



# MASE Monthly Newsletter



## Proud Recipients of Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

### August 2021



It is so hard to believe that we are into the eighth month of the Year 2021, where on earth did the time go to? Hopefully you are gaining confidence in going out now, and trying to get your lives back on track. What a difficult few months we have all experienced, so much confusion, and all the things that have been debated and discussed over and over again, relating to the exact date Lockdown would end. Still at least the sun shone for us in July and my word what a difference that makes to people and the way they feel. Let's hope August continues to keep us all happy and content.

### So, just what has changed now in England

If, like most of us, you are totally confused by what you are hearing and reading, this is a precis of what we think may be of interest to you:

#### Social distancing

No limits on how many people can meet up

1 metre -plus guidance removed (except in some places like hospitals and passport control when entering)

Face coverings no longer required by law, although the government still "expects and recommends" them in crowded and enclosed spaces; Some shops and transport operators will still require masks

#### Events and gatherings

Nightclubs can reopen; Pubs and restaurants no longer table-service only

No limits on guests at weddings and funerals; No limits on people attending concerts, theatres or sports events

No restrictions on communal worship

#### Other changes

Limits on visitors to care homes will be removed.

From 16 August, most Covid restrictions in schools - including "bubbles" - will end.

From the same date, fully vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

### Food for thought : Carers are you entitled to a Refund on Your Council Tax Bills?



There are two ways of qualifying for a 25% reduction in Council Tax. Those people who are living with a partner who has a diagnosis of a dementia, can apply for a reduction because the other person is classified as being 'severely mentally impaired' for council tax purposes. Anyone living on their own is also entitled to make an application for a 25% reduction. This is called a 'single person discount'.

The full Council Tax Bill assumes that there are two adults living in a dwelling. Many Carers forget about their Council Tax Bills and continue paying if their partner has passed away. If only **ONE** adult lives in a dwelling, which is their main home, the Council Tax Bill will be reduced by 25% .

Council tax is the cornerstone of every month's utility bill review, and often the bane of many people's existence. But after a partner dies, or if you go into hospital for a short time before you die, you will be eligible for a council tax reduction. If you go into residential care – just to try it out, or for respite care from an illness or fall – you are liable for a reduction in council tax for up to 13 weeks. [Go to the Council Tax Reduction page on GOV.uk to start the process.](#)

If over time a house becomes unoccupied, due to a death or an owner moving into residential care, then the property will be exempt from council tax until someone new moves in. The property still remains exempt from council tax after the probate process kicks off. If the home remains empty and it has not been sold, it may be exempt from council tax for a further six months, or until someone new moves in. After those six months, if the home is still empty and has not been sold, the Executor becomes responsible for paying the Council Tax from the estate of the person who has died.

**TRUSTEES:** Daphne or Richard: ☎07939 505455 Mike Creek: ☎01785 663596 Dave Degg: ☎07974 983459 Dave Godden: ☎ 07968 848120

Alzheimer's Society Dementia Helpline 0300 222 1122 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and Saturday and Sunday 10am - 4pm.

## Scams in 2021



Once again we are highlighting Scams that are taking place. The following scams are common this year and if you are phoned, emailed, or receive a text, Please be aware these are fraudulent scams designed to take money from you:

- A fake Police telephone call advising your bank card has been cloned and asking for details of the one you currently hold. **NEVER** give out any details about your card or your bank account.
- Telephone calls asking about any pension you may have and asking for your bank details.
- A call advising you that your TV licence direct debit has not gone through and you can pay now over the telephone. **END THE CALL IMMEDIATELY**
- A caller, or an email, who says they are from HMRC and there is a problem with your tax. These calls say they are checking your bank details as you are due a refund. These calls are often made by male who has the voice of authority. **SIMPLY PUT THE PHONE DOWN.** The Inland Revenue will **NEVER** ask you for details of your account and sort code.
- Amazon for example does NOT make telephone calls relating to any transaction, and will never ask for clarification of your bank card details. It's a **SCAM - SIMPLY PUT THE PHONE DOWN!**

Please Carers if you receive ANY of the above communications, hang up or simply delete the email or text.

Remember NEVER, in any circumstances, give financial details over the telephone, or in an email, or text.

We have had so many Carers in distress because they have been scammed and have lost a great deal of money. Remember if you disclose your PIN number, or your Account and Sort Code to any Scammer - you will be totally responsible for the loss.

Scammers are unscrupulous people who have no feelings at all at the heartache they can cause, and actually don't care who they hurt.

## Help in stopping unwanted direct mail

If someone you know has passed-away, this organisation can help reduce the amount of direct mail being sent to their address - by stopping painful daily reminders. Registering with this free service, the names and addresses of the deceased are removed from mailing lists, stopping most direct mail within as little as six weeks. [www.thebereavementregister.org.uk](http://www.thebereavementregister.org.uk)

## Did you know?

### Salt in the Garden

To kill weeds on cracks in the garden path, driveway or patio, mix a litre of water with five tablespoons of vinegar and two table-spoons of salt. Mix together well and put into a spray bottle and aim at your weeds.

For rusty tools mix salt with lemon juice and rub over the rust. Result, shiny, clean tools.

Slugs and ants also dislike salt so spread round areas where you don't want them to roam.

### Think carefully before using unfranked Stamps



Many people for years have been steaming off unfranked stamps for re-use. This is no longer to be encouraged as the Royal Mail now uses UV franking machines, meaning that stamps which look unused to the naked eye are likely to be flagged up when they are put through the post a second time; the recipient is then requested to travel to the local sorting office to pay a fine before receiving their mail. Is it really worth the risk, but more than that the embarrassment, of your recipient knowing that it was a used stamp that has been put on perhaps a Birthday Card or even a personal letter?

If you have a computer please take a look at our website which covers all MASE activities: [www.themasegroup.com](http://www.themasegroup.com)

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