **999**, or call them on **101** if it is less urgent.
- If your request is urgent and you need support in the next 24 hours contact **Adult Services** on **0300 555 1386** opening times and ‘out of hours’ numbers are below.

Telephone Services Opening Hampshire Adult Services

Please be aware, at busy times, there may be a wait for your call to be answered.

0300 555 1386

Out of hours 0300 5551373

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm

Monday to Thursday 5pm to 8.30am

Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Friday 4.30pm to Monday 8.30am

All day on Bank Holidays

What will happen next?

If you report concerns because you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused or you are being abused yourself:

- You will be listened to and your concerns will be taken seriously.
- Your concerns will be looked into fully and fairly.
- You will be involved in decision making and trained staff will work with you to stop the abuse and agree with you steps to protect you from further harm.
- You will get advice about the help and support available.

A Rose by any other name

How many of us experience what have become known as “Senior Moments”? Many of us devise little personal tricks to remember names or where we have put things. We came across a book devoted to Senior Moments and the anecdote we found below rang a few bells with us.

Two elderly men, Ernest and Philip, are having lunch together when Ernest turns to his friend and says, ‘My wife and I went to a wonderful restaurant last night.’

‘What was it called?’ asks Philip, noticing the sudden look of confusion clouding his friend’s face.

‘What’s the name of that flower that women like to get?’ asks Ernest.

‘A Carnation?’ suggests Philip.

‘No’ Ernest frowns and looks thoughtful before adding, ‘It’s red and has big petals.’

‘Poppy?’

‘No. It has a thorny stem.’

‘Oh,’ Philip nods, ‘you mean a rose?’

‘That’s it.’ Rising from his chair, Ernest wanders over to the staircase and shouts upstairs, ‘ROSE! What’s the name of that restaurant we went to last night?’

Our Next General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will also be our

AGM. The date is Thursday 25th April 2024. The venue will be the same **Andover Community Church**, Charlton Road, Andover, SP10 3JH. Normal start time..... doors open @ 2pm for a 2.15pm start to 4.15pm close. See you all there 😊



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:

Wendy Rayner
AOPF Secretary
22 The Dell, Vernham Dean
Andover
SP11 0LF

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

