

21 April 2020

Welcome to the Virtual IT Club!

Hope you are fit and well and staying safe as we head into the 5th week.

This week there are no pictures or pdf file because I am not at my home and I am struggling with a combination of iPad and Windows PC (which I have not used to any great degree for over 15 years). As you will see the format is all over the place! Hopefully next week I will have solved my IT problems and we will be back to normal.

If you would like to comment on anything but when you reply to this message you get an error, then just send your comments instead to steven.p.dow@me.com and I will circulate.

Information

Prescription pick-up and delivery shopping service ring Age Concern Epsom & Ewell on 01372 732 456 Mon – Fri 9 – 4pm for more information.

Age Concern Epsom and Ewell: <https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk>

Government advice: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Age UK: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/>

The NHS has lots of information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

111 phone line website: <https://111.nhs.uk>

Livi information: <https://www.livi.co.uk>

News

The Surrey Comet is quite good for local news although it covers a larger area now. It started covering Epsom & Ewell but now covers Kingston as well. It was founded in 1854 and is among the [oldest London newspapers](#) The website is here: <https://www.surreycomet.co.uk/>

Websites are taking over from the old type of newspapers and this one covers Epsom, but I do not know how good it is: <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/areas-we-cover/England/Surrey/Epsom>

Health

LIVI update

Some people have tried to register for LIVI and found it quite difficult, in particular getting it to accept a photo of your identification. I seem to remember having problems with this and perseverance finally paid off!

I used LIVI again and, having registered, it was easy to get an appointment. If you are providing photos it is easier to take them first so they are in your photographs library then when asked by LIVI you just have to select them from your library. Its easier than taking them in the middle of the appointment process.

The waiting time was just 20 minutes.

Has anyone else used it yet?

Covid19 and iPads!

My mother contracted Covid19 about 3 weeks ago and was rushed to hospital where she was very ill for a time. Thankfully she has made a good recovery and came home on Friday. I have been with her since and sensing a good story (I should have been a journalist!) I asked her to write down her IT experiences while in Gloucester Hospital. So here it is:

I started to feel unwell towards end of March and on the advice of my doctor I isolated myself and took paracetamol. However in the early hours of 1st April(!) I started to feel worse so rang 111 who said they would send an ambulance immediately. I gave them the number of my key safe but this wasn't passed on. When they arrived they were banging on the door so I tried to get to the door to open it I but passed out in the hall. Eventually I managed to get the key and put it through the letterbox. As they were taking me out to the ambulance on a stretcher I managed to say "can you get my I pad and charger". (Ed: not clothes, makeup etc!).

At Gloucester two doctors were waiting for me, I was assessed and put in a holding room and tested for Covid19. The results came back quickly and I was put in a spacious ward with just 2 other ladies. After a couple of days the initial crisis was over, thanks to the fantastic Doctors and Nurses, and I turned my iPad on and connected to the Hospital WiFi which actually worked very well.

For the few first days in hospital I used the iPad to send one line messages to my son and daughter to let them know I was ok(ish). After a few days I felt able to access all my e mails, many from local addresses and some from Australia and Canada, and I even managed to answer a few.

The big bonus was being able to FaceTime my son and daughter. No visitors are allowed at all and just to see family faces was fantastic.

As I improved I used the iPad to watch TV programmes such as Bargain Hunt and the News on BBC iPlayer.

I have about 300 books on my iPad kindle app so I found a book to read and when tired of that listened to plays on BBC Sounds such as Agatha Christie's 10.50 from Paddington and Paul Temple. Recently I have been listening to Pride and Prejudice. I found it so easy to get comedy shows to listen to: Hancock's Half Hour. Dads Army etc. which cheered me up!

I also use Audible which is wonderful for spoken books although you do pay for them.

Sometimes I would play games of scrabble, but I got annoyed at some of the words used by the computer. However I still manage to beat it!

I get the Times every morning on the iPad, although I could probably do without it!

Towards sleep time I would play some of my music from Amazon Prime or from the music app.

And finally I typed this on my iPad while waiting for the transport to take me home after a long 17 days in Gloucester Hospital

It is certainly not much fun being in hospital, but it would have been much, much worse without my trusty iPad.

Finally I can't praise the wonderful NHS staff enough, they are doing a very difficult job in an unknown situation.

MJ Dow (recuperating at home)

From the families side the Ipad and communication was absolutely invaluable. If we hadn't had it the only communication would have been the phone to the ward, which we did use during the critical period but we were conscious of taking up the nurses valuable time. They were busy but always unfailing polite and helpful and would always encourage us to ring anytime.

The first phone call from mum, the first email and the first FaceTime were wonderful moments.

So if you have the misfortune to be admitted to hospital, for any reason, do not forget your ipad. And charger!

App of the week

Following a discussion with my Mother about who the father of Edward VII was, I consulted a marvelous app called "The British Monarchy". Look for it on Apple app store. It costs 99p but has a huge amount of information about all the kings and queens, alphabetically and chronologically. Google Play has similar for Android users.

Games

Chess

I have found a good chess game "Chess – Play and Learn". It has in-app purchases but you can play the computer free. Its great if you are bit rusty or learning because it can suggest moves. Or you can just play the computer. Available in App Store and Google Play.

Draughts

There are quite a few Draughts (or Checkers as it is known in North America) apps in the App Store and GooglePlay which are worth trying.

Scam Alert

Here is a message from the Police:

The whole #Covid19 situation is bringing out the best in our communities... but it is also bringing out fraudsters looking to take advantage of the unusual circumstances and people's confusion and trusting nature.

We've heard of a number of different frauds relating to Covid19:

- text messages from the government telling people they owe fines for going outside
- threatening to reveal "naked videos" filmed via people's webcams (which they've only turned on to stay in touch)
- websites selling hand gel and protective gear that never arrives
- strangers offering to go shopping, then taking cash and never delivering the goods.
- people pretending to be officials (plain clothes police, or "government cleaning contractors") trying to access properties, or demand payment.

We are heartened to see so many communities pulling together, trusting complete strangers and making a difference to each other's lives. Sadly there are also people looking to take advantage.

Please look out for one another and pass on our warnings to any vulnerable people you know who may not be on social media.

Finally

<https://youtu.be/BS6n3N4bDrU>

If you have any ideas, comments, suggestions please email them to me at steven.p.dow@me.com