

NEW MILTON, BARTON-ON-SEA & DISTRICT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (NEMBRA)

FOCUS



FROM YOUR EDITOR

Are you glad to be back to normal now? So much planning goes into Christmas, doesn't it, and it's all over in a flash. Trees and cards disposed of, decorations put away, determination to go on a diet and perhaps you are already making plans for a spring break or summer holiday? Whatever - let us look forward with hope and anticipation.

Incidentally, you probably know that Oxfam takes used stamps, but apparently they are also pleased to accept foreign coins, so please remember to drop them in to their Station Road shop if you return from abroad with a pocketful of euros, etc.

Regarding last month's General Meeting, the lady in charge of bookings at the Methodist Church sent apologies for our having to use the church itself instead of the hall. As it happened, this worked out very well because around 140 people attended and it would have been extremely difficult to accommodate everyone in the hall. We were also very pleased to see a representative from the A&T taking notes and photographs. It is usually my responsibility, as Secretary, to find speakers but on this occasion thanks go to our Chairman for bringing together no less than six police officers to form a Question Time Panel. It was a pleasure to see them and we greatly appreciated their spending time with us. Full details of the whole session cannot be covered here, but summarised minutes of the meeting will be found in this issue.

Since some people present at the meeting seemed to be unaware of the fact, do please note that a Police Surgery is held on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) for about an hour from 10.30 a.m. in Room 1 at the Community Centre. Pop in with any problems or concerns you might have or simply take the opportunity to have a chat with your bobby. Whichever officer is there will be pleased to meet up with you and help wherever possible.

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Saturday, 12th March (after AGM), 10.15 a.m.

New Milton Community Centre

Tuesday, 10th May, 7 p.m.

New Milton Community Centre

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 1st February, 14th March

Amenities - 15th February, 4th April

Financial & Gen. - 29th February, 19th April

Planning:

4th & 18th February

3rd, 17th, 31st March

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.

The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

Our AGM is almost upon us so do try to come along and demonstrate your support of all that the Association is trying to do on your behalf. In the follow-on General Meeting with Open Forum, it's your opportunity to put comments and suggestions to the committee, so take full advantage of it. During that morning, based on comments received to date, **a revised proposal will be put forward that, instead of changing the title of FOCUS, the Association's name be shortened to "New Milton Residents' Association"**. So please give this some thought.

You will see that this month's From Your Chairman article is necessarily hard-hitting to draw attention to the need for assistance if the Association (and distribution of FOCUS) is to continue effectively. It's in your hands folks!

A mistake! Last month I said that committee nominations should be with me six weeks before the AGM. Sorry - it should have been 14 days, in line with a change to the ruling. Gives you a bit more time to decide if you can help us!

Visit our website - www.nembra.org.uk

A resident of Waverley House recently contacted us to say that a fellow tenant, retired Wing Commander Ted Sparrow, has received one of France's highest honours - Chevalier, Ordre National de la Legion D'honneur - in recognition of the role he played in the liberation of France in WW2. Born in South London in 1922, and enlisting in the RAF at 18, Ted took part in many operations until he was shot down and very badly injured in 1944. The full story of his military career, overcoming major traumatic injury and continuing to lead a very active life is too long to publish here but is most inspiring. Another example of unsung heroes within our midst, and we congratulate Ted on a well-deserved award.

I finish my editorial on something which, at risk of boring you rigid, has to be said. It may be remembered that last year the Association and FOCUS itself received some adverse comments. Things calmed down and I was given reassurance from readers that they were happy with the content of the Newsletter and my editorship. However, at our last committee meeting I learned that the Chairman continues to receive rumblings of discontent about FOCUS, although I've been given no specific details. Whilst members should certainly contact the Chairman if they have anything at all to complain about, when it concerns FOCUS it would perhaps be helpful to also tell me as Editor, so that I might be given the opportunity to address the issue. Rather than be the subject of background mutterings I would much prefer a straightforward and open approach. If I don't know what I'm doing wrong there's nothing much I can do about it!

There **has** been some suggestion that FOCUS be produced to a higher quality in colour, but I understand that the cost of production would increase appreciably. It should be borne in mind that FOCUS is not a magazine, as such; it is a basic Association newsletter in which I aim to keep members updated on what's going on around them - easily readable, informative, a "window" for local groups to publicise what they do, a helpful diary of events, a little light relief including an editorial which may not be to some folks' liking but I get very good, interested feedback from it and believe it encourages inter-action between members and committee, making the Newsletter less impersonal.

If this format no longer appeals and something different is required, perhaps the complainants can get together and find a new editor with new ideas.

We are now preparing for the AGM so it's just the right time for someone else to step forward, if that is your wish. Meanwhile, if I can still be of use I remain at your service

Phyllis Inglis

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

As we move towards our AGM (10.15 a.m. on Saturday, 12th March, at the Community Centre) **we have some very serious, critical problems** which the committee has to face. On the one hand the Association has some ambitious plans to widen membership, provide a more varied programme of General Meetings, and become a more proactive, relevant body; on the other hand our committee numbers are seriously dwindling. The Association cannot carry out these progressive ideas and move forward without the support of additional (hopefully younger) committee members helping to spread the load. **In particular, right now we have two key roles which (for various reasons including ill health) must be filled urgently, relating to recruitment of new members, management and distribution of FOCUS. Without this additional support the future of the Association (and indeed perhaps FOCUS as we know it) looks bleak.** A larger, active committee can, however, ensure a bright future.

It is important to stress that, other than a commitment to the Association's Aims & Objectives and involvement in a number of key initiatives, the role of a committee member does not entail a great deal of time. We only meet about every six weeks - in the evening so that those of working age can attend. I would strongly urge all of you to consider now whether you can spare a few hours of your time to keep the Association going and move forward to become a much more relevant and forceful voice in the community. **Without additional support this organisation, which is over 100 years old, faces a very uncertain future. Please do call me if you think you can help (contact details on page 3).**

One of the more encouraging signs we have seen recently has been the increased attendance at some of our General Meetings when more relevant topics have been addressed. This was particularly in evidence last month when we had the opportunity to ask questions and hear about the activities of our Police Force, both regionally and locally. It was clear from our Panel of six officers of almost all ranks that, whilst many problems continue to be evident in these austere times, those present had a clear focus, defined plans and a

**NEW MILTON, BARTON-ON-SEA & DISTRICT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**
(Affiliated to New Milton & District Community Association)
Annual Subscription £3.00 per household

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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.

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determination to help make the New Forest area a much better, safer place in which to live, work and play.

In my earlier comments about the short and longer term future of the Association, I referred to a need to become more proactive in the role that we play within the community. The Association must be seen to be more interesting as an organisation to all sectors of our population, and we must make greater effort to truly represent them, especially the younger and working-age element. I have received a number of comments that we have held important "Question Time" style meetings at a time inconvenient to young and working age groups, and this will be reviewed.

To be increasingly active on your behalf we must be closer and more in touch with local authorities and other bodies, community organisations and service groups - and, of course, to be more interactive with members. We need to be able to question, encourage feedback, debate and agree on positions which the Association should take on various issues - all these things to be tackled head-on rather than complaining and voicing our concerns after the event. This is what a strong Residents' Association has to be like on all fronts.

All this might sound like doom and gloom but the current committee is determined to work through this difficult time if we possibly can. However, the long and short of it is that we cannot continue to be a truly effective, representative body unless we make changes and get more support from members. Your Association needs you and a few hours of your time each month if we are to survive and progress. **As a committee, we don't want to have to take any drastic actions, and greater support from you could avoid that.**

Alan Watson

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A reminder that it is time to renew your 2016/17 subscription to the Association. Your Street Distributor will be calling for your £3 payment, due by 31st March. If you are not at home a letter will be left asking you to contact him/her or complete a standing order form for return to the Treasurer.

We have to say farewell to Street Distributor Mr. Geoff Blunden who has given up after six years of service to the Association. We thank him and wish him well for the future. Welcome to Helen and Ray Hartnell who have taken on a Street Distributor role and help with holiday relief. Thanks go this month to

Malcolm Floyd, Genevieve Saga and Liz Hawes for their assistance with holiday relief.

Can anyone help for the next two months to deliver 17 copies of FOCUS in Cull Lane and Cullwood Lane. If so, please do call us on 511551.

With much regret we have to advise that, for reasons of ill health, we will shortly be stepping down from our role as Membership/Distribution Coordinators. If anyone is interested in taking over to ensure you receive your monthly FOCUS, please do contact us (see page 3).

Jill & Allen Hennah

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

held at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th January, 2016

In the Chair: Alan Watson

Almost 140 people were warmly welcomed to the meeting, an attendance which was very gratifying in view of the fact that six police officers took time out from their various duties in order to be with us.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved and signed
Matters Arising: None.

The "Question Time" Panel was then introduced - Chief Superintendent Rich John, Chief Inspector Simon Tribe, Acting Inspector Paul Beale, Inspector Richard Parsons, PC Pannell and PCSO Clarke - all taking part in providing information and answering questions, both from the floor and those submitted in advance to our Chairman.

Despite a new way of assimilating data which might suggest otherwise, **crime figures** overall are less than they were last year. A general over-view of crime and antisocial behaviour was given, indicating that a massive amount of work is being undertaken covering a **rise in assaults and burglaries, sex offences, domestic and child abuse, online pornography, etc.** A very different scenario from what the Police had to tackle years ago! Problems are being actively addressed, including those of people travelling to and from by rail to commit crimes in this area. Innovative ideas are constantly being used to try and ensure that this is a safe place in which to live.

Manpower has been reduced by some 40% following local and Government edicts. The first cut in 2010 was, in fact, "healthy" in that it dealt with over-manning and made the Force more efficient; the second cut has been much more difficult, with core functions previously done by non-police staff now

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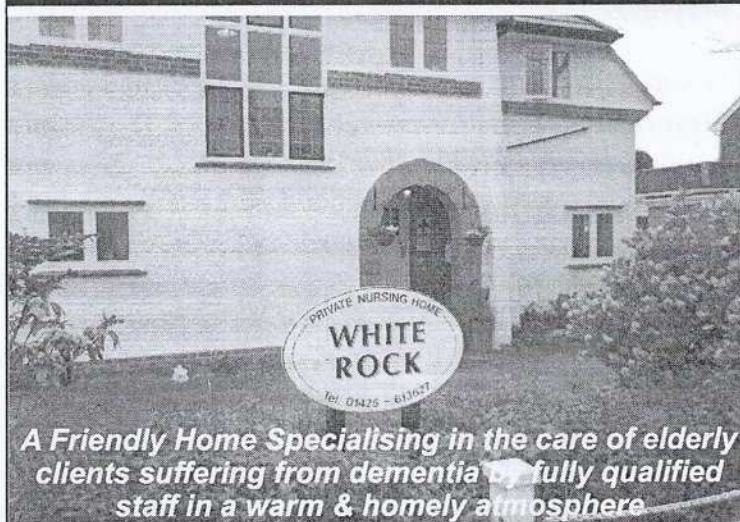
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having to be undertaken by police officers themselves. Policing today is inevitably changed to meet new budgets and different needs. Manpower has to be directed to be in the right place at the right time as far as possible.

In a cost-cutting exercise many police stations have been sold off and **“partnership premises”** set up instead, e.g. police in New Milton sharing Town Hall facilities, Ringwood police moving into the fire station. Other areas are being similarly reviewed.

A question was raised on why Lymington, with a population of just a few thousand, still has a police station whilst New Milton (a town of 26,500+) appears to have a minimal police presence in the Town Hall. It was explained that, in actual fact, firm indications showed a stronger requirement for a station in Lymington as against a waste of money and manpower to have officers in New Milton all the time. Although some people in the audience didn't appear to know about it, there is a **special yellow phone** installed on the wall outside the Town Hall with instructions on how to obtain police assistance. Consideration is presently being given to the provision of a hood over the phone to minimise noise from passing traffic. A suggestion was made that there should be clearer signage directing people to this phone.

There is an outstanding vexed question regarding **lost property** which, at the moment, has to be taken to Lymington Police Station. There is no answer to this at the present time since dealing with lost property appears no longer to be a police responsibility. This Association is working with the Police and the Town Council to try and resolve this issue which is annoying a lot of residents.

In answer to a question we learned that, within Hampshire, some 46% of officers are women, paid at the same rate as men! A query was also raised on the necessity for two police officers to accompany felons, when arrested, to Lyndhurst. Whilst this was certainly not the case in all instances, common sense has to be used when the safety of officers is a consideration, perhaps in dealing with violent, drug or drug-induced behaviour.

Local Police Coverage: At any one time the New Milton area is basically covered by three officers and three PCSOs working different shifts and able to call on more assistance where necessary. PCSOs have a high level of responsibility and can largely act in the

same way as a police officer. In addition, there are plain clothes officers and unmarked patrol cars on duty to keep criminals on their toes. In the case of need, resources can be drawn from other areas. The help of volunteer Specials is also invaluable; if they subsequently elect to become police officers minimal additional training is necessary. Rapid Response Cops are based in Lyndhurst; the officers are briefed at the station and are then out and about in cars, using Smart phones and other mobile data, going wherever demand requires. There is also, of course, a massive Call Centre at Netley.

A suggestion was made that the **speed limit in the New Forest** should be reduced in view of the number of animal accidents and fatalities. This is not a police matter; Hampshire County Council and the National Park Authority are responsible for setting this limit.

Unfortunately, after almost an hour and a half, the Question Time session had to be brought to a halt since the officers were committed to return to their duties. **This left several questions unanswered, but these will be dealt with by our Chairman and Acting Inspector Beale so that replies can be sent out. They will not be overlooked or ignored!**

On behalf of a most appreciative audience, Alan thanked the departing Panel for making the effort to be with us. Despite the constraints put upon the Force in these difficult days, residents should rest assured that, whilst not working in exactly the same way as familiar to us in years gone by, we do have a very active and effective police presence in our town

Alan followed up by reminding everyone of **Police Commissioner Simon Hayes' website questionnaire** inviting residents to take part in a survey on policing needs, etc. A very real chance for us to have our say on an important issue in view of possible further cuts and reorganisations. (After-meeting note: This survey will have concluded by the publication date of this issue of FOCUS).

Any Other Business:

Regarding protection of our homes, Alan referred to a need to increase the **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** and recruitment of individual Coordinators. Not an onerous role but an important one to ensure we have a much-needed, community-based, self-help scheme. Anyone interested in setting something up for their street or becoming a Coordinator should please contact Alan Watson (see page 3).



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A member of the audience asked about **Speedwatch**. This is a scheme whereby, for a week in each month, a roadside machine is set up to monitor speeding motorists in suspect areas. The machine is manned by two volunteers, and so volunteers are needed to maintain and extend this routine. Again, if anyone is interested will they please contact Alan.

Reference was made to the proposal to **rename FOCUS and/or the Association itself**. This is still under discussion in committee and will be put to members for ratification at the March AGM. Comments on this issue are still required.

Finally, reminders were given that, under the NEMBRA/CIA banner, a series of Table Top Sales will be held at the Memorial Centre (the next one on 27th February, 9.30 a.m. till 1 p.m.), and that the Lions Club with the Town Council will be arranging a "Clean For The Queen" Litter Pick from 4th to 6th March. Sunday, 12th June, will see the Queen's 90th Birthday celebration take place on the rec., promising to be a super great-fun-for-all event (website www.newmiltonevents.co.uk).

MILLAT SONNING THEATRE TRIP

"Just to say how much a friend and I really enjoyed it - an excellent lunch, a fun performance, and special thanks to the extremely considerate driver. Everything ran so smoothly and the coffee stop was well above expectations. We really appreciated the opportunity to chat with such a lovely group of other members. Thanks to Treasurer Gerry Bryer for a well-organised event and we look forward to hearing of future outings".

Maureen Keates

"A superb day! Pleasant journey, a sociable coffee stop at the Audleys Wood Hotel at Basingstoke and a fine lunch before moving on to the theatre (a delightful, unusual building in a fantastic location) for some great entertainment. Thanks to Gerry for arranging the trip; looking forward to the next one".

Ann Fox

Ed: These are just two of the several congratulatory letters and comments received (too many to publish here but all of them appreciated).

NEWS FROM NM TOWN COUNCIL

Christmas Festival: Despite inclement weather this proved, yet again, to be a great success. Whilst some stalls packed up early because of the high winds, many did their best business to date. The town stayed

steadily busy throughout the day and shops particularly benefited when it rained and people dashed for warmth and cover. The French Market had a very good day. Due to the valiant efforts of Town Partnership volunteers, the sound equipment was kept dry so that entertainment could go on unaffected by the elements..

Recreation Ground: Recent works carried out to construct the new skate park and improvements to the War Memorial area required three seats to be relocated. However, on removal they were found to be in an unsuitable condition so were disposed of. Several other seats/benches are now reaching the end of their useful life and so the Amenities Committee has agreed to purchase two WW1 commemorative seats and an Eco recycled bench.

The play area site is the largest in New Milton, attracting users from the town and outlying villages. In order to refresh the site, the concept is to introduce a range of new equipment and natural play features within the existing space, possibly retaining the existing large linked unit and creating a visually cohesive scheme which sits comfortably within the wider context of the recreation ground and the Vision Plan. Equipment must provide play value for all abilities up to 12 years old and comply with DDA requirements as far as reasonably practicable. Community feedback indicates that the play space is currently missing adequate swings and opportunities for imaginative, social play. Materials used need to be robust, vandal resistant and visually connect with the skate park, performance pavilion, newly surfaced footpaths and planting. It is additionally proposed to locate a limited range of outdoor adult gym equipment in close proximity to the play space to encourage use by carers of children using that space, and other adults.

There is a requirement to create a space which is equally inviting and welcoming for carers and other adults visiting the rec. It should be noted that the existing picnic tables are a well-used feature.

Funding of £30k is earmarked from reserves but another £30k is required to enable the works to go ahead and more accessible equipment purchased. Funding and grants are being researched.

Street Market: February and March will be a trial period for the Council to operate the market from the pavement. Station Road will be open for traffic but buses will continue to use the diversion route. Cars may park on the Bradbeers side of the road in the allocated parking bays.

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NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

Disabled Motoring UK is supporting DisabledGo with their new "Don't block the drop" campaign, which aims to stop motorists parking in front of dropped kerbs. When these places are blocked it causes problems for disabled people who need the dropped kerbs to get off the road and out of the path of oncoming traffic. DisabledGo plan to collect 1,000 examples of "drop blockers" over an 8-week period, and are asking anyone who sees a vehicle parking in this way to send evidence to dontblockthedrop@disabledgo.com or by Facebook or Twitter pages. Pictures and details of when and where it happened are required.

Question: My care worker says that if she uses an alcohol rub on her disposable gloves she can use them more than once. Is this correct?

Answer: No! The product may cause the integrity of the gloves to be breached.

MY NEXT LIFE (by Woody Allen)

In my next life I want to live backwards! You start out dead and get that out of the way. Then you wake up in an old people's home feeling better day by day. You get kicked out for being too healthy, collect your pension and then you start work being given a gold watch and a party on your first day. You work for about 40 years until you are young enough to have nothing much to do but party, enjoy life and be generally promiscuous. Then you're ready for high school, followed by primary school where you become a kid with no responsibilities. Later you become a baby and then are born. Your last nine months are spent floating in a spa-like condition with central heating, food and room service on tap, larger quarters each day. You finish up with Mum and Dad having a great time together! I rest my case!!

(Submitted by Richard Ainslie, Barton)

Ed: Not sure that I quite understand this but then never could understand Woody Allen anyway!

BRADBEERS

To The Editor: Thank you very much for your kind comments regarding our furniture store and the service we provide. We have indeed been established in Old Milton Road for the past 17 years, having taken over the premises from Neales Furniture. During that time the showroom has been extensively refurbished and extended to accommodate a separate bed shop. We are happy to deliver locally free of charge and go the extra mile in terms of unwrapping, building and

placing items where required. In the Bradbeers tradition, we are proud to serve the local community and extend a warm welcome to all.

Richard Turner, on behalf of Bradbeers

MODEL AIRCRAFT ARTEFACTS

Local resident Peter Scott, MBE, is researching and collecting artefacts which reflect his interest in flying model aircraft. During the 1940s and 50s Poole, Parkstone, Bournemouth and Southbourne were significant locations for the development and manufacture of model aeroplane engines and related accessories. In New Milton, the handicrafts model shop on Gore Road was run by Mr. Peckham who helped develop Peter's interest.

Many record-setting flights were made in Poole harbour in the 40s, and as late as the 50s models were flown in Meyrick Park in Bournemouth. On-line sales have resulted in the disappearance of traditional model shops, and restrictions on model flying mean this has become a dying hobby although there are still some active modelmakers who fly their radio-controlled models at Beaulieu Airfield.

Please contact Peter on 07715 539381 if you have any engines, models, accessories, photos or books which will help him with his research.

NEW MAKE-OVER TV SERIES

Channel 5 have a fantastic opportunity for local homeowners who are looking to make some money and fancy a home make-over. Ricochet TV, makers of Channel 4's Food Unwrapped, Channel 5's Cowboy Builders and Bodge jobs, BBC's Family Finders and Michel Roux's Service, are making a new 35-part series for Channel 5 daytime viewing. "To B&B The Best" (provisional working title) is about homeowners who are hoping to make some cash from their spare rooms. In each episode an award-winning B&B expert will visit a different homeowner who has either just started or is about to start opening up their own home to paying guests. With her characteristic no-nonsense approach and years of experience she will take a good look around the house and what they are planning to do, give them advice, guidance and help with the makeover.

If you are thinking about renting out a room, for either short-term or holiday lets, or setting up a B&B, please call 01273 224 829 or email us on BandB@Ricochet.co.uk.

COMPUTER ADVICE & SUPPORT No. 9

I would like to share my thoughts with you about Windows 10. It's a bit like the expression "The Curate's Egg" - good in parts! Two PCs (both

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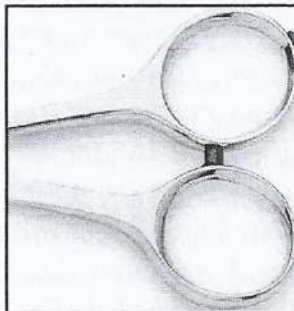
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Win.7 only), my wife's laptop which I upgraded from 7 to 10, my two business laptops are dual boot, 7 and 10, 8 and 10 - so I have plenty of scope to regularly experiment and see the best/worst of all these operating systems.

My biggest frustration is when programmes suddenly stop working. The best example I have is Quicken 2000, a financial management programme I have been using for 15 years. This has stopped working on all of my Win.7 machines and has twice necessitated rebuilds to get it back. Reading the technical journals, I am not alone and other computer users are experiencing the same problem, essentially due to automatic updates. I have taken images of these operating systems in their stable state and switched off the updates for these Windows 7 machines, but generally this approach is not recommended. On Microsoft's own page it states: Windows 10 is a service, which means that it's always up to date and your PC always has the latest and best features. The November update, which includes **additional features and improvements** will automatically download and install when available.

On Windows 10, updates are generally automatic, but you can change the defaults to "notify to schedule restart". To make this change press Windows Start Button; Settings (gear wheel); Update & Security; Advanced Options. You may have to read the November update (Windows 10 Version 1511) which is huge (3GB in size) and promises to improve some of the frustrations users have been experiencing. I will report more next month when I've tested these features more fully.

A number of clients have enlisted my help to migrate from Windows 7 or 8 to 10. Always happy to help with this transition. My service also includes free advice over the phone to assist when making this choice. So do I still recommend it? Yes - but "no" if you play solitaire and other free games on Windows 7.

Finally, can I make an appeal on behalf of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation? A number of clients have passed along their old technology, most of which were given to Mongolian students and the remainder were sold on eBay for this charity, and last year we raised £132 (after deduction of admin. costs). If you would like to help in this way please send me an email. I promise your old data will be wiped clean and the drive reformatted.

I'm always happy to reply to your queries by phone (616112) or email.

david.mason1948@gmail.com

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We are twinned with Canteleu, near Rouen in France, and have a friendship link with Buchholz, near Hamburg in Germany. Exchange visits are arranged yearly; monthly social activities for local members include walks, talks, lunches and teas, visits. No foreign language skills are needed but we have French conversation twice a month for those interested in maintaining their French. At 10.30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month we meet for coffee at The Rydal Inn, New Milton.

We are keen to recruit new members and invite you to join our friendly Association. Call 01202 483981, contact Jaqui at massieja@gmail.com. or simply pop in to The Rydal.

BUGLERS (Social Group)

Remain in touch! Sometimes life takes us by surprise; you may lose your partner or old friends and your family might have moved away. Or perhaps it is you who have moved into this area and it could be taking a little longer than expected to feel at home. Suddenly your world may seem much smaller than ever before. Whatever your circumstances, don't become isolated. Our small group will be very pleased to see you at one of our regular meetings - 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at The House Martin, Barton-On-Sea. Enjoy a relaxed chat with coffee or a drink; no obligation or commitment - just an opportunity to make new friends and acquaintances. Hope you will visit soon. For details call 611315.

NEW MILTON CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

We meet from 2 to 4 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at Friends' Meeting House, Whitefield Road. Our meeting on 8th February will open with a brief AGM followed by the opportunity to share concerns and access information as well as to relax, socialise and make new friends among fellow and former carers. New participants are warmly welcomed so do come along to our informal, friendly and supportive group of like-minded people. No charge! Contact Maggie on 614714.

NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Does every photo tell a story? It does if the photo-grapher is Cartier Bresson or Don McCullin. "The Best Photographs of the 20th Century" will be brought to us in a vivid presentation by lecturer Paul Harris who will show 50 of his favourite photographs and explain why they are significant. They are meant to be!! Join us at 10.30 a.m. on

Thursday, 11th February, at the Memorial Centre. Coffee is served from 10 a.m. and visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. For more information contact Ann Clegg on 01590 643046, email newmilton@dfas.org.uk or visit <http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

JUBILEE SINGERS

Shortly after our Christmas Concert we sang at two venues which were both very successful - the Open Sight Club in Bashley and the Alzheimer's Society Christmas Party in Everton. Everyone in a party mood, enjoying well-known songs and carols. A small section of the choir also sang to the Townswomen's Guild in the Community Centre. Averil kindly conducted us as Janet Trow had an important commitment elsewhere.

Last month the choir returned to its weekly Wednesday practice sessions at the Community Centre, and a small group sang at Quaker House where Averil again conducted us.

Janet, Averil and pianist Jill are now busy selecting music for our two summer concerts.

Liz Northcote

BASHLEY WI

This is a special year for us as we will be 75 years old in April, to be celebrated with a tea party on the day. Interesting speakers for 2016 have been arranged, starting with a talk in February on "Mistresses" and their influence in our history. We meet at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at Bashley Village hall and will welcome new members. Contact Muriel on 629042.

NEW MILTON HEALING GROUP

A happy and healthy New Year to everyone. A bit late but well-meant!

It seems we all have more stress in our lives than we used to. Life goes along at such a pace, there is noise everywhere and so much advertising is thrown at us on TV. Please do remember that 5 or 10 minutes of meditation a day will help so much. It has been proven to lower blood pressure as well as reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Take a few deep breaths to relax every part of your body; then concentrate on your breathing, counting in and out in a gentle manner. You really will feel the stress draining away and a calmness come over you. It takes a bit of practice but the more you do it the easier it becomes. You cannot make your mind a blank so just let thoughts float past. Try concentrating on a candle, a tree or a flower, either real or imaginary.

Healing is a marvellous way to support your meditation, so come along with an open mind and see

what happens. Our next dates are 3rd and 17th February, 2nd and 16th March, 6th and 20th April, 10 a.m. till noon (last healing at 11.30 a.m.) Donations are gratefully received to cover expenses but our time is freely given. We look forward to welcoming you at the Friends Meeting House, Whitefield Road. Contact us on www.healingbyspirit.co.uk.

PAST ROTARIANS &

ASSOCIATES OF THE NEW FOREST

Our President, Lizzie Davies, laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Club. Member Sydney Salter entertained us with his talk on "A Headmaster's Tales" in November. In December we had a most enjoyable Christmas Lunch at Passford House Hotel, and a number of members attended New Milton Rotary Club's carol service at Durlston Court School. Our speaker in January was Tony Hazan on the S.O.E. at Beaulieu and, in February, we have our annual skittles match against New Milton Rotary.

Please do contact Secretary Alan Clark on 638528 if you would like to know more about the Club.

CAMEO

Our January talk was by Paul Sturgess on the "Coast to Countryside of Dorset". After spending half his life farming, he stayed in the countryside and started the Wessex Wayfarers rambling group, and it was while tramping around that wonderful county that he built up a portfolio of images showing all the seasons, scenes and wildlife. Still shooting on film, for Paul it is all about getting it right in camera and expecting to need only one or two shots to achieve the image he wants; perhaps a lesson to us digital users who can be a bit snap-happy!

At our 3rd February meeting we will have a representative from the Russell Coates Museum - The Story of the Victorian Villa.

On 2nd March Judy Fenyvesi will tell us about "Gardening without a Garden", and on 6th April Bruce Worthy will present Riding with the Cavalry.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Community Centre, always pleased to welcome visitors and new members. Refreshments available. Please contact Secretary Margaret Sheldrake on 628675.

LYMINGTON & DISTRICT

DOG TRAINING CLUB

The Club was founded in 1959 with the aim of promoting responsible dog ownership in the New Forest. It operates as a non-profit-making organisation which allows us to keep our

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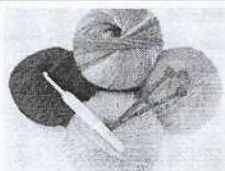
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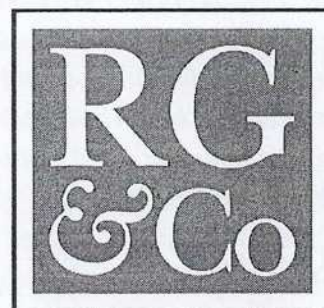
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membership and training fees to a minimum. We offer a range of different classes from puppy training and general obedience for all age groups to ringcraft training for those aspiring to enter dog shows. The ringcraft section is one of the most successful in the area, with dogs regularly competing in both Open and Championship shows. In most recent years we have also trained dogs at the Club for competing at Crufts. In addition to training classes, we also offer members advice when required on all aspects of looking after their pet. The aim is to produce a knowledgeable owner with a well-trained dog. There is also the opportunity to work towards tests and gain certificates to monitor progress.

The Club also arranges, subject to demand, a range of social activities such as organised Forest walks and summer picnics where owners can enjoy each other's company whilst with their dogs.

Training for 2016 has now commenced at Sway Youth Centre, and places are available for new members to join the Club. For more details please call 619785, email lddtc@hotmail.com or visit www.lymdogtraining.co.uk.

BARTON-ON-SEA TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th February, at Barton Methodist Church Hall. There will be news of the groups: book club, craft, drama, pub lunches, social studies, songsters, outings, film club and ambling, followed by Mrs. Gill Taylor talking about "Laughter With Yoga" (oh yes there is!) Ladies - do come and meet us, and bring a friend.

NEW FOREST MENCAP

This local charity runs social clubs for young adults with learning disabilities, and we would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a trustee with a view to chairmanship - a role which is crucial to our continuing success. No specific experience is required but practical knowledge of a similar role would be ideal. Apart from chairing trustee meetings (7 per year) and dealing with any issues in between, the position is not too onerous and can be very rewarding.

For further information please call David Smith on 610259.

NEED HELP GETTING ON LINE - FOR FREE?

Do you have, or are you thinking of buying, a new computer (PC, laptop, tablet, etc.) and would like guidance on how to use the internet? These days it is used by shops, banks, to claim benefits and gain access to so much information. Unless you are

confident about using the internet you could be missing out! And so the NFDC is piloting a project to provide free training for anyone wishing to learn more and, throughout February and March, there will be opportunities within the town to receive advice by experienced digital champions. A number of local organisations are supporting the project by providing the following training locations; during February these will be:-

- 17th: Station Road Market,
Mobile information unit, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 17th: Library - IT drop-in, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 18th: Phoenix Centre - Family fun, 1.30 to 3 p.m.
- 23rd: Nedderman Centre - Coffee/computer
drop-in, 2 to 4 p.m.
- 25th: Memorial Centre - Skype Night/social media
surgery, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 25th: Arnewood Shool - Introducing families to
social media, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

For further information call Alison Talbot or Joy Stainer on 02380 285000; email residentinvolvement@nfdc.gov.uk; or visit www.nfdc.gov.ukdigitalchampion.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our January meeting Rosina Brandham told us about Paxton and The Great Exhibition of 1851. After many meetings with various ideas coming from the public and experts, it was built in Hyde Park, designed by Joseph Paxton with the support of structural engineer Charles Fox. It took just nine months from conception to a grand opening, constructed from cast iron and glass, built on "borrowed land" so had to be removed after the event. Intended to show how good Great Britain was, it also included exhibits from several foreign countries. It opened from May to October, having been visited by over six million people (about a third of our population at that time). The structure was then removed, rebuilt and enlarged at Sydenham in South London, where the area was later renamed Crystal Palace. Regrettably, it was destroyed by fire in 1936.

Our next meeting is on 4th February when we have Jane Piggott telling us about the history of belly dancing! On 3rd March we have Jude Todd giving a presentation on "Nightstop: Homeless Charity in the New Forest".

Following on from our November meeting when we heard about the Royal Signals Regiment, we have arranged a visit to the Museum for Thursday, 10th March. Tickets are now on sale and further

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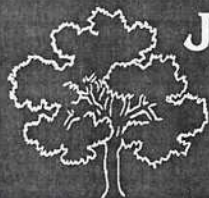
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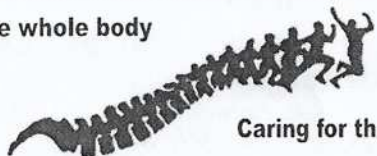
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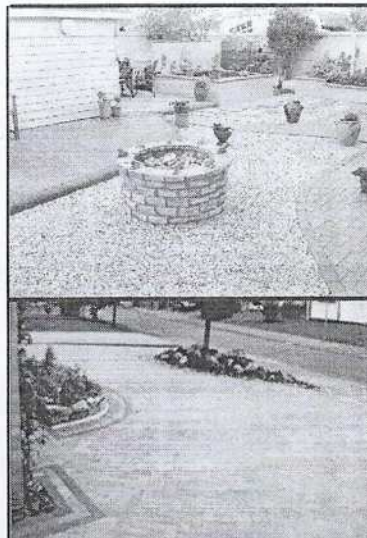


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details can be obtained.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Community Centre, always very pleased to welcome new members and visitors. Contact Secretary Derek Sheldrake on 628675.

CONCHORD SINGERS

Returning from our festive break, we have received a new and exciting repertoire. We also have a different theme to work at and in June many of the songs will be performed at our 40th Anniversary Concert. For the next few weeks our rehearsals will be concentrating on getting the programme ready for all forthcoming venues, commencing on 16th February.

We welcome anyone who would like to sing with us so do come to the Conservative Club at 2.30 p.m. on a Tuesday. Alternatively, our Secretary Joan Green can be contacted on 617250.

Ewe2 CLUB

We are a group who enjoy spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting and much more. Most of our crafts are fibre-and-yarn-based, but we cover a wide range of interests. Meetings are in New Milton, Sway and Lymington. Come and join us at our next meeting to find out what we are up to; all welcome, beginners or experienced, we are all learning from each other.

The Club's New Milton group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at the Community Centre. Look forward to seeing you on 18th February! For further information email Sue Skarstein at ewe2club@yahoo.co.uk.

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Members at the December meeting were treated to an enthralling presentation from Barry and Chrissy Gough who moved to Sway some 16 years ago and started their dog-training business. Cara Training is now one of the most successful dog-training organisation in the area with a reputation reaching far and wide, specialising in training dogs who are deaf. The presentation covered the setting-up and motivation behind the work being done, as well as the problems encountered by owners of deaf dogs. Some breeds are more prone to this problem - Dalmatians, Bull Terriers and Border Collies. Specialist training is obviously necessary but the wonderful success stories reported were most encouraging and rewarding.

A very interesting, uplifting presentation.

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

CHRISTINA NOBLE

CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

I thought readers will be interested to know that, through the kindness and generosity of so many people who donated cameras and binoculars, almost £1,500 was raised last year! In addition, sales of musical instruments brought in £205, £132 from computers and £208 from our "presentations" - not to mention all the new sponsors and supporters we have gained as a result. As for all the donations of knitwear, wool and blankets, I cannot begin to put a price tag on them. Invaluable!! Obviously, we have been raising money from other sources such as coffee mornings, market stalls, Open Days, etc. It is amazing what a few people working together can achieve, and the warmth and kindness of folks is overwhelming; keeps us all going! Please do keep your donations coming of equipment, knitwear and blankets, undies and socks, etc.

The Sponsorship Team have now been asked to help a community of desperately poor people in a coal-mining district. Miners there are part of a booming complex of illegal mining in Mongolia where fatal accidents take place at a higher rate than the infamous deadly china mines. Conditions underground are extremely dangerous and the men work without any protective clothing; health and safety is non-existent. Mothers with small children work for hours collecting coal which has fallen by the wayside and those with older children work 12 hours a day, earning just enough money for food. The Sponsorship Manager (who couldn't believe what she saw when visiting the site) has asked if we can find sponsors for these children and their families. Cost is £20 a month which can be shared with another donor or a group. If you can help at all please do contact Anne Mason on 626112.

Jackie Preis

PIANO LESSONS MAY STOP MENTAL DECLINE!

University researchers are undertaking a trial involving 100 healthy men and women aged 60 to 80 who will be given 16 weekly piano lessons. Research is based on the principle of



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neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to develop new pathways when we learn something different. Repetition apparently strengthens the connection between brain cells, making it easier for impulses to travel along those pathways. Learning to play the piano is thought to be especially helpful for improving cognitive performance involving a combination of memory, reasoning and problem-solving. So, get tinkling on those ivories, folks!

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Community Centre. A friendly group enjoying lunches and outings apart from the meetings with interesting speakers. For further information call Janet Litten on 617052.

NEW MILTON U3A

Our next General Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th February, at the Memorial Centre. Speaker Jan Pigoll will tell us about The Culture & History of Belly Dancing and, we understand, give a demonstration. Husbands and partners welcome!! Members! Please look at the list of activities and subjects offered by the Groups. You may find one that will give you an opportunity to develop an interest and make new contacts.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

FOREST ARTS CENTRE (Box office 612393)

Saturday, 27th February: 7.30 p.m. Budapest Café Orchestra playing traditional folk and gypsy music. Tickets £15 (£14 conc.)

Thursday, 3rd March: 2 and 7.30 p.m Film about the retired "Mr. Holmes". Tickets £5.50 (£4.50 conc.) or £6 at the door.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH:

I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning that's as good as they're going to feel all day. **(Frank Sinatra)**

A good speech should be like a woman's skirt - long enough to cover the subject but short enough to create interest. **(Winston Churchill)**

Looking back on my life, I'm very impressed that I'm still here! **(Billy Connelly)**

Think positive - It helps you stay young. I fell down the stairs yesterday and thought Wow!! That's the fastest I've moved in years. **(Frankie Howard)**

THE POWER OF MUSIC

When I was small my mother said
"The piano you must learn -
And if you study very hard
Good money you will earn"
And so my strict routine began
Stuck in our cold parlour
Working with a tutor
Practising by the hour
Regretfully, it was soon found
I didn't have that flair
I'd never grace a concert hall
Or become a millionaire
I grew, and took up other things
As years went flying by
Got married, had a job to do
Music? I didn't even try!
And then one day life changed for me
I found myself alone
Empty days before me
My comfort zone was blown

By chance a friend invited me
For coffee and a chat
I found she had a piano
And it drew me - fancy that!
My friend so kindly suffered
While my fingers tried to flow
Aiming to recall
What I'd learnt so long ago
I bought a piano for myself
And music once again
Filled my days and eased my mind
Life wasn't such a pain
I'd heard it said that music
Frees the soul and removes stress
I have to say I've found it so -
Serenity, no less!

WISH LISTS

Some people have wish lists on Amazon
So I decided to check mine out
I clicked on "see all departments"
To find what I can't live without
I scrolled up and down for ages
The items formed an endless scene
From Apple devices to zombies
And everything else in between
Maybe a book or DVD
A gizmo or plasma TV
A mixer, blender, boxed set of Eastenders
Far too much offered to see
There was even a choice of delivery
To speed my "wish list" to me
If I placed my order by lunchtime
It'd be with me in time for tea!

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Then as I sat there to ponder
 What would matter the most to me
 My thoughts began to wander
 And in my mind's eye I could see
 A family meal, lots of laughter
 Silly games on Christmas Day
 Gathering around the piano
 And my son starting to play
 Little ones splashing in puddles
 After a shower of rain
 Giggling and larking together
 A stroll down a country lane
 The first primrose of springtime
 A glorious summer's day
 Kicking up leaves in the autumn
 And snowy winter's play
 The love of family and friends
 Is a gift quite beyond measure
 A joy that surely never ends
 And many memories to treasure
 So as I clicked on "cancel"
 I thought to myself with a sigh
 The things that are most important
 Are those that money can't buy

Pauline Withers

CONVALESCENCE

Home alone I fiddle and fidget
 With every available gadget and widget
 With the telly switched on I sit and read
 So neither medium gets adequate heed
 Unconsciousness made me lose bits of my brain
 But, so I'm told, it'll come back again
 I count things, count things, count things again
 This obsession is driving me almost insane
 Crosswords, sudoku, puzzles galore
 I get most of them wrong but keep doing more
 When I do anything much I just come a cropper
 It's me lungs, you see; not working proper!

My face is puffed up but I really don't care
 I only see it when arranging my hair
 And that's falling out - I feel quite bereft
 But it'll stop soon, when I ain't got none left!
 It will be months before I'm fully well
 Will I be sane? Only time will tell
 The virtue of patience I've never had
 So this hanging around makes me go quite mad
 More and more often I'll utter a profanity
 Is this a sign of impending insanity?
 But at our meetings I'm calm and I'm meek
 Some folks think I'm like that all week
 I've come a long way, much further to go
 Progress is so painfully slow
 I want to flourish, I want to thrive
 But hey! Thank God! At least I'm alive!

Marsha Brett, member of NM Stroke Group

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendon Care Get Together Club

(2 to 4 p.m. on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Contact Evelyn Lamb on 839885 or Bernie for transport on 638540)
 3rd February - Anecdotes and Songs with Darren Mathews.

17th February - Birds of the Garden, with Steve Oaks from the RSPB.

2nd March - Cookery demonstration and tastings with Rod Fletcher.

Thursday, 4th February: 7.30 p.m. Taize Service at St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church.

Monday, 8th February: New Milton Macular Support Group. 2 p.m. Community Centre. Entertainment by Mike and Tom from "Lemonaid". Contact Malcolm Swan, 618925.

Thursday, 11th February: New Forest Tinnitus Group. 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. Demonstrations on use of equipment. Contact www.newforesttinnitus.org.uk.

Tuesday, 23rd February: New Forest Organ Society Concert with David Harrild. 7.15 p.m. at All Saints Church Hall, Milford. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. Contact Keith Evans on 612515

Wednesday, 24th February: Police Surgery, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. at the Community Centre. Pop in with your queries or to meet local officers.

Thursday, 25th February: 10 a.m. till noon Coffee Morning at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Preserves, cards, etc. No charge but a donation will be appreciated.

Saturday, 27th February: Barton Methodist Church Table Top Sale 9 a.m. till noon. Proceeds towards Property Development Fund. To book a table at £5 please contact Mike on 614736.

Saturday, 27th February: NEMBRA CIA Table Top Sale, 9.30 to 1 p.m. Memorial Centre.

PLEASE NOTE

In preparation for our AGM on 12th March, the Rules of Association are produced on page 23. In accordance with Rule 13, anyone wishing to join the committee should contact the Secretary not later than 14 days before that date.

**A strong and active committee is
 essential, so your support
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RULES OF ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the Association shall be New Milton, Barton-on-Sea & District Residents' Association (NEMBRA).
2. The aims and objectives of the Association shall be to safeguard and further the interests of residents to the best of its ability in any matter of public concern or topicality.
3. The Association shall be independent of all political parties and any religious affiliation.
4. Only residents of Town Council Wards (New Milton, Barton-on-Sea, Ashley, Bashley) shall be eligible for full membership. Residents living outside that area may be offered Associate Membership, and such members shall be entitled to receive FOCUS; where a distributor is available it will be hand-delivered at no cost, otherwise postage will be charged. Associate Members may attend meetings but shall not have the right to vote nor generally have access to the assistance/advice on local matters which is available to full members. Associate Members shall not be eligible to stand for a position on the Committee.
5. Management of the Association shall be vested in a committee consisting of three Officers - Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary - and up to twelve elected members, together with (ex officio) the Editor of FOCUS, the official Newsletter of the Association.
6. The Officers and remaining committee members shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting. They shall remain in office until the next AGM, when they shall be eligible for re-election.
7. None of the Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary) shall be elected to more than one office. The Chairman shall not be a member of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council or New Milton Town Council. The remaining committee shall not include more than three members of these councils.
8. At its first meeting after the AGM the committee shall appoint a Vice Chairman from among its members. The committee may fill any position not appointed at the AGM or occurring during the year. Such co-opted members shall have the right to vote. Additional members may be co-opted onto the committee as necessary.
9. The committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees, chaired by an Officer or committee member, onto which other members may be co-opted.
10. Each committee member shall have one vote; the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.
11. The financial year shall begin on 1st January, subscription and advertising years shall begin on 1st April, set at such rates as recommended by the committee and approved at the last General Meeting of the financial year - to be designated as a Special General Meeting for that purpose.
12. The Treasurer shall account for all monies to and from the Association using banking accounts approved by the committee. Payments from Association funds must be signed by any two of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The committee may also authorise the Treasurer to make payments electronically, provided such payments comply with the provisions set out in the previous sentence with regard to authorisation. The Treasurer shall submit to the committee accounts approved by the Association's appointed Accounts Examiners, and these shall be published in the March edition of FOCUS.
13. The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 31st March to (a) receive the Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report and accounts, (b) elect the committee (nominations must be accompanied by the nominee's written acceptance and must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM, and notice of this requirement must be published in the January or February editions of FOCUS), (c) appoint the Accounts Examiner and Hon. Legal Adviser, and (d) consider any other business at the Chairman's discretion.
14. A Special General Meeting may be convened by (a) the Chairman or Vice Chairman, (b) a majority of the committee, (c) receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by at least 30 paid-up members stating the purpose of such a meeting. The Secretary shall convene such Special General Meeting within eight weeks of the request and give notice of its purpose in FOCUS.
15. At least six General Meetings shall be held during the year, alternately as far as possible in New Milton or Barton-on-Sea, open to all residents (non-members may attend but cannot vote). At such meetings and the AGM a quorum shall be 30 members. Committee meetings shall be held six times a year and 5 shall form a quorum.
16. Any of the scheduled General Meetings may be designated as a Special General Meeting if a particularly important or urgent matter needs to be discussed, if approval is sought or voting is called for. Advance notice of such meeting and its purpose to be published in FOCUS.
17. Any member shall accept that all records and software, whether provided by the Association or created by the member in connection with their work for the Association, shall only be used for the purposes of the Association and remain its property at all times. The member undertakes that, should he or she discontinue their role they will return all such records to the committee.
18. These rules may be amended only by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the AGM or a Special General Meeting. Other than the case of amendments to the Rules, all proposals at an AGM or Special General Meeting may be carried by a simple majority. Written notice of proposed amendments/additions must be submitted to the Secretary in sufficient time for them to be published in FOCUS one month before the meeting is convened.
19. Should circumstances necessitate the winding-up of the Association, prior notice shall be given to members through FOCUS and discussed at the next available General Meeting (to be designated as a Special General Meeting). Disposal of any funds remaining after all commitments have been met shall be decided at that meeting.
20. The Rules of Association shall be reproduced annually in the January or February edition of FOCUS.

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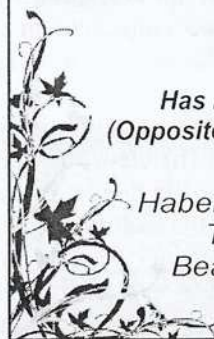
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