



Notes in the margin

Bringing news from around the studio

June 2020

A little bit like the Government three-week reviews, here is another update on the how what and where your Mid Devon Messenger is coping during this pandemic.

Beyond Covid-19

The home recording is going from strength to strength. The listeners have been giving some lovely feedback, both via their returned wallets, and also as part of the telephone befriending service that has been put in place.

Five technicians are now supporting the weekly recordings, and Ivan and Jane will join the reading team, bringing us up to eight at-home readers.

Rod and Helen lead the production of the weekly recordings. A single- page running order, giving reader, track number, Gazette page and article title is circulated

to the team on Tuesday mornings. The reader is asked to edit the text. This system also provides an opportunity to practice before recording! These simple ideas have eased the role of team leader and we are hoping to continue this in the Studio setting.

While mentioning the Studio, we will soon be in contact with Heathcoat fabrics to discuss our return. The new Studio layout allows the necessary social distancing, but the Landlord is ultimately responsible for the health and safety of people using its premises and, therefore, must give us the green light to return.

Zooming...

After one MDM Committee meeting, we can almost claim to be proficient Zoomers! This is not a high-speed gizmo, but a method of holding face-to-face meetings via the internet. We will be using it for our **AGM on Monday 6th July at 2pm**. If you would like to join us, and have internet access, contact Rod on 01884 829152.



Volunteers Week 1 - 7 June

You may be aware that in normal times, this week would be Volunteers Week. Helen and the committee – volunteers in their own right – wish to say how grateful we are for all your support. Thank you, the MDM volunteers, for all your contributions in bringing news to our listeners.

Farewell and welcome...?

We say farewell to John Massey, who has been a Reader, Team Leader, Technician and Chief Technician with the Messenger for 12 years. John's commitment has been second to none, often responding to last minute squawks for help on a Tuesday evening when things have not quite run as planned.

Over the recent weeks of COVID-19 home recordings, Rod has done a sterling job of co-ordinating the productions – at times akin to herding cats! We are very pleased that Rod has agreed to stand for election as the Chief Technician at the AGM. Rod will lead the transition to on-line streaming of the Messenger via Alexa and Google Home, while we retain the traditional route of player and USB memory sticks, of course!

We *would* like to welcome a new Secretary to our midst - could it be you?

The principal role is taking the minutes of our quarterly committee meetings. However, the role can grow with your time and interest. If this is the opportunity for you, call Helen on 07834 688838 or email helen@middevonmessenger.org.uk

Welcome to listeners Jo Shute and Joan Jarrett who many of our readers will know. Jo leads the Tiverton VI Club and Joan is an advocate for the Cullompton community. Jo and Joan will be joining our committee meetings giving valuable input from a listener perspective. Carol will continue in her role of Listeners' Representative.

And finally... *we would like* to welcome two new team leaders. Once every 8 weeks you will select articles from the Gazettes, compile a running order and, with the Technician, guide the recording. If you think this could be you, call Helen on 07834 688838 or email helen@middevonmessenger.org.uk

Care Homes

During the pandemic, we have extended our service into local care homes.

Residents, who are currently devoid of contact with family and visitors, will be able to keep abreast of local news and enjoy the entertainment.

Donation

It's a curious fact that, as soon as a need to spend is identified, a donation arrives! In view of the additional care home listeners, the Committee agreed the purchase of a box of 9 players at £400. A few days later a cheque for £250 arrived in the post from the Tiverton Rotary Club. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

All that is required to be
An MDM news reader.
Is that you ?

