

## **More cautious steps in May**

Significant changes took place in May according to the government's published 'roadmap'. A traffic light system for overseas travel came into force which succeeded in causing total confusion in the travel industry and for potential holiday makers. Could they/should you travel abroad to 'amber' list countries – or only 'green'? The answer depended on which minister you asked ...

Organised exercise classes resumed indoors which meant the Windmill Centre saw a slow return of some of its classes, including a very boisterous Baby & Toddler Group. And outdoor entertainment resumed, which meant Giffords Circus was back on the road in Oxfordshire. The new Windmill Lookout sported a pop-up café which did roaring trade selling excellent coffee on Saturday morning match days.

Up to six people or two households could meet indoors and up to 30 people outdoors, so the local pubs saw modest customer numbers using their outdoor facilities.

Schools relaxed their face covering policy in classrooms, with pupils doing twice weekly home testing. And Covid self-test packs were free to collect from the local pharmacy so everyone could take a lateral flow test at home. If a test proved positive, self-isolation and a more accurate PCR test were needed.

The church was open for services with numbers still limited to 30 and no singing. The number of people able to attend a funeral to be determined by the number that could be safely accommodated in the venue with social distancing in place – all a bit vague.

Care homes, including our local Featherton and St Anne's could have up to five named visitors, with two visitors able to attend at once provided they were tested and followed infection control measures. Residents also had greater freedoms to leave their home without having to isolate on their return. Many care home residents, particularly those with dementia, deteriorated hugely as a result of Covid restrictions.