

PHONEY ACTIVITIES

By Charles Lewry

Mobile phones have evolved dramatically from those early days of carrying a house brick sized battery with a strap around and considering whether making a phone call could be justified or afforded. And of course it was, just that, a phone, nothing else. In those days they were the preserve of the wealthy few or



business employees who needed them for their work.

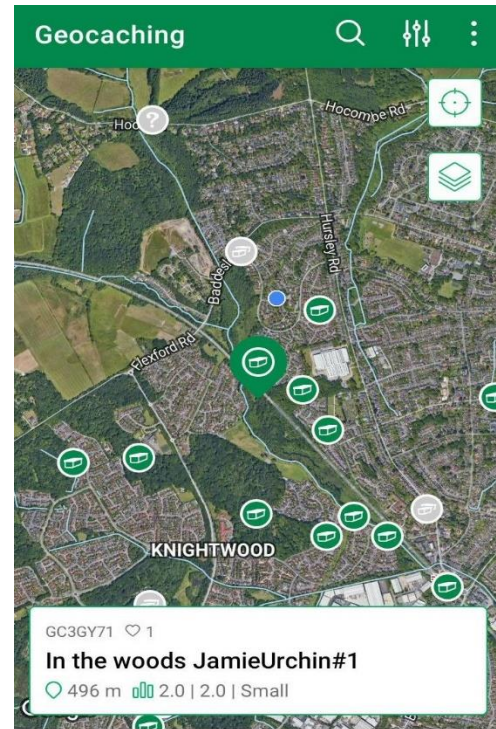
Nowadays there is hardly a person who doesn't own an amazing phone/portable computer and take its ownership pretty much for granted.

One of the functions that has revolutionised mobile use is the incorporated GPS (global positioning system). This uses an array of low orbit satellites to accurately define the location of the phone on the surface of the earth, to within a few metres. For the keen walker knowing exactly where you are in thick cloud on a mountain, can be a life saver. But, for the family going out for a Sunday stroll, it can also open up many interesting possibilities.

As a way of making a walk a little more engaging, there is 'Geocaching'. This is essentially a GPS led treasure hunt. Caches that can be tracked down are

hidden at specifically defined places around the world. There are, in fact, several located within a short walk of North Miller's Dale and even one actually on the estate.

Using the Geocaching App on your phone, you can discover these containers. The boxes will sometimes contain things which you can swap with an item of your own, (say a key ring or small toy or something similar). There is usually a log sheet and pencil to enter your successful finding of the cache. Occasionally the cache will be part of a string of clues leading you to the final location in a multi-cache sequence. Look at geocache.com to get more details.



Screenshot showing our local Geocaches

For younger participants, there is an App called Pokémon Go, which implements Augmented Reality by using the phone's camera to combine the real world with virtual Pokémons. The participants can walk around trying to find these creatures and 'capture' them to use in subsequent gameplay. To get the most out of this, and to my mind, the complicated rules and points system, I would recommend looking at one of the YouTube introduction videos. Just be aware, there is an option within the game to purchase 'Pokécoins' to use for various powerups, so you may want to ensure your kids don't empty your bank account!

Another mobile/walking activity in our area is organised by the Pavilion on the Park in Eastleigh. They created a Fairy Door trail using the 'Actionbound' App, to guide people between hidden doors with puzzles to solve on the way round. This App is free to use for individuals and could be applied to devising your own scavenger hunt for friends and family.

So if you've got children (or adults) who spend all day indoors staring at their phones, why not get them outdoors with their phones instead?

Would you like to Advertise in the Miller's Tale?
Contact editor.nmdca@virgin.net for details and rates



the Miller's Tale

A BIG CHARACTER IN THE COMMUNITY

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of one of our NMDCA committee members, Dave Boyes. He played an active part in our committee meetings and was a mine of information on all sorts of subjects. He was an enthusiastic contributor to the Miller's Tale and recently wrote a fascinating article in our hobbies edition.

Our Committee Chair, Gillian Warde, reflects on her association with Dave.

I first met Dave at a Local Planning meeting. I was a member of North Miller's Dale Community Association and a number of members had gone to listen to the discussions re planning permissions for the Hiltonbury Farmhouse. He explained to me the ins and outs of a planning meeting and was patient and knowledgeable. Dave's background was engineering and construction and he also had been a Chandlers Ford Parish Councilor. It was interesting talking to him, and I learnt a lot. I then met him again at a social event for Ampfield Bridge Club, where we sat with him and his wife Avril.

Over the years I have found Dave to be a remarkably interesting character with lots of different interests, a man who liked to be involved with and was interested in people and the community. He contributed to the Parish Council and in the last few years has been on the Committee of North Miller's Dale Community Association.

At the heart of Dave's life were his family. His wife Avril, his son Adam, Adam's wife Jo and their children. I met Adam when

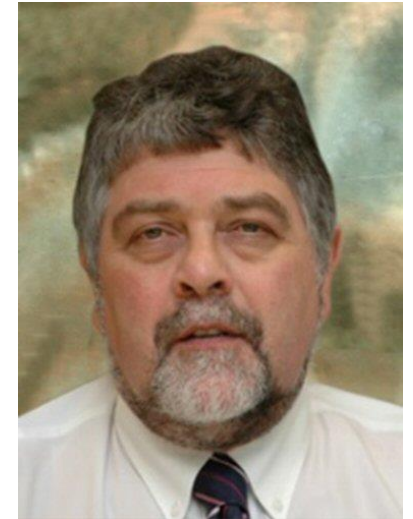
he was having a family meal with his parents at the Farmhouse. You could see how close they all were.

He had a wide range of interests. Bridge was one of Dave's passions and he played every Tuesday night at Ampfield Bridge Club. He had played with his partner for ten years. Dave also taught Bridge on a Friday at the Fryern Community Centre. He was an avid stamp collector, read a lot and enjoyed music. He talked to me about playing rugby and running.

Over the various lockdowns I realised that he was suffering from bad health. We used to meet him when he was out taking a short stroll as, like all of us, he was fed up with isolation. We used to have a good chat. Recently, he had become more comfortable with technology, starting to play Bridge online and joining in our committee Zoom meetings.

There was a strong sense of community in the Ormesby Drive area where Dave and Avril lived and they always took part in social activities. They and their friends came to the North Miller's Dale quizzes and took part in our events.

Our thoughts are with Avril, Adam, Jo and family at this time.



Inside this Issue

Dave Boyes	1
Notice Board	2
Local Focus	2
Useful Numbers	2
D of E Close up	3
Setting Sail	4
Painting A Picture	5
Kid's Corner	6
Flexford Reserve	7
Walking Group	7
Keeping Mobile	8

the Information board



To hire the North Millers Dale Community Hall

Contact via Phone

Matt on 02380 2747 weekdays or email hoot@little.com

When calling please email: editor@nmdca.org.uk

Copy to Keyholder

Doreen 02380 268562 doreen@nmdca.org.uk

Newsletter editors

Charles Lewry



Gillian Warde:



Contact:

Articles or Advertising: 023 80268562

editor@nmdca.org.uk

Website www.nmdca.org.uk

North Millers Dale Community Association

Or drop articles into: 8 Weavers Place North Millers Dale



By the editor

Welcome to our Summer edition of The Miller's Tale.

Life is still far from normal but with vaccinations approaching saturation, maybe a little more optimism can be felt. It could be that, as a committee, we can start thinking about what we might be able to do in the way of community events in the future. Probably it is a bit early to get a 50 seater coach full of people for Bletchley Park or Wisley, but we will keep these trips on the back burner to offer for better times.

I am however, hoping to restart our NMDCA walking group activities again on the first Tuesday of August. If that goes well, we hope it will become a regular monthly fixture. Our book reading group has managed to keep soldiering on during the pandemic by chatting together on Zoom, and latterly meeting in the open air.

With the improved weather and the lessened restrictions, thoughts may be turning to outdoor community activities. Certainly Weaver's Place would like to hold, what used to be, its annual BBQ. If your street does something similar please let us know.

And finally, we were all shocked and saddened at the death of Dave Boyes, who I'm sure many of you will have known. His contribution to our committee and the work of the North Miller's Dale Community Association, will be greatly missed.

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

Editors 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

Assistance

Chandler's Ford Help 023 8254 1100
CF Good Neighbours 07914 757 380
One Community 023 8090 2450

RESERVING NATURE?

By Nigel Williamson

Upper Flexford Local Nature Reserve is a microcosm of wild life neglect and destruction so vividly explained by Adam and Jasmine in April's Millers Tale.

Many of you know that, in places, the footpath is hazardous, so much so that it is safer and easier to access the reserve by walking across meadows and between trees, consequently helping the habitat decline. The reserve exists in equal measure for people and wild life; add in global warming and humans are unwillingly destroying the area for flora and fauna.

Who has seen a hedgehog or a grass snake in recent years? Why is the roe deer population down to two or three? It is only if you are very stealthy that you catch a glimpse of them. Where have the rabbits, so populous a few years ago, gone?

Last year a pair of buzzards adopted the reserve and raised three fledglings. A small muntjac deer was spotted for the first time and for the first time Flexford was visited by a pair of red kites. Will these rare creatures, rare for Flexford, return after all the tree felling along the railway line this breeding and nest building spring? Will the kingfisher survive the tree felling along the stream? This appears to be a protected species on paper only!

Insects have not escaped the neglect and decline on the nature reserve. Even common insects are



in decline. Another part of the unfolding story of damage and neglect.

There is much more to this tale at Flexford. The Borough Council and the Wildlife Trust have been encouraged to "restore, maintain and enhance"- this is a quote from the Eastleigh Borough Council Biodiversity Action Plan. The plan identifies the Flexford Nature Reserve as a "priority habitat" since 2012. Perhaps they will - I am ever hopeful! Meanwhile I am establishing a Friends of Flexford Volunteer Group to help the wildlife where we can, but it needs people. You! Covid-19 has interrupted life we know, but if you feel inspired, interested, concerned or bored with lockdown please contact me:

Nigel Williamson
mNwilliamson70@icloud.com
02380 261214

WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS



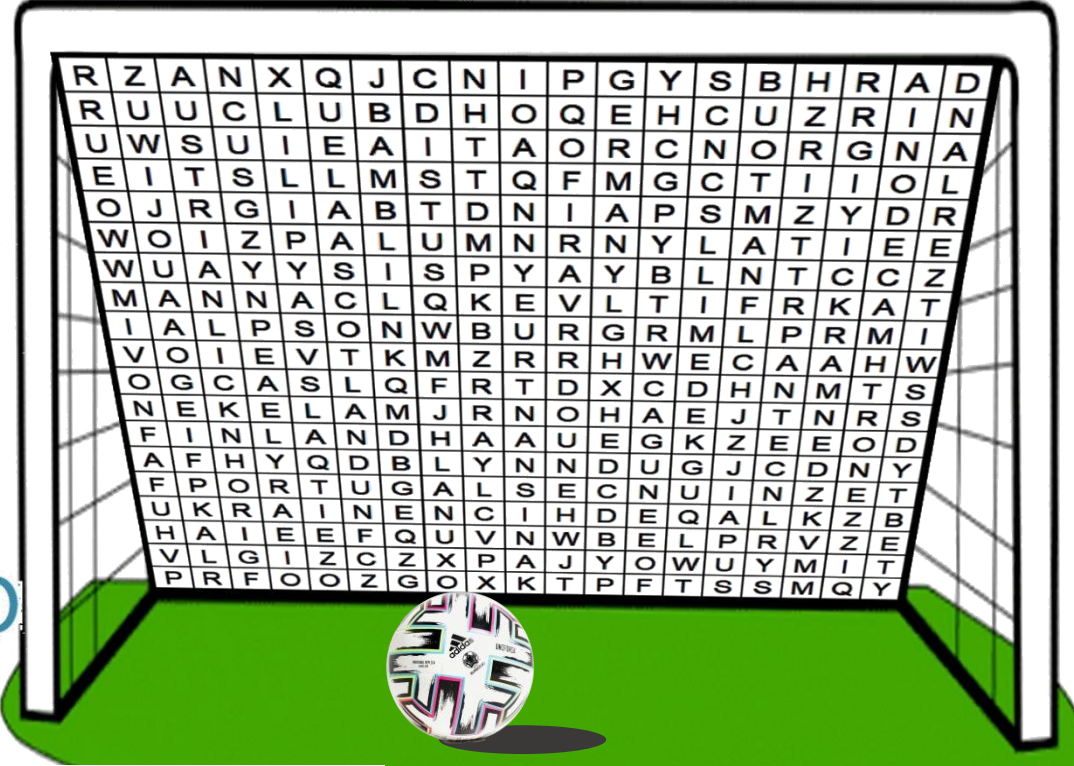
As long as nothing changes with government guidelines, we are hoping to resurrect our monthly walks around the local area on the first Tuesday of August. These are very easy going three mile walks, that I try to vary each month, so that you may find yourself discovering places you never knew existed, just a few minutes away from your home.

If you would like to join us, we set off from the area between the Hiltonbury Farmhouse and the Hall at 10:30 am. Being a circular walk, obviously, it also ends there too. We operate these in conjunction with the Eastleigh Health Walks scheme. There is no need to book, just turn up and we will be pleased to welcome you. To be Covid compliant, we do have to register all walkers taking part.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with me by email on editor.nmdca@virgin.net



Kids Corner



WORD SEARCH

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Austria | Croatia | Belgium | Spain |
| Czech Republic | England | Denmark | Turkey |
| Finland | Germany | France | Switzerland |
| Hungary | Netherlands | Italy | Wales |
| North Macedonia | Portugal | Poland | Sweden |
| Russia | Slovakia | Scotland | Ukraine |

Swanwick Lions Club and Eastleigh Lions Club Duck Race
 Registered Charity Number: 1177500 Registered Charity Number: 1080927
 Promoter: Net Cooper C/O Swanwick Lions Club

32nd GRAND ANNUAL DUCK RACE
Mon 30th August, 2021 (Bank Holiday Monday)
 on the River Itchen from Mansbridge to Woodmill (or near) Start of Race 2.30 p.m.
 All proceeds to local charitable causes. In event that the race cannot go ahead, a draw will take place instead

1st PRIZE: £250 Sponsored by Scott Cables Ltd
2nd PRIZE: £125 Sponsored by Scott Cables Ltd
3rd PRIZE: £100 Sponsored by Chris While plus many more prizes

For more information check us out on Facebook or online at www.swanwicklions.org.uk and www.eastleighlions.org.uk

Registered under the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976 with Southampton City Council
 Draw is conducted in accordance with conditions of the Act

Ticket Price £1.00
 Available from editor@nmdca.org.uk

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

By Gerald Ponting

With all the recent coverage of his death and funeral, I was inevitably reminded of the day that I met the Duke of Edinburgh. This was back in the summer of 1960, when I was a student and a member of a volunteer working party on a nature reserve. Our task, at Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, was to clear scrub, making the habitat suitable for the reintroduction of swallowtail butterflies.

The Duke, in an early commitment to nature conservation before he became one of the founders of WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature), visited four nature reserves in East Anglia that day. The highlight for the press photographers at Wicken should have been a cloud of captive-bred swallowtails as they were released. But as the Duke opened their box, some settled on his hand and none flew away.

In smart suit and wellie-boots, the Duke strode round the fen, chatting briefly to each group of students. I had a beard and was wearing a khaki shirt and forage cap. As he came



up to me and the girl I was working with, he greeted me with 'Fidel Castro, I presume'. A photograph of our meeting appeared on the back page of *The Times* on the following morning.

TOTTON TREE CARE & HEDGE TRIMMING SPECIALIST

- ★ Felling
- ★ Thinning
- ★ Lopping
- ★ NPTC Qualified
- ★ Fully Insured
- ★ Leaf Clearing - Gardens & Drives

5% DONATED TO
 REG. CHARITY No. 296645

*No job too big or small • Quality Work
 Free Estimates • Competitive Prices*

For further details contact Chris Rice
Mobile 07491 280471 Tel: 023 8042 8886
 30 Georgina Close, Totton, Southampton SO40 2BE
 Proof of any legitimate quotation will be beaten



Logs delivered £70 per ton
 Wood Chippings £70 per ton

COUNTDOWN CONTINUES FOR CHARITY CHALLENGE

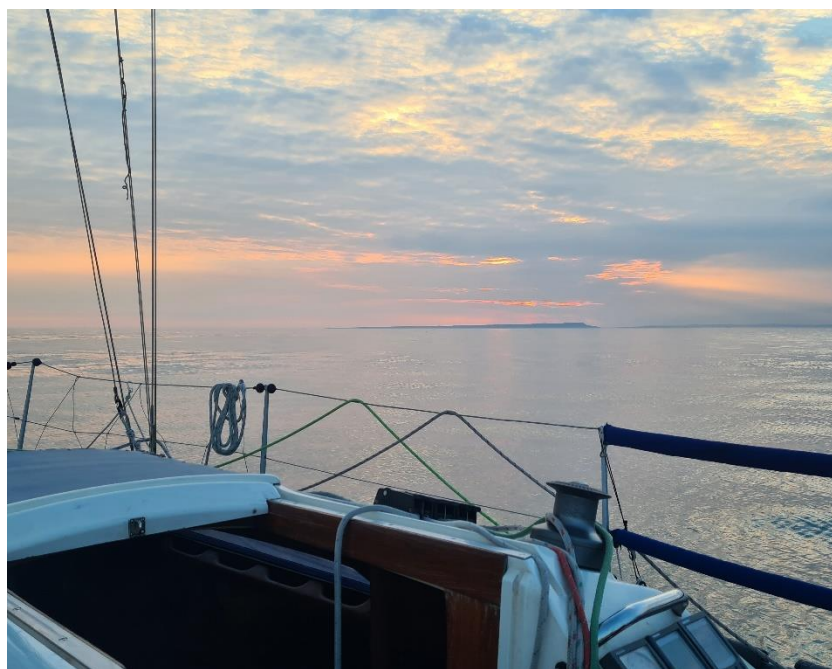
You may remember last month, Jonathan Moon introduced us to 'the return to Fastnet sailing challenge' he was planning to do, to raise money for equipment for use in the home where his father is currently resident. Jonathan has sent us this follow up article, describing how the training for this epic adventure starting on 8th August is progressing.

By Jonathan Moon

The Sailing season is now in full swing, and we have had a real mix, from glorious sunshine and light winds, through to rain and strong winds – and that was just 1 day!

I have now completed the 2-day World Sailing Safety Course, that culminated in a fun couple of hours in a swimming pool, learning how to use a liferaft. It was hard enough getting in and out of a liferaft in controlled conditions in a pool – if you had to do it for real, in a storm with big waves running, well lets hope I never have to find out.

I have also completed my first offshore yacht race, the Myth of Malham Race. This is known as the "Mini Fastnet" as it follows the same beginning of the course, but running for "only" 230 nautical miles as the crow flies (265 road miles – or Chandlers Ford to approx Newcastle Upon Tyne). It starts from Cowes and runs down to the Eddystone Lighthouse (Plymouth) and back. It took us 2 ½ days and 328 miles to complete. The moon rise and stars during those long night watches were something to behold (zero light pollution).



12th – 13th June sees the first training weekend with the team that I will be doing the Rolex Fastnet with, and that will be followed by the qualifying races through June and into July, to ensure we as a crew can sail the boat safely together.

Adding even more poignancy my cousin, Oliver, will also be joining me in the race. He sailed in the 1981



Fastnet with both our father's, as the youngest competitor at only 15 years old. Sadly, Oliver lost his father just a few short months later, meaning the 1981 race and return sail to Essex was the last time Oliver would sail with him.

To follow us, you can do this via a Marine AIS tracker and search for "Escapado" sailing vessel, MMSI number 235061929.

MASTERPIECE MASTERCLASS

By Charles Lewry

One of the few pluses about the lockdown was finding time to revive old hobbies, and in my case painting. The last time I picked up a paint brush, apart from decorating, was in 1990. I have enjoyed dabbling with acrylics, since Christmas, but thought it would be good to learn some new techniques to supplement my skills.

When I heard that local artist, Becks Porter was running small tutorial sessions, now that it was possible to do so, I was keen to sign up. The three hour course starts literally with a blank canvas and Becks guides students through the process of creating your very own 'masterpiece'. All equipment is provided along with tea and biscuits.

One of the joys of the course is that there is something for everyone, whether a complete beginner or a regular painter. I learnt lots of new techniques as well as working with many unlikely tools. Cotton buds, cardboard edges, small sponge squares and dabbing sticks all produced interesting effects.

Becks said 'My aim with these workshops is for people to have fun and produce work they can be proud of, but they're also an opportunity to unwind and take your mind off the everyday stresses of life'. Beck's very laid back style certainly achieves this.



Along with other artists, Becks featured in our October

edition of the Miller's Tale and examples of her work are on the artists galleries page on our website. Becks regularly exhibits her work locally and may be known by some for her 'Free Art Friday' treasure hunts, where the lucky finder gets to keep the artwork.

If you would be interested in taking part in one of the workshops contact Becks Porter on becks@becksporter.com. She has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BecksPorter> and a website www.becksporter.co.uk



www.albelectrical.co.uk
 email: info@albelectrical.co.uk
 T: 02380 267984 / M: 07734 699604
 The Tanyards, Chandlers Ford, S053 1TJ

AIR CONDITIONING AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES
 FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE LOCAL SERVICE

- Free quotations and advice
- NAPIT approved Part P Installer
- Electrical safety inspections and fault finding
- Smart home installations and automation
- Air Conditioning (domestic & commercial)
- OLEV grant Electrical Vehicle Charging
- Rewires
- New fuse boards
- Landlord Certificates
- Lighting, extra sockets and LED Lighting
- Emergency Lighting/fire alarms
- Alarms and CCTV
- All aspects of electrical work undertaken







