

27 October 2020

## Welcome to the IT Club Newsheet!

As predicted last month, Covid 19 is having another go so it is getting more important to stay safe and stay at home as much as possible.

So, to keep us entertained at home, we will be looking at film and TV entertainment.

There is quite a lot of information here, if you want more detail on any topic, or would like a new topic covered, just let me know at [steven.p.dow@me.com](mailto:steven.p.dow@me.com).

We have requests to send this newsheet to other people so you can either send their email address to me or you can simply email them this pdf.

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## Information

We are having another Curry night on 3 November, so if you would like to come and help the charity and see other people (socially distanced of course), then you can get tickets here:

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/ACEEcurrynight2020>.



We have started visiting homes again, so if you would like an IT volunteer to visit ring 01372 732456.

Our website is here : <https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk>

The coronavirus update is here: <https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk/coronavirus-update/>

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.

<https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk/coronavirus-update/>

## Useful Links

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>

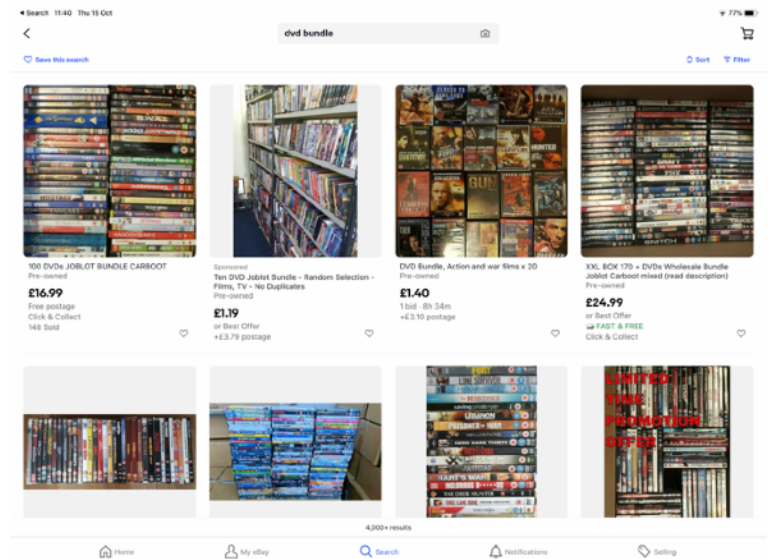
# Watching TV and Films

## For those people with DVD players

A friend reported he had bought 100 film DVDS for next to nothing on **eBay**.

I investigated and sure enough there are 1000s of bundles of DVDs (In eBay search for “DVD Bundles”).

You have no choice, but hopefully there will be a few films worth watching.



Try the search here:

[https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/i.html?\\_from=R40&\\_trksid=p2380057.m570.l1313&\\_nkw=dvd+bundles&\\_sacat=0](https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/i.html?_from=R40&_trksid=p2380057.m570.l1313&_nkw=dvd+bundles&_sacat=0)

## Streaming

### What is Streaming?

In the past we watched films when they were *Broadcast*. That is, the whole country could watch the same film at the same time. In fact that is what we still do when we watch the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 etc on our TVs. If you have a cable or satellite dish then you may have 100s of channels available, and they all have fixed times for when a programme starts and ends.

In the 1970s a big step forward arrived when you could record programmes on a VHS or Betamax cassette then watch them later at a time convenient to you. At the same time Pre-recorded cassettes of films came out which started off the boom in video rental shops (remember Blockbuster? Here is the last one in the world:

<https://www.nme.com/news/the-worlds-last-remaining-blockbuster-store-still-open-despite-coronavirus-pandemic-2668617>)

Then digital video discs (DVDs) arrived and they offered far better pictures and capacity. The video shops changed their stock to DVDs and continued to grow.

In the meantime cable and satellite TV companies became more common and the internet grew and flourished.

So with the internet and new TV providers, there was a new way to get a film into your house. Why go to a video shop and look at a relatively small range of films when they could be sent, or *streamed*, directly into your house?

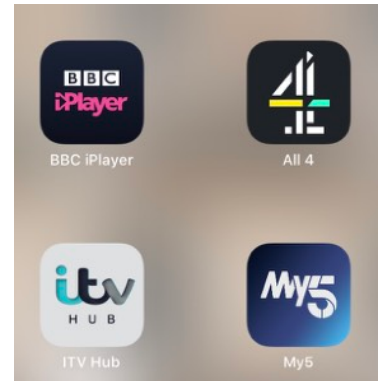
And so Netflix (I presume “Net” for internet and “flix” which is slang for films) was born. Everyone with internet access can now get TV and Films on demand by *streaming* straight into the house.

## What do you need?

1. A tablet or computer connected to the internet and any of the apps listed below.  
or
2. A smart TV with an internet connection. If you do not know if you have one, the remote control may offer clues - it may have an internet or even a Netflix button on it.  
or
3. A cable or satellite box with an internet connection.  
or
4. TV stick such as Amazon Fire, Roku, Google Chromecast, Now (these will be reported on soon)

## Free streaming

**BBC iPlayer.** Totally free but you do have to register with your email address and a password. There are thousands of programmes to watch whenever you want to on your tablet or TV. You can also watch live TV and programmes you have just missed. BBC iPlayer does not include Radio programmes which are on BBC Sounds. Programmes can be downloaded to your tablet to watch when you are away from your home wifi, eg on a train, in a hotel, in an airport or on a plane(!).



### ITV Hub

Works in a very similar way to BBC iPlayer but exclusively ITV. So if you like Inspector Morse, Endeavour, Vera, Midsomer Murders etc, then try ITV Hub.

### All 4

For channel 4 programmes, including British Bake Off

### My5

For channel 5 programmes. You can get access without having to sign in.

## Subscription services

These are paid for services, ie not free!

## Netflix



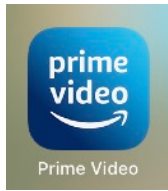
Probably the most well known streaming service. Cost is from £5.99 per month.

It has a huge library of films, TV shows, documentaries with many award winners. There really is something for everyone. And no adverts!

One of the more popular series is The Crown which is a fictional story about the Queen based around real events. It is very well done. David Attenborough has also produced an exclusive Netflix documentary.

More details here: <https://www.netflix.com/gb/>

## Amazon Prime



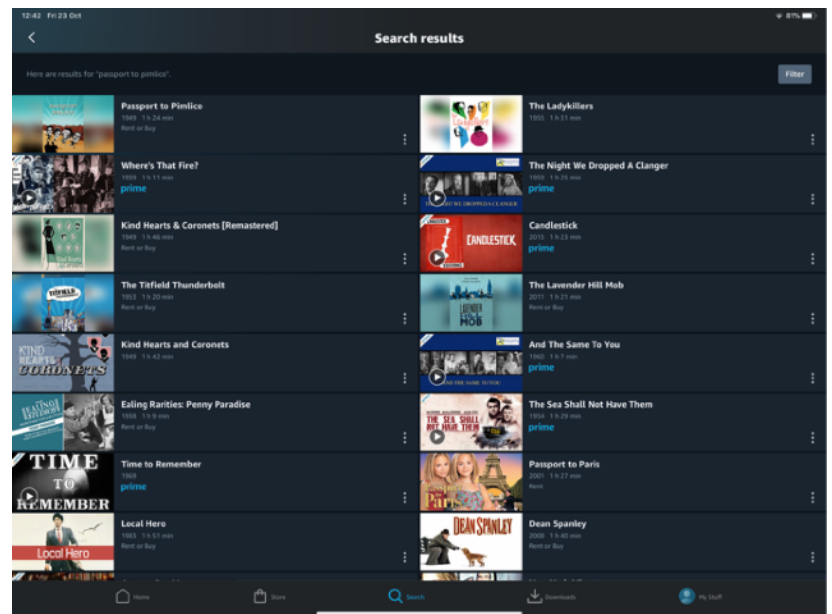
If you are an Amazon Prime subscriber (£79 per year) you will already have access to the streaming Video service.

There is a huge library of films and TV but there appears to be many more old wonderful films than in the Netflix library

There are thousands of free films available, especially old films. For example, at the weekend, we watched an old Sherlock Holmes film with Basil Rathbone. It was certainly dated but enjoyable non-the-less.

In the example here I searched for that great old film “Passport to Pimlico” and got many more similar films:

If there is a specific film you wish to watch not in the free library, then you can go to the Amazon video online shop:



[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?i=instant-video&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?i=instant-video&ref=nb_sb_noss)

There are 80000+ films, some free to Amazon users, some to buy and some to rent.

For example, the Sound of Music costs £3.49 to rent and £5.99 to buy.

If you rent you have 30 days to start watching and then 48 hours to watch it.

If you buy, you do not get anything physical like a disc and if you stopped your Amazon account you would lose it, but you can watch it as many times and whenever you want.

When you buy or rent the film it will appear in your own library within the Amazon Prime app on your iPad, tablet or TV. It really has revolutionised watching Films at home.

Amazon Prime cost £79 per year or £7.90 per month and includes much more than video. More details are here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/amazonprime>

## Disney+

£5.99 a month, Disney has a smaller library than the big two above, but includes all Disney films plus some other blockbusters. Great if you like Disney films.

More details here:

<https://www.disneyplus.com/en-gb/welcome>

## Now TV

From £8.99 per month, Now TV's main content is from SKY TV. You can pay one month at a time. Download the NowTV app on your tablet or TV, register and off you go. Not nearly as good as Netflix and Amazon for films, it is really designed for people who want to watch the occasional SKY programme.

More details here: <https://www.nowtv.com>

## Britbox

£5.99 per month and is a collaboration between the BBC, ITV and Channel 4, this features British shows such as Gavin & Stacey and Broadchurch. Possibly limited in the UK where we have the free BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 apps. Popular with expats abroad who cannot get the free apps.

More details here: <https://www.britbox.co.uk>

## Acorn TV

£4.99 a month. Lots of crime dramas on this British streaming service.

<https://uk.acorn.tv>

## JustWatch

Before subscribing to paid subscription services, it is worth looking at JustWatch.

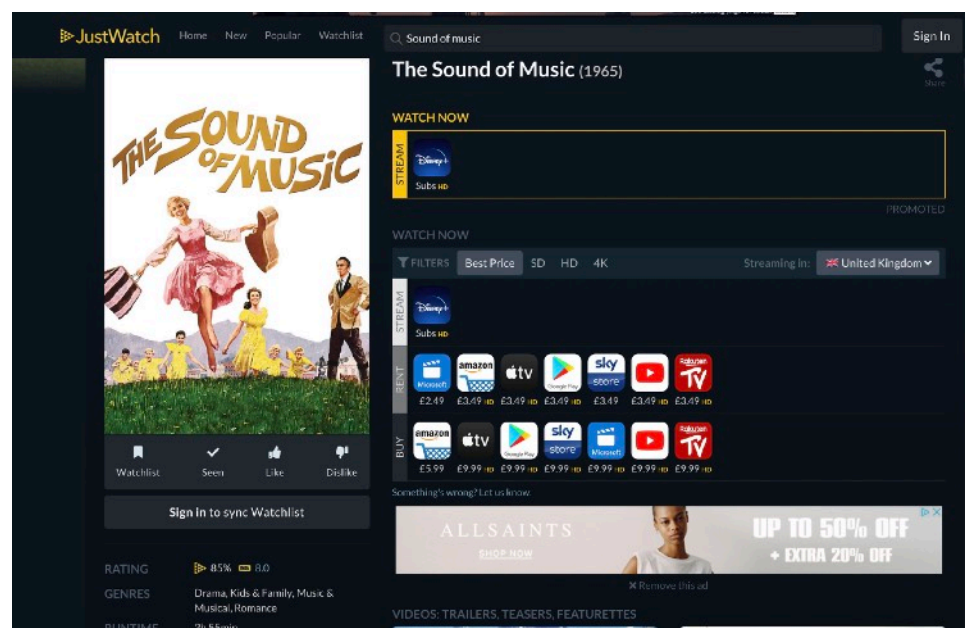
If you wish to watch a film or series you have heard about but you do not know where to get it, simply type in the name of the film in the search box.

This is the search result for the sound of music which indicates I could watch it if I had a subscription to Disney or I could buy or rent from numerous sources:

Go to  
[https://  
www.justwatch.com/uk](https://www.justwatch.com/uk)

or download app from  
App store.

It is free!



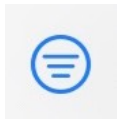
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## Problems

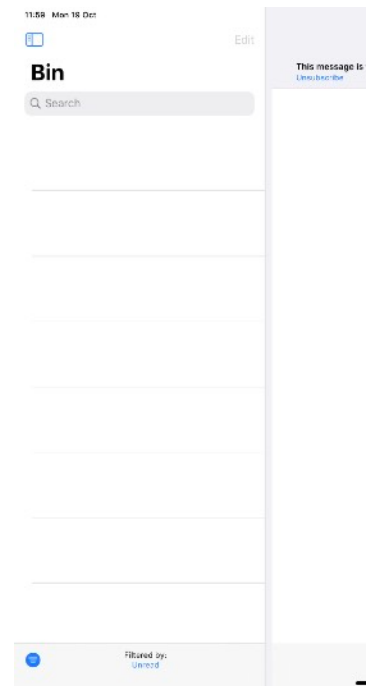
### Disappearing emails 1

One of our group had a situation where all the emails seem to have disappeared from their iPad.

When we looked at the problem we noticed the circle at the bottom left of the screen. This innocuous button was the problem. When it is blue only unread emails are displayed, and in this case, all the emails had been read.



Touching the circle cleared it and all the emails returned.



You can tell if an email has not been read - it has a blue dot next to it. To be precise, the blue dot disappears when you open an email - you still might not have read it!

### Disappearing emails 2

Another of our group had an iPad which refused to load new emails, although they were being loaded elsewhere. This was solved by powering off and back on again.

Why can this simple action help? Is it magic? Well, when you use a computer or tablet it uses temporary memory (think of it as a blackboard) to do calculations, store data for immediate use and so on. When it's finished a particular task it is supposed to wipe the memory (blackboard) clean. But it does not always clean it completely and bits are left (if you repeatedly clean a blackboard it never looks quite clean). So bits left in memory can interfere with the workings. Powering off completely wipes the temporary memory completely clean.

To power off an iPad hold down the on/off button until "slide to power off" appears, and then power off. Recently I had WiFi connection problems which were cured simply by powering off. It really works!

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## Google update

Recently we reported how google makes money from advertising. Andrew Gadd, our security and safety specialist, sent in the following:

Your recent newsletter correctly said that Google makes its money from selling advertising space. To target the ads more accurately, they track you around the internet. You can prevent this by installing a simple browser add-on:

<https://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout>

Or, you can use a search engine that doesn't store your information:

<https://duckduckgo.com/>



# Scams

## DVLA Scam

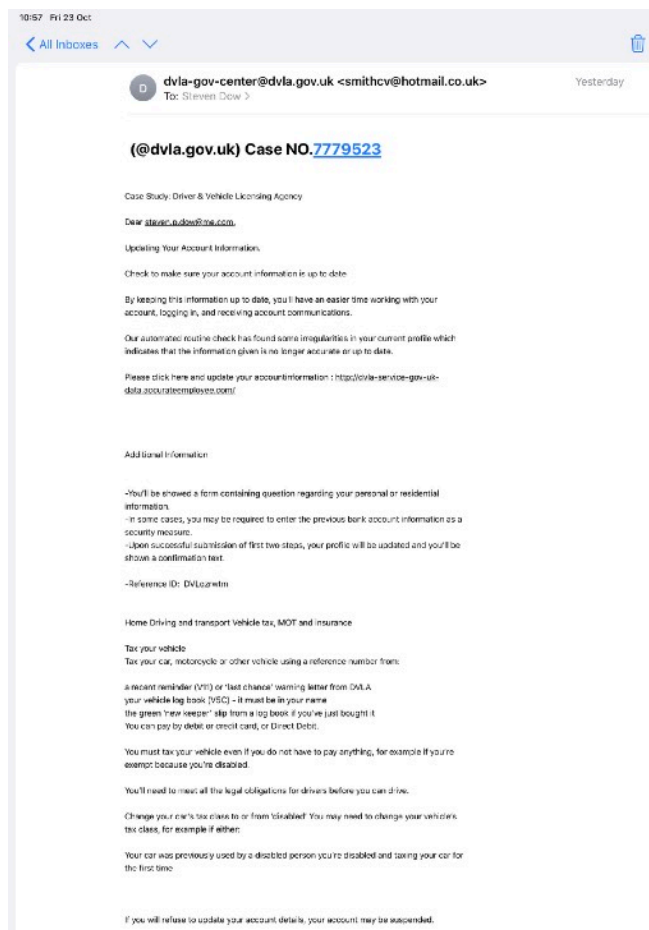
I received this email yesterday from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority informing me there were problems with my account and I needed to update my details, which would include my bank details no doubt.

But there were obvious suspicious signs.

1. The DVLA have never done this before
2. It was not to me personally - just my email address
3. Very badly written
4. Odd email address at the top.

So in Google (or DuckDuckGo which is a more private search engine) I typed in "DVLA Scam" and sure enough there are reports of this scam going back 9 years.

If you took the link you would be taken to an official looking website and told to enter personal details and bank details.



The good news is that, on my iPad, when I took the link (which you should NOT do - I did it for investigation purposes) I got the following screen:

If you ever see this, then do not go further!

Here is more information about the scam from the excellent website <https://www.hoax-slayer.net>

<https://www.hoax-slayer.net/dvla-update-drivers-licence-phishing-scams/>

## Warning: Suspected Phishing Site Ahead!

This link has been flagged as phishing. We suggest you avoid it.

### What is phishing?

This link has been flagged as phishing. Phishing is an attempt to acquire personal information such as passwords and credit card details by pretending to be a trustworthy source.

[Dismiss this warning and enter site](#)

### What can I do?

If you're a visitor of this website  
The website owner has been notified and is in the process of resolving the issue. For now, it is recommended that you do not continue to the link that has been flagged.

If you're the owner of this website  
Please log in to [cloudflare.com](https://cloudflare.com) to review your flagged website. If you have questions about why this was flagged as phishing please contact the Trust & Safety team for more information.

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## Shopping

Back in the May newsheet we reported the difficulty getting supermarket home delivery slots and we printed a joke which went something like this:

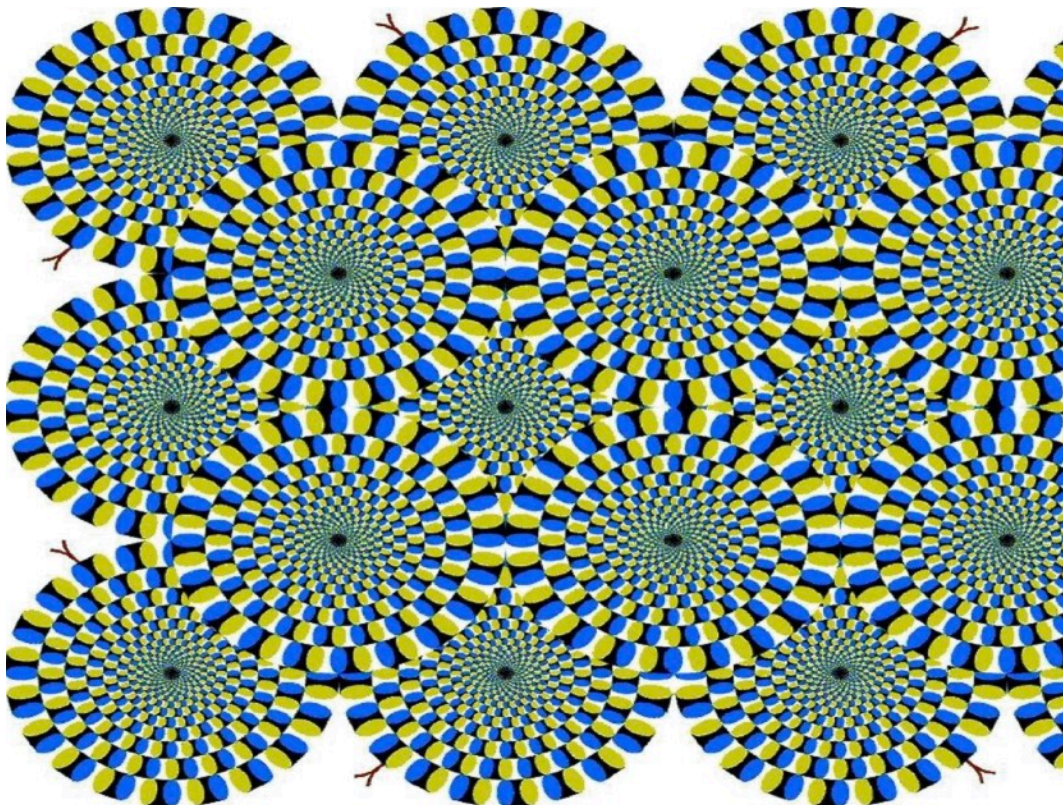
*"I finally got my Sainsburys slot, I have ordered Turkey, Stuffing mince pies and crackers!"*

Well, the Christmas slots in Waitrose have popped up in early October and are getting quickly booked up, but I managed to book a turkey, stuffing etc to be delivered at 4pm on 21 December!

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## Optical illusions.

Stare at the middle and everything moves! (it is not a video)



Here are many more:

<http://www.illusions.org>



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Finally

For those people who want to  
retrain in a new career:

Just pointing out the fact that now is the  
perfect time to become a ventriloquist.



If you have any ideas, comments, suggestions please email them to me at  
[steven.p.dow@me.com](mailto:steven.p.dow@me.com)

See you next month!