As a nation we are drawn to bad news whether it is an earth-shattering event dominating the headlines, a write-up on someone’s downfall or a theory that a new invention will bring nothing but trouble.

That certainly seems to be the case with the new smart meters the government would like to offer to all GB households by 2020.

Bad news gives those who are against the new meters the chance to criticise these innovative devices as well as stir up suspicions of the government and big businesses to create an unfounded conspiracy theory that those in power are just trying to rip customers off.

So what is it about negative news that we are instinctively drawn to?

Could it be that human beings are drawn to negative articles and have a strong urge and a morbid curiosity to unravel the mystery behind the theories presented to us.

Psychotherapist, Hilda Burke, certainly thinks there could be some scope in this.

She says: “There’s a German word ‘schadenfreude’ which

“Schadenfreude refers to taking part delight in someone else’s misfortune.”