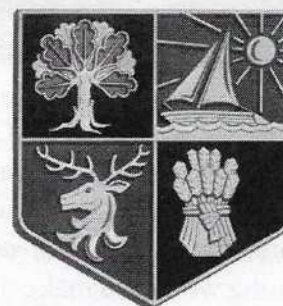


FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter for members of the
NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NMRA

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Well, it was no consolation for us to realise that ours wasn't the only Queen's Birthday Celebration held last month to be marred by the rain! Not a complete wash-out, of course, and there was much to enjoy, particularly later in the day. Such a great shame, though, after all the effort and **many** hours of planning/preparation for the event - and, of course, the disappointment of all who had looked forward to taking part in the full range of activities on a bright, summer's day. Forecasters predict that our summers will see a higher level of rain, something which organisers of outside events will probably have to bear in mind. Do we all invest in ponchos?

In the run-up to all the celebrations I did hear one or two people make comment to the effect that "Surely it is to be expected that the Queen is so well-preserved and active at 90? She has been pampered and protected all her life; never had to cope with the financial and other problems which we mere mortals have to face every day". Well, that might well be true but accidents, ill-health and bad days take no account of status, so it is surely very fortunate that the Queen has apparently enjoyed good health and she has dutifully "managed" the aches and pains which must no doubt have beset her along the way. All thanks, in no small way I would imagine, to the behind-the-scenes comfort and support of Prince Philip!

A final reminder that our speaker for this month's meeting will be from Hampshire Fire & Rescue, telling us something of anticipated changes affecting the Service..

For the September meeting we will have the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Working Party on hand to explain all about their work. There is no doubt that this is an important issue which is likely to affect us all in some way, so do make a note to attend. See the article from your Chairman!!

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 12th July, 7 p.m.
New Milton Community Centre
Tuesday, 13th September, 2.15 p.m.
Barton Methodist Church Hall

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 1st August, 26th September
Amenities - 4th July, 30th August
Fin. & Gen. - 18th July, 12th September
Planning:
7th & 21st July
4th & 18th August

**All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.
at the Town Hall**

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

I don't know what prompted the question but after one of our recent meetings I was asked if the Hampshire Constabulary has any horses! Well, of course no sign of them in New Milton but I did enquire and apparently there is no equine department in Hampshire. However, if needed for crowd control or ceremonial duties horses can be brought in from Surrey/Thames Valley since we apparently have "borderless" policing these days!

My father was in the Met and, before the war, our local (Peckham) police station had two horses. As a small child the Sunday morning routine was for Mum to stay home preparing the roast while I accompanied my Dad to the station where he played snooker in the canteen and I was allowed to "help" the ostler tending the two beautiful brown animals who seemed to get to know me. Then it was into the canteen to enjoy a ginger beer while Dad finished his pint before returning home; me taking long strides to copy his "policeman's plod" instead of hopping and skipping. In later years my mother would often complain that I walked like a copper instead of a genteel young lady!

Phyllis Inglis

Visit our website - www.nmra.org.uk

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

As I write this report, a small organising team (of which I was a member) are just recovering from staging the New Milton Celebrates event. Not only did the Lancaster of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight become unserviceable the week beforehand, but in the early hours of that Sunday morning we had to make the tough decision (not taken lightly!) to move as much as possible of the day's programme of activities into the Memorial Centre, which we know disappointed many hundreds of people. The Yellow Met Office Weather Warning and other forecasts suggested rain of varying degrees. The Organising Team felt that, in view of these forecasts, the large programme, safety and comfort of the public, as well as protection of the expensive sound systems were all of paramount importance. As it happened, this decision proved to be a wise one since, with the downpours which occurred in the early evening, one of the highlights (the performance of "Forever Queen") was protected. The Memorial Centre was packed to capacity with partygoers dancing to the sounds and vision of that famous Group.

The event was staged and funded through the auspices of a large number of local businesses and community groups and, indeed, your Association was amongst those providing substantial financial assistance. Council staff assisted in the preparation and final clear-up. It was great to see so many bodies come together in meetings to plan and arrange such a major community event.

In last month's FOCUS I urged those of you who have the use of emails to register for our new NMRA Mailing List so that we have the ability to communicate with you immediately should major matters of concern arise, and we are better able to gauge the views of membership on any topic.

In my position as your representative on the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan, **I am aware that very important announcements may be made in July in respect of the Housing Allocation which will be handed down from the Government and NFDC onto New Milton. I know that this decision is going to be a controversial one and perhaps of major concern to all of you, so it is important that we are able to advise you in advance of the monthly publication of FOCUS.** Therefore, I would again urge you to subscribe to our Mailing List, which can be completed at www.nmra.org.uk/#WHATSNEW. You will then be amongst the first to hear of any important news and let us have your views and reactions so that your

committee can be better able to respond quickly on any issues that are being discussed and on which decisions are being made.

I think and hope that everyone is pleased to see, once again, the sterling efforts that the Town Council's Ground Staff have put in over recent weeks in the town centre and some of our open spaces, which will by now be coming into full colour. Planting of the Flower Beds by the War Memorial has now been completed, and these have been made possible by a 5-year sponsorship arrangement into which your Association has entered with the Town Council.

Throughout the town red, white and blue is the colour for 2016 and, to extend this, the New Milton Celebrates event funded the addition of some 15 or so Union Jacks along parts of Station Road. The Organising Team and our Town Council would have liked to have seen Union Jacks hanging from poles on every lamp post throughout the length of Station Road but, unfortunately, SSE (the organisation which owns them) would not allow this.

Your Association is saddened by the recent spate of mindless vandalism which has been occurring in and around Fawcetts Field. This has involved damage to property and theft of bedding plants from our depot as well as broken glass strewn across fields. Again, we thank the Town Council Ground Staff for their prompt action and ensuring that these acts have not detracted from the town's floral displays.

Events will continue throughout the summer, bringing our community closer together with, for example, a BBQ in support of Cancer Research, the New Milton Town Show & Festival of Wheels, our Parish Fete and much more. Make sure you know what is going on by visiting the website www.newmilton.net - a new initiative to have a single website covering everything that is happening in New Milton, whether it be a major event or small Club meeting. A one-stop community website for the town.

As we move into the holiday season I know we will all be keeping our fingers crossed for good weather so that we can enjoy not only annual holidays but also make the most of this beautiful part of the country in which we live, work and play. We are so lucky, positioned as we are between a fabulous coastline and the expanse of the New Forest. Let's all enjoy it in the months ahead!

Alan Watson, 07771 754025/610052d

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(Affiliated to New Milton & District Community Association)
Annual Subscription £3.00 per household

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* Editor's role is ex officio

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

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

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

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VEHICLES THROUGH THE QUEEN'S 90 YEARS

Continuing the celebratory theme, one of the major displays at the New Milton Town Show & Hoburne Festival of Wheels will be a display of vehicles covering the nine decades of the Queen's life, held on the recreation ground from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **9th July**. It is anticipated that, through the auspices of The Three Counties Car Club, over 100 additional vintage cars will be on display together with new cars from local dealerships. Younger visitors will be well catered for with free amusements, rides and a children's craft marquee. There will also be over 20 stalls from local crafters and community organisations. A full programme of live entertainment from the Performance Pavilion and the usual refreshment tent, barbeque and bar. A great family day out not to be missed.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I cannot believe that it is time to write an item for FOCUS again; happy to report that distribution of my first issue went well, mainly thanks to all our distributors, many of whom have given their help for a very long time. My thanks also go to Philip Benstead, Jill Ferguson, Jill Hennah and Terry Strange who covered for holidays, ill health, etc. As the summer months go by more temporary distributors will be needed to give this cover, so I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can assist and I will add your name to the reserve list.

The new NMRA leaflets which are available around the town have enabled new members to join and pay by Standing order - not to be confused with Direct Debits! A Standing Order is instruction to your bank to pay £3 into the NMRA account each year (on 1st April) with a reference code. This code is supplied by the Treasurer to ensure your subscription is recorded correctly; without it we have your name but no address, which is of course needed in order for FOCUS to be delivered.

I have received a few suggestions from distributors which would make life easier for them, so these have been incorporated in my distribution of this issue. I am always pleased to receive comments from distributors and members.

Nigel King

Ed: Last month saw the last of three Cream Teas organised as a special "thank you" to our loyal team of distributors. Appreciation and thanks go to Anne Goulding for arranging them - very much enjoyed according to comments received.

SOCIAL VISITS

Whilst the visit to Savill Gardens at Windsor Great Park (15th August) has been well-supported, there are still three seats available on the coach as well as for the boat trip from Runnymede to Windsor and back. If anyone would like to take up any of these remaining tickets please let me know as soon as possible. All I need is a note giving your name/address/email and a cheque payable to NMRA post-dated for 15th July. Cost is £47.50 per person which includes entrance to the Gardens, light lunch, boat trip and cream tea, as well as coach transport and gratuities. Departure 9 a.m. from Bradbeers, returning at about 7 p.m.

Seats are also available for the visit to Sonning Mill Theatre to see "High Society" on 14th January. Cost is £66.50 per person to include coffee, lunch, the performance, coach transport and gratuities. Please send your booking to me with a cheque post-dated 1st December, again payable to NMRA. The coach will leave Bradbeers at 9.30 a.m.

Gerry Bryer, Treasurer
(Contact details on page 3)

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

As many readers will know, inclement weather curtailed a number of outdoor activities at the New Milton Celebrates event, but many continued in the Memorial Centre. The Boscombe Band of the Salvation Army performed some of their repertoire in the Performance Pavilion, providing a rousing, patriotic rendition of the "Last Night of the Proms", which was well-received. Entertainment indoors included birthday greetings to our local 90-year-olds and a special presentation to New Milton's oldest resident - 108! Also the New Forest Dixieland Band, presentations to New Milton Community Responders and winners of the Birthday Card Competition, Cassie Lawrence and Friends from Barton Court Studios, ending with the "Forever Queen" Tribute Band.

With recent events on the rec. and more coming up, following is a reminder of what our Amenities Committee does and its responsibilities:-

1. Promotes leisure activities and facilities at recreation grounds, parks, sports fields, open spaces, allotment sites, flower beds and bus shelters.
2. Arranges activities or functions connected with entertainment and arts.
3. Decisions to allow or refuse events on the rec.
4. Provision and maintenance of all outdoor recreational sports and similar amenity services in the town area.

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PROPOSED CREMATORIUM

My thanks to all who sent comments regarding this proposal. We have now submitted a formal Planning Application and would be very grateful if you can take a few minutes to review it and leave some feedback on the site, as the Councils are interested to receive the views of local residents.

The link to the Planning Application at New Forest District Council can be found on the Association's website home page at www.nmra.org.uk.

Jeremy Hinton, Director
New Forest Crematorium Co. Ltd.

NOT TOO LONG UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

Saturday, 26th November - Festival Crafts & Gifts Fair at the Memorial Centre.

Saturday, 3rd December - Town Christmas Festival and Parade.

These are always hugely popular events and if you want to have a stall at either of them you are advised to get your bookings in now, whether you are a community organisation, Crafts or other stallholder or a commercial company. At these events there are limits to the number of stalls that can be accommodated, so it is strongly recommended that you book early. For the November Crafts & Gifts Festival go to <http://www.newmilton.net/events/xmascrafts.html>. For the December Christmas Festival in the town centre go to <http://newmilton.net/events/xmasfestival.html>. Christmas 2016 in New Milton will be bigger and better than ever before, so put the dates in your diaries now and be sure not to miss out.

Alan Watson, 07771 754025
alan.watson@newmilton.net

MEMORIAL CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

I was astonished to read what the local Councils have in mind. My grandfather must be turning in his grave in the parish churchyard, having lost a son in the great war whose name appears on the memorial. Other sons served in the two wars, as did my father. The Centre was built as a **memorial** to those who served and lost their lives in both wars; it was not built to be turned into a sort of local services "supermarket".

On the question of parking space (or lack of), all the services proposed to go there have, at present, parking of their own, including the Police. Where are they all supposed to park? Roadside space is already inadequate, and don't forget those who will be working there, never mind those needing to use the facilities. If I were a member of the Bowls Club I would be extremely worried, as I cannot see their green surviving such demands.

In my view this is a grandiose scheme which New Milton, a small market town on the edge of the Forest, does not need and appears to be a land snatch for which, if it goes ahead, the Council Tax payer will be paying for in decades to come.

R.E. Powell, Barton-On-Sea

Ed: In response to the above, I should point out that, whilst it will be refurbished and brought up to modern-day standards, the Memorial Centre will remain and never be turned into a services "supermarket". It is proposed to add a new building to it, which will be the Community Hub.

COMMON LAW WIVES AND HUSBANDS

There has been a fairly recent case in the news where a lady's long-term partner died unexpectedly leaving no Will. The house was owned by him and he had assets in his sole name. Any joint assets would have passed to his partner but, apart from that, she inherited nothing despite being considered as his "common law wife".

If someone is a spouse or civil partner and their other half dies, then he or she will take what is called "the statutory legacy" if the deceased leaves no Will. However, that statutory legacy depends on whether or not children are involved.

Jointly owned assets will pass automatically to the surviving co-owner but, in the case mentioned above, the property was in the man's sole name. His partner had to make a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act. The court was sympathetic to her case and made provision for her but, at the same time, made it clear that there is no such thing as a common law wife or husband. People are either married or in a Civil Partnership, or they are not! This case highlighted that, rather than making a Will, people are making assumptions about where their assets will go when they die, particularly if they have been together for a long time.

If you are neither married nor in a Civil Partnership, at least check the intestacy provisions. These may give a result precisely as you would wish, but sometimes the results are very unexpected! Court proceedings are expensive and lengthy; they also generally create animosity between all those who are expensive and lengthy; they also generally create animosity between all those



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involved and are best avoided where possible. Considering your position now is an easy thing to do, could prevent expense and heartache later on, particularly at a time when some one is bereaved and really doesn't want a struggle on their hands.

Alex Jennings, Heppenstalls

Hon. Legal Advisor to the NMRA Committee

NEWS FROM COMMUNITY CARE

If you know of someone who has trouble remembering when to take medication, an **Alarmed Pill Box** can be purchased. It will either vibrate or give out a sound (or do both) when it is time to take a pill. Many retailers including Amazon sell them.

Enjoy a restaurant and help your favourite charity at the same time. ChariTable is a non-profit organisation which works with restaurants across the UK, encouraging diners to use their restaurants whilst raising funds for charities. Restaurants in the scheme will donate £1 for every diner to a charity of your choice when you book through ChariTable. For details of thousands of restaurants in the scheme visit charitablebookings.org.

Summer Tip! If you are storing an electric blanket, roll rather than fold it. Folding can damage and increase the risk of a fire when next used.

The Benefits of Water: We all know that we should drink a lot of water to keep things going, but here are a few tips on the best times to drink it...

- 2 glasses on waking up help activate internal organs
- 1 glass 20 minutes before a meal aids digestion
- 1 glass before taking a bath helps lower blood pressure
- 1 glass before going to bed avoids stroke or heart attack
- Night-time leg cramps indicate that the leg muscles are seeking hydration, so a glass before going to bed helps this

Why do we need to go to the bathroom at night? Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when upright, sometimes leading to swollen legs. When you lie down and the lower body is level with the kidneys, the kidneys can remove water more easily.

Question: Where can I look to find a camp site which is disabled friendly?

Answer: Camp sites will advertise if they are disabled friendly but the range of such facilities and equipment can vary. For detailed information visit www.pitchup.com/campsites/-/disabled-facilities, or www.ukcampsite.co.uk.

Question: I am getting less mobile and finding it difficult to walk my dog. I understand there are dog walkers who will do this for you. How do I find out where they are and if they are trustworthy?

Answer: The Dog Walkers Association has a register of professional CRB checked dog walkers. Contact their website www.narpsuk.co.uk.

Ed: You can also get in touch with the Cinnamon Trust which has a country-wide team of accredited walkers (and foster-carers if perhaps you have to go away or into hospital). Contact 01736 757900; admin@cinnamon.org.uk; www.cinnamon.org.uk.

Incidentally, if any reader supports the Dogs Trust, you may like to know that they have opened a charity shop in Lymington, almost opposite Elliotts.

COMPUTERADVICE & SUPPORT No.12

I am sitting in my motorhome in a farm car park, wracking my brains on what I can write that won't be too nerdy! Here goes....

Of the 30 or so clients seen in April and May, nearly half of the problems presented related to the Windows 10 upgrade and things not working as expected after it was completed. Looking back over the last 20 years, all of Microsoft's new operating systems were introduced on a deadline given and kept, with little regard to whether it was ready or not! And the truth is that, given the size of the programme (many millions of lines of code), the fact that the sub-programmes are developed and reused from previous editions (but more importantly the literally trillions of different combinations presented by users' own choice of programmes and how they use the computer) means they could never be truly ready!

The sorts of problems I have seen are:

1. **Printers not working on a wireless network.** The cure is often to search out the manufacturer's website, type in Windows 10 upgrade, enter your model, download and install any updates available.
2. **Desktop DVD drive not being recognised.** This was interesting because running the BIOS (built-in operating system - the white writing before the computer starts the operating

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system), it clearly saw the DVD drive. In two of the cases I swapped out the DVD drive for a different model and, in one, I moved the SATA drive wires around in the PC. All these solutions worked!

3. Micro SD Card slot not being recognised.

This occurred on two of my own laptops, one a Windows 8, the other Windows 7. In both cases I eventually reverted to the previous Operating System.

4. Video Card not being recognised. The Windows 10 build had installed a generic Microsoft Windows Video driver, not the specialised one which would have come with the fancy video card. Over the last few months I have seen this problem repeatedly. Sometimes it doesn't matter and the display is fine; other times it looks naff, the wrong scale and with icons and lettering not sharp or well-defined. A visit to the manufacturer's website sometimes fixes the problem, or with desktops replacing the video card or using the generic VGA port (only applicable to desktops with composite Motherboards).

An interesting "non Windows 10" problem happened to a client who was unable to install his Garmin Satnav. The difficulty was traced to a corrupted Windows 7 build (likely to have been caused by an infection from Malware). The signs indicated some changed icons and Dot Net would not install. We reverted to Factory Settings to fix the problem.

A final warning to all FOCUS readers. I have been sent quite a number of spoof emails purporting to come from genuine websites - so "real-looking" that I had to examine them carefully to be sure! Please do not open any unsolicited emails, even from familiar organisations. I was nearly fooled, yet I am always very wary. If you are unsure, ring me on 616112 and we will go through it together
david.mason1948@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Under its registered charity title of New Milton & District Community Association, the Centre held its AGM last month. Re-elected Chairman Malcolm Swan brought everyone up to date on all that has happened over the past year, including enhancement of the now really lovely garden area (thanks to a legacy) together with the necessary maintenance and improvements to the Centre itself. Finances are satisfactory and in the safe hands of Treasurer John Revill (also re-elected).

Despite pleas for volunteers to help in the day-to-day running of the Centre as well as involvement in the Executive Committee, there has been minimal response, and this is causing some concern. Overall, there is a need to encourage membership, support of the various activities provided, make full use of all the facilities - and to spread the word that the Centre is there!!

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This is a free information service run by Age Concern Hampshire to help people aged over 50 find activities, clubs and local services throughout the County. Our specially trained and trusted volunteers are available to chat over the phone; if you need a little more help or would prefer to talk to someone face-to-face we have volunteers in your area who can visit you.

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NEED FOR A HARDWARE STORE?

The reader's letter in last month's FOCUS regarding a need for this facility in the town has brought reminders that we do have the very popular Milford Supplies on Gore Road. I'm sure many of you are well aware (as I am myself) of all that this store provides, together with an extended garden centre - a wide range of just about everything you might need and very helpful staff to assist you. (They could probably have even been able to supply Ronnie Barker with his fork 'andles!).

I would imagine our correspondent (and she is not alone!) meant to imply a need for a shop in the town centre which would be useful to those who only want some small item or maybe don't have transport and can't face the trek there and back, possibly having to carry a heavy package.

Long-term residents may remember the very useful Culver's on Station Road. Very much missed!



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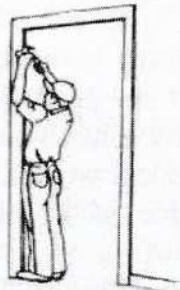
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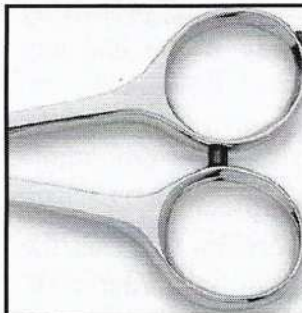
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AREADER'S BOUQUET

We have had a glowing report from a reader regarding Sargeant Roofing (advert on page 9). The lady said that an emergency problem developed in her roof - on a Sunday, wouldn't you just know! She tried a couple of people without success but Sargeant Roofing visited immediately, located the trouble, dealt with it in 45 minutes and made a very modest charge, promising to come back again straight away if she had any further problems.

OLD MILTON GREEN

The condition of the shopping precinct - fly-tipping, parking on pavements, broken slabs on the walkways, vegetation breaking up the border wall, ill-kept service road, etc.- has been the subject of local residents and shoppers' concern for a matter of years, regularly monitored and reported by Councillor Beck.

At his insistence, the NFDC served an Enforcement Order on the (not local!) owners at the end of last year who reluctantly tidied things up to a certain extent but not all the problems have been dealt with - and are unlikely to be! The Town Council has done a good job in enhancing the Green itself, which is part of the town's conservation area, so it is very regrettable that the overall aspect is let down by a badly maintained and unattractive shopping precinct.

If any member reading this is in agreement and believes that more needs to be done to improve the situation, please get in touch with Councillor Beck (contact details on page 3).

STATION ROAD

Members have been voicing their concerns over recent months regarding the number of A-boards etc. appearing along Station Road and elsewhere, causing a potential hazard to pedestrians, particularly those using walking aids or having impaired sight - not to mention an increasing amount of merchandise being spread out on the pavements to an unacceptable degree - making the overall appearance of our main street looking like an untidy, unattractive free-for-all.

Of course, it has to be borne in mind that **some** premises are entitled to put out a limited amount of signage on their immediate forecourt (marked with studs on the pavement). Nevertheless, these concerns were referred to our Town Council which has, in turn, passed on the matter since it is apparently a Hampshire Highways responsibility. It

is difficult to persuade inconsiderate shop-keepers to adhere to the rules pertaining, but it is hoped some positive action will be forthcoming. We will continue to monitor the situation.

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Barton-On-Sea Golf Club was the very pleasant venue chosen for the Club's annual spring lunch enjoyed by 25 members, and at a recent monthly meeting John Ellis gave a presentation on The History Of The Motorcar. His interest began when setting up his own engineering business and, on selling it and moving to the New Forest he became a volunteer/life member at Beaulieu Motor Museum. John's talk, part one of a series of four lectures, dealt with the birth of the motor car and its importance at the time. Karl Benz developed the first stationary two-stroke engine in 1879, progressing to the birth and patenting in 1886 of the motor car more or less as we know it today.

The presentation also covered the Montagu family's place in motoring history. John Scott Montagu, MP, campaigned for motorists in Parliament and was the first member of the "Road Board", instrumental in the introduction of registration plates. John reminded members that Lord Nuffield, who made his fortune with the "Bull Nose" Morris, once lived in Westover Hall (now The Beach House) in Milford.

The Club meets at Hoburne Park on the third Thursday of the month, pleased to welcome new members. For details please contact Secretary Mike Crook on 617772 or you can visit www.newmiltonprobusclub.co.uk

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our June meeting Kevin Patience told us about The Lunatic Line, a title which puzzled many people. The Uganda Railway, colloquially known as the Lunatic Line, was constructed in the 1890s to link the interiors of East Africa (now known as Uganda and Kenya) with the Indian Ocean at Mombasa. Some 2,500 lives were lost during its 660-mile construction, which gave rise to the nickname! Kevin's excellent presentation included too many facts and figures to mention here, but it is recommended to other groups.

This month we shall have our Ladies Invitation meeting when John Avery will talk about Mary Seacole: Lady Without The Lamp. In August Arthur Fairchild describes how to get from Plymouth To Cochin in a Tank Landing Craft!

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. For further details, please contact Secretary Derek Sheldrake on 628675.

HIGHCLIFFE & INFINITY PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

In May we had a friendly inter-club competition; an annual derby between ourselves and a group from London. A great evening with some superb images.

Our final speaker of the season was Andrew Whyte with his presentation entitled "Chasing The Dark". An inspirational talk on creating experimental images with long exposures and minimal lighting.

The last "Best of Year" Club competition showed work produced by members during the season.

Seven members were successful in having their images accepted for the 103rd Southampton International Exhibition of Photography.

At the Bashley Village Show on Saturday, **16th July**, you can see an exhibition of our work.

The Club meets from 7.30 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays at Bashley Village Hall, the new season starting on 7th September. More information is available at www.highcliffeandinfinity.org.

JUBILEE SINGERS

Our two Summer Concerts attracted good audiences and some very positive feedback, particularly from past choir members who attended. Songs were interspersed with sketches, a poem, and popular anecdotes from Conductor Janet Trow. Choir member Doreen joined retiring pianist Jill Crossley for two well-received duets, and Jill played a farewell solo from "Camelot". She will be greatly missed by the choir, very grateful for all her patience and professional help over the years. Our appreciative thanks go to all the volunteers who helped on the door and with refreshments.

In June part of the choir took part in a concert at Bournemouth Hospital for the 25th anniversary of the Heart Club. Since the weather was kind we were able to sing in the open beside a lovely lake at the back of the hospital. A very successful afternoon with the raffle raising a lot of money.

The choir now takes its summer break until 24th August when we will be joined by our new pianist.

Liz Northcote

MY FIRST CRUISE

Since many of you will have had a cruise or be planning one (perhaps your first), I thought you might enjoy this perfectly true story. It all happened in the late '60s so no doubt things have changed a lot, but it remains firmly fixed in my mind because it was such a new, adventurous experience at a time when cruising wasn't the almost commonplace holiday option that it is today.

The Other Half had been working particularly hard setting up a new business venture, and my own admin. job with an oil company had kept me very busy, so the thought of a holiday with a difference was particularly tempting. Some friends of ours were addicted to cruising and assured us that a couple of weeks on board would tick all the right boxes for us. I must say the OH was rather more enthusiastic about life on the ocean wave than I, as a vertigo sufferer, but he was so keen on the idea that I allowed myself to be persuaded.

So we booked a Med. cruise, both green as grass about the whole procedure. I insisted on a cabin up the sharp end so that I could see where we were going and look out for the equivalent of an iceberg - on the boat deck so that if the order came to abandon ship we could simply climb out of our cabin door onto a lifeboat. Well of course, we learned by experience that this just isn't the case and, anyway, a cabin on a lower deck amidships offers a smoother passage.

After updating passports, packing and re-packing to cover all eventualities, we left our Surrey home on an overcast May day bound for Southampton, with me already on tenterhooks in case we got held up along the way. Sure enough, an accident caused a long delay and we were both getting really anxious. However, as fuming drivers started to get out of their cars to find out what was going on, the OH came back from talking to the driver in front of us and said "I think we'll be OK, he's the purser on our ship". By the time we got to Southampton a strong wind had arisen and rain was lashing down. Therefore, when all the rather long-winded, bewildering dockside formalities were completed we were glad to be shown to our cabin to await arrival of our luggage.

It was then that I began to feel decidedly queasy and lost interest in all proceedings. The exasperated OH said "But we're not even moving yet, we're still tied up!" I replied "Makes no difference, everything's going up and down so go away and let me be". Off

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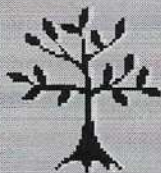
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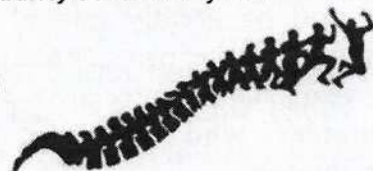
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he went to explore while I tottered to my bed with a basin at the ready. At some time we must have cast off but the following couple of days became an unpleasant blur with only the OH's annoyingly cheerful progress reports keeping me in touch with the world. Whilst many of the passengers succumbed to the effects of an apparent Force 8 gale, he remained disgustingly impervious, enjoying every meal in the depleted dining room and happily striding the heaving decks.

Nevertheless, after the second morning at sea when I still declared my wish to die, he called the ship's doctor - a kindly Irishman who said I'd be as right as rain once he'd administered an injection. Poised over my rear end, though, he asked "Before I do this, me darlin', I've got to ask if you're pregnant!". My answer was somewhat pithy and to the effect that if I **were** in that condition I'd be inclined to throw myself overboard!

However, fortified by the injection and a couple of stiff port and brandies (as recommended by the doctor) I did then begin to take an interest in what was going on around me, which was just as well as we had to take part in a mandatory lifeboat drill. I discovered that, for some unknown reason, we had been placed at the Captain's table - a very pleasant man who had quickly struck up a friendly rapport with the OH, swapping yarns and salty stories far into the night. I gradually began to really enjoy myself and we both took full leisurely advantage of all that the ship had to offer, the sights, sounds and retail therapy at ports of call, and lovely weather - business worries put to the back of our minds.

In fact, it turned out to be an unexpectedly eventful cruise and we began to wonder if it was always like that or our presence had put a bit of a jinx on things! A few days out, we learned that a cruise ship had suffered a fire on board, started off in the laundry room. That no lives were lost and the ship made it safely to port was apparently widely attributed to the well-trained British crew and, at Las Palmas, we watched the stricken ship's damaged lifeboats being towed ashore. Our Captain must have realised what a sobering effect this had on us passengers and ordered another lifeboat drill to demonstrate that the crew knew what they were doing and we were in good hands.

One of our stop-overs was at Nice and instead of joining the coach excursion we elected to roam about on our own, finding an obviously very popular side-street café for lunch. Using a mix of

English, my schoolgirl French and a bit of Italian, we got talking to the owner, his wife and customers. A very leisurely meal over, more wine was poured, coffee and brandy and, upon our preparing to leave, we were urged to stay for more coffee and pastries. We eventually left after some five hours of "entente cordiale" and barely made it back to the ship.

Very regrettably, about halfway through the cruise a sad thing happened. One evening we had joined a lively singsong and story-telling session in one of the bars when a man who had been thoroughly enjoying himself fell off his bar stool. Everyone laughed, thinking he'd over-imbibed, but when he didn't get up people went to his aid and found he had died, having suffered a massive heart attack. His widow chose to have him buried at sea, and we assembled very early one morning to witness a rather moving ceremony which affected the crew as well as the passengers.

On the return journey there were a few cases of sickness on board, so "boiled chicken and rice" was the diet of the day. Nothing too serious and quickly brought under control. However, on Fancy Dress Night the top prize went to a lady who paraded herself as "The Ship's Bug", wearing a long white nightdress trimmed with empty packets of Diocalm and floating sheets of toilet paper, with her long hair pinned up in loo rolls. We noticed that the usually jovial Captain didn't laugh very much!

With all these and other interesting onshore activities taking place, our "basic anchor" remained the ship itself providing fine food, entertainment, care, comfort and security. We enjoyed a number of further cruises in later years, with me always dreading the initial couple of days' sickness but feeling it worth while to see other people and new places. Experiences we wouldn't have missed and which left us with friendships, memories and photographs to look back on when we were no longer able to travel.

Phyllis Inglis

LYMINGTON TOWN TOURS - JULY

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Wednesday, 6th: "Wavy Walls", 7 to 8.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, ends on the quay.

Saturday, 9th: "Secrets of Pennington", 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Starts on the green, junction of Highfield and A337, ends at Pennington Cross.

Sunday, 10th: "Victorian Lymington", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the railway station, ends in New Street.

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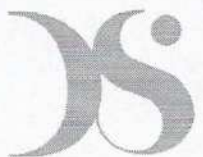
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Wednesday, 13th: "The Story of Lymington", 7 to 8.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, ends on the quay.

Sunday, 17th: "The Story of Milford", 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Starts on Milford Green, ends at the Beach House.

Wednesday, 20th: "Sea, Salt & Smuggling", 7 to 8.30 p.m. Starts on the quay slipway, ends at the Yacht Club.

Sunday, 24th: "Courts & Alleyways", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. From the War Memorial.

Wednesday, 27th: "Buckland Rings" 7 to 7.30 p.m. Starts at the Borough Arms, Avenue Road, ends at the Monkey House.

Sunday, 31st: "The Story of Lymington", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, ends on the quay.

Ed: If you take part in any of these tours, do please let them know that you are FOCUS readers. The organisers apparently welcome feedback on how people find out about the programme as well as comments on the popularity of the individual tours.

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, 18th July, at the Community Centre when we shall have a talk about the History & Construction of the Panama Canal. All visitors welcome. For further information contact Janet Litten on 617052.

Please note there will be no meeting in August.

W.R.A.C.

Informal Local Branch

We meet every month in the Lounge at Wellington Court, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, always happy to welcome new faces. Please contact Madge Evans on 620895 for further information and the date of our July meeting.

NEW MILTON CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Our friendly, informal group meets every second Monday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Friends' Meeting House, Whitefield Road. On **11th July** we shall be welcoming Susan Wiffen, Dementia Champion from the New Milton Dementia Action Group, who will run a Dementia Friends' Session for us all.

Do join us for tea and biscuits in the supportive

company of fellow and former carers in our relaxed, café-style setting. Newcomers are always welcome and there is no charge. For further information on our various activities please contact Maggie on 614714.

BARTON ON SEA TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Ladies! Come and enjoy an afternoon's entertainment of drama and singing provided by our very own members - 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, **20th July**, at Barton Methodist Church Hall. Tea, raffle and a competition.

NEW MILTON U3A

Our next General Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **27th July**, at the Memorial Centre. Entertainment will be by Chapter and Verse, a group of performers from drama companies in the Winchester area, and the programme we are going to hear is Eat, Drink and be Merry for tomorrow we diet!! This will be presented by readings consisting of prose, poetry and dramatic sketches ranging from the light-hearted to the thought-provoking.

Looking forward to seeing members; a good opportunity to meet together. Visitors welcome.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

This year we will be holding an "Alternative Open Garden" in the St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **30th July**. Entrance £1. The entire proceeds will go directly to the children and, together with Anne Mason, I will oversee the distribution of all monies on our next trip to Mongolia.

As always, our special guest will be Bataa Tserenbaat, Head of the Mongolian Association in London, who will bring along friends and guests to entertain us, plus the usual stalls for cakes, jams, bric-a-brac, good-as-new, craft, plants etc., and a raffle. **We can always do with some additional cakes!!** Please remember our "undies for children" appeal is still ongoing, so it will be appreciated if anyone can bring something along to pop into a basket at the door.

The sponsorship team is now working in a mining town where conditions are some of the worst encountered, apparently even worse than some



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mining towns in China! At this point I must thank all those who are busily knitting, churning out much-needed jumpers and blankets. This work is vital!

Please do come along and support our event. We are only a small group of people trying to make a difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest children.

We are still collecting binoculars, cameras, lengths of fabric, knitting wool and musical instruments. Contacts are Anne Mason (626112), Heather Waterman (613782), Rosemary Owen (612066) and myself.

Look forward to seeing you on the day. At least we won't have to worry about the weather!

Jackie Preis, 613708

GARDEN FETE

2 p.m., Saturday, **23rd July**, in the Rectory Garden of St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church. There will be Morris Dancers, a magician, Children's Corner, face and nail painting, Craft Corner, stalls, sideshows, Pimms on the lawn, afternoon tea, ice cream, etc. An event offering fun and entertainment for all.

(Should it dare to be wet, the event will take place in the church hall).

BARTON ANNUAL FAYRE

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **9th July**, in Long Meadow, Becton Lane. Organised by the Long Meadow Barton Common Group, Barton Beaver and Sea Scouts, supported by The Friendly Dog Club. Fun Dog Show, children's events and entertainment, Scouts BBQ, cream tea tent. Beer/Pimms tent, local artisan stalls. Fun for the whole family.

Ed: Apologies for my error in having typed "Barton" Lane instead of "Becton" in last month's entry. Have to admit that geography never was my strong point!

NEW MILTON

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

An Evening With Bob Flowerdew - Award-winning garden designer and TV Presenter.

7 p.m. Wednesday, **17th August**, at the Memorial Centre. Tickets at £7 including refreshments available from Littlewoods Estate Agents, Old Milton Road, and Barry Cabbage on 621627. Tombola, and book-signing.

NEW FOREST MENCAP

Sway Carnival Fete:

12 to 4.30 p.m. Saturday, **9th July**, at Jubilee Field, Sway. Fundraising stand selling bric-a-brac, fashion jewellery, children's toys and games, Strike It Lucky games. Donations of new or second-hand children's toys welcomed. Volunteers needed to help on the stand, setting up from 9.30 a.m. in slots of 2-3 hours.

New Forest Show:

Tuesday to Thursday, **26th, 27th, 28th July**. We are very lucky to have a stand in the "Heart of the Forest" area. Volunteers needed for all day or in shifts a.m. or pm. Grand Draw and Strike It Lucky game on our charity information stand.

Please get in touch for details or if you'd like to get involved in these events.

Mary Tattersall, Charity Fundraiser, 621893

mary@newforestmencap.org.

www.facebook.com/newforestmencap

ANNUAL PAINTING EXHIBITION - COMMUNITY CENTRE ART GROUP

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday 14th July to Saturday 16th July at the Community Centre. Lots of great inspirational paintings in a variety of mediums and styles, all created by Group members, for you to view and buy.

About the Group: If you enjoy painting at home, haven't painted for years or maybe never painted at all, why not come along for a chat? Meet new friends, share ideas, exchange tips and techniques - you will be made most welcome. We've been delighted to welcome several new members lately, so you won't be alone.

We meet from 2 to 4.15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Community Centre, and our varied programme includes beginners, improvement workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions. **First taster session free!**

Just pop in to see us or email John Wilkins for information at jiwilkins@tiscali.co.uk.

BARTON METHODIST CHURCH TABLE SALE

This is the last Table Sale of the season and will take place from 9 a.m. till noon on Saturday, **30th July**. All monies raised will go to the **Property Development Fund**. To book a table at £5 call Mike on 614736. Refreshments will be available.

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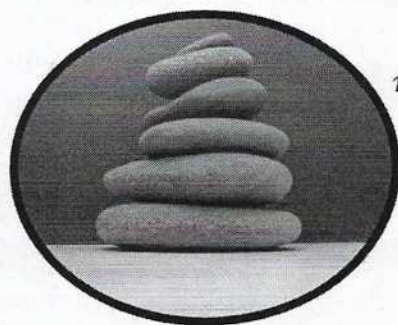
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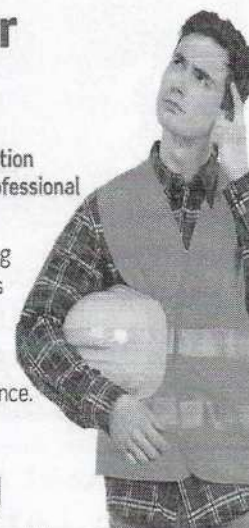
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Quotes of the Month:

Carry out a random act of kindness without any expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.

(Princess Diana)

Love itself is what's left over when **being** in love has burned out.

(Anon)

Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind don't matter!

(Terry Wogan)

I don't drink as a rule, not wishing to have a liver the size of a hot water bottle! If I need a buzz I make myself a piccalilli sandwich with Worcester Sauce. That takes your mind off your bunions, believe you me!

(Victoria Wood)

CASTLES IN THE AIR

Happy are the children who have railways in the hall
Painting in the kitchen and stories when they're small
Friends to come and visit them, ribbons in their hair
To an awful lot of children these are castles in the air

Mothers doing washing, neighbours picking flowers
Brothers under motor cars spending hours upon hours
Coming home from school knowing someone's there
To an awful lot of children these are castles in the air

Can you think how it would be if all you could recall
Was angry words, fighting, or no-one there at all?
Birthdays, parties, Christmases, families that care
To an awful lot of children these are castles in the air

Sometimes kids are fortunate, people can be found
To foster them, care for them, and always be around
All these families ever ask is just a chance to share
With all these lonely children
Who have castles in the air

They give them homes, comfort, railways in the hall
Painting in the kitchen and stories when they're small
They let their friends come calling -
Buy ribbons for their hair
But most of all they help them
Find their castles in the air!

(From a member in praise of foster-parents)

ON BEING 85

I've reached the age of 85
I am surprised to be alive
I never thought I'd get this far
I have outlived my Ma and Pa
I'm full of aches and pains and pills

Which help alleviate my ills
I've so much to be thankful for
Family, friends, and so much more
I try to spread a little cheer
As I pass through another year
What next? Ah, here's the fix -
Will I make it to 86?

Brian Wiseman

THE SPORTING LIFE

This year it's the Euros and the Olympic Games
They inspire folk to get fit
So I worked out a non-taxing regime
After all, I'm 76!
I started off quite gently exercising my eyes
Blinking one at a time with precision
They say if you do it a hundred times
It helps to clear your vision
I've exercised everything from fingers to toes
And am feeling as fit as can be
In fact I'm ready for the marathon now
My marathon of watching TV!
The hand exercises have worked very well
My fingers feel nimble and spry
I'll definitely be able to pick up the chocs
From the box on the table close by
The work on my arms has been a success
My biceps are bulging just fine
I know I shall have no trouble at all
Lifting my glass of red wine
As for my legs, the muscles are toned
Like an athlete prepared to run
I'll be able to sprint when the microwave pings
To tell me my ready meal's done
Now I'm really fit and raring to go
So first bring on the football
Then athletics or any Olympic sport
I know I can tackle them all
But when the Euros and Games are all over
My training I'll have to keep up
Yes, I'll need to get back to full fitness
In time for golf's Ryder Cup!

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Community Groups are invited to book
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for £65,000!" The grinning salesman answered "Well, she came in with the ready cash, looking really great, so how could I refuse?" Just then the young woman came to the old folks, handed them the car keys and said "There you go Grandad, told you I'd get them to drop the price!"

Bob Lowe

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendoncare Get Together Club

(2 to 4 p.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Contact Evelyn on 839885 or Bernie on 638540)

6th July: "Evergreen" Musical Entertainment

20th July: Summer-themed games

Sunday, 3rd July: 2 p.m. on the recreation ground. New Milton Town Council presents an afternoon of music at the Performance Pavilion by the New Forest Brass Band. **No Charge!**

Monday, 11th July: 2 p.m. Community Centre. New Milton Macular Support Group. Barry Oliver entertains with music and humour. Contact Malcolm Swan, 618925

Thursday, 14th July: 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. New Forest Tinnitus Group. "Research in our Area" by Sue McCormack. Charge of £2 per session, including refreshments. Contact jan.petty@ntlworld.com or www.newforesttinnitus.org.uk. **Please note Summer Recess until September.**

Sunday, 17th July: 2 to 4 p.m. Bupa Ashley Lodge, Golden Hill, Ashley. Sunday Afternoon Dementia Tea Club. Tea, cake and company! Donations to our services welcome. Contact Susan Wiffen on 07884 300641; suechef@live.co.uk.

Thursday, 21st July: 3 p.m. Barton Methodist Church Hall. Royal British Legion Strawberry Tea. Tickets at £5 from Patsy Back, 629266

Tuesday, 26th July: 7.15 p.m. All Saints Church Hall, Milford. New Forest Organ Society Concert with Ian House. Contact Keith Evans, 612515.

Wednesday, 27th July: 10.30 a.m. Police Surgery at the Community Centre.

Wednesday, 27th July: 2 and 7.30 p.m. Forest Arts Centre. "Spectre" with Daniel Craig as James Bond. £5.50 (£4.50 conc.) in advance, £6 at the door. Box Office 612393; www.forest-arts.co.uk.

Thursday, 28th July: 10 a.m. till noon Coffee Morning, St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Cards, preserves, etc.

TECHNOLOGY

Now I am a fairly old lady
Lots of changes in life I've seen
Technology has given us wonderful things
But are they as good as they seem?
I see people travelling on buses
All looking down at their laps
They never look out of the window
They're too busy downloading their apps

I see kids walking to school in the morning
Their posture could give them stiff necks
You never hear chatter or laughter
They're too busy sending their texts

Families sit near me in a restaurant
But there's no conversation as yet
The kids are all using their tablets
While Dad is placing his bet

When families drive off on holiday
In the back kids are quiet and still
Gone are the games spotting cars and trains
They've got monsters and aliens to kill

They go down to the beach next morning
Happily blessed with good weather
But with Ipods, Kindles and smartphones to guard
They never go swimming together

I see people in the country out running
And some at a more gentle jog
They don't hear rippling streams or the birdsong
They're all listening to their Ipods

Yes, now I'm a fairly old lady
I've given these inventions some praise
But no skipping ropes, skates, marbles or hoops??
I'm quite glad I'm not young nowadays

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