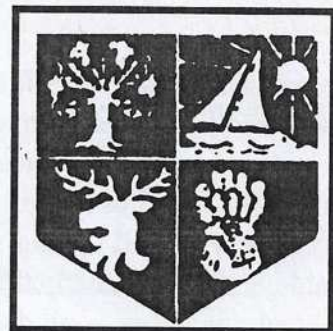


**NEW MILTON, BARTON-ON-SEA & DISTRICT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (NEMBRA)**

FOCUS



FROM YOUR EDITOR

I begin by saying a big, very appreciative "thank you" for all the cards and kind messages of goodwill sent to me for Christmas and the year ahead. This edition is being prepared too early for me to comment on the festivities, so I just hope you all had an enjoyable time. And now it's welcome to 2016 - may it be a healthy and peaceful one for us all.

Here is a special thought.....

At birth we board a train with our parents and believe they will always travel by our side. However, at some station along the way they will step down from the train leaving us to continue the journey alone. As time goes by other people will board the train and they will be significant - siblings, friends, the love of one's life, children and many others. Some will de-train, leaving a permanent vacuum whilst others will go so unnoticed that we won't realise they have left their seats. The train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos and farewells. A successful ride requires having a good relationship with passengers and we need to work at that. The mystery to everyone is we don't know at which station we ourselves will have to leave the train, so we must live the best way we can, love, forgive, and value what we have. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and vacate our seat we should leave behind good memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

May you all fare well on that train, be happy and successful, give and receive lots of love. And thank your Higher Power for the journey!!

Unfortunately, I was away from home when the Christmas Festival took place because friend Marie and I had a long-standing booking to take a break in sunny Sidmouth - and indeed it was quite sunny and bright for almost all of our visit. Such a pity that the

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 12th January, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

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

New Milton Community Centre

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 1st February, 14th March

Amenities - 4th January, 15th February

Fin. & Gen. - 18th January, 29th February

Planning:

7th & 21st January

4th & 18th February

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.

The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

weather here turned nasty as so much time and effort was spent in trying to make the Festival successful for everyone. However, I understand that British stoicism prevailed, with residents and visitors braving the elements to enjoy themselves. Some of the shops really did look good this year and their window exhibits were delightful, all coming to full life along with the street decorations with the coming of darkness. Congratulations to the Town Council and everyone concerned in providing such a colourful, cheerful display. And we certainly needed something to cheer us up, didn't we?

Many of us will have been to at least one Christmas Party over recent weeks, maybe in lavish surroundings where a lot of money was spent on decoration, food, drink and entertainment. I was invited to a party which had none of these ingredients but I think it was one of the most touching, uplifting gatherings it has been my privilege to attend! The New Milton Stroke Group, of which I am Chairman/Secretary, had its afternoon Party at the Nedderman Centre (where it meets every week). Carers, helpers and friends rallied round to provide

Visit our website - www.nembra.org.uk

wines, soft drinks, sausage rolls, home-made mince pies and a beautiful Christmas cake, while a keyboard player entertained. Did everyone just sit there listening? Not on your life!! Voices were loudly raised in song and, despite a mix of advancing years, creaking joints and disabilities, everyone able to do so got up to dance. Those having difficulty in standing were expertly helped up and supported whilst others less able settled for energetically keeping time with their hands and arms - all determined to ignore their difficulties and enjoy!

I have to say that, seeing them all so happy brought a lump to my throat - not to mention a wish that my Other Half (a founder-member of the Group) could have been there to enjoy it all too.

And that's what volunteering is all about, folks! Helping in whatever way you can and seeing the results and benefits coming from that help.

Following our November meeting, I recently received a very grateful acknowledgement from Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance for our donation of £250. The letter also included a receipt for Mr. & Mrs. James who apparently gave a cheque for £25. I'm afraid I don't know how to track them down as no address was given, so if they read this will they please take it as an appreciative "thank you".

A final reminder of our General Meeting on 12th January when a panel of senior police officers will be talking to us (see separate article from our Chairman). **Please note that due to a booking problem we will have our meeting in the church itself instead of the hall.**

And of course now we have to start thinking about our AGM in March (oh yes, it'll be here before we know it - along with early Spring flowers, tra-la!).

Two things to bear in mind -

1. We really would welcome one or two new faces to join the committee and bring forward new ideas, points of view and general support. Do please contact the Chairman or myself if you feel you could offer your services. **Nominations need to be received six weeks before date of AGM.**
2. The follow-on General Meeting will, as usual, include an Open Forum instead of a speaker so that members' suggestions, comments and concerns can be voiced. Again, contact the Chairman or myself if you have anything to put forward.

Remember the AGM is **your** opportunity to interface with the committee, to comment on what the Association is (or is not) doing for you or the community as a whole.

Have you heard the latest "in" phrase for having to consider or think about something? No, it's not a revival of my Cockney "use your loaf" - you need to "engage in brain awareness"! Oh, please!!!

I end this editorial with a special announcement for your consideration and comment.....

It has long been a concern of your committee that subscribers to FOCUS often don't seem to realise that, by doing so, they become members of the New Milton, Barton-on-Sea & District Residents' Association!! When people are asked if they belong to the Association they invariably say "no". Show them a copy of FOCUS and they say "Oh yes, we belong to that!" Admittedly our full title is long and "cumbersome", and we have fairly recently tried to overcome that by using its acronym, NEMBRA - with very little success.

Accordingly, and after much deliberation, it is proposed that FOCUS be renamed with effect from 1st April, the start of our new subscription year. The suggested name put forward at the moment is NEMBRA NEWS.

This matter, along with the potential changes it will mean to our Rules of Association, will be on the agenda for discussion and approval at our AGM. In the meantime, **please give it your consideration and (particularly if you don't plan to attend that meeting) let us have your views and ideas for a new name.** Contact the Chairman, myself or indeed any committee member (see page 3 for details).

Phyllis Inglis

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

My wife Jean and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. Hopefully, unlike me, you are being successful in keeping to the New Year Resolutions that you set yourself at the start of 2016!

One Resolution that I set myself and am determined to keep relates to our Association. I want to try more than ever this year to improve the interaction and communication between members and the office-bearers and committee. It is only by improving a real two-way dialogue that we can focus on the issues and concerns that matter to all of you. We want to work with you and concentrate on those areas that really can make a difference and perhaps help make New Milton an even better place in which to live, work and play.

**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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We not only want to see much healthier, constructive dialogue at our General Meetings but to encourage you to communicate with us by letter, email or telephone. Please feel free to make contact with me or any of the team detailed on page 3 when you have an issue that you feel we should be addressing. Phyllis does an excellent job every month in trying, through FOCUS, to impart information to you; now we want to encourage more feedback from you to help guide us on the areas on which you feel NEMBRA should concentrate its efforts.

At a recent General Meeting when we had a panel of Town Councillors, it became clear that they themselves did not do enough to make sure all residents were aware of what their responsibilities were, what and why they were undertaking certain projects and actions. This issue of FOCUS sees the first in a series of regular articles designed to keep you updated on what the Council is doing. Again, feedback either to them or to your Association, on what they have to say will be most welcome.

Finally, at our first General Meeting of 2016 (12th January) we wish to foster and encourage a better understanding of how Hampshire Police are trying to cope with the modern-day demands of policing in these very austere times. We welcome the recent decision not to impose further cuts from central government but need to understand what the cuts already imposed mean to us, and how we can all work with our local police teams to ensure this community is a safer place. The following article gives information on a first step in this direction.

Alan Watson

WORKING WITH YOU - OUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

A Panel of some senior members of Hampshire Constabulary will be attending our General Meeting being held at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th January, at Barton Methodist Church. On hand we will have Chief Superintendent Dave Powell, Hampshire's Head of Neighbourhood Policing, and Chief Inspector Simon Tribe, District Commander for the New Forest area. Operational issues allowing, they will be joined by Sergeant Paul Beale, who is responsible for our local Safer Neighbourhood Team, and maybe some members of that team.

In order that we can make this a really meaningful two-way meeting based on factual information, we would like to be able to provide the Panel with the chance to research answers to any questions you may have. We

will take questions from the floor but give priority to those people who have advised us in advance. This is your chance to air your comments and get answers from the Panel. Grab this opportunity and let's make this a really useful and interesting meeting. Please contact me with your questions.

Alan Watson, 01425 610052/07771 754025
55a Chiltern Drive, Barton-on-Sea, BH25 7JZ;
chairman@nembra.org.uk.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A reminder that your subscription to NEMBRA for 2016/17 will soon fall due, to be collected by your street distributor during February and March. If you are going on holiday during the next two months why not complete the form on the inside back page of this issue so that you can be sure of continuing to receive FOCUS on a regular basis?

We would like to welcome Alex McMillian to our team who has kindly volunteered to deliver FOCUS in Osborne Road and Roebuck Close.

Jill & Allen Hennah

2016 MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 12	2.15 p.m.	Barton Methodist Church
March 12	10.15 a.m.	NM Community Centre
May 10	7.00 p.m.	“ “ “
July 12	7.00 p.m.	“ “ “
September 13	2.15 p.m.	Barton Methodist Church
November 8	2.15 p.m.	“ “ “

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

New Milton's branch of the Royal British Legion, supported by the Town Council and other local organisations, staged the annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 8th November, on which occasion some 250 representatives from the Council, RBL, Police, Army Cadets, Scouting, Guiding, Ballard, Arnewood, Durlston Court, Junior and Infants Schools, Rotary, Lions, St. John's Ambulance, Fire & Rescue and other groups assembled on the Crossmead Avenue car park and marched to the recently refurbished War Memorial, led by the Christchurch Scout Band. On arrival at the recreation ground the "muster" was joined by some 200 local residents who were given a brief explanation of the recent alterations to the monument and surrounding area prior to witnessing the sounding of Last Post, reciting of the Exhortation and Kohema followed by Reveille. This was followed by the 37 representatives of local organisations laying wreaths of honour in respect of service personnel and civilians who gave their lives

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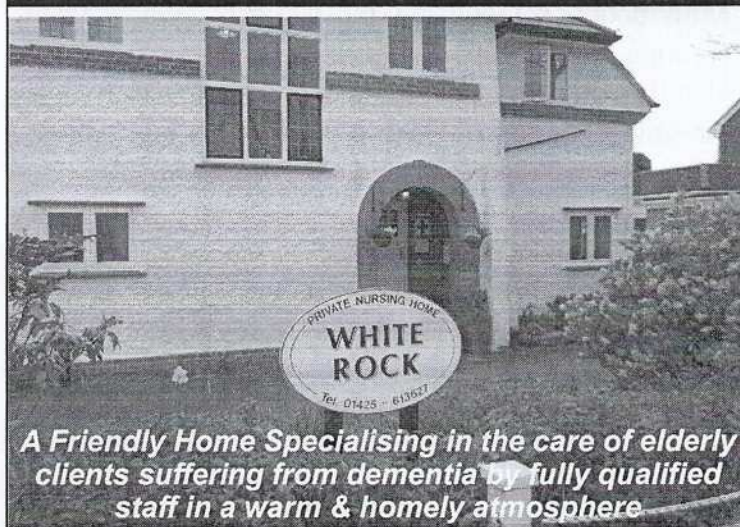
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during the two world wars and subsequent global conflicts. The Rector, Rev. Andrew Bailey, conducted a short service of remembrance, which was followed by the parade reassembling and marching to the Memorial Centre via Station Road.

On arrival the Rector received the Union Flag and other Standards before conducting the Service of Remembrance assisted by John Fowler, Senior Pastor of the New Life Church, and the Jubilee Singers. The service included poignant citations from students of the Durlston Court and Arnewood Schools which were supported by slides showing pictures of both wars.

I take this opportunity to thank all who took part in this very important event, particularly the young people who represented their various uniformed organisations and displaying self-discipline and commitment. They were a credit to their groups, schools, themselves and parents!

A very memorable day was had by all.

Councillor Goff Beck, Parade Marshall

Ed: Unfortunately, his report reached me too late for last month's FOCUS, so I'm including it now since it should be recognised that an awful lot of hard work went into preparation for the day, and on the day itself. Much appreciated by the community.

A LOCAL BOUQUET

Recently, I spoke to a couple of people in the Community Centre who said they didn't know that Bradbeers has an excellent furniture store on Old Milton Road, yet they have lived in the town for a long time. How long has it been there? I suppose if you don't have transport or need to visit that road it is understandable, but....! I had occasion to go there last month, having decided it was time to give my creaking bones some help by investing in a powered recliner chair. As some of you may already know, it's a rather expensive purchase so I had to be sure I was making the right choice. The staff at Bradbeers were so very helpful, patient and taking time to check with suppliers whether my existing 3-piece suite could be matched.. The chair was quickly delivered with the minimum of fuss. Well-satisfied, without having to travel further afield to find what I wanted. It really is worth supporting your local stores whenever you can!

Phyllis Inglis

TV DOCUMENTARIES

New Milton Talking Newspaper

The BBC has produced a documentary about loneliness and its effect on the elderly. During their research and through Esther Rantzen's Silver Line they approached Bob Lowe who told them about the

Talking Newspaper and how not only did it give him an occupation but the weekly news is sent to people with sight impairment. This resulted in a TV crew filming at the Talking Newspaper studio in June. The production includes many other locations but is now complete and, called "The Age of Loneliness", it will be transmitted nationally on BBC1 at 10.35 p.m. on Thursday, 7th January.

The BBC1 South programme "Inside Out" will also cover loneliness and its effect across all ages together with people's views on the subject. Once again Talking Newspaper will be featured and in much more detail, with Bob Lowe co-opted as interviewer. The programme is scheduled to be presented at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 11th January.

QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY

As previously mentioned, plans are being made for a day's celebration on the rec., so watch out for further information over the coming months. One of the suggestions put forward is that local residents who also reach 90 next year should be recognised in some way, but this has yet to be decided upon. However, the idea was welcomed by one of our members who wrote as follows:-

"I too was born in 1926 (on Christmas Eve!) and have always taken a great interest in the Queen's life. Before the war I lived in West London and went to school in Kensington, so often saw the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. At one time our school took us to Fulham Baths once a week for swimming lessons and we had to queue outside waiting for the princesses to finish their own lesson with Miss Daly, who also taught us.

Perhaps my biggest compliment came years ago from an American tourist who asked if he could take my photo. I was coming out of Crathie Church, near Balmoral, wearing my kilt with a scarf over my head, and he took me for the Queen! (I was a short distance away coming down the hill!).

Mrs. Joyce Russell, New Milton

NEWS FROM NM TOWN COUNCIL

We hope to publish regular articles in FOCUS in the future about what your Town Council is doing, thinking of doing, and the reasons behind some of the actions and decision made on your behalf.

Town Centre Management: We have recently reached an agreement with New Forest District Council for the trial secondment of an NFDC



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employee to the Town Council's staff to help towards general cleanliness and tidiness of the town centre. We have also reached an agreement with Hampshire County Council for the Town Council to be responsible for general maintenance for a trial period, for elements such as cleaning of street furniture, weeding of the pavement areas, etc. Agreements may be extended beyond the trials, which might also subsequently include grass and verge cutting, noting that Hampshire County Council is reviewing its contracts for this work. Commenting on these agreements, Cllr. Geoff Blunden, Chair of the TC Amenities Committee, says "This is all about enhancing and increasing the frequency with which this work is done in the town centre by the other authorities".

Restoring More Grassland To Barton Common:

Members of the public are invited to the Friendly Dog Club on Long Meadow, Becton Lane (near Barton Common) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, 23rd January**, to hear us talk about the history of the Common and explain our plans for restoring up to one hectare of grassland. An earlier event had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Project Officer Claire Lambert says "Old grassland is one of our richest wildlife habitats yet most has now gone from the landscapes of lowland England. Historic maps show that, until around 1960, the Common was open rough scrub and grassland but, since then, new secondary woodland and further scrub has spread across half of the site". The aim will be to restore the Common to around two-thirds grassland, retaining one-third as woodland by 2023. We will begin to restore up to one hectare of grassland during this winter by clearing scrub and young woodland with machinery, leaving the ground clean and level for future bracken-cutting and grazing as well as walking.

We have been working with Nick Saunders of Milton Heritage Society to explore the Common's history. It was originally part of the medieval Manor of Barton, grazed by local people as "common land" at least until the early 20th century. Furze and gorse was cut to burn, and the combination of grazing and scrub-cutting maintained the Common as open grassland.

Many local commons were legally "inclosed" in the early to mid 19th century where private property rights were created to take commons away from local people. This was the fate which befell Ashley Great and Little Commons, Fernhill Common and Bashley Common. Although Barton

Common was not legally "inclosed", it was sold to local solicitor Alexander Paris in 1903. He tried to prevent local people using the common tracks but a High Court action in 1911 decided in favour of the rights of local people. On Mr. Paris's death Barton Common was sold to the local Council and formally registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act, 1965. With the passing of the Commons Act 2006 the right of people to access and enjoy the Common is firmly established in law.

Management of Barton Common is supported by a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with natural England and the New Forest Land Advice Service.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend this event.

Cyclists Think Pedestrians: As a result of issues raised at a recent NEMBRA meeting and concerns highlighted in the local press, we have embarked on a programme of installing "Cyclists Think Pedestrians" notices on various local open spaces including the recreation ground. This will be extended to some parts of the Chatsworth Estate and other areas. It is hoped that this will encourage better behaviour on the part of cyclists when they are also using the open spaces and pedestrian walkways.

Floral Display & Enhanced Christmas Lighting:

Many of you have been kind enough to compliment us on the high quality of the floral displays we have had in the town over the past year, and we are grateful for those comments. A lot of hard work was undertaken by our ground staff in 2015 to ensure the best possible displays around the town centre, at the station, the newly renovated war memorial and, more recently, at Old Milton Green and other locations. As no doubt some of you will have seen, our Christmas lighting contractors, A-Tech UK Ltd., were hard at work erecting and maintaining our town's enhanced lighting display. We would like to thank them for their efforts, not only for what is contracted, but for the sponsorship they have provided.

The Town Council is very grateful to many organisations, including your own Association, and to some local businesses large and small who, through their financial sponsorship, have enabled us to further improve our floral displays and the Christmas lighting.

More from your Town Council next month!

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TELEPHONE BILLS

Those of us with long memories can probably recall when the Post Office ran the telephone system in the UK. Then, and for a long time subsequently under BT, they were the only supplier of telephones. When plug-in phone sockets were installed it became possible to buy telephones from other suppliers and most subscribers now own their instrument. In the course of my work I have recently come across a number of customers who have long since relinquished their old telephone but are still paying the monthly rental charge for it! There are two possible scenarios and most of the phones in question are the dial, rather than push-button, type. In one case you may still have the telephone connected as part of your system and may even be using it even though it doesn't work for automated services. In the other case you may have had the phone removed and not thought about the rental payment. In both cases it would be a good idea to check your phone bill to see if you are being charged an "equipment" or "instrument" rental. If you are, simply call BT and ask them to cancel the charge, which could result in a saving of about £11 a quarter.

BT don't seem too concerned about the demise of old instruments so, if you still have an old phone they will give you permission to dispose of it or will collect it for environmentally friendly disposal.

This is only likely to apply to people who have been in their homes for a good number of years but, even if it doesn't apply to you, you may know of someone who would like to make a saving on something they no longer use.

Richard B. Ferguson, Electrician

NEWS FROM THE NFDC

NORTH MILTON REGENERATION

Work is to begin on a major project to regenerate the North Milton estate, with the construction of 21 new council homes. The new housing is part of the Council's strategy to provide affordable homes to rent for local residents. The project represents a significant investment but it will make a real difference by addressing the huge need for such accommodation. There will be a mix of small terraces, chalet bungalows and detached properties for rent to local people on the Council's Homesearch register. Extensive landscaping will include a new car park, several small children's play gardens, new planting, improved pedestrian and vehicle access routes as well as lighting. Children's play equipment and an outdoor gym will make the new one-hectare park appeal to all ages. Drying greens will be made more private with fencing and planting for residents of existing flats.

The project is expected to cost almost £6 million in total, with work carried out in phases to minimise disruption and completion expected in early 2017.

NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

Alzheimer's Research UK has created a website called "Dementia Explained" to help young people better understand dementia, a recent poll having revealed that nearly three in ten parents say their children have felt the impact of the condition. The website (<https://kids.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>) provides child-friendly information focusing on the ways people with dementia can change and the effect this may have on families. By bringing together a range of resources the site allows young people to discover more about the condition and share their experiences to help others.

Question: I am an elderly person living in a fairly remote part of the country. If the weather is bad and I have an accident I would like to be able to notify someone. Where can I get a personal alarm bracelet/necklace?

Answer: Several organisations can supply a personal alarm but suggest you contact Age UK.

(Ed: Also try our local NFDC Lifeline Service. 02380 285453 or email jez.brown@nfdc.gov.uk)

Question: I wish to buy a little gift for an elderly relative whose hands aren't as flexible or strong as they were. I thought of a special drinking cup but those advertised for disabled hands are either plastic or cheap-looking. Are they not made in china?

Answer: Yes, a plain white china cup and saucer is available at around £10 from www.completecareshop.co.uk. It has two handles and is lightweight.

Winter Tips: If you are cooking vegetables in a saucepan and find that taking it to the sink to drain is getting difficult and dangerous because of arthritic hands, why not consider buying a stainless steel cook-in basket which fits your saucepan? This enables you to simply lift up the basket, drain the contents, and the water can be left in the saucepan to cool, when you can then empty it safely.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP?

A study at Oxford University has found that those taking group singing lessons or performing in a choir are most likely to make friends and become more sociable. Singing together apparently breaks the ice, helping people to bond more quickly than in other activities - possibly because it triggers the release of feel-good brain chemicals.

Well, FOCUS regularly includes articles from at least two of our local choirs who are always keen to welcome new members, so why not contact them and have a go?

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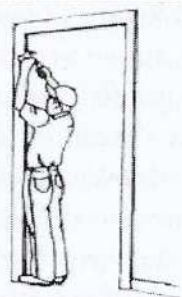
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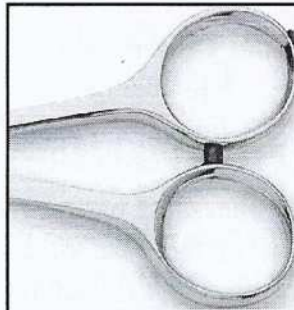
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COMPUTERADVICE & SUPPORT No.8

Windows 10 includes as standard an antivirus programme. People who have upgraded from Windows 7 or 8.1 will most likely have taken their existing antivirus programme into their new Windows 10 build, so the built-in Win.10 antivirus programme is disabled. Two of my Windows 10 clients who also used Avast antivirus software experienced the following identical error message -

“Critical error - Start Menu and Cortana aren’t working. Will try to fix it the next time you sign in. Sign in now”.

For one of my customers this message has not caused a significant problem but in the case of a lady client it completely locked up her PC and it became unusable. Searching the internet I determined that there were other Windows 10 users who also used Avast and had experienced the same problem. To fix this I was able to stop the computer and uninstall Avast. Windows then re-engaged its built-in antivirus programme and the problem was history. Avast is a very good antivirus programme; I must have installed it on over 100 machines in the last ten years, but it would appear they have experienced a compatibility problem with Windows 10.

On a different topic I recently got a Spam email purporting to come from PayPal. It was very convincing using all the right fonts and colours with the believable text -

“We routinely review account activity within our network and found an issue with your account that has prevented a payment from being processed. We need your help to resolve it and realise you may not be able to respond immediately, so we have acted to protect your account by limiting some features, like sending payments. This is a temporary measure until the issue is resolved. We apologise for any inconvenience.”

I was invited to download an attached document to confirm I was the account holder. As I regularly use PayPal it was very convincing but Google were displaying a big red message warning me to “be careful as similar messages have been used to steal people’s personal information”. This is a Spam message. I checked on the web and read about a victim of this kind of fraud where the “PayPal” email requested her to change her password. She then lost £1,500 from her bank account after filling in a form at the criminal’s website, not PayPal.

This is the first Spam message I’ve received for at least three months, although I have encountered them on several clients’ PCs, so beware! The golden rule is do not open attachments to emails unless you have already been on the sender’s websites or received mail from a really trustworthy source. If in doubt, delete them and contact the **genuine** party by another method, e.g. phone.

Update: I have just been talking about this to another FOCUS reader and client who said he had fallen for the same scam some 6 months ago as it had been totally convincing and £80 was taken from his PayPal account. Fortunately, PayPal reimbursed him and gave a very useful bit of information stating they would always contact their customers directly by their name, never by the title “PayPal user” or the like. A useful tip, I thought!

david.mason1948@gmail.com

ANOTHER SCAM!!

There has apparently been a recent series of incidents whereby fraudsters phone or call on mainly elderly people claiming to be police officers, saying they are investigating a bank fraud. They ask for personal/bank details, sometimes suggest they accompany the “victim” to the bank to withdraw money for safety reasons leaving a fellow “officer” in the home to ransack it and escape. This scam has been checked out with the police who verify that it IS taking place and they are investigating. So do please be careful and don’t be conned.

JUBILEE SINGERS

The choir’s Christmas Concert, which took place at the Memorial Centre last month, was very successful attended by the Town Mayor and various dignitaries. We sang a wide range of songs including two by John Rutter as well as a comic Flanders & Swann song performed by a male choir member. These were interspersed with poems, sketches and carols.

We are very grateful to all those who assisted us on the day, including technicians from the New life church who dealt with the sound system, the ladies who helped with refreshments, and the volunteers who manned the door.

Our next concert will take place on Saturdays 21st and 28th May in the Jubilee Room of the Community Centre.

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN’S FOUNDN.

In spite of a very low turnout, our Christmas Afternoon Tea at the home of Anne Mason raised a magnificent £241.15! The Open Garden DVD was well-received exceeding expectations, and we also had many donations towards our Undies For

Children Appeal. This such a valuable, worthwhile cause, and is ongoing. If anybody could simply once in a while pop a packet of undies into their shopping baskets for us it would all help. We need them for children aged 2 years to late teens. Please don't forget older children; socks, tights and gloves are also very welcome.

If anybody is planning on having a New Year clear-out please remember we are still collecting old cameras and binoculars, lengths of fabric (Anne Mason 626112), knitting wool (Heather Waterman 613782) and any unwanted musical instruments (Madeleine Eurich 618232). The money raised is really helping to change the lives of so many children.

Calling all knitters! Could you kindly let Heather or myself have any finished garments/blankets between 8th and 10th January; after then I will not be collecting until end March/early April. Thank you all so much for your kindness. Believe me, both Anne and I have seen the gratitude on the children's faces - for many of them it has been their first and only gift. We are very grateful to the Mongolians who are transporting our boxes for us and it is wonderful to be able to work together.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy 2016, and sincere thanks from every body at the Foundation. Without your kind support this work would not be happening.

Jackie Preis

HANDY HINTS

A sample of hints from a mother, with replies from her daughter!

Mother: Stuff a small marshmallow into the bottom of a cone to prevent ice cream drips.

Daughter: Lick ice cream from the bottom of the cone

Mother: If you over-salt a dish drop a peeled potato into it to absorb the salt.

Daughter: If you over-salt too bad - recite "I made it, you eat it!"

Mother: Wrap celery in foil and it will keep for weeks in the fridge.

Daughter: Celery? Never heard of it.

Mother: To cure headaches cut a lime in half and rub it on your forehead, and the throbbing will stop.

Daughter: Cut a lime, mix with tequila, chill and drink. The headache will be forgotten or at least you'll know why you have one.

Mother: To open stubborn jars wear latex gloves to give a non-slip grip.

Daughter: Ask that rather dishy neighbour to open the jar for you.

Mother: When a cake recipe calls for flouring the tin, use a little dry cake mix instead and there will be no white mess on the outside of the cake.

Daughter: Go to the bakery or frozen dessert cabinet. The cake will probably be decorated too!

Jean Paine, Barton

NEW FOREST MENCAP

The New Forest Park Authority is holding its annual Volunteering Fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, **30th January**. If you are interested in volunteering do come along and find out more from our Mencap stand. We are a local charity supporting young adults with learning disabilities who access our weekly clubs in New Milton and Brockenhurst. We have lots of volunteering opportunities available, helping with fundraising events, in our charity shop and as a Trustee. For further details contact me, Mary Bergin on 621893 or mary@newforestmencap.org.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our December meeting Claire Sherwood spoke about her job as "A Ranger in the New Forest Park" - an interesting one working in the open air and visiting schools etc. to tell of the wonderful New Forest which is so close to us. She explained about the various bodies which control the area such as the Forestry Commission, New Forest National Parks Authority and NFDC. Activities in the area include all aspects of tourism, walking, cycling and a range of sports. We are so lucky to live near these facilities, many of which are free of charge.

Our **January** meeting is for members only since we invite the ladies to join us for a New Year Party.

Following on from our November presentation about the Royal Signals Regiment, we are planning to visit the museum some time in March, so watch this space. When visiting outside events we often use Age Concern New Milton, who have an excellent minibus service. For further details contact Mrs. Di Shea on 01590 645009 who will be able to answer your questions. The speaker for **4th February** will be Jane Piggott who will talk about "The History of Belly Dancing"!

Finally, may I wish all our members (and potential members) a very happy and healthy New Year.

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

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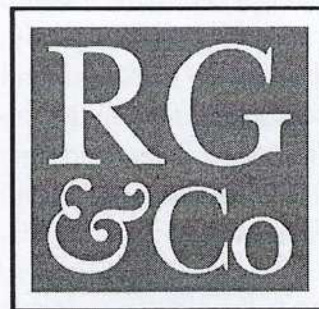


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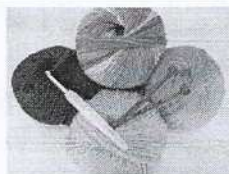
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RNLI NEW MILTON & BOS BRANCH

Since many of you will be reading this before Christmas may I wish you, on behalf of our fund-raising committee, a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Although the weather at the Christmas Festival was unpleasant, you didn't forget us and nearly £400 was taken in sales of diaries, cards and calendars. Thank you for your support.

If you would like to know more about us, perhaps you would care to join us at our AGM? We have about ten minutes of "business" voting in the committee and approving accounts, then a cuppa and biscuits when we would love to have a chat with you about our work. It is being held at 2.30 p.m. on **Tuesday, 26th January**, at the Memorial Centre - upstairs, but there is a lift for those who may be less sprightly than others.

Our programme for 2016 will be available at the AGM. If you could collect your copy then it would certainly help since postage is about 54P second class! If you are unable to attend and would like a copy of the programme please email me or leave a phone message. Thank you.

**Anne Goulding, Secretary, 616106
secretary.nm.bos.rnli@gmail.com**

NEIGHBOUR CARE'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, 5th December, volunteers past and present filled the Community Centre Common Room to celebrate this event. The morning started with the AGM when Chairman Phyllis Inglis reviewed the past year's activities whilst President Ted Horne recalled the organisation's early beginnings and presented certificates to four long-serving volunteers. Phyllis was re-elected as Chair, along with Marie Morgan (Vice Chair), Jo Swayne (Office Manager/Treasurer), Averil Pardey (Secretary), Eileen Carter (Drivers' Coordinator), David Scillitoe and David Eley (supporters). A call was made for one or two people to join the committee and for more drivers to help meet the increasing demand for assistance. The meeting was attended by Town Clerk Graham Flexman, Councillor Valya Schooling and County Councillor

Mel Kendal who very kindly gave a final address praising Neighbourcare for its ongoing, much-valued service to the community. The meeting ended with the President cutting a celebratory cake and everyone enjoying a superb buffet supplied by the local Café Mallard.

NEW MILTON TALKING NEWSPAPER

Talking Magazine to be issued quarterly

The Newspaper has completed its three-month project to see if a regular Talking Magazine was viable. It included recordings of interviews with three local people who have led interesting lives -

Dave Shepherd - local jazz band leader, voted top UK jazz clarinettist on a number of occasions.

Nick Saunders - local historian and author who was one of a team which researched and published details of the names on local war memorials.

Phyllis Inglis - once a member of ENSA and well-deserved recipient of the British Empire Medal for services to the local community. The interview with Phyllis was included in the Talking Newspaper's Christmas Magazine.

The four Magazines and three interviews may be heard by visiting the Talking Newspaper website - www.newmiltontalkingnewspaper.org.uk.

The Magazines were well-received so it has decided to continue issuing them free on a quarterly basis as well as free weekly Talking Newspapers for the blind and partially-sighted. The Magazines will include the occasional interview.

For further information contact Adam Singfield on 612661 or Colin Bower on 613254.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NEW MILTON BRANCH

The Treasure Hunt at our Christmas Festival stall raised £163.50. Many thanks to all "hunters" and those who helped on the day. Winning tickets and prizes were as follows:-

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| 6 | Hand-crafted ear-ring holder |
| 16 | £20 Rising Sun voucher |
| 40 | Wine in a Poppy bag |
| 50 | Tin of Heroes chocolates |
| 65 | Teddy Bear |
| 67 | M&S chocolates |
| 128 | Flan Dish |
| 166 | Bottle of Cava |
| 183 | £20 Beaulieu voucher |
| 207 | Dartington Glass decanter |
| 217 | Talking Teddy Bear |
| 222 | Christmas hamper |
| 250 | Family ticket to Tank Museum |

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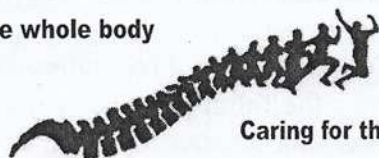
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NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

At its November meeting at Hoburne Park Chairman Bob Pettifer asked members to stand for a period of silence in memory of the tragic events in Paris. Speaker Roger Emmerson, dressed in a 17th century costume, was then introduced to talk about The English Civil War. A former Chairman of the Roundhead Association, English Civil War Society, Roger gave a detailed and enlightening presentation covering the War in all its aspects and ramifications. An enthralling talk!

The Club meets at Hoburne Park on the third Thursday of the month, pleased to welcome new members. Contact Secretary Mike Crook on 617772 or visit www.newmiltonprobus.co.uk

NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

To start the New Year, Stephen Duffy will celebrate the rich treasures of the Wallace Collection and its founders - five generations of one family! For a century between 1780 and 1880 they established this assembly of old master paintings. The greatest collectors were the 4th Marquis of Hertford and his illegitimate son, Sir Richard Wallace, who lived most of their lives in Paris. Yet their passion for great art gave London one of its finest galleries, recently refurbished at a cost of £5 million.

To learn more about this aristocratic family and its lavish art collection join us at the Memorial Centre at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, **14th January**. Coffee is served from 10 a.m. and visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. More information is available from Ann Clegg on 01590 643046, newmilton@dfas.org.uk or website <http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

Joan Bates

NEW MILTON CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

We meet on the second Monday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Friends' Meeting House, Whitefield Road. Our first get-together of the New Year is on 11th January when there will be plenty of time for sharing concerns, accessing information and socialising with fellow and former carers over tea and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming you to our informal, friendly and supportive group so why not come along - there is no charge. Details from Maggie on 614714.

"LIGHT OF HOPE" CANDLELIT TAIZE SERVICE

St. Mary Magdalene Church

7.30 p.m. Thursday, 4th February

We are delighted to be welcoming the choir and musicians of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Southbourne to lead us in a Taize Service. They will be joined by local musicians and, hopefully, a large congregation. If you have already been to a Taize Service you will know that you are in for a treat. If not, I recommend that you look it up on you-tube and listen to some of the glorious music; then come along and see why people love Taize services so much.

The Taize Community is an ecumenical monastic order in Taize, a small village in the Burgundy region of France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers from both Catholic and protestant traditions; founded in 1940 as a place of hope and reconciliation during the war. Today, Taize is one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Each year, tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock there to share in the community's way of life.

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We will be inviting members from all New Milton churches to join us. Please do come along as I am sure you will find it both inspiring and calming. An hour of tranquility away from the anxieties and business of everyday life.

Rosemary Bailey

CONCHORD SINGERS

Towards the end of November we were once again privileged to be asked to sing (for the tenth time!) for the Naomi House "Light Up A Light" service at Christchurch Priory. This is mainly to remember the young people and children who have passed away during the year. There were, in fact, 29 who died at the hospice or at home, having received the support of a wonderful team.

Our Christmas Concert at the Conservative Club went well. Generous donations were made to the collection for our charity, Highcliffe Dementia Support Group, and a cheque will be sent to them



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later in the year.

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Sylvia Camp, PR Lady to the Singers

NEW MILTON U3A

Our recent Social Afternoon was a very happy occasion with lots of chat and laughter. The next General meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **27th January**, at the Memorial Centre, with Mr. Phil Holt giving a presentation about the Red Arrows. Visitors are welcome.

The committee sends you all good wishes for the New Year when we have a variety of interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. Our hope for 2016 is that some solutions will be found to make peace in troubled areas.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

LITERATURE GROUP

After an enjoyable and instructive course on the Romantic Poets last term, we now go back to the era of Chaucer. If this whets your appetite please contact the class secretary Janet Giles on 07719 606358. We meet at the Community Centre.

BARTON ON SEA

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Calling all ladies! Now is the time to make a New Year's resolution to come and join us at our next meeting, make new friends and find out about all the things we get up to. 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, **20th January**, at Barton Methodist Church Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Sally Todd on "Wiltshire Farm Foods". Tea and raffle.

CHRISTMAS IN AN INFANT CLASSROOM

Many years ago a colleague came into my classroom during Christmas, bursting to tell me this.....

Her little ones were busy doing art work; tables were covered with newspaper, pots of glue and materials for making cards and decorations. It was a windy, cold day and the classroom was at the end of a draughty corridor. A number of children kept needing to go up the corridor to the loo, not shutting the door so at each exit paper and art work flew onto the floor. Repeatedly she told them to **shut the door** to no avail. Eventually she roared in her fiercest voice "Who was born in a barn?" and a startled hush fell on the classroom, to be broken by a little girl whispering "Jesus!".

E. Mitchell, New Milton

A NEW YEAR QUIZ FOR YOU!

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All others must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In some off-licences you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, the bottle is genuine. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least 7?
8. Name the only vegetable that is sold fresh - never frozen, canned, processed, or cooked.
9. Name six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S".

(Answers after For Your Diary)

Quotes for the month:

Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses.

(Elizabeth Taylor)

People ask me how long it takes to do my hair. I really don't know - I've never been there.

(Dolly Parton)

His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.

(Marilyn Munroe)

When your children are teenagers it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you.

(Anon)

The reason why the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.

(Anon)

Most children threaten to leave home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents from becoming suicidal.

(Phyllis Diller)

Whatever you may look like, marry a man older than yourself. As your looks fade so will his eyesight.

(Joan Rivers)

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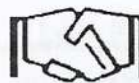
The centre has a long tradition of providing a wide range of recreational activities that go on every weekday. If you have an idea for a new activity, we would love to hear about it. Just drop in and get a free tea or coffee on production of this advert.

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

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 At first we were quite strict
 As to what we would allow
 But it's becoming very clear
 Who runs the household now
 When jumping up between us
 In a place he shouldn't go
 We look into his big brown eyes
 And try to tell him "No!"

In oh so many different ways
 He's made our life complete
 This furry little lodger
 Found abandoned in the street
 You'd swear that he is sleeping
 But however tired he feels
 As soon as you get up to leave
 He's right there at your heels
 You can plan to leave without him
 But when trying to depart
 The sad look that he gives you
 Is enough to wring your heart
 You know you really shouldn't
 But temptation is too strong
 To change your plan and go some place
 Where he can come along

He's full of fun and so alert
 To every smell and sound
 And life is entertaining
 With our little dog around
 Since he was found alone and scared
 We bless the day we claimed him
 Real love is what he's brought us
 And Ashley is what we've named him.

Rob Stone

THE POLITE WAY TO CALL SOMEONE A SO-AND-SO!

A man was preparing to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer approached and asked if he could join him. The man said he usually played alone but agreed. They were even after the first two holes and the second man said "We're quite well-matched, how about playing a fiver a hole?" The first man said he wasn't a betting man but agreed. The second man won the remaining 16 holes with ease and as he was walking away counting his winnings he confessed that he was a pro at a

neighbouring course and liked to pick on suckers. The first man revealed that he was a minister at the local church. The pro was very apologetic and offered to return the money. The minister said "No, you won it fair and square but perhaps you'd like to come to church on Sunday and make a donation. If you bring your mother and father along I'll marry them!"

Bas Withers

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 11th January: New Milton Macular Support Group. 2 p.m. at the Community Centre. Talk on "The Origin of Words & Sayings" by Derek Fones. Contact Malcolm Swan, 618925

Thursday, 14th January: New Forest Tinnitus Group. 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. 2015 BTA Conference Report. Members' forum. Contact Jan Petty. www.newforesttinnitus.org.uk.

Tuesday, 26th January: RNLI AGM, 2.30 p.m. at the Memorial Centre. All welcome for a chat over refreshments.

Wednesday, 27th January: Police Surgery, 10.30 a.m. at the Community Centre. Come and meet your local bobby.

Thursday, 28th January: Pop-In Coffee Morning 10 a.m. till noon at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall.

Quiz Answers:

1. Boxing
2. Niagara Falls. The rim is worn down almost 3 ft. every year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Strawberry.
5. It grew inside the bottle. The bottle is placed over the small pear bud which is then wired into position. The bottle is left alone for the entire growing season and when the pear is ripe it is snipped off at the stem.
6. Dwarf, dwell, dwindle.
7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, quotation mark, exclamation mark, bracket, parenthesis.
8. Lettuce.
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, stockings, snowshoes, stilts.

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This is the time of year when our distributors get ready to collect the NEMBRA subscriptions for 2016/17 from those members who have not already set up a Standing Order. The fee, maintained at just £3 per household, is due to be paid by the end of March.

I would like to thank all who have signed a Standing Order, and we now have a third of our membership paying by this method. If you have not already done so, please do consider completing the form below as it saves our volunteer distributors a considerable amount of time and inconvenience. Remember that they don't get paid for carrying out their task, often in inclement weather! If you **do** agree it will simplify and speed up the whole procedure, and your bank will make arrangements on your behalf without your having to find the cash or write out a cheque while the distributor waits at your front door. There is also the security aspect to take into account.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated, and it is hoped that you will decide to complete the form provided below- and return it to me. No additional charge will be made by your bank and, in future, payment will occur on the first of April each year without any manual involvement. You remain in full control of the Order, which is **not** a Direct Debit.

We are trying to increase our membership and encourage more residents to join us. **If an immediate payment of £3 is made, we will arrange that anyone joining the Association during the next three months will not be asked for any further payment until April, 2017!** An ideal time, therefore, for any of your friends and neighbours to become members of this active Association. All they have to do is to contact me or the Membership/Distribution Coordinators (see page 3).

Gerry Bryer, Treasurer

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