



Andover & District Older People's Forum AOPF's Notice Board & Newsletter September 2023



Welcome to our September Newsletter. August Bank Holiday brought some welcome sunshine and it is good to see everything ripening nicely.

Operational framework for adult social care intervention in local authorities

Published 8 August 2023

Meanwhile we have been looking at some news items which we hope you will find interesting. As you all know **Adult Social Care** has been high on our Agenda for many years, indeed since this Forum started, we have been asking questions and watching new schemes and changing policies and campaigning for improvements in **Adult Social Care**. However there may be some better news on the horizon and our first headline is:

The Department for Health and Social Care has published an operational framework intended to provide information to local authorities in England on the Government's approach to statutory intervention in adult social care.

This sounded complicated so we looked to the publication "**Local Government Lawyer**" for some clarity here is what they say:

New powers of intervention were introduced through the Health and Care Act 2022.



These powers enable the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to intervene where they are satisfied that local authorities have failed or are failing to discharge the Care Act 2014 functions to an acceptable standard.

"We expect these powers are likely to be used in the most serious cases – for example, where a serious and persistent risk to people's safety has been identified and other forms of support are insufficient to drive improvement," the guidance says.

Unlike interventions in children's social services, there is no power to set up independent trusts.

The framework is aimed at directors of adult social services, chief executives and elected members of local authorities. The guidance covers:

- *Background and aims of the framework*
- *Intervention powers*
- *The process*
- *Improvement support*
- *Statutory intervention*

Since 1st April this year, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has been under a duty to independently review and assess the performance of local authorities in delivering their adult social care functions.

“These assessments will provide a greater understanding of practice and provision at local level, making it easier to see what is working well or not, and make good practice, positive outcomes and outstanding quality easier to spot and share nationally,” the guidance says.



The CQC will also be under a duty to inform the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care if it considers an authority is failing to discharge its functions and to recommend any special measures it considers the Secretary of State should take.

Let us hope this latest initiative will lead to improvements in our Adult Social Care system. We will watch with interest.



Banks and Post offices are removing cash withdrawal machines! But there are new government measures underway.

These new measures will state that free cash deposit and withdrawal points must be no more than one mile away for people living in urban areas, rising to three miles in rural areas.

It makes clear that the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) should use its powers to maintain this level of coverage, while recognising that needs may change over time.

Banks and building societies which fail to provide free, working cash machines could be fined by the financial services watchdog.

The Treasury Economic Secretary Andrew Griffith said cash had "an important and continuing role to play" despite the shift away from reliance on coins and notes.

However they admit this is unlikely to halt the ongoing closure of the High Street Banks.

On the other hand it will be interesting to see if the rule for there to be cash points no more than three miles away in Rural areas were implemented since for many of our members living in the villages in and around Andover their nearest cash point at the moment is between 4 and 5 miles.

Full of Life Event ... Thursday 5th October 23

Our Topic is DIABETES



Well the time is nearly here for our 5th October's Full of Life Information Day on Diabetes. If you saw

our last Notice Board you would have read about the planning of the event and our application for a grant and the picture of the cheque presentation by Councillor Zilliah Brooks to help towards the costs of running the event. And no doubt now you will see posters of the event on noticeboards, in magazines and other publications in and around Andover. You can find it advertised and lots more information on Facebook and if you have access to our website it will be there too including a programme of events planned for the day. Alternatively you could listen to Andover Radio as I believe we are also getting a mention on there so we are expecting lots of support.

The Mayor will officially open our marketplace of up to 20 stands and displays full of useful information to us all but before that there will be keynote talks from medical colleagues. Remember 1 in 4 of us who are over 70 could be diagnosed as being at risk of type 2 diabetes but for some it is preventable and for others managed with treatment. So come along to find out more from the experts and those who are diabetic. There will be Exercise/ Dance to Music sessions in Room 3 from the team at Andover Leisure Centre and Wiltshire Farm Foods will be with us offering taster sessions of

their nutritious options of delicious food with diabetes in mind and of course we will provide our usual refreshments and we will hold a raffle.

Entrance to our Full of Life event is free but donations would be very welcome as even, after our grant there will still be event costs to cover. We are attaching a printed poster for you. If you can display it or pass it on to a friend, that would be great.

We are really looking forward to you joining us.

Thanks, Mollie.

We are including a poster for the October 5th event and ask you to share it with friends and family and maybe even to put it up where it can be seen by others who might want to join us. Maybe even in your local shop window? Thanks if you're able to share it with others.

Housing News



AGEING BETTER URGES UK GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL ACCESSIBLE HOMES PLEDGE.

More than a year has passed since the government pledged to raise minimum accessibility standards for new homes, but no action has been taken yet.



To mark the anniversary, Ageing Better sent a letter to the Financial Times urging the government to follow through on its plans. Here is what they said:

Despite the government's announcement in July last year that it would raise the accessibility standard for new homes, we are still waiting for

the consultation on the implementation of these plans, four years following the Conservative manifesto pledge.

The announcement of new homes being built is to be welcomed, providing that these homes are fit for purpose — and as stated in the new 10-point plan should be “safe, decent and warm”. However, we know from government-commissioned reports that creating homes via permitted development rights is akin to building the slums of the future and certainly does not come anywhere close to addressing the needs of disabled and older people in this country.

The UK builds more than 13,000 homes a month, but very few of them meet the accessibility criteria that are vital to ensure disabled and older people can live with dignity and independence. With a quarter of the population projected to be over 65 in less than 20 years, we are accumulating an accessibility debt that will burden taxpayers for generations to come.

We urge the government to take swift action and implement its commitment to accessible, adaptable housing without delay. The clock is ticking.



SUMMER 2023

Our AOPF Web builder and IT lady, Di, has had a wonderful summer and we asked her, before Summer totally disappears, to share her travels with us – so here goes.....

Hello AOPF friends and members – as Wendy said, my name is Di and I’ve had an amazing summer. In the middle of May we took the ferry from Portsmouth to Le Havre to start a 3000 mile road trip through France and down into Spain and back again. We stayed in fabulous hotels and Air B&B accommodations and all were booked before we set off, and all were excellent.

Honfleur

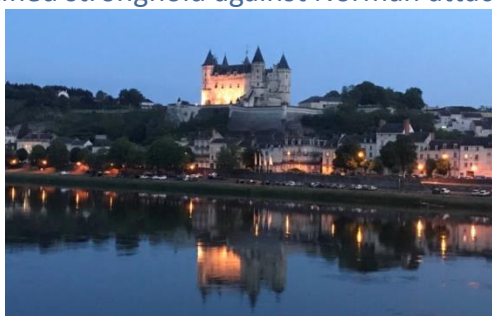
We started our trip spending a night in Honfleur. Google tells us.....

Honfleur is a city in the department of Calvados, in northern France's Normandy region. It's on the estuary where the Seine River meets the English Channel. The Vieux-Bassin (old harbour), lined with 16th to 18th century townhouses, has been a subject for artists including Claude Monet and native son Eugène Boudin. Nearby is 15th-century St. Catherine's Church, a vaulted timber structure erected by shipbuilders.



Saumur

From Honfleur we travelled to **Saumur** and stayed in an hotel overlooking the Château de Saumur which resides majestically above the Loire River in the town of **Saumur**. The Château de Saumur was originally built as a castle and later developed into a château. It was originally constructed in the 10th century by Theobald I, Count of Blois, as a fortified stronghold against Norman attacks.



Île de Ré

We then visited the **Île de Ré** which is an island off the west coast of France. It's known for its salt marshes and beaches, backed by dunes and pine trees. Nearby is the Phare des Baleines lighthouse offering expansive views. The main town of St-Martin-de-Ré has the 17th-century Fortifications of Vauban, plus outdoor cafes overlooking the marina.



The Millau Bridge / Viaduct

We visited and drove over the Millau Bridge, also known as the **Millau Viaduct** which is a multispan cable-stayed bridge constructed and completed in 2004. It crosses the gorge valley of the Tarn near Millau in Southern France. The design team was led by engineer Michel Virlogeux and English Architect Norman Foster. As of September 2020, it is recorded to be the tallest bridge in the world, having a structural height of 336.4 metres (1,104 ft).



The Millau Viaduct is part of the Auto Route from Paris to Béziers and Montpellier. The cost of construction was approximately €394 million, and was built over three years. It was opened to traffic on 16 December 2004. The bridge has been consistently ranked as one of the greatest engineering achievements of modern times, and received the 2006 Outstanding Structure Award from the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

PALS

Pals is known as one of the most charming villages to visit on the Costa Brava. It is perched on a hilltop and was

built around a fortress and has kept its medieval look so well that a visit to Pals is like travelling back in time.

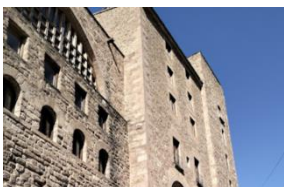


The historical centre has been looked after very well and local traditions and gastronomy have been cherished up to today, which makes a trip to this village really special. Several gastronomic and cultural events are organised throughout the year, and the surroundings are simply breathtaking, with an unspoilt beach, dunes, wetlands and rice fields, all part of a natural park.

Parador de Cardona

We stayed in the Parador de

Cardona which stands on a promontory in a 9th c. castle. It is one of the most impressive medieval complexes in Catalonia. Its privileged location offers visitors an exceptional view of Cardona, the Pyrenees and the interior of Catalonia.



Inside the Parador are moats, towers and Gothic walls are combined with a décor designed for comfort and furnishings inspired by Catalan medieval art. The restaurant, located in the old refectory, is one of the most impressive in the Paradores portfolio. You'll be amazed by the gallery of pointed arches as you savour the best in gastronomy.

Xàbia or Javea

Our destination and turning point in Spain

was **Xàbia or Javea** to visit good friends who have retired and moved there. It is situated on the most easterly point of mainland Spain about 100 kms from Valencia and 90 kms from Alicante.

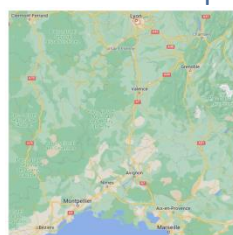
The World Health Organization has recognized Javea for having one of the best climates in the world. The summers are neither too hot nor too cold, and the same can be said of the rest of the seasons. Not only is the climate usually sunny and mild, low humidity makes even the hottest days very pleasant. People suffering from asthma and allergies will also feel better in this healthy, almost perfect climate.

We stayed with our friends for a few very enjoyable days. The restaurants around Javea are a delight.

Riverboat Cruise on the Rhône

Our Road Trip took 4 weeks and we returned home in mid-June. We visited a number of very interesting places on the way back to Honfleur..... namely Zaragoza, Donostia-San Sebastian, Pau and the Île d'Oléron. On our trip we met with friends in Coulonges-sur-l'Autize and they suggested a Riverboat Trip would be a good idea for us, as the 3000 mile road trip was a constant in and out of the car unpacking cases on an almost daily basis. So, we have just returned from a wonderful Riverboat Cruise in France, cruising down the Rhône. It was equally as enjoyable as the Road Trip but unpacking our cases just once...!!

Here are a few pictures from our trip.



Riverboat Cruise from Lyon to Avignon down the River Rhone in France



We hope you had an equally enjoyable Summer with fun trips and holidays away and time with your friends and families. Here's to a very good warm and healthy Autumn 2023 for us all.

WHEN IS OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next General Meeting will be at our usual venue of the Baptist Church, Charlton Road, Andover, SP10 3JH on Thursday 23 November 2023 start time 2.15pm. If there is anything members would like to discuss and suggest as a topic, please let us know. It is your meeting and we always look forward to your input, ideas, thoughts and news.

FINALLY.....

How does your garden grow? We have seen some great photographs of bumper veggy harvests from some members with gardens this year but one gentleman who has little space for growing claims, "I'm not as fit as I were!" has done very well with pots. He has had potatoes, Kelvendon Wonder peas, carrots and dwarf beans – "Enough for a boiling" he says. Looked good to us.



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 and stay safe.

With very best wishes from your
AOPF Executive Committee

AOPF

ANDOVER & DISTRICT
OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM



Our Full of Life Information Day on Diabetes

DATE: THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 2023

TIME: Doors Open 1^{pm} Event from 1.30 to 4.30pm

VENUE: ANDOVER BAPTIST CHURCH, CHARLTON ROAD,
ANDOVER SP10 3JH

- **Facts & Support**
- **Meet & listen to the Experts**
- **Keynote Speakers: Dr Hermione Price,
Consultant Diabetologist and Dr Sarah
Sierens, Local GP**
- **Information Marketplace with display stalls**
- **Exercise sessions to Music available**
- **Food taster sessions**
- **Raffle & Refreshments**
(please bring cash for these)



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