

the Miller's Tale



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PARK SURGERY INJECTING HOPE INTO THE COMMUNITY

By Doreen Lewry

With three different vaccines now being made available we are all looking forward to a return to normality at some stage this year. So what is happening locally?

Park and St Francis Surgery have joined with Fryern Surgery to roll out the enormous task of the vaccine programme in Chandlers Ford. At Park Surgery on the Hursley Road, we will be welcomed, in turn, to receive our vaccines. This will depend on when vaccines are supplied to surgeries.

All the local surgeries ask that you do not contact the surgery by phone to enquire about your Covid-19 vaccination, as this is diverting their resources and blocks phone lines for people who are not well.

They will contact you to book an appointment for your vaccination when it is your turn, and do remember to go to your appointment!



Only the patient can go into the building, unless with a child or vulnerable person. You need to wear your face mask. As we all know the advice is to stay at home, unless for essential reasons. If you do leave home you should always stay local and that means stay in the area where you live.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

With around one in three people having coronavirus not showing symptoms, they can still pass it on. We need to do our best to take care of ourselves and everyone around us. When we are out for our exercise or shopping, please think of others and give them space. We all must know someone by now, who has had the virus and each one of them will tell you, it is not pleasant.

Use the NHS 111 coronavirus service if you think you may have the virus. Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Park Surgery are doing a great job with reports of people in and out within 20mins. Considering we have to stay for 15mins after having the vaccine, that is a very quick turnaround. Please be mindful that there is limited parking at Park Surgery, but there are other carparks just a short distance away, if you need to travel by car.

If you can't get there under your own steam there are local schemes which can help. Chandler's Ford Good Neighbours, One Community and Chandler's Ford Help. See next page for details:

**Stop the spread:
Keep washing your HANDS,
covering your FACE
and making SPACE.**

Getting Help

What help can Chandler's Ford Good Neighbours offer me?

Our services include:

- driving and then escorting people to local medical appointments, including doctor, dentist, optician, physiotherapist, podiatrist
- taking people to hospital appointments and wait there with them
- helping with shopping, either taking someone to the shops or doing the shopping for them
- taking someone to visit their partner in a local care home
- other small tasks – call our co-ordinator to find out whether we can help

• 07914 757380



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the Information board



During the current restrictions hire of the North Miller's Dale Community Hall is not available.

Organisations offering assistance:

One Community:
023 8090 2400

Chandler's Ford Help:
07493 087 427 / 07340 910 784

Chandler's Ford Good Neighbours: 07914 757 380

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North Millers Dale



By the Editor

I'm not sure if what has just gone was a memorable Christmas or one that we would rather forget! Still if you are reading this then I guess you will have survived it! Let's hope the new year will eventually allow us to start living our lives with a degree of normality. Last year meant that many of the things we had enthusiastically planned for had to be cancelled or postponed. Things like our Bletchley Park coach trip, which would have been a full coach, were not to be. If possible we would like to try this again and hope that we can get the same brilliant support as we had last year.

Since things are still not back to normal, we thought we would carry on the concept of including a theme in our January Miller's Tale. This time by spotlighting a few of the hobbies that people have found themselves with more time to pursue. We hope that maybe, one or two of the articles might motivate others to give them a try.

In a way they add to some of the already featured ideas in previous editions, such as volunteering, writing and painting. We've been very lucky to have had some inspiring and talented local contributors sharing their skills and stories with us.

Daves Boyes has suggested that we could maybe introduce a collectors corner in future issues, which could highlight some of the strange and not so strange things that people like to collect. This could be expanded on the NMDCA website to give more time and space since most collections will be extensive and couldn't have justice done to them within these pages. Let us know what you think.

Useful Numbers

Instead of thumbing through the Telephone Directory or Yellow pages to find that important number, look no further than the Miller's Tale. If you have any suggestions for a useful number that is not included please contact us

Editor Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562
Gillian 07917 858 752

Emergencies

Electricity (Power Cuts) 0800 072 7282
Gas (escapes) 0800 111999
Police (non urgent) 101
Southern Water 0330 303 0368

Schools

Hiltingbury Infant School 023 8026 5414
Hiltingbury Junior School 023 8026 1808
Knightwood Primary 023 8026 1900
Merdon County Junior School 023 8026 5255
Thornden Secondary School 023 8026 9722
Toynbee Secondary School 023 8026 9026

Post Office

4 Ashdown Road 0345 722 3344

Local Services

Chandlers Ford Library 0300 555 1387
Eastleigh Tourist Information 023 8026 5500
Eastleigh Borough Council 023 8068 8000
Blue Star Buses 01202 338 421
Zelabus 02380 644 715
Southampton Int Airport 0844 481 7777
Red Funnel Ships 023 8001 9192
Railway Enquiries 0871 244 1545

Medical Services

Park Surgery, Hursley Road 023 8025 2131
St Francis Surgery, Valley Park 023 8025 2131
Boyatt Wood Surgery 023 8061 2051
Fryern Surgery 023 8027 3252
Eastleigh Health Centre 023 8061 2032
Southampton General Hospital 023 8077 7222
Winchester Hospital 01962 86 3535

Dentists

Hursley Road Dental Practice
157 Hursley Road 023 8026 7141
Vital Dental Care
67 Bournemouth Rd 023 8026 7889

STAMPING ON BOREDOM DURING THE PANDEMIC



By Dave Boyes

What a year we've had. Whatever happens over the next few weeks or months, one thing is certain, life will not be the same as it was. Enough said. However, I believe there will be positives moving forward.

Many months ago I submitted an article on bridge for beginners. This proved very successful, but it was curtailed by Covid. However, I now play competitively on a platform called StepBridge. Anyone interested I can provide further details.

After decluttering and clearing the garden shed everyone has had to think of other things to do.

I have always been an avid reader and have continued to do so. I have now stepped up a level and started writing a book which is not as hard as you may imagine. The secret is to write about a subject you know and enjoy. Go on give it a try.

Now returning to the main reason for writing this article. Being under lock down has allowed me to spend much more time on my greatest passion viz, cataloguing my collection of postage stamps, whilst listening to music from my extensive record collection in my little "den".

Like many others, of my generation, I started collecting stamps when at school in the 1960's. This lapsed when I went to University. I then got married and embarked on a new career in the Construction Industry. I renewed my interest in Philately in the 1980's and now have an extensive collection, containing stamps from all over the world.

Unfortunately, collecting seems to be in the domain of the elderly, as the younger element do not appear to be interested. I imagine this is partly due to current technology and the fact that the use of stamps on snail mail has dramatically reduced in recent years.

This is a pity as stamps provide an enormous wealth of knowledge. They are little works of art depicting many topics such as flora and fauna, birds, reptiles, butterflies, moths, amphibians, fish, fungi, sports, Olympic Games, transport, space missions, architecture, Christmas, the list is endless.

Some collectors confine themselves to specific topics and these are classified as "Thematics". Others concentrate on single countries such as Great Britain, or areas that have a particular interest for them.

Stamps are produced in numerous formats. There have been well over 500 Great Britain Machin Definitive's produced. This is the standard British



postage stamp showing the head of Queen Elizabeth II. There are also many commemorative issues produced each year to mark special occasions. There are booklets,

presentation packs, miniature sheets, First Day Covers and regional issues for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

Whilst many stamps may appear to "look" the same, they are different owing to changes in perforation, water marks within the paper on which they are printed, the method of printing such as photography, lithography or recess, phosphorescent or fluorescent markings. Many of these processes

are provided for security and to eliminate fraud.

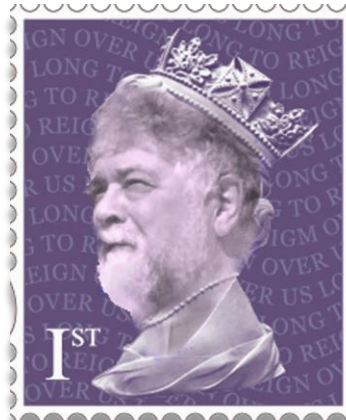
My particular interest is researching the history and development of countries. Germany, Africa, The Balkans, China and Russia are fascinating.

I am currently a member of the Southampton & District Philatelic Society. I was a member of other societies but these have now closed due to lack of support.

There are numerous ways of acquiring stamps. One particular way is by Auction. S&DPS run around four a year, currently these are postal only. This method provides a relatively economical way of obtaining large quantities of stamps.

I have now become somewhat of an expert in valuing collections and am more than happy to buy or arrange to sell, any unwanted collections, found in attics and the like.

Should anyone be interested in taking up this fascinating hobby or wish to sell their collection please contact me via The Miller's Tale.



A FAIRWAY TO SPEND MY TIME RUNAWAY RESULT

By Ursula Nicol

After announcing my retirement from Hampshire County Council in 2007, all escapees were offered a course of Golf Lessons (in case we got bored I suppose). 6 Lessons for £30 at the local Golf Range. Bargain I thought.

That was the start. I enjoyed it, though definitely not a natural. I joined the weekly mixed tuition group and from there met others who wanted to try and progress. Romsey was my first club, but when I say challenging, one hole is called 'Heart Attack Hill'. Enough said.

For various reasons, I didn't play for a few years, but about four years ago, encouraged by a gym pal, I started back at Otterbourne (a great 9 hole, par 3 beginners course- pay and play at that time).

This time I have persevered and since then have joined three enthusiasts who play regularly at Chilworth Golf Club.

Well now, of course, I am hooked (sorry), and play three times a week, (usually only 9 holes to be fair). The 3 Professionals at Chilworth are very approachable and they run coaching sessions in the summer which cover every aspect of the game. It does make a big difference, as does having the best possible clubs you can afford. (I was able to buy a really good second hand set from the shop there). My problem now is not leaving them behind on the course from time to time!!

Unless you are very talented (or young), it's a slow improvement with Golf, but it's a tantalising game, as the perfect round is nearly always out of reach. You either drive off well, and the putting lets you down, or you sink difficult putts, but find you are hacking your way down the Fairway.

The highlight of my 'golfing endeavours' so far, was on a sunny day in February 2019 standing on the First Tee at Otterbourne (138 yards), with my friend Katie. She said 'go ahead' as she wasn't quite ready. So off I drove, only to hear her say, 'It's on the Green' 'No wait it's in the hole'. She played her ball, and when we approached the green, if I remember rightly we tiptoed up, not sure why, and there it was, in the hole. Well we did a sort of gleeful dance around the hole, and I've kept the ball ever since. Needless to say a complete fluke, but it raised my confidence which keeps me ever hopeful.



By Richard Mollon

I started to go running when my Round Table Chairman said he lived next to Southampton Common and ran a mile each day before breakfast.

Then, whilst at work, a colleague overheard me boasting about this mile and invited me to run with her and others, around where we worked. Later, I was invited to join the company club with its own changing rooms.

Whilst most people were younger than me, neither a young age nor fancy outfits were..

Cont'd on page 5



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required. Just good running shoes and the will to run up, down and along Bournemouth cliffs. So I lost some weight, lowered my blood pressure and after some 20 years had completed 2 half marathons (13.1 miles) averaging 9 minute miles, finishing in around 2 hours.

Around North Millers Dale, the pedestrian and cycle paths are wonderful for running as are the woods when they are dry.

So joining a running club is helpful. Identifying suitable running mates you can talk to whilst running, is a good way to make new friends. Locally, there is Chandler's Ford Community Running Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chandlersfordrunners/> that you could join.

SNEAKY TACTICS

By Janet and Keith Turner

We've played croquet weekly for five years (until March!).

Although it's a friendly, exciting game, it's not genteel, as it's purported to be, but from beginner to National level is hard fought and requires skill and planning, demanding strategies of defence and attack.

A croquet lawn is 35 yards by 28 yards. There are six hoops, played in order in different directions, and a centre peg. Players have long mallets and play their own ball – blue, red, black or yellow. Each hoop is 300mm high and 95mm wide. The ball is 92mm diameter giving only 3mm clearance between ball and hoop.

Association croquet is played in singles or doubles. In doubles the aim is to get the balls of both members round the course in order and finish by hitting the centre peg. A turn can consist of hitting your ball through the hoop or with your ball hitting any of the other three balls. This lets you place your ball against the one you hit and play your ball again sending off both balls

GROWING A HOBBY

By Neville Spindler

Gardening has been one of the things that has kept me sane during 2020. During the spring lockdown, I spent a lot of time in my garden and at my allotment. There is something special about starting and planting your own plants and flowers at home and growing your own produce.



I have always enjoyed growing plants - it's something that I inherited from my mother; she loved her garden. I grew up in New Zealand but came to gardening in the UK in 1999. It was a new challenge to learn about the different soils, weather patterns and plants. The first spring I planted tender plants far too early and they failed. I hadn't allowed for the fact that you can still get frosts in May.

My favourite flowers are dahlias, but since living in the UK I have grown hostas and have about 100 of them, mainly in pots. I have come to like Salvias and grow these from cuttings. There is a sense of achievement when you manage to grow your own plants or rescue failing plants.

I enjoy growing produce and was lucky enough to obtain an allotment. We grow a range of vegetables including runner beans, French beans, beetroot, onions, courgettes and leeks. There is nothing like picking your own produce to eat. We have tomatoes in pots at home and this year grew cucumbers for the first time. I think it is important to encourage young children to garden and I love seeing the youngsters next door to us working with their Mum in the garden.

and entitling you to have another shot, whilst limiting your opponents' chance of scoring. So when you think it's all over, it isn't – your opponent can knock your ball from its planned route and sneak in to win.

Golf croquet is simpler with shorter games. The aim is to be first to run the hoops in correct order while the opposition's balls can be knocked aside. The winner is first to score seven hoops.

It takes time to develop skills but we've had fun throughout, for croquet has many positive attributes providing gentle outdoor exercise.

If you think croquet sounds difficult, just remember poor Alice who had to play a game with live hedgehogs for balls, doubled-up soldiers for hoops and, for mallets, live flamingos who would keep curling up their heads to examine players.





Kids Corner

- Clues Across**
- Baby Sheep
 - Built by birds for eggs
 - What does a bird lay?
 - Transparent jelly in pond
 - Too much rain causes
 - Caught with a rod
 - Pink flowers on trees



It's a cracker!

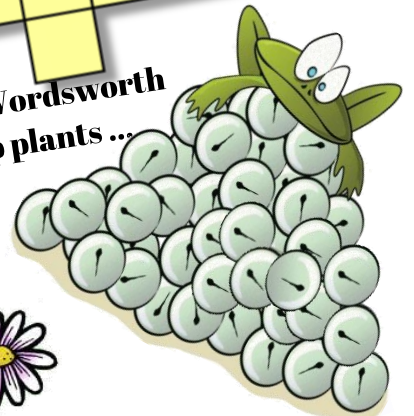
Did you hear that toy production was down at Santa's workshop?
Many of his workers have had to Elf isolate!

Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?
Because there was no Zoom at the inn.

Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown?
Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.

Clues Down

- White & yellow lawn flower
- Put in the ground to grow plants
- Month after March
- Yellow flowers liked by Wordsworth
- Water and sunshine help plants ...
- Baby birds



Collectables:

My grandson has introduced me to all sorts of things that are 'must haves' to collect. Do you know what series these different things belong to and how many do you have?



These are.....



These are.....



These are

THERE'S NO FLIES ON THESE WILY FISH.

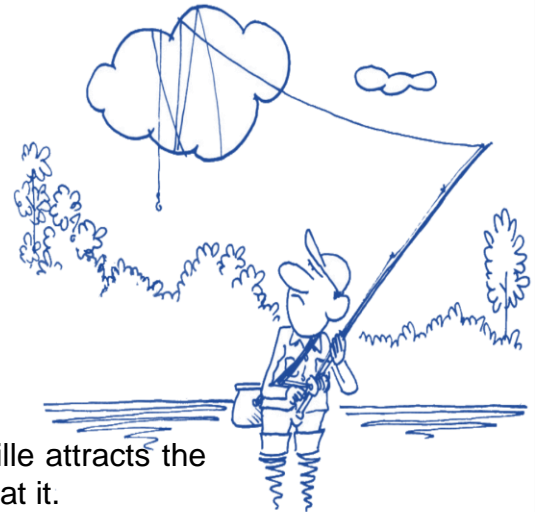
By Richard Mollon

I have fished all my life but for the last 30+ years, I specialised with trout fly fishing in Hampshire and Dorset on smaller still waters. The fish are brown or rainbow trout and some of them are very large, say 6 to 20 lbs.

Given the fish are big and the lakes relatively small, they are usually caught long before they become too clever for the anglers. But here is the thing, the size of a large trout's brain is that of a garden pea. But don't be fooled by this because many is the time that the angler catches no fish.

The fishing tackle you need is specialised: a carbon fibre rod of say 9.5 feet to cast a line described as a WF 4-7 weight. On the end of the thick fly line is a trace of hi tec fluorocarbon that is almost invisible. On the end of

the trace is an artificial fly tied to a hook, that is either floating, or sinking. This either imitates a natural insect to try to catch a wily trout, or it is a bright woolly thing whereby the movement of the silky like chenille attracts the trout who tries to eat it.



The cost of the equipment can be modest. Two to three hundred pounds would provide reasonable tackle, although a friend might help you out as well. The real cost is the ticket to catch the fish, roughly £20 a fish so it pays to concentrate on catching the bigger stuff. That requires country skills and being in the right place at the right time with the right fly sums it up.

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PULLING THE WOOL OVER THE EYES OF THE BRITISH ARMY

By Joyce Meader

I knit for both film and TV programmes. The film companies don't give you much time to complete projects, but pay what you agreed to and give you a set contract and a set of rules.

The TV gives you a whole day's work and then they use 5 mins of it and cut it to death. They never mention money and expect a lot. You can see which one I prefer to work for!

When you are asked to work for a film such as 1917, they ask what you can do for them and at what price and then you get on with it. The yarn arrives and my crew and I start knitting. I have a team of knitters and we provided balaclavas, mufflers, fingerless mitts and jumpers for the film. They ask interesting things, like what colour pallet are you using? If it looks good in green and brown, I use it. I had knitting out workers for this as they wanted as many items as possible. I pressed friends into working and they also have friends that knit. You normally get 4 weeks to produce the items but I did ask them to give us five weeks so we could do more. In the end my crew and I managed 28 mufflers, 21 balaclavas, 18 pairs of fingerless gloves (on 4 needles) and 7 sleeveless tops. As you can see, I could not have knitted all this as there are not enough hours in the day. The fifteen of us managed to produce all the items. I must blow my own trumpet now and say I made 15 pairs of gloves plus a few other bits. When it came to posting the last batch of knitting, I arrived to collect the last jumper and Margaret which was pressing as I went through the door. We were working up to the wire.

I remember when I was asked to knit for War Horse. They said they would need "heaps" of balaclavas, and when I



managed to pin the costume girl down, she said she needed six.

I can knit that many, so no problems there. So on with the balaclavas. I had made 3 and was then asked if there were any other designs for them. I did ask would they be needing any long johns? I thought that Benedict Cumberbatch would need at least 2 fittings, but sadly she said no.

When it comes to paying, you send in an invoice and then the money appears in your bank. At the end of War Horse, it got to 3 months and still no money. So I rang accounts. They asked for a new invoice and when the money arrived, I had holiday pay included because I had been on the books for so long.

It is great to see your work on the screen and it gives you bragging rights. At end of 1917 we had a works outing to see the film. It was time to play spot your knitting. It is great to see your work out there and I do hope there will be other films to work for, but let's hope there's more in the way of colour.

Joyce Meader is a historical knitting expert who owns a very extensive collection of commercially printed knitting patterns. Her collection ranges from the 1817 to the present day.

These patterns have been put to good use. They are used to create items for re-enactors, museums, and private clients. Examples of the places that have asked for knitted items from Joyce include The National Army Museum Chelsea and the Museum of Army Flying Middle Wallop

Joyce's recently introduced reminiscence therapy session 'Memory Fair' has proved popular and useful with patients from Alzheimer's and other dementia related conditions.



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Email: manager@lanterninns.co.uk

Following a recent update from Rob Preston, the Farmhouse managing director, he told the Miller's Tale that work has finally started on replacing the old extractor system with a much better cleaner system. It is hoped that it will reduce noise and odours.

Sadly, like many businesses, the Farmhouse was forced to close its doors after the post Christmas lockdown. Looking forward to February, Rob says that the Hiltonbury Farmhouse is investigating the economics of takeaways, meal kits, etc. but the resumption is a question of staff being available. We look forward to the resumption of business as usual.