Welcome to the IT Club!

Another week gone (6th?) and we hope you are all safe and well. Lets hope we are starting to see light at the end of this long dark tunnel.

This week I am back at home and using my desktop Apple PC and at the moment I think I prefer using a keyboard and iPad to produce this newsletter. Interesting!

There is quite a lot of information here, if you want more detail on anything, just let me know at steven.p.dow@me.com.

Information

If you have IT problems you can still get telephone help by ringing our office on **01372 732456** between the hours of 9.30 – 1.00, Monday to Friday. An IT volunteer will then ring you back and hopefully solve your problem.

Here are the links I posted last time:

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

Would you like to get news from around the world?

Australia: https://www.smh.com.au
Canada: https://www.thestar.com
USA: https://www.nytimes.com

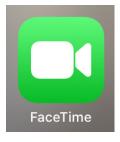
South Africa: https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/

Germany (in English): https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097

Russia (in English): https://www.themoscowtimes.com

FaceTime, Zoom, Skype

Being able to see family and friends during the lockdown has been a real boon and has for us often been the highlight of the day!

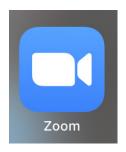


Facetime

Those of you with iPads can use Facetime which is already installed. It is probably the easiest to use for a one-to-one conversation. It has the capabilities to have more than 2 people in a conversation but I haven't used it successfully. The only downside is that it only works well between Apple products (iPads, iPhones, Macs)

Zoom

If you want to talk to more than two people at once then Zoom is the app to use. We recently had 53 participants during an Epsom Choral Society session (we didn't attempt to sing together!). The App works on all types of computer and tablet, so a session may



have someone on a windows laptop, someone on a samsung tablet and someone on an iPad.

The App is free and is downloaded to your tablet. You will need to sign up with Zoom. Your display name, email address and password are required.

You can set up a meeting (called hosting, which I won't cover here - let me know if you would like to learn how to host) but generally you will get an email with a long link (https:// etc) to click on:

Time: May 4, 2020 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8894640063

Meeting ID: 889 464 0063

When you have clicked on the long link, Zoom will open and you join the meeting. Remember to say yes to audio otherwise the others will not hear you.

If there are more than 2 people involved, touch the gallery icon at top left and then up to nine people will be displayed. If there are more than nine then swipe left and right.



If anyone would like to try a Zoom session, let me know.

Skype

Skype made its name with telephone calls but it now offers video calling. I have not used it for a video call but if you have Skype and are familiar with the voice calling, then its worth trying. The other person must have Skype on their iPad, tablet or computer.

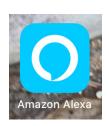
If you would like more detailed instructions on any of the above, please let me know and I will do some research!

Apps



If you have National Savings Premium Bonds there is an App for them in the Apple Store and Google Play. Simply install it on your iPad, tablet or phone, register your premium bond numbers and then you will have the excitement of discovering if you have won, with appropriate pictures. It also show the last 6 draws. It is free of course.

If you have an Amazon Alexa in your house, you can enable the NS&I Premium Bonds prize checker, register your numbers then every month you can ask "Alexa, ask Premium Bonds if I have won". You can't have much more fun that that!



If you have a favourite App you would like to share, just let me know at steven.p.dow@me.com

Health

Helping Covid 19 research

There are a couple of initiatives where you can contribute to research into Covid-19.

1. From Kings College, Guys Hospital, Wellcome Institute is a daily survey to track how you are.

You can access this survey here https://bit.ly/c19symptoms

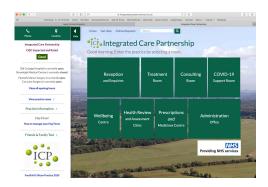
You will be directed to get an App from the Apple Store or Google Play, you register and then start to record how you are feeling, even if you are perfectly well.



2. In the App Patient Access (which enables you to order repeat prescriptions, make appointments etc) I noticed a survey, this time by Oxford University and other medical bodies. It took about 10 minutes and is worth doing.

Integrated Care website

Last week the Integrated Care Partnership, which covers Old Cottage Hospital, Stoneleigh Medical Centre, Fitznells Manor Surgery and Cox Lane Surgery, launched a new website. Bourne Hall also has the same website, but different colour so I suspect all GP practices will use the same website eventually.



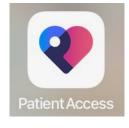
https://integratedcarepartnership.nhs.uk/

It is quite self explanatory but it seems it is designed to ensure you really do need an appointment before you are allowed to book one. In Patient Access App you simply chose a doctor and a time, without saying why. Now there are many questions and other options suggested, such as going to the pharmacy or using LIVI. Understandably they are trying to reduce face-to-face appointments.

Has anyone used it yet?

If you want a repeat prescription it leads you to the NHS App (I will have to investigate) or the Patient Access App.

Patient Access App



The Patient Access App has been around for some time and we use it for repeat prescriptions (takes about 30 seconds) and occasionally making an appointment. After downloading from App Store or Google Play you will have to register your details including your doctor. From then on its quite easy to use

Scams

Netflix

One of our group had a worrying email saying that her Netflix account was on hold until she updated her details. The email looked authentic.

Unfortunately it is a scam, the scammers preying on fears of losing films and TV during this time when we may be using them more.

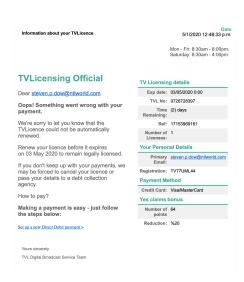
Here is the Netflix response: https://help.netflix.com/en/node/65674

And from the ever useful Hoax slayer: https://www.hoax-slayer.net/netflix-your-account-is-on-hold-phishing-scam/

TV License

Another one preying on the fear of losing your TV and this is one I received this week:

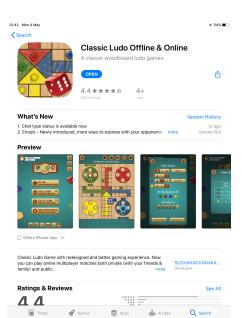
Apart from the fact my licence is paid by direct debit in August, the TV license people would never send out a debt collection agency for a licence a few days old. Also all the details are general and wrong!



Game of the week

Ludo

Do you remember playing Ludo?



Well, you can re-live the excitement of this classic game on your ipad!

In the App Store or Google Play there are many Ludo games and from them I downloaded the free Classic Ludo Offline & Online. You can play against the computer, or another person. Touch the die to roll and remember you need a six to start!

Finally



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

See you next week!