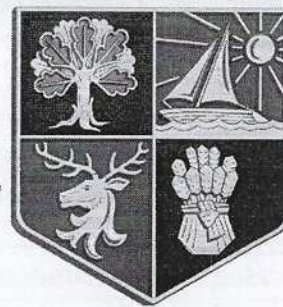


FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter for members of the
NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NMRA

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. Now it's time to get out your flags in recognition of St. George's Day on 23rd April.

As you will see, we have a slightly different banner heading for our Newsletter indicating the revised Association title. The proposed change was discussed and approved at last month's AGM, it being pointed that we are, after all, a single community within the Town Council parish, covering New Milton, Barton, Ashley, Bashley and our various wards.

Please note that, accordingly, our website and Membership/Distribution email addresses are very slightly changed. It will also be necessary to amend our Rules of Association, giving the committee an opportunity to make further changes to them since they've not been updated for a very long time. The proposed new Rules will be published in FOCUS for your consideration and approval at a subsequent General Meeting.

Apologies for the fact that, due to a printers' error, the March FOCUS didn't carry the mandatory Accounts Examiners' page. Copies of it were distributed at the AGM, however, and if any reader would like one, please let me know. It has been a real relief that volunteers have come forward to fill the vacant roles and strengthen your committee, so grateful thanks to them for offering their support. Note all the new committee contact details on page 3. In accordance with the rules, our Vice Chair will be appointed at the next committee meeting and so will be announced in the May FOCUS.

Do take a few minutes to browse through the advertisements and check out new services etc. on offer. If you use any of them do please remember to mention that you saw their ad. in FOCUS so that they will be made aware of how beneficial there advert is..

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 10th May, 7 p.m.
New Milton Community Centre
Tuesday, 12th July, 7 p.m.
New Milton Community Centre

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 11th April, 9th May
Amenities - 4th April, 23rd May
Fin. & Gen. - 19th April (Tues.), 6th June
Planning:
14th & 28th April
12th & 26th May

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.
The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

The Town Council will hold its Annual Towns Meeting at 6.30 p.m. on 11th April when past and future activities will be reviewed and the Citizen of the Year award is presented. The 9th May meeting will cover election of the Mayor and committee members. As always, residents are very welcome to attend.

A reminder that, for our General Meeting on 10th May, we have County Councillor Mel Kendal coming along with colleagues to talk about the proposed re-development of the Memorial Centre. Do try to attend as plans are right now in a very early stage and he will be glad to have members' feedback on what is under consideration.

I think I have mentioned before that, looking back through very old editions of FOCUS, it is evident that members wrote in on a regular basis regarding issues on which they had concerns, or wished to put forward opinions and ideas. This inter-communication is lacking these days, which is a great pity. Is it because residents aren't all that interested in what's going on around them, think

Vvisit our website - www.nmra.org.uk

their views aren't taken into consideration and simply don't count? FOCUS is **your** Newsletter and, as such, as well as keeping you all informed on local matters and activities, etc., it should be a sounding-board offering the opportunity for you to comment on what's happening locally, how you'd like to see our town and environment develop, what you'd like to see addressed by the committee (and, of course, your views on FOCUS itself).

I would really like to start up a new Readers' Letters feature to further members' inter-communication, particularly having in mind those of you who'd sometimes like to say something but, for one reason or another, cannot attend our General Meetings. Your letters don't have to be beautifully written or presented; just let me have the "bare bones" and I will do my job and edit.

I hope you will take this idea on board and make it happen. All up to you, folks!

Isn't it nice to get together with friends or acquaintances whom you haven't actually seen in a long time? I was able to do that last month when an ex colleague stopped by with her husband en route to Devon in their camper van.

Way back in the '70s as a Personnel Administrator for what was then Esso Petroleum (now Exxon), I recruited the young, newly-wed Elizabeth as a very competent, reliable P.A. At a time when I needed it she also proved to be a supportive confidante and friend. After about 4 years she left to have a baby, moved to Fleet (where she still lives) and, although we've only met up a couple of times since then, we have regularly corresponded over the years.

It was really good to see her again, especially as she tactfully insisted I hadn't changed much (should have gone to Specsavers!). I have to say it threw me a bit to be confronted by a grey-haired Elizabeth!

We nattered about old times and decided that perhaps office life today must be rather different from how it was for us all those years ago. In that non-PC world we enjoyed the camaraderie, harmless banter and day-to-day association with "characters" who didn't have to toe the line. We females were generally happy in the workplace, dealing with the occasional awkward situation and the office Romeos effectively and without recourse to management and a "complaints procedure". Those were the days, my friends!

Phyllis Inglis

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Your committee has been busy during the last month, in debate and deliberations leading up to our AGM. The decision **not** to rename this Newsletter and the accompanying proposal to **rename the organisation as New Milton Residents' Association (NMRA)** have taken some time to consider and take into account members' views, but those present at the AGM almost unanimously accepted your committee's recommendations.

In its 110th year, as we move into a fresh chapter under the new Association name, we have a revitalised committee with all the key positions filled! We welcome Nigel King (who has taken on the role of Membership/Focus Distribution Coordinator), Jean Watson (who assumes responsibility as Welcome Pack Distributor), and Angela Jackson (who will assist the CIA team); all three are new recruits to our committee.

I would also like to thank (I think!) members for giving me the honour of continuing as Chairman of the Association for another year, and I will try to do my best alongside our new Office bearers and Committee to move the Association forward in 2016/17. It is my hope that we may continue recent trends to become more proactive on issues which are of concern to members as well as the town's residents. I was very appreciative of the help given to the Association by Jill and Allen Hennah and Geoff Moore in their roles as Membership/ Distribution Coordinators and Welcome Pack Distributor over the past few years. Allen and Geoff have stood down from the committee but we are very pleased that Jill has decided to remain with us.

My thanks also go to the NMRA Community In Action team who have started to build up funds to help us provide further assistance and grants to local causes. With Marie Morgan chairing a small committee, there are some exciting plans afoot for an enjoyable, creative programme of events through 2016 into 2017.

I personally look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions as to how we can continue to enhance the role we play in the local community, to hear about your concerns and issues, and to learn of your constructive thoughts on how we can help make our great town a better place in which to live, work and play. Please feel free to call me at any time, write or email. All my details can be found on page 3.

Alan Watson

NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
(Affiliated to New Milton & District Community Association)
Annual Subscription £3.00 per household

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alan Watson 55a Chiltern Drive
01425 610052 Barton, BH25 7JZ
Email: alan.watson@nembra.org.uk

Vice Chairman

Marie Morgan 4 Cheridah Court,
01425 501315 Spencer Road,
email: mariemorgan@talktalk.net New Milton, BH25 6BZ

Secretary/Editor of FOCUS*

Phyllis Inglis B.E.M. 7 Chessel House
01425 615069 Fernhill Lane New Milton
BH25 5WR
email: phyllis@pcinglis.wanadoo.co.uk

Treasurer

Gerry Bryer The Orchard
01425 611254 15b Appletree Close
email: gerry.bryer@virgin.net New Milton BH25 6PA

Membership/FOCUS Distribution Coordinator

Jill & Allen Hennah 45 Highlands Road
01425 511551 Barton, BH25 7BL
email: nmramembership@gmail.com

Advertising Manager

Marie Morgan 4 Cheridah Court,
01425 501315 Spencer Road,
email: mariemorgan@talktalk.net New Milton, BH25 6BZ

Planning Secretary

Goff Beck 24 Vectis Road
01425 619941 Barton, BH25 7QF
email: goff.beck@newforest.gov.uk

Welcome Pack Distributor

Jean Watson 55a Chiltern Drive
01425 610052 Barton, BH25 5JZ
jeanwatson43@btinternet.com

Accounts Examiners:

Westlake Clark, Chartered Accountants

Hon. Legal Advisor to the Committee:

Mrs. A. Jennings, Heppenstalls Solicitors

Keith Craze 638074 Angela Jackson 838509
Anne Goulding 616106 Shelagh Levett 628348
Jill Hennah 511551

* Editor's role is ex officio

Items for publication must reach the Editor no later than 15th of the preceding month (a week earlier in December for the January issue). Unless otherwise stated, comments made as part of the editorial are those of the Editor and not necessarily those of the committee or Association itself.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all information received. Publication is entirely dependent on space availability and no guarantee of inclusion can be given.

Contributions published do not necessarily represent the views or policy of the Association, whose approach is non-political and unbiased.

When contacting an advertiser, please say that you are doing so having seen their details in FOCUS.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We would like to thank all members of the distribution team who have worked so hard in collecting this year's subscriptions, which has enabled us to update the records.

A special "thank you" to Muriel Wallace, Valerie Sprake, Liz Wise, Elizabeth Bedding, Jean Richman, Terry Strange and David Blake for stepping in to help with holiday and sickness cover.

We welcome Ann Gorman, Jacki Hillier and Gordon Down for taking on the vacancies advertised in last month's FOCUS.

After many years' service to the Association Margaret and Harry Taylor are retiring. We thank them very much for all they have done and wish them well in the future. Brian Goodchild has kindly taken over their distribution round.

Jill & Allen Hennah

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

**10.15 a.m. on Saturday, 12th March, 2016
at the Community Centre**

In the Chair: Alan Watson

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved

Matters Arising: None

Open Forum:

Pavement advertising - There were complaints about the increasing number of A-boards and other advertising materials obstructing pedestrians, mainly along Station Road. They are a positive hazard to those with poor sight and mobility problems. Councillor Clarke (Planning) said that the use of A-boards is permitted but within the **immediate forecourt areas** marked by metal studs on the ground. Offenders are told and keep to the rules for a short while before reverting to previous behaviour. Continual enforcement is the problem but residents **should** report instances to the NFDC or Town Council. Councillor Clarke also referred to the furniture shop at the top of Station Road whose trailer boards are being sited around the town and beyond, and a large notice is fixed to railings at the railway station. This problem is being actively pursued and the shop owner has been interviewed.

Manor Road Junction - Councillor Alan Rice advised that a proposal had been made to cut off the slip roads in an effort to ease the traffic flow at that point. However, he was pleased to report that, bearing in

mind the potentially serious implications of such a move and meetings with Hampshire County Council, the scheme has been dropped. No further proposals for that junction are in hand at the present time.

New Milton Institute - Malcolm Swan asked for an update on what was happening to the building since Leonard Cheshire vacated it a long time ago. It is understood that Hampshire County Council has purchased it for the use of those adults with special needs. Work is going on there but nothing further is known at this time.

Market - Sue Larking queried the future of the market which, on a recent Wednesday, was reduced to only three stalls and looks rather pathetic. Councillor Blunden explained that the whole matter was proving to be quite a challenge; whatever they want to do brings forth unforeseen obstacles. Hopefully, things will improve over the coming summer months and the Council is continuing in its efforts to promote the market and, at the same time, please everybody concerned. **Alan Watson pointed out that local charities may have a stall at the market for a day at no charge.**

Recreation Ground - There were several comments about the skateboarders' damaging use of the Performance Pavilion, surrounding area and riding on paths. It seems as if the new "park" has been taken over by those who are older and more experienced, and younger people are making use of the Pavilion and paths.

Councillor Blunden admitted that this is another challenging area, although the Police are regularly monitoring behaviour and talking to young offenders in a way that they can hopefully understand and accept. Youth workers are also being encouraged to take positive action in handling problems and trying to instil in the young people some sense of appreciation and pride in the facilities made available to them.

The Town Council will continue to monitor and deal with this issue, having in hand a warning that closure of the skateboard park could take place if offenders take no notice. The play area will carry more equipment for small children and those who are less able. Adult exercise equipment will also be provided.

West Cliffe Building, Sea Road - A question was raised about this building which apparently faced imminent closure a few months ago. Councillor Blunden said he had no update on the situation at this time and would make enquiries on what is happening

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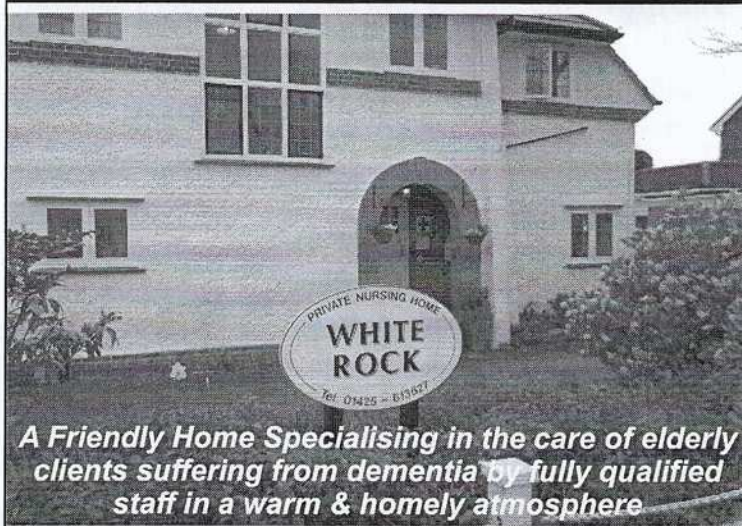


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there. An assurance has been given that the post office will remain, but the building itself is certainly unsafe. The main problem is lack of alternative premises where the post office/newsagent and hair-dressing salon can carry on their businesses.

Any Other Business:

Yellow Telephone - Complaints have been received from people trying to use the phone outside the Town Hall that traffic noise make it difficult to hear the instructions being given. An acoustic hood can be fitted at a cost of between £900 and £1,100. Whilst it could be argued that this ought to be provided at Police expense, the Chairman said it would take an unacceptably long time for such approval to be granted, and he therefore **proposed that our Association should pay for the work to be done as soon as possible. Agreed by all present.** The Mayor, David Hawkins, said that the Town Council would probably be prepared to contribute towards the cost.

There was a request that some signage should be provided in the town, directing people to the Yellow Phone (and, indeed, the Town Hall itself!).

New Milton Celebrates - The Chairman reminded everyone of the Community Picnic being held on the rec., Sunday, 12th June, to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Apart from a food hall to supplement picnics being brought along by individuals, it will be a virtually cost-free day. Lots of entertainment for all ages from 1 p.m. to a grand 9.30 finale with fireworks. At some time there will be a flyover by a Lancaster bomber and possibly other aircraft.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (TDO): NEW POST FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction:

A working party was set up last year to look at how the Town Council could support local business and re-invigorate the town centre in order to prevent further closures and encourage new businesses. Part of that focus was on establishing a relationship between existing local business and the Council, something that has already been started with the support obtained in putting on the annual Christmas lights and floral displays, including those at the station to which SWT have just contributed £4,000. But this must be built on further and have the ability to do something more tangible than simply build up people's expectations.

Background:

The simple fact is that there is very little capacity within the Town Council at this time to provide the support required to promote and improve the town centre and businesses generally. Current employment of a part-time TDO by the Town Partnership (NMTP) provides a very limited service provision, and the Council has decided that it needs to employ someone in-house full-time to ensure local businesses will have confidence in and be able to regularly engage with that person, in addition to have their concerns listened to. The Town Council does now have the budget to take on a full-time member of staff in the Town Hall, as originally planned.

Key Relationships:

Reporting to the Town Clerk and based at the Town Hall, the TDO will work to provide a high quality environment to meet the needs of local businesses, residents and visitors alike. Key relationships include contact with officers at all levels in the Town Council; Town, District and County Councillors, New Milton Town Partnership; local businesses represented by NewBiz; local residents represented by the New Milton Residents' Association; the general public and other agencies together with potential new industrial/retail businesses for New Milton.

Aims & Objectives:

- To enable residents of New Milton to enjoy high quality social, recreational and cultural facilities, and seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities.
- To encourage and promote the economic, commercial vitality of New Milton.
- To preserve the unique identity of New Milton and promote its heritage.
- To encourage harmony between commercial, ecological and residential requirements.
- To consult with and take due regard of all comments from individuals and other organisations to provide a high standard of service to meet local needs.
- To help create a socially inclusive, caring community that embraces all residents.

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking this review, and has been consulting widely with all Parish and Town Councils in Hampshire, some of whom have made



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representations. The criteria to which the LGBCE is required to operate when undertaking reviews are

- Electoral equality, i.e. each councillor should, as nearly as possible, represent the same number of electors
- Community identity
- Effective and convenient local government

The most recent consultation (much of which fell over Christmas/New Year) was on the LGBCE's recommendations for amended Divisions. The LGBCE is proposing that the number of County Councillors representing New Forest District be reduced from 11 to 10 in order to improve electoral equality across the whole of Hampshire. This will mean significant re-drawing of the County Division boundaries within the District. The LGBCE's recommendations for the makeup of the new divisions include dividing a number of smaller parishes over different County Divisions which, of course, would mean having more than one County Councillor representing a Parish.

These proposals have been considered by Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Councils. Both have made representations to the LG BCE to reinstate 11 members to the New Forest and, if necessary to achieve this, to increase the total number of members on the County Council from 78 to 79. If the LGBCE does not agree to this, both Councils have recommended changes to the pattern of divisions proposed by the LGBCE to reduce the number of smaller parishes which are divided across more than one County Division. The County's and District's suggestions differ slightly.

I would stress that the final decisions on this matter will be taken by the LGBCE; County and District proposals (and any suggestions parish councils might have made) are recommendations only. Final proposals will be published on 5th April.

Goff Beck, District & Town Councillor

AN APPEAL FOR

"NEW MILTON CELEBRATES"

New Milton's commemoration of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday will take place on the rec., adjacent Old Milton Road and Elm Avenue Car Park on Sunday, 12th June, between 1 and 9.30 p.m. More details about this huge free Community Picnic will be in the next issue of FOCUS. A day not to be missed, even including a flypast by the famous Lancaster bomber and a spectacular finale!

As part of this incredible day out we would also like to pay tribute and provide a great day out for our own 90-year-olds, especially if we have a local resident who will celebrate **their** 90th on exactly the same day as the Queen's - 21st April. **If you know of anyone who will be 90 this year please telephone or email me with their name and address as soon as possible.** Your help will be greatly appreciated. The New Milton Friends Group has helped to provide this element to our great commemorative event.

Alan Watson, 07771 754025

New Milton Celebrates Organising Team
alan.watson@newmiltonevents.co.uk

ASUMMER VISIT

Following the success of the theatre trip to Sonning last year, a visit is being arranged for **Monday, 15th August to the Savill Garden, part of Windsor Great Park, combined with a boat trip on the Thames.**

In the morning you will have access to the Garden which includes herbaceous borders with ribbons of vibrant colour, lush and shady walks in the hidden garden and over 700 hydrangeas in bloom in the Summer Wood. Roses should be at their peak in the English Rose Garden which is planted with over 300 bushes. On a warm summer's day the scent is magnificent. Coffee in the restaurant is available during the morning (at your own expense). A hot one-course-with-coffee lunch will be served at about 1 p.m. in a reserved area of the restaurant; this should be adequate as a cream tea will also be provided during the two-hour river trip.

The boat will take us from Runnymede to Windsor and back, giving splendid views of the Castle. Our coach will leave around 4.45 with the aim of returning to New Milton by about 7 p.m.

Cost will be £47.50 per person, to include return coach transport, entrance to Savill Garden, lunch, return boat trip, cream tea and gratuities.

Please do put this event in your diary and let me have your booking as soon as possible as it is anticipated the coach will be fully booked very quickly. Friends are welcome to come along. The coach will leave Bradbeers sharply at 9 a.m. Cheques should be sent with your place reservation but can be post-dated to 15th July as all payments will be held over until that date. Bookings will be dealt with as soon as received; first come first served! Let's hope for a fine summer day!!

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Looking to the future, I have provisionally booked seats at The Mill, Sonning, for 16th January, 2017, for a performance of "High Society". Please let me know if you are interested in taking part in this trip.

Gerry Bryer, Treasurer, 611254
15b Appletree Close, New Milton, BH25 6PA
gerry.bryer@virgin.net

YOUR HOME EMERGENCY PLAN

In recent months I have been contacted for assistance in emergency and sometimes slightly panic situations when family members have been too far away to do anything and neighbours not sufficiently known to call upon for help. I have, of course, been glad to do what I could but it does bring to light the fact that there are many elderly members of this community who have nobody to whom they can easily turn for immediate aid and so become frightened. I think that we (particularly the older generation) tend to be rather "private" people, anxious to remain independent and not wishing to be seen as a nuisance or burden to anyone.

Nevertheless, I am personally of an age where it's been necessary for me to come to terms with the fact that nothing works as well as it once did. Apart from the usual ageing things, vertigo affects my sense of balance more than it used to, I've discovered I don't bounce back up after a fall, and have, therefore, experienced some awkward moments.

All this has made me realise that I needed to have sensible plans set up to deal with a sudden problem or emergency, particularly as I have no family here. I pass these on to you in the hope that you may think it worth while putting them in place yourselves.

1. If family members are not within easy reach, ensure you have at least one friend or neighbour close at hand on whom you can call for help.
2. Make sure your family and GP contact details can be easily seen or found.
3. Invest in the NFDC's Lifeline (or Careline Community Alarm as it's now called) so that you can simply buzz for help quickly..
4. When you take a bath/shower have your phone and contact details close by in case you fall or need help.
5. Keep your phone and contact details at your bedside, easily at hand if you feel unwell during the night.

6. Of course, keep your home secure, but entrust your chosen friend or neighbour with a key so that access can be made. If an emergency service needs to get in you don't want them to have to break down your door!
7. Ensure that whoever has your key also knows how to contact your family and GP in case of need.

All these things may seem a bit "over the top" and unnecessary, but such precautions make common sense and can, believe me, put your mind at rest. I do strongly recommend that you take up the Careline monitoring option as this would automatically cover a number of the other points mentioned above. Details from 02380 285523 or 285453; newforest.gov.uk/appletreecareline.

As my old Nan used to say "A little of what you fancy does you good" - so enjoy the occasional treat, cosset yourself - and keep taking the tablets!

Phyllis Inglis

INTOWN

Design Station: One of our members has asked that a special mention be made of this shop which opened fairly recently on Station Road (opposite Costa). She apparently had problems with her mobile phone which they sorted out in a very helpful way. The Station offers photographic printing on many articles, including t-shirts, etc., phone and tablet cases to gladden the eye, items customised to your own design, gifts for gadget lovers and lots more. All very interesting and well worth a visit.

Willow Restaurant: Another local business to support! The Milton Barns on Gore Road recently re-opened under this new name and private ownership. Plenty of parking, disabled access and facilities, spacious conservatory and comfortable inner restaurant. On offer are several breakfast choices, coffee and scones, light and more substantial lunches, cream teas and full evening meals.

The comment is often made that there is little opportunity in New Milton itself to meet up with friends and family for a convivial meal in pleasant surrounds. So the Willow Restaurant could be just what you're looking for. Accommodation is also available. Not exactly the cheapest meals around but everything is home-made/home-cooked, service is helpful and courteous - and it's not far to drive home afterwards! Residents are assured of a warm welcome. See their advert on page 18 and mention FOCUS when you visit.

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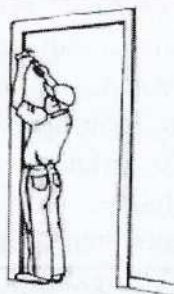
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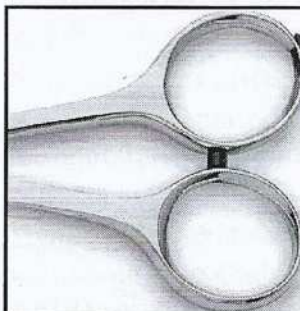
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NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

Water bills will increase as from this month, the exact amount depending on your supplier. If you have a water meter installed you might be able to reduce your annual bill by up to £100. Meters are in most cases installed free of charge. Once installed you can also apply for other items that will reduce your consumption. For example, Bournemouth Water offer one water-saving kit per customer including Hippo, shower timer and tap aerator.

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NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

If you are acting in an 18th century drama or attending a fancy dress ball, you may find a fan or snuff box an essential prop - as did the ladies and gentlemen of the time. But these items can also be described as "Inessential Necessities of 18th Century England", which is the title of Naomi Motley's forthcoming talk.

It promises to be an amusing presentation, so please join us at the Memorial Centre, Whitefield Road, on **Thursday, 14th April**. We will make an early start for the AGM at 10.15 a.m., followed by the lecture, so seats should be taken by 10.10 a.m. Coffee is served from 9.45, and visitors are welcome at a charge of £5.

Further details from Ann Clegg on 01590 643046, newmilton@dfas.org.uk, or visit <http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

Joan Bates

NEW MILTON CRAFTS

Now in their fifth year, the highly popular New Milton Craft Events, organised by the New Milton Town Partnership, will return with a Spring Fair on Saturday, 16th April. Over 50 stalls will encompass a wide range of offerings from gluten-free cakes and ceramics to handmade dog collars and driftwood creations. Illustrating their popularity, there are many new exhibitors showing their offerings for the first time in New Milton.

The Fair will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Centre. Admission by a 60P donation.

CHRISTCHURCH & NEW FOREST NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

At a recent meeting Peter Roberts (former verderer and former Chairman of the New Forest Association) gave members an illustrated overview of the Forest, focusing primarily on notable Lyndhurst characters. Records from 1300 showed names and holdings of importance, with the main road and features appearing in 1870 and extending by 1876. Local famous people included composer Ellen Dickenson, artist Lord Leighton, author Mary Braddon and, of course, Alice Liddle (known for inspiring Lewis Carroll's Alice In Wonderland) as well as Snake-catcher Henry Brusher.

By 1875 the main street of Lyndhurst was still lacking electricity, running water or sewage disposal until a typhoid epidemic in 1890, from which time things began to improve and more shops opened. However, complaints were raised about the large number of cars going through to Bournemouth - **twenty(!)** having been counted in one day.

Peter ended his very interesting presentation with reference to the Verderers' Court and Swan Green.

Further information on the Association can be obtained from Shirley Burke on 628992 or www.cnfnta.org.uk.

EWE2 CLUB

We are a group who enjoy spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, etc. Most of our crafts are fibre and yarn based but we cover a wide range of interests.

Our meetings are in New Milton, Sway and Lymington so why not join us, beginners or experienced? Our New Milton meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Community Centre. Hope to see you on **21st April**.

For further information please contact Sue at ewe2@yahoo.co.uk or visit ewe2club.org.uk.

NEIGHBOUR CARE

Life has been pretty hectic in the office lately, the GP strikes affecting appointments and then a surge in trying to arrange new dates and admittances, etc. The call on our drivers is constant and increasing, so if you can possibly give us some time it would be most gratefully appreciated - especially with the onset of holidays and drivers not being available. Please call us on 611662 if you can help.

Jo Swayne, Office Manager

JUBILEE SINGERS

At the end of February the Choir visited Linden House in Lymington, a new venue for us. Although most of the residents have dementia, a lot of them and some carers joined in the songs and it was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by everyone. Last month we spent the afternoon at Osborne Lodge in New Milton where residents proved to be a very appreciative audience - along with the resident budgerigar!

Practice for our two concerts on Saturdays 21st and 28th May at the Community Centre is coming along well, and tickets will be available from 20th April at the Reception Desk or from choir members. Admission is £5 for adults, £2 for children, including refreshments. We thank the Receptionists for agreeing to assist us in selling the tickets, which is so helpful.

It is with great regret that we have to announce our accompanist/pianist Jill Crossley will be standing down after our summer concerts, ending 12 years of loyal service, and she will be sadly missed by everyone in the choir. So now we are urgently in need of a pianist to join us from the middle of August.

If anyone can help us will they please contact Conductor Janet Trow on 619062 or Secretary Sheila Lead on 837973. They will be very happy to hear from you.

Liz Northcote

NEW MILTON U3A

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **27th April**, at the Memorial Centre, and we are hoping to have nominations from members to join our friendly committee. The meeting will continue with an illustrated talk by Eric Watson on "Wild Flowers In Your Garden", which will be very appropriate with Spring on the way. Visitors welcome at £2.

Help! A pianist is wanted for two hours a month to play for our "Singing For Fun" Group. Please do contact me.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

PHOENIX HOLIDAY GROUP

Open Morning 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Friday, 15th April, at the Community Centre. Pop in for a chat and find out the type of holidays organised by this group, and perhaps even make a booking!

Pat McKean, Organiser, 278669

CONCHORD SINGERS

Spring has sprung and we continue our new repertoire where we perform at some very pleasant venues. We are gratefully received and audiences seem to appreciate our singing.

At our concert at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, **12th June**, at the Conservative Club we will be celebrating the Singers' 40th anniversary and **would like to invite all previous members and partners to join us. A call to our new Secretary, Juanita Woods on 629102, would be greatly appreciated to let her know if you can come along.**

We look forward to seeing you and help us raise the roof with some enthusiastic singing.

Sylvia Camp, PR Lady to the Singers

BARTON ON SEA

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting starts off the new Guild Year at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, **20th April**, at Barton Methodist Church Hall. Speaker Steve Roberts will talk to us about "Bournemouth Blue Plaques".

Tea, raffle, competition, sales table.

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

At its February meeting Chairman Bob Pettifer welcomed three new members, saying he felt this was a result of the fellowship and activities enjoyed by members and their partners.

Speaker Kathy McNally gave an illustrated lecture on "Spying, The Great Game", describing examples of spying methods across the ages. It is said that the only building in London where the Union flag flies day and night is the home of M16 - "because spies never sleep"! Kathy spoke of Philby, Burgess and Mclean, the cold war when surveillance behind the Iron Curtain was rife. Industrial spying and intelligence gathering still exists, using all modern techniques including the cyber world.

A most interesting and informative talk.

The Club meets at Hoburne Park on the third Thursday of the month and welcomes new members. Details from Secretary Mike Crook on 617772 or visit newmiltonprobus.co.uk.

NEW MILTON HEALING GROUP

We continue to be very busy on our Wednesday mornings and are so glad we are able to be of service to those of you who visit us. Thank you for your feedback and the assurance that you are feeling much better after your visit, with pain and stress

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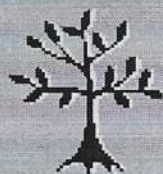
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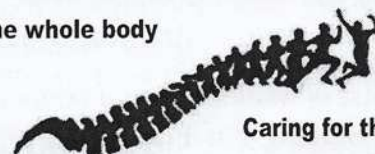
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Donations are gratefully received to cover rent and expenses but our time is freely given. If at any time you feel you would like an extra healing home visits can be arranged. Please telephone Anne on 619933 or Lyn on 614648 for further information.

NEW MILTON CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Our small, informal group meets every second Monday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Friends' Meeting House, Whitefield Road. Do take some invaluable time out to join us on **11th April** for advice, support, and the opportunity to share concerns and make new friends among fellow carers. Tea and biscuits are served in our relaxed, café-style setting, free of charge.

For further information on our various activities please contact Maggie on 614714.

SILENCE

What is silence? Would it be when you leave a late night show or noisy pub and walk out into the quiet streets? Perhaps you might wake up in the middle of the night and it's so quiet you could hear a pin drop. I have two hearing aids and also suffer from tinnitus - a problem which has been with me since the early sixties, a roaring in my right ear, a whistling in my left, sometimes almost unbearable.

So, what IS silence?

Frank Case, Barton

VOLUNTEERING

The majority of local groups (and charity shops!) are crying out for people to join their committees or offer support in carrying out their activities. And, at the same time, there are no doubt many members of this community who are sometimes bored and feel they would benefit from a little outside interest. So why don't these two needs come together?

Of course, retirement these days isn't what it was years ago. People leaving work now are generally in better health, have a bit more money to spend, wish to visit family in other parts of the world, and spend time on leisure activities. Understandable that, after a hard and demanding working life, one is reluctant to take on a new schedule, responsibility or commitment.

Nevertheless, we all need some activity to exercise our minds, and continue to make use of the knowledge and skills gained over the years - either in the workplace or at home. If we can do all these things and, at the same time, help out and provide a service to the community in some way it must surely be a two-way benefit.

We all have a private life to live and should without doubt make the most of it for as long as we can. However, research tells us there is a great need to keep the mind as active as possible, as well as the body.

Please do give some serious thought on how you can do this - helping yourself and your community at the same time. You will find it both rewarding and fulfilling.

NOSTALGIA

In today's world we tend to accept without very much thought such marvels and miracles as space travel, computers, the internet, electronic games, cars that drive themselves and the Smart phone without which it seems we cannot exist. However, wandering in my mind down memory lane I recall the lesser wonders of my much younger days - which I think gave us a greater thrill and enriched our day-to-day lives, particularly after the restrictive and depressing war years.

In my late teens I remember my father announcing one day that we were to have a telephone installed; albeit a "party line" but enabling us to make instant contact with friends and family. We really were going up in the world!

Very early in my married life I recall while we were browsing through a local department store being approached by a sales lady demonstrating the wonders of a refrigerator. She opened one to produce milk which was delightfully cold on that summer's day and perfectly drinkable although a few days old, and vegetables as fresh as the day they were picked. It took some coaxing on my part to persuade my cautious Other Half to pay the "enormous" price (on hire purchase, of course!), but it was a red letter day for us when the Frigidaire was finally delivered.

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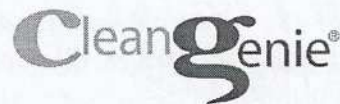


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 the rear of the HOPE shop, opposite Barclays Bank

An electric vacuum cleaner soon followed to replace the broom and shovel, but it was quite a while before we could afford the luxury of a postage-stamp-size black and white TV, and even longer to purchase a washing machine to take over from the Butler sink and scrubbing board. And how over the moon we were when it was decided our budget would stretch to a second-hand Morris Minor!

All these items are now regarded as basic necessities, as well as a plethora of other "can't do withouts". Such trivial things by today's standards but regarded as marvels of invention all those years ago when life was so much simpler - and, perhaps, more valued and appreciated.

Phyllis Inglis

BROCKENHURST GROUP WI BIENNIAL CRAFT SHOW

This group, which includes Bashley and New Milton Sands WI, will present a Spring Exhibition of Craft & Produce from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, **16th April**, at Sway Village Hall. Come and see the amazing range of crafts and food produced by members. An opportunity to learn more about what the WI offers, as well as an excuse to try some of our delicious cakes with a tea or coffee. The whole family welcome. Entry 50p, free for children under 12.

THE 100 YEARS WAR COMES TO NEW MILTON

The Lions Club of New Milton brings a new attraction to the town with its Annual May Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday, **2nd May**. The Hundred Years' War was a series of conflicts waged from 1337 to 1453 by the House of Plantagenet, rulers of the Kingdom of England against the House of Valois, rulers of the Kingdom of France, for control of the latter kingdom.

Battle scenes from this epic struggle will be re-enacted on the recreation ground between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. These will be accompanied by "living history" displays illustrating what life was like at that time, cooking demonstrations, weapon-making and other craft activities. A lot to interest people of all ages and even the chance for young children to do battle with some of the combatants in the arena.

There will, of course, be the traditional and highly

popular Lions Club Plant Stall, barbeque and refreshment tents, children's amusements and a large number of craft and other stalls. **New Milton community groups are welcome to take a stall but please get in touch now!**

Alan Watson, 07771 754025

Chair of Lions Club Activities Committee
alan.watson@newmiltonevents.co.uk

NEW MILTON FRIENDS GROUP

A fundraising Quiz Night will be held 6.30 for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, **13th April**, at Highcliffe Golf Club. Tables of 4-6. £10 per person including hot food choice. Tickets from Janet on 626047. All proceeds will go to local causes.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON DEMENTIA TEA CLUB (Age Concern Hampshire)

Please join us for tea, cake and company from 2 to 4 p.m. on **17th April**, at Bupa Ashley Lodge, Oak View, Golden Hill, Ashley, BH25 5AH.

Further information from Susan Wiffen, 07884 300641; suechef@live.co.uk.

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION.

A reminder that we will be at Lymington Market on **Saturday, 30th April**, and would welcome anything which we can sell, especially lengths of fabric, jigsaw puzzles, cakes and jams (no jumble, please). Contact Anne (626112), Heather (613782) or Rosemary (612066). Anne particularly needs cameras, lenses, binoculars. Madeleine (618232) would welcome unwanted musical instruments.

So far this year we have sent about £1,200-worth of multivitamins which are badly needed for the children, and we are so grateful for the blankets, jumpers, hats and scarves which have been donated. I wish you could see the children's faces when they receive these vital and often life-saving gifts. Thank you all for your great kindness.

Jackie Preis

NEW FOREST MENCAP

We are in need of volunteers to cover various slots at our Street Collection in Lymington on Saturday, **23rd April**. Please do contact me if you can give us some help.

Mary Bergin, Charity Fundraiser, 621893
mary@newforestmencap.org.



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Sundays 10th and 24th April, Elm Avenue Car Park (behind Hayward Fox Estate Agents). Sellers after 8.30 a.m., cars £5. Buyers 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items needed are good quality bric-a-brac no clothes), etc. Will collect. Contact Chris on 628937 evenings. In aid of New Milton Stroke Group and Neighbourcare New Milton.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

No-one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another. (Charles Dickens)

If you have children you'll notice they have two states - asleep or on line (Google CEO)

Kids have it much too easy these days. In my day I had to **walk** six feet through shag pile carpet to change the TV channel! (Billy Connolly)

To find a man's true character, play golf with him (P.G. Wodehouse)

We are not in politics to ignore people's worries. We are in politics to deal with them.

(Margaret Thatcher)

OBITUARY

(Reportedly printed in The Times)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. Nobody knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain
- Why the early bird gets the worm
- Life isn't always fair
- Maybe it was my fault

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can afford) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. He lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job which they themselves had failed to do in exercising discipline. His condition declined further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer a paracetamol to a student or apply a sticking plaster. He lost the will to live as churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He took a beating when he found you couldn't defend yourself against a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up after a woman failed to appreciate that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilt some in her lap and was awarded a huge settlement.

He was preceded in death by

- His parents, Truth and Trust
- His wife, Discretion
- His daughter, Responsibility
- His son, Reason

He is survived by his step siblings

- I know my rights
- I want it now
- Someone else is to blame
- I'm a victim
- Pay me for doing nothing

Not many people attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone!

Submitted by **B. Laycock, New Milton**

PERSON TO PERSON

Pick up a pen, practise signing your name
It proves you're a person, a part of life's game
Get out some paper and jot down your thoughts
Write out some cheques, not too many noughts
Receiving a letter - what a good feeling
Better than emails and much more revealing
Telling you things that are often surprising
Personal, private or just tantalising
Your laptop's for business
A letter's for pleasure
Keep them both separate
And learn which to treasure

B. Withers

ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON

He was brave and fearless
Upright, strong and true
He didn't pussyfoot around
He had a job to do
He heard a nasty dragon
A scaly, fiery beast
Was really out to get him
Not worried in the least
George was rather miffed at this
Vowed to turn up the heat
To prove he was a warrior
And wouldn't take defeat

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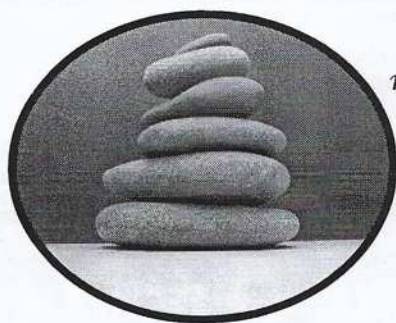
If you are thinking about booking a room or starting a recreational group, we would love to hear from you, contact us at ...

lettings@newmiltoncentre.org.uk

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A plan was made, a date agreed
The dye was set and cast
For George to slay the dragon
And get home in time for breakfast
Face to face they met
Each gave a stony glare
The dragon lashed out with his tail
Not really playing fair
He swished his tail, thrashed about
And as if that wasn't enough
His fiery nostrils puffed and blazed
He was playing very rough

And then a little creature
Scurried across the floor
An incy wincy spider
Ran onto the dragon's claw
The dragon, scared, retreated
Gave a mighty scream
The likes the spider nor St. George
Had never heard nor seen
With the dragon so distracted
And all the fuss around
George took advantage
And stabbed him to the ground

All of England's finest praised their hero true
And St. George never mentioned the spider
Well, come on now! Would you?

A LEARNING CURVE

I had a row with Mum and Dad
Walked right out - they made me mad!
Told them I am seventeen
Could do as I liked - but they were mean
Said "While you are living here
It's us who you should heed, my dear"

I'd dressed up for a disco bash
(My outfit cost a lot of cash!)
Mum cried "You look a proper fright"
Dad glared "And like a lady of the night"
Well!! That was more than I could bear
Packed a bag, got out of there
Went to stay with best friend Bev
Who shared her pad with Dale and Kev

At first it seemed like lots of fun
I was free, thought I'd won
And then things started to go wrong
Parties, booze, fags with a "pong"
The boys were showing less respect
Becoming harder to reject
Mother's warning came to mind
I got real scared, I'd been so blind
Perhaps my parents were quite right
I wasn't street-wise, not so bright

It took some doing to lose face
Admit defeat, crawl back to base
But I wanted Mum, so picked up the phone
"Dad, please come and take me home!"

THE CRUISE

I went off on a singles cruise
Against my better judgement
But a friend said that I should go -
"You look as pale as parchment!
You need some male companionship
To give your life some zing
So get on board, take your girdle off
And have a little fling
Find yourself a partner
A grey-top with panache
The icing on the cake would be
If he has lots of cash!"
And so I bit the bullet
Tarted up with loads of bling
Cocktail parties, dances
Wondering what fate would bring
The first approach was made
By a dapper, sportive gent
Scotch in hand, a practised smile
Thinking he was heaven-sent
I tactfully got rid of him
His sort I didn't need
I wanted someone "comfortable"
Whose tastes and mine agreed
The swimming pool activities
Always raised a grin
Ladies looking stylish
Men's tummies held well in
Towels draped to best effect
Aches and pains ignored
Gin and tonics flowing
Inhibitions thawed

I took a day excursion
A man sat next to me
Looking a bit nervous
(He had a wonky knee)
I made a friendly comment
He answered rather shy
Said it was his first cruise
And then he told me why
He'd lived with Mummy, now deceased
His loss was hard to bear
Now he aimed to seek a lady
Who'd give him lots of care
His health was quite uncertain
He wanted TLC
And from our brief acquaintance
He thought that might be me!
He did look rather needy

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Saturday April 23rd

The last Table Top Sale will be held at
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9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Tables £6 each or £10 for 2.

To Book Telephone: 07771 754025.

Saturday 25th June

Inter-generational Quiz Night

with a Fish or chicken and chip Supper
at the New Milton Memorial Centre

for details and to book Please ring 01425 501315.

Saturday 29th October:

Big Band Dance Night. More details to follow later.

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And likely to get worse
So I told him very kindly
I couldn't be his nurse
Well, the cruise was nearly over
And time was running out
"Singles" finding partners
But for me there was a drought
Maybe I was too picky
My sights aimed much too high
For I was no spring chicken
To catch a nice man's eye

And then an odd thing happened
Something unforeseen
My lounge broke beneath me
As I sat eating ice cream
I fell and rolled undignified
Knickers in full view
Carte D'or's best stuck to my chest
My language turning blue

A kindly voice came to my ear
A gentle guiding hand
"Can I help you up" he asked
"Are you sure that you can stand?"
Thankfully I leaned on him
Feeling quite secure
Why do females feel that way?
That instant allure?

Remaining days upon that cruise
Passed in high delight
My new companion proved to be
My pensioned Mr. Right
"Second time around" it's said
Can happen to us all
But I never thought 'twould come to me
Never thought I'd fall
It goes to show one doesn't know
What fate might have in store
A summer cruise, a broken chair
A tumble on the floor

We've not had many problems
Got no fussy ways
Lots of cash we haven't
But enough for easy days
It isn't roses all the way
To share one's life again
But few regrets, we help each other
"Shelter from the rain"

So, would I recommend a cruise
To meet a likely mate?
Well - enjoy yourself, keep your head
And value your single state!

"Saga Jane", I.O.W.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendoncare Get Together Club

2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Contact Evelyn on 839885; Bernie on 638540.

6th April: John Wren presentation on being a Warden at Buckingham Palace.

20th April: Games and Musical Entertainment.

Saturdays, 2nd and 30th April: Table Top Sales at Barton Methodist Church, 9 a.m. till noon. Proceeds for Property Development Fund. To book a table for £5 call Mike on 614736. Refreshments available.

Thursday, 7th April: The Curious Adventures of Pinocchio, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Forest Arts Centre. Tickets £7.25 for four. Box Office 612393.

Monday, 11th April: New Milton Macular Support Group, 2 p.m. Community Centre. Danny Stone sings and plays guitar. Contact Malcolm Swan, 618925

Thursday, 14th April: New Forest Tinnitus Group 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. Talk on "Research Funded by BTA" by Peter Wheeler, Chairman. Contact www.newforesttinnitus.org.uk.

Tuesday, 19th April: Anne Goulding's Head Shave for Cancer Research, UK. 10 a.m. till noon at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Admission by donation at the door.

Monday, 18th April: New Milton Townswomen's Guild meeting 2 p.m. at the Community Centre. Presentation on "The American Deep South". Contact Janet Litten, 617052.

Saturday, 23rd April: Girlguiding in New Milton Prize Bingo Evening, £5. From 7 p.m. at the Guide HQ Lake Grove Road. Proceeds to HQ maintenance fund.

Tuesday, 26th April: New Forest Organ Society. Concert with John Mann. Doors open 6.30 p.m. for 7.15 at All Saints Church Hall, Milford. Contact Keith Evans on 612515.

Wednesday, 27th April: Police Surgery at 10.30 a.m. in the Community Centre. Do take this opportunity to meet your local officers and tell them of any concerns you may have. They are happy to listen!

Thursday, 28th April: Coffee Morning at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. 10 a.m. till noon. Homemade preserves, cards, etc.

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