

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

FOCUS



FROM YOUR EDITOR

Well! What a wet and dreadfully windy start it's been to our new year. My most sincere, appreciative thanks to our band of hardy distributors who have made the extra effort to get out and deliver FOCUS in such deplorable weather conditions. What **would** we do without you!!

A Very Happy Easter to you all.

And now here we are preparing for our March AGM/GM (see display box). Do please try to attend as it looks as if there will be plenty to discuss and agree upon. Remember that the General Meeting session includes an Open Forum which gives **you** the opportunity to put forward comments and suggestions, and these are always most welcome.

Since this is the "AGM issue" it contains the mandatory annual reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, along with the certified statement from our Accounts Examiners and last year's AGM minutes, so it will probably be useful for you to bring your copy of FOCUS to the meeting.

On 11th April the Town Council has its Annual Towns Meeting when decisions and activities over the past twelve months are reviewed along with plans for the year ahead. Residents are, as always, very welcome to attend.

At our January General Meeting the Chairman made brief reference to the proposed redevelopment of the Memorial Centre and it became clear that few of those present knew much, if anything, about it. We have, therefore, invited County Councillor Mel Kendal and colleagues to come along and give a presentation at our May meeting.

It is emphasised that these plans are in the very early stage and there is some way to go before anything

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

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

New Milton Community Centre

Tuesday, 10th May, 7 p.m.

New Milton Community Centre

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 14th March, 11th April (ATM)

Amenities - 4th April, 23rd May

Fin. & Gen. - 19th April (Tues.),

Planning:

3rd, 17th, 31st March

14th, 28th April

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.

The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

actually happens. However, the re-development will have far-reaching effects, so it is essential that residents are told of what is proposed and given the opportunity to have their say before decisions are made.

It is understood that at least one Public Consultation will be held at a later date but it will obviously be an advantage for us to know now just what the outline plans are.

Contributors: Following up on one or two admonitory comments recently received, I have to point out that the free publicity given in FOCUS regarding activities and events is provided as a hopefully useful courtesy extended to spread the word of what's happening locally; it should not be regarded as a regular, word-for-word entitlement!

I do appreciate that time and effort is spent on preparing articles for publication and so do my best to accommodate, but it's sometimes necessary to edit/summarise them due to space limitations.

Phyllis Inglis

Visit our website - www.nembra.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Firstly, will all Street Distributors please note the following article from Anne Goulding which needs your urgent attention.

Our thanks go to you all for making deliveries and collecting subscriptions in such bad weather conditions. We also thank Ray and Helen Hartnell and Jean Richman for filling in as holiday relief.

We have to say a fond farewell to Gary Kemp who has helped in delivering FOCUS and giving his services to the Association for the past **30 years!** Thanks also go to Mr. S. Young and Mrs. Sue Siggs for their distribution help over the last few years. We wish them all well for the future.

We now have the following vacancies:

Main Distributor: This involves receiving about 500 copies of FOCUS from the printers which need to be counted into five bundles for delivery to the five Lead Distributors in Thatcher's Close, Otters Walk, Cull lane, Brook Avenue North and Oakwood Avenue.

Two Street Distributors: One involves delivering some 26 copies to Manor Road, Fernglade, Manor Gardens and Chestnut Grove. The other involves delivering approximately 18 copies to Earlswood Park, Danebury Meadows and Park Road, Ashley.

We would greatly appreciate your help in filling these vacancies. Do call us on 511551. Thank you

Jill & Allen Hennah

Distributors: In the brown envelope delivered with your February FOCUS there was a white envelope containing an invitation for you to attend a social event. I understand that some of you do not start collecting subscriptions until March so may not have opened the brown envelope yet, but I urge you to do so as a reply to the invitation was requested by 29th February! It would be really helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether or not you wish to come along so that numbers can be finalised. If you send me an email or leave a phone message please give your name and delivery route (top right-hand corner of your list of members, e.g. RG7). Many thanks.

Anne Goulding, 616106

anne_arthur.goulding@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As in previous years, I had to be reminded by our efficient and energetic Secretary that the time had come for another Chairman's Report for presentation at our AGM. How time flies when you're having fun!

Your small but enthusiastic committee continues to meet regularly and, in the last couple of months, were faced with a number of problems, mainly due to ill health. This necessitated my having to make a rather strong plea in the February FOCUS for more people to join the committee, otherwise the future of the Association was uncertain. I am pleased to report that some members have come forward to offer their support and, hopefully, the Membership/Distribution and Welcome Pack Distribution tasks will continue in new hands. Our thanks go to Jill and Allen Hennah and Geoff Moore for the sterling work they have undertaken in the past with responsibilities for these two roles.

I am also pleased that additional members have come forward to offer their services on the committee. This will help enhance our ability to review, debate and make plans for the issues and concerns which we have to consider when acting on your behalf.

Once again, we had a varied programme of General Meetings, a slightly different approach being to introduce "Question Time" Panels inviting, firstly, the Mayor and New Milton Town Councillors and, secondly, senior Police Officers and members of our Local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team (this particular session attracting some 140 members and making it the best attended General Meeting in recent years). In addition we enjoyed excellent and thought-provoking presentations on coastal erosion at Barton, the history/heritage of our town, and the work of the Hants & IOW Air Ambulance.

We propose to continue with a programme of speakers covering the interests and concerns of this community. As an example, at our May meeting we will welcome Hampshire County Councillor Mel Kendal who, with others, will outline proposals, ideas and suggestions for the redevelopment of the Memorial Centre and immediate surroundings. As mentioned in the editorial, everything is in a very early stage, with many issues and hurdles to overcome if this potentially exciting, innovative scheme is to come to fruition. I know that Councillor Kendal will welcome members' views and suggestions.

Your Association has continued to provide financial support to a number of local projects. These follow on from its agreement to sponsor Christmas lights with the large tree outside Boots which, along with other sponsors, really have helped the Town Council to make a tremendous difference to our town over the festive season. Since then, we have also agreed to five-year agreements to sponsor part of the New Milton Station floral displays and the two main flower beds at the recently renovated war memorial gardens. Financial support has also been given to

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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jeanwatson43@btinternet.com

Accounts Examiners:

Westlake Clark, Chartered Accountants

Hon. Legal Advisor to the Committee:

Mrs. A. Jennings, Heppenstalls Solicitors

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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the Christmas Festival and, importantly, to the "New Milton Celebrates" event on 12th June to commemorate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. A number of local organisations have also benefited from the surplus which we generate as a result of your membership subscriptions and, in particular, the income generated by our supportive band of advertisers. These include Ashley Junior School, which had an urgent need for a new PA system, and for the purchase of display equipment for the shortly-to-be-formed Milton Heritage Society.

My own personal thanks go to those from whom I have received tremendous, enthusiastic support over the past year - Vice Chairman Marie Morgan, Secretary/Editor Phyllis Inglis, and all members of our committee. Without them, and hopefully some new blood to be joining us at the AGM, the role and responsibilities of your Chairman would be impossible to carry out. Many thanks to all of them and, of course, to all of YOU, loyal members of the Association.

Alan Watson

TREASURER'S REPORT

You will find the Income & Expenditure Account, together with the Balance Sheet on the inside back page of this edition. Points requiring comment are:-

Subscriptions were down slightly as a result of a higher than usual number of members moving away from the area or into care homes. However, Welcome Packs are being delivered to new residents so it is hoped membership will recover over the coming year. We were able to obtain a full quota of **advertisements** for the Newsletter, so income was slightly increased. If those two major sources of income are added together, it shows an overall modest gain.

The cost of producing our **FOCUS** Newsletter increased slightly, due to extra copies being printed for recruitment purposes.

Social Outing: Under the "other income" heading an amount of £2,400 is shown in respect of ticket sales for the theatre visit in January; under "visits" the expenses also came to £2,400 so there was no profit or loss.

Advertising expenditure increased significantly as we put a full page ad. in several issues of the New Milton Mail and Barton Bugle in a move to try and attract new members. Whilst we had a few enquiries, those joining the Association as a result didn't justify continuation of this expense.

During the year we formed a fund-raising sub-committee known as CIA (Community In Action), and

this has produced a commendable net profit of £734 in the first (part) year of their activities.

The major change in our expenses is the increased amount of **donations** we have made:-

Milton Heritage Society	£ 1,000
(for permanent memorabilia display)	
Planters/flowers on railway station	800*
Christmas Festival	500
Provision/maintenance of flowers at War Memorial	400*
Ashley Junior School sound equipment	375
Hants & IOW Air Ambulance	250
Poppy Appeal	250
Nick Saunders' Heritage Talk	50

* These are the first of five annual payments.

The total of £3,625 compares with £1,096 last year; an increase of £2,529!

The final result is that we have spent £355 more than we received. However, we have adequate reserves on Deposit so I am satisfied with the current position.

Gerry Bryer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MTG.

**held at 10.15 a.m. on Saturday, 7th March, 2015
at New Milton Community Centre**

In the Chair: Alan Watson

1. Welcome & Apologies (6)

Presiding over his first AGM as Chairman, Alan extended a warm welcome to around 70 members - particularly to Town Mayor Councillor David Hawkins and Planning Committee Chairman Councillor Steve Clarke. He reminded us that the Association, in its original form, was set up as long ago as 1905, so it has worked in the interests of the town and its residents for a very long time.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

As printed in the March FOCUS, approval proposed by Councillor Beck, seconded by Eddie Franklin.

3. Matters Arising - None.

4. Chairman's Report

Alan briefly covered his full report, published in the March FOCUS. He extended appreciation and thanks to Tony Jarrett (our Chairman who stepped down recently due to a planned move from the area) and to all committee members for their support on his taking over as Acting Chairman pending this AGM, especially Vice Chair Marie Morgan and Editor/Secretary Phyllis Inglis.

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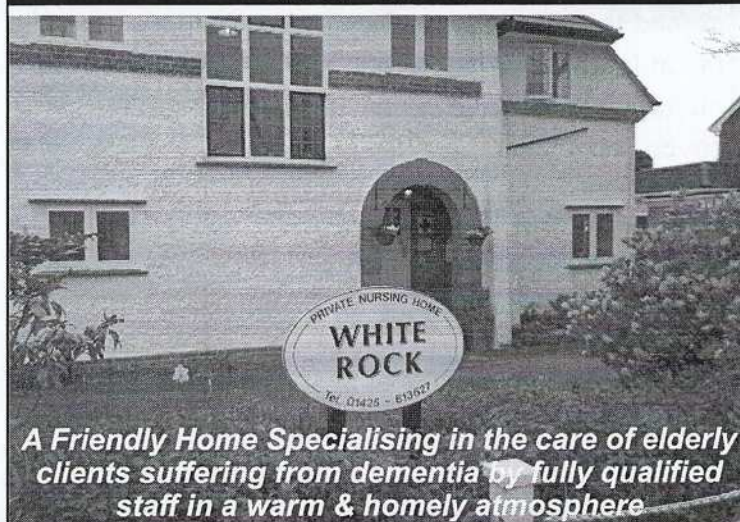


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Acceptance of report proposed by Gerry Bryer, seconded by Derek Sheldrake.

5. Treasurer's Report

Gerry Bryer referred to his report and accounts, published in the March FOCUS. He had nothing to add at this time. There being no questions, acceptance of the report was proposed by Ted Horne, seconded by Councillor Beck.

6. Election of Chairman

The Vice Chair said she had no hesitation in proposing that Alan should continue as Chairman. He is very much involved in community activities, has the interests of the Association at heart and can be relied upon to work to that end.

Proposed by Marie Morgan, seconded by Tony Jarrett.

7. Election of Treasurer and Secretary

Taking the Chair again, Alan said Gerry Bryer was doing an excellent job for us in keeping our finances in good order; Phyllis Inglis was performing her secretarial duties with no problems. He was, therefore, pleased to recommend their re-election.

Proposed by Alan Watson, seconded by Janet Trow.

8. Election of Committee, en bloc

Over the past year Tony Jarrett resigned as Chairman. Whilst remaining on the committee, Anne Goulding stood down as Membership/Distribution Coordinator, with Jill and Allen Hennah taking her place. Keith Craze was also co-opted. The committee now put forward for election is:-

Goff Beck (Councillor)

Keith Craze

Anne Goulding

Jill & Allen Hennah (M'ship/Distrib.)

Phyllis Inglis (Editor - ex officio)

Shelagh Levett (Visits Organiser)

Marie Morgan (Advertising Manager)

Geoff Moore (Welcome Pack Distrib.)

Proposed by Alan Watson, seconded by Sue Larkin.

(In accordance with the Rules of Association, the Vice Chairman will be appointed by the committee at its next meeting)

9. Election of Hon. Legal Adviser

Mrs. Alex Jennings of Heppenstalls having agreed to continue in this role, re-election proposed by Marie Morgan, seconded by Councillor Beck.

10. Election of Accounts Examiners

Westlake Clark are doing a good job for us and have agreed to continue. Re-election proposed by Gerry Bryer, seconded by Phyllis Inglis.

11. Any Other Business - None.

NEWS FROM NM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Centre Management: Following the successful introduction and implementation of a Service Level Agreement with the NFDC covering general cleanliness and tidiness in the town centre, it has been decided to extend this geographically and for a longer period. It has also been agreed to extend the Agreement with Hampshire County Council whereby the Town Council is responsible for providing an enhanced service covering maintenance of street furniture, and weeding of pavement areas in and around the town centre. Revised agreements beyond the initial trial periods which expire at the end of this month have been recommended. Extensions will cover Station Road south to Barton Court Road, and along Old Milton Road towards the former police station for a further 12 months.

Barton Common/Ballard Lake Improvements: Following successful restoration of some parts of the Common, the Town Council is now looking to extend its habitat improvement scheme to the area of Barton Common north of Barton Common Road near its junction with the Milford Road, and to an area of woodland north of Ballard Lake, as part of its Higher Level Stewardship. The intention is to open up these sites to the public, widening footpaths and making the areas more accessible. Both have become overgrown over time and the Town Council wishes to extend and connect footpaths in these two under-utilised areas. It is hoped to enhance existing pathways at Barton Common and provide a new circular walk north of Ballard Lake.

Queen's Birthday Celebrations: On Thursday, 21st April, the Queen's actual birthday will be marked by the lighting of beacons up and down the country; a long tradition of celebrating royal events in this way and community groups of all sizes are invited to take part. On 11th/12th June the Town Council will be decorating our railway station with bunting in conjunction with South West Trains who will provide funding.

NEW MILTON TOWN PARTNERSHIP

To avoid any misunderstanding following an article which appeared in the February FOCUS, we would like to make it clear that the annual Christmas Festival is organised by the Town Partnership and not by the Town Council. The Town Council, along with many other organisations, contributes financially to the event, for which the Partnership is very grateful. However, it is important to clarify that the Festival itself is organised largely by a small number of volunteers within the Partnership, the Parade being the



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The 2015 Christmas Festival was again well-supported, despite the difficult weather conditions. Thousands of people turned out to enjoy the Craft, Food, Community Villages, the funfair and excellent entertainment programme, the French Market and Parade.

Preparations for this year's event, which will take place on 3rd December, are already in hand and if anyone would like to become involved in this very enjoyable, important community event, please contact me on 626212.

Rosamund Bowles
Town Development Officer

YOUNG PERSON AND TEAM/GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARDS, 2016

The New Milton Town Partnership and New Milton Rotary Club are once again joining together to sponsor the presentation of these awards. This is an annual event which is now in its 12th year when prizes are awarded to young people who live in the Parish (New Milton, Ashley, Bashley and Barton-On-Sea). There are two age groups in which people can be nominated - 10 to 14 and 15 to 20 years. Anyone who lives or works in the town can complete an application nominating an individual or group who they think deserves recognition. This could be someone who

- Is making a contribution to their local community through volunteering
- Is overcoming personal difficulties or challenges to achieve success
- Is a young carer within the family, school, club, organisation or workplace
- Has carried out an act of bravery
- Works as part of a team to promote good teamwork within the community

Prizes awarded are £50 for first place, £30 for second place and £20 for third place.

Do you know of a young person or group deserving of recognition? If so, the Town Partnership would like to hear from you. Details and application forms are available from Pam Evans, 26 Grove Road, Barton-On-Sea, BH25 7DJ or from NMTP, Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton (website www.nmtp.org.uk).

Deadline for entries is Friday, 13th May, and winners will be announced at the NMTP AGM on Wednesday, 25th May, at the Town Hall.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DATE IN THE TOWN'S CALENDAR!!

**Sunday, 12th June, 1 to 9.30 p.m. at the
Recreation Ground.**

Representatives of many community organisations have decided that New Milton should pay its own tribute to Her Majesty The Queen to celebrate her 90th birthday, by way of the year's largest, most prominent event called "New Milton Celebrates". It will be a fully inclusive "community picnic" involving performances across musical genres; included in the programme will be a "Last Night Of The Proms" feature, ending with a "Queen" tribute band and a spectacular finale. There will be many other attractions during the afternoon and evening on the rec. and surrounding area, with a surprise "in the air". We are aiming for a low-cost family event with attractions for each generation. Information will regularly feature in the A&T (our official Press Partner) as well as in future issues of FOCUS.

Put the date in your diary now; a day to remember!

**Alan Watson, Event Coordination
Team**

07771 754025

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COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

One of the issues constantly raised in discussions, correspondence and at General Meetings is the question of traffic speed around New Milton and certain "hot spots". Community Speedwatch is a voluntary group which operates a portable speed indicator device at random times and locations. The reporting process involves letters being sent by the Police to offending drivers, with the possibility of prosecution for repeat offenders. The Team needs additional volunteers to help with their rota; the larger the number on the team the more times the device can be out on our roads. It is clear from the statistics that its appearance does make a difference over a period of time.

If you are interested to support this initiative and can spare an hour or two (at most) each month, email nick.trussler@bt.com or contact Alan Watson on 07771 754025. Don't just worry about speeding traffic or complain that nothing is being done. Let's get out there more often and help make a difference.

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LOST & FOUND PROPERTY

At our meeting with the Police Panel complaints were made that we are expected to go to Lymington Police Station in order to hand in or hopefully retrieve property. Following are details of what you can do, and a notice to this effect is now to be found on the left-hand wall on entering the Town Hall.

- Items **found** can be advertised free of charge in the A&T.
- Items **lost** can be advertised for £5 in the A&T as well as reported on www.reportmyloss.com.

In either case you can leave an explanatory note for collection by the Police at the Town Hall.

HEAD SHAVE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

How many of you know someone who has had cancer? It is a dreadful experience as I can testify having just travelled that terrifying journey myself. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a cure could be found? - better still, prevention! I survived and am now trying to help others to do so, aiming to raise £5,000 for Cancer Research UK. Can you please help me to achieve this? On Tuesday, 19th April, I am having my long, thick hair cut off as a fundraising effort. It will take place between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. at the St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. On sale will be refreshments, jams, pickles, greeting cards, jewellery and craft items. All homemade by friends of mine. Also nearly new items, and a raffle. Admission by donation at the door. If you would like to help you can donate money, items as listed above which have been made by you, and raffle prizes. Put the date in your diary, spread the word and come along.

To really make use of my hair it is being donated to The Little Princess Trust which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair as a result of cancer treatment, so a double whammy: £5,000 for Cancer Research UK and a wig for a child!

My phone number is 01425 616106;

email anne_arthur.goulding@btinternet.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Anne Goulding

JUBILEE SINGERS

Towards the end of January we sang at the Meeting Point Club in Barton to a very appreciative audience and in February a small group sang at Kingfishers in Barton, which also went well. Last month we had our annual lunch at the Cloud in Brockenhurst, giving us a good opportunity to socialise over a lovely meal.

Music for our two summer concerts, held at the Community Centre, has been chosen and we are all enjoying practising familiar pieces as well as some new songs. Since Christmas three ladies have joined us so we now have a full complement of ladies but are always ready to welcome new **male** members.

Liz Northcote, 621519

ANIMAL DEATHS IN THE NEW FOREST

I see that in the minutes of the Association's last General Meeting it was recorded that a suggestion had been made for the speed limit to be further reduced in the Forest in view of the number of animal accidents and fatalities.

Most people probably hold very strong views on this matter but are not aware of the facts. It is very upsetting to see or read about animals being killed and injured but, in fact, the numbers are tiny and decreasing every year. When the Press reports on accidents in the paper it omits to say, for example, how many animals are in the Forest. This obviously makes a difference to how many animals are likely to be on the roads, verges or crossing the roads. In 2015 there were 10,714 animals (ponies, cattle, donkeys, sheep and pigs) belonging to Commoners living in the Forest - an increase of 1,433 over the previous year. This is a huge number compared with past years; between 1956 and 1993 numbers were mostly 4,300-6,000 with occasional population spikes. From 1993 until 2011 numbers grew to 8,000 and then dipped again below 6,000. From 2012 numbers have climbed steadily to reach the most recent peak last year.

The figure that is important to tell whether or not animal deaths and injuries are rising is the ratio or percentage of the total stock killed and injured in any given year. From 1956 to 1966 the percentage varied between 3.45 and 6.20; 6.20% was a spike in 1963 when the perambulation of the Forest was fenced. From 1967 when the A35 was fenced until 1975 when the A337 fencing was completed, the average percentage dropped to 2.63. This figure has gradually dropped to only 0.3 in 2015.

Taking into account the phenomenal increase in traffic on our roads over the past 60 years, these figures are all the more remarkable and show how mistaken the perception is that animal deaths are rising. From these statistics I would suggest that the current speed limits strike a sensible balance between the needs of the people who live and work in the Forest and the animals which graze there.

All these statistics can be verified on the Verderers' informative website <http://www.verderers.org.uk/>.

Ros Bowles, Town Development Officer

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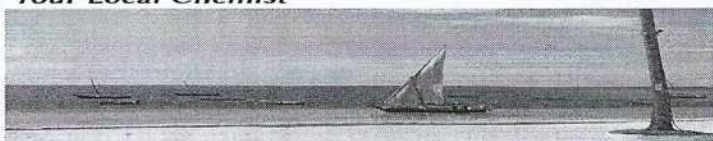
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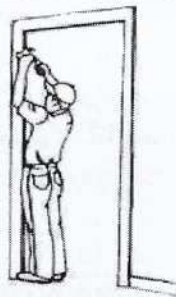
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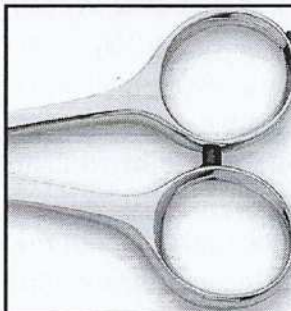
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POLICE SURGERY

During a recent Surgery at the Community Centre, a complaint was made about speeding motorists approaching Station Road along Osborne Road, particularly affecting cars coming out of Spencer Road and the water tower car park. We understand that speedwatch checks **have** been made without any undue speed being registered. The probability is that, since Osborne Road is quite straight, drivers can quickly see the hivy jackets of those carrying out the check and have time to slow down!! Nevertheless, the situation will be monitored and we will be pleased to hear from anyone who encounters problems there.

MAKING YOUR WILL

Information came our way that some charities are prepared to arrange your Will free of charge so long as they are mentioned in it. Our "legal eagle", Alex Jennings, was asked for corroboration and has provided the following:-

"There are various charity schemes that will pick up the bill for the client. For instance, we have such an involvement with Cancer Research. The charity offers £100 for a simple will (£150 for two mirror image), and this is below the "going rate". You do not need to leave the charity anything but it is assumed that you **will** do so, and the person completing the application form states what, if anything, will be left to the charity.

This does only cover something very simple and basic, with no additional advice unless the client is prepared to pay for it. There are some schemes which ask the solicitor to do the work free of charge, in return for a donation. However, Heppenstalls do not do this as we are working to full capacity and there is no way of knowing if the promised donation is ever made.

Alex Jennings, Heppenstalls

NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

We are pleased to announce our new Holiday Companion Service, which provides carers/companions to accompany older or disabled people on hotel, self-catering and cruise holidays. Call 01603 764567; info@ablecommunitycare.com.

B&Q: Special Wednesday deal for those over 60.

Boots: People over 60 can sign up for the Health Club to receive 10% off selected Boots brand products.

Other savings include 25% off glasses at Boots Opticians and a free hearing test.

Senior Railcard: Available for people over 60. At £30 for the whole year it entitles you to a third off the price of standard, first class, off peak and advance fares. At tesco.com you can buy your year-long railcard at a discount price in exchange for £15-worth of Clubcard points.

Website discounts such as www.vouchercodes.co.uk offer lots of short-term discounts on well-known high street chain restaurants, including two-for-one deals and often up to a third off the price of a meal.
(All the above sourced from Saga Magazine)

Flowers are apparently banned in the majority of hospitals because it is argued that bacteria can grow in the water, they aggravate allergies and create work for the nurses. However, it has been proven that they improve the patients' mood, cheer them up and those unable to visit can send flowers to show the patient is in their thoughts. Best to check with the hospital first!

Hypothermia can kill, particularly people over 65 and those with reduced mobility. Maintain your home temperature above 18C or 65F. Try not to sit still for more than an hour and have a hot drink in a flask by you to keep your temperature up.

Question: I have a disabled son now entering his late teens and wishing to find a job. Where can we get information on employment opportunities?

Answer: Every Job Centre should have a Disability Employment Advisor and that is a good place to start for knowledge of local opportunities. You may also like to visit the SCOPE website at www.scope.org.uk which, as well as having information, has a lead to the Business Disability Forum which is a membership forum for businesses.

Question: I have been registered as having poor sight and understand I can get help with setting up my computer, dvd etc. Where from?

Answer: The RNIB's Technology Support Squad is a free national service providing such help. Call them on 0303 123 9999.

Question: I understand there is a telephone service which will give an older person leaving hospital a daily call for a few weeks to ensure all is well. What is this service?

Answer: Age UK operate "Good Day Calls". A short call is made several times a week for 8 weeks for an older person who has experienced a recent bereavement or just left hospital. This is a free service. Contact Age UK on 08444 225 0320 or email callintime@ageuk.org.uk.

Rogue tradesmen warning:

- Never agree to have work done by somebody who is just passing and knocking on your door
- Don't take their word that they have seen work urgently needing to be done on your property
- Never pay for work before it is completed
- Do not accept any offer from them to drive you to your bank to withdraw money

COMPUTERADVICE & SUPPORT NO. 10

My apologies for the technobabble contained in this issue; I will endeavour to make future articles more exciting and readable.

I have been experiencing problems with my WiFi connection dropping out on Win.10, necessitating fiddly changes to my network connections or computer restarts to get it back. The problem started around Christmas-time and only happened with Anne's and my own laptops. I've been worried about this happening to one of my clients as I didn't have a good answer, despite reading up on the web of many other laptop users experiencing the same problem. Should you have this problem a common symptom is that the "fan tale" WiFi connection may say connected but NO internet access. After talking to other computer engineers I have been led to a solution from Microsoft and here is an extract from their website....

You have a Windows 8.1-based computer that has virtual private network (VPN) software installed. When you upgrade this computer to Windows 10 it may no longer be able to detect a wireless connection. This is true even when the wireless network adapter seems to function correctly. If you restart the computer or try to reinstall the wireless network adapter driver this does not fix the problem. It may also prevent wired Ethernet connections from functioning correctly. This affects connections which are made through either a built-in Ethernet or USB Ethernet adapter.

They go on to offer a free trouble-shooter to examine your Windows 10 PC and fix it, and mine is now fixed. If you have this problem then type in "Computer that has VPN software installed can't detect wireless network after upgrading to Windows 20". It might also work if you just type in the number 3084164 straight into your search engine. If it doesn't, please email me and I will see what else I can do.

Another annoying issue I have recently discovered. I often get reminders from Avast about Bad Search

engines. This time they identified the search engine "Ask", and went on to request which of half a dozen other search engines I wanted to replace it with. Naively, I selected Google (my preferred engine) and then I was presented with a button labelled "complete the system cleanup of the computer". I immediately smelt a rat and double-checked, and NO. I had not got Ask on my list of search engines, it was just a ploy from Avast to take over the running aspects of my computer! This saddens me as I have installed Avast on over 100 PCs. I still do recommend Avast as the best of the free antivirus software programmes, but when you install the download my recommendation is to click "custom installation" and deselect the extra tools they offer, i.e. keep away from their hidden agendas (or am I just being paranoid?).

Please keep on sending me your concerns; several useful dialogues have been started this month.

david.mason1948@gmail.com
626112/07851 335749

OPEN SIGHT - SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

This is a social group for those suffering with any form of sight problems. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bashley Village Hall. Come and make new friends, enjoy the entertainment provided over tea and cake. Transport can be arranged where necessary by our great team of volunteer drivers.

Of course we are always in need of volunteers, be it driving, helping with refreshments or just lending a hand. If you are interested in coming along, either as a member or volunteer, please call Secretary Patricia Batchelor on 627460.

NEW MILTON TALKING NEWSPAPER

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday, 21st March, at the Community Centre. The Talking Newspaper records local news every Friday for people with sight impairment. All are welcome to come and hear about the past year's events. Tea and biscuits provided.

CRESCENDI

Crescendi is a New Milton based contemporary choir who sing in four-part harmony. We exist for two reasons: to have fun by singing together and to raise funds for local organisations and charities. Rehearsal takes place every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. at St. Andrews Church Hall, Tiptoe. An audition is not required to become a member, just a healthy enthusiasm for singing for enjoyment. When we perform for other groups

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For details contact:

Coordinator Pam Pulfer: 614939
Chairman/Secretary Phyllis Inglis: 615069
Voluntary helpers would be welcomed

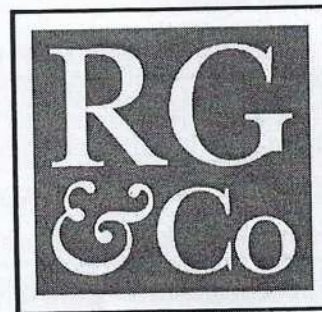
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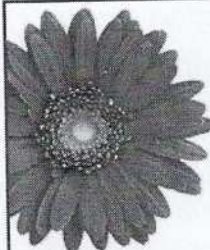


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Every year we choose a charity to support, for which we hold a concert in November or December. Last year we raised almost £3,000 for Breast Cancer Care. This year we have chosen to support Naomi House and Jack's Place.

Crescendi was formed in September, 2010, and during its existence has helped to raise some £40,000 for various organisations. So far, the choir's repertoire has been restricted to popular songs and songs from the musical theatre. We are now considering extending this to include light contemporary classics which represents the growth in the skills and confidence of the choir.

For further information on the choir and for booking enquiries, please contact me.

Keith Grand-Scrutton, 615710

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, 21st March, at the Community Centre with a presentation on "Show Time On Ice". For further information please contact Janet Litten on 617052.

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. On 14th March we will be delighted to welcome Police Community Support Officer James Bolt from Hampshire Constabulary to talk to us on Crime Prevention. Do come and visit our friendly, informal group for advice and the supportive companionship of fellow carers. No charge! Details from Maggie on 614714.

NEW MILTON FRIENDS GROUP

Raising Funds For Local Good Causes

Our cabaret events are always a huge success and the next is on Thursday, 17th March. Doors open at 6.30 for the music to start at 8 p.m.. at Hoburne Bashley.. The New Forest Rock Choir starts the evening off (donating their time free of charge) and we also have Debbie Farrell as Shirley Bassey (TV fame/cruise ship entertainer).

Tickets from Hardy's Electrical on Station Road or from Janet/Graham on 626047/616354. We look forward to seeing you.

NEW AGE KURLING

Are you sociable? Could you use some very light exercise? If so, then New Age Kurling could be right up your street. The game is rather like a cross between bowling and the original Curling, without the bending and the ice! It is played in a hall where a weighted plastic disc, fitted with three casters, is pushed along the floor with something similar to a broom handle, aimed at a target at the far end. Most people are able to participate standing, sitting on a chair, in a wheelchair or even from a mobility scooter. A number of people, including myself, have been looking to establish a "club" in the Milton/Barton area. It can be played just for fun and a natter or more competitively with a league or playing with other clubs.

If you fancy taking part please contact me.

Mike Walsh, 615923
walshmike@hotmail.co.uk

NEIGHBOUR CARE

At its last committee meeting, attention was again drawn to the desperate need for volunteer drivers as well as clerical help in the office. Requests for transport help from clients are increasing day by day and it is so upsetting - for us as well as the clients - when we have to turn them down. It's not too late to make a New Year Resolution to devote some of your time to support this very worthwhile and rewarding cause. Do please contact Office Manager Jo Swayne on 611662 if you can help us in any way.

Phyllis Inglis, Chairman

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

DEMENTIA TEA CLUB

(Age Concern, Hampshire)

You will be very welcome to come along from 2 to 4 p.m. on 20th March and enjoy tea, cake and company with friends at Bupa, Ashley Lodge, Oak View, Golden Hill, Ashley, BH25 5AH. Suggested donation of £2.50 p.p. Please contact Susan Wiffen on 07884 300641 for further information.

CONCHORD SINGERS

Our AGM will take place shortly. It is expected that our present Secretary will hand over that part of her duties, remaining as treasurer/librarian. Juanita Woods, our longest serving choir member, will take over that mantle and her contact number is 629102.

The last Conservative Club Open Day resulted in one or two new members joining the choir. Anyone else interested should ring our new secretary who will be pleased to furnish further details. Future bookings can also be made through Mrs. Woods.

Sylvia Camp, PR Lady to the Choir

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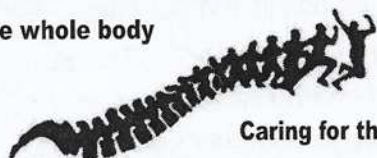
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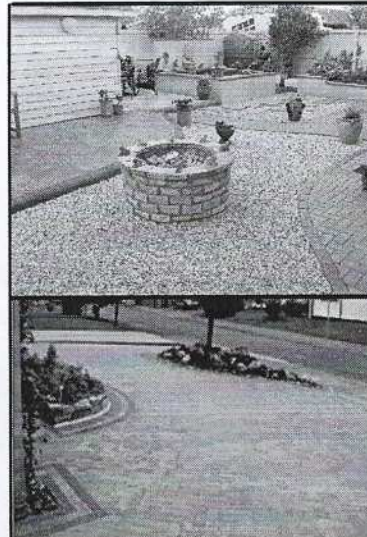
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NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot Brown, universally known as "Capability". This great English gardener believed all landscapes had "capabilities" for enhancement and beauty, and even though at times his work often appeared to be ruthless, it has matured into the most exquisite, memorable settings for many of our stately homes. Christopher Rogers will talk to us about Capability Brown and his legacy at such famous houses as Stowe and Petworth, Chatsworth, Blenheim and Harewood, among others. He has given his lecture the amusing title of "Lancelot Brown, Mother Nature's Second Husband".

Come and join us for inspiration on how to improve your own little plot at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 10th March, at the Memorial Centre, Whitefield Road. Coffee is served from 10 a.m. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. Further details from Ann Clegg on 01590 643046, newmilton@dfas.org.uk, <http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

Joan Bates

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our February meeting we had Jan Piggott telling us about the History of Belly Dancing. A very interesting presentation covering the Middle East, Northern Europe and the USA where various types of dance are performed. It included the different customs expressed by people such as men holding hands with other men but not allowed to hold hands with women, even their wives. Many of the dancers seen during holiday trips to the Mediterranean and Middle East countries are lowering the image of, and not performing, the true traditional dance.

The minibus trip to the Royal Signals Museum on 10th March has been filled. If anyone still wishes to go there may be spaces available by car, so please check at our March meeting for further details.

On 3rd March we have Jude Todd telling us about Nightstop: Homeless Charity in the New Forest. 7th April will be our AGM followed by Dave Dibben's presentation on New Forest Coppice Crafts. As there will be no report in the April edition of FOCUS due to holidays, this is advance notice that, at our 5th May meeting, we have Bruce Worthy talking about Riding With The Cavalry. We meet at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of the

month at the Community Centre, very pleased to welcome new members and visitors. Contact Secretary Derek Sheldrake on 628675.

WE 2 CLUB

We enjoy spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting and so much more. Most of our crafts are fibre and yarn-based, but we cover a wide range of other interests, meeting in New Milton, Sway and Lymington. The New Milton group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Centre. Why not come along on 17th March to find out what we're up to? Everyone welcome. Further information from Sue at ewe2club@yahoo.co.uk; ewe2club.org.uk.

MUSIC FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT

7 p.m. on Sunday, 20th March, at The Arnewood School. Tickets £5 at the door. Do join us for a wonderful evening celebrating local talent. For further information contact akidman@sky.com.

CHRISTCHURCH & NEW FOREST NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

The Association has had two events recently. The first was a talk by Judy Theobald on the triumphs and tribulations of life in the media. She trained for her initial wish to become a journalist and later submitted poetry to the editor of a local paper who offered her a regular column, moving on to become a reporter interviewing many celebrities and then applying successfully for editorship of Lincolnshire Life Magazine. Her talk covered facts and events on Lincolnshire, her later years with BBC local radio and eventual retirement.

The second event was a skittles evening at Hoburne Somerford, always popular and well-attended, which included the mental stimulus of a difficult quiz. After a tasty supper and draw for raffle prizes, the evening ended with sincere thanks to the organisers and Hoburne staff for providing such an enjoyable event.

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

At its first meeting of the year Chairman Bob Pettifer announced with sadness the passing of long-standing member Bill McKerrow. New member Tony Coldicott was inducted. Dr. Tony Phillips, member of the Fovant Badges Society, was introduced to give a "Lest We Forget" presentation.



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The Fovant Badges, clearly visible from the A30 Salisbury to Shaftesbury Road, were carved in the chalk downs during the Great War. When WW1 broke out there was a need to find accommodation for Kitchener's new army and thousands of acres of agricultural land was taken over for training and transit. One of these areas was Fovant, a quiet farming village community which became a military camp. Today, fields in the surrounding farms bear witness to this takeover and are still known as "hospital field", "barracks field", and so on. Thousands of men were drafted to the area, and war graves are to be found in six local village churchyards.

Dr. Phillips' talk on the history, restoration and maintenance of the Fovant Badges is unfortunately too long to be produced here but it was a detailed, very interesting presentation enjoyed by all.

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

NEW MILTON U3A

What a wonderful response we had to the presentation on The Red Arrows! Over 120 people came to hear Mr. Phil Holt tell us about their history and how development progressed from one type of plane to another. We also learnt about the training of pilots, all regular members of the RAF who had to be ready for other duties when required.

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd March, at the Memorial Centre when we will welcome Police Commissioner Simon Hayes. Visitors welcome at £2.

TOOLS FOR SELF-RELIANCE

This long-standing organisation collects and repairs a range of things which can either be sold to raise funds or sent to countries overseas where there is a need. Please bear them in mind if you want to dispose of arc welders (urgently needed), metal and woodwork tools, sewing machines (no garden equipment). In most cases, local volunteers will collect. If you're not sure whether what you have available is of use to them, please call 02380 869697. They will be most grateful.

NEW MILTON HORTICULTURAL SOC.

The Society will present its **Spring Show from 1.30 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, 19th March**, at the Community

Centre. Presentation of Awards at 3.30 p.m. Refreshments, plant stall and tombola. Everyone welcome - admission free.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This Service (a world-wide event) will take place at **2.30 p.m. on Friday, 4th March**, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, followed by refreshments in the Hall.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Coffee Morning/Craft Sale, 10 a.m. till noon on **Friday, 18th March**, Barton Methodist Church. Craft items, beads and findings, Swarovski crystals, fabric remnants, knitting and felting wool, greeting cards. Refreshments with home-made cakes and savouries. Contact 07811 871347

NEW FOREST PLAYERS

The Players will present a comedy, "One Man, Two Govnors" from **6th to 9th April** at Ballard School Performing Arts Centre, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, BH25 5SU. 7.30 p.m., Saturday matinee 2.30 p.m. Adults £10, Seniors £8. Box Office 0845 166 8775.

TABLE TOP SALE

The Barton Methodist Church usually holds its Table Top Sales on the last Saturday of the month but **this** month it would clash with Easter, so the next Sale will be on **Saturday, 2nd April**, 9 a.m. till noon, raising money for the Property Development Fund. To book a table for £5 call Mike on 614736. Refreshments available.

CAR BOOT SALE

Easter Monday, **28th March**, Elm Avenue car park (behind Hayward Fox estate agents). Sellers after 8.30 a.m., buyers 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cars £5. Items needed are good quality bric-a-brac (no clothes) etc. Will collect. Please contact Chris on 628937 evenings. In aid of Neighbourcare New Milton which provides medically-related transport and shopping assistance.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

This year, Mothering Sunday (or Mothers Day, as it has become known) is on 6th March. Why not join us at St. Mary Magdalene Church for the 9.30 a.m. service. It will be a special celebration of Mothers - a chance to give thanks for them, even though they may

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no longer be with us, to celebrate **with** mothers and, as mothers to bring our families on this special day. There will be activities for children during the service, in the church, and small posies of flowers for all the ladies will be given out by the children.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies. **(Groucho Marks)**

Live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live forever. **(Mahatma Gandhi)**

All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't buy happiness. **(Spike Milligan)**

I spent a small fortune on deodorant before I realised people just don't like me anyway.

(Joan Rivers)

Always be yourself because the people that matter won't mind and the ones that **do** mind won't matter.

(Anon)

THE PILL

On visiting her surgery for a check-up a woman was told that her GP had retired so she was to see his replacement. The conversation went like this:

Doctor: As we've not met up before I'm looking through your medication and see you are on the Pill.

Do you wish to continue with that?

Woman: Oh yes, they help me sleep at night..

Doctor: But it's not a sedative; there's nothing at all in the Pill to make you sleep.

Woman: I know that, but every morning I crush a pill into my teenage daughter's orange juice, and that definitely helps me to sleep at night.

WISE WORDS

An old man in the USA is dying and calls his grandson to his bedside.

Old Man: Boy, I want you to have my revolver so you'll remember me.

Grandson: But grandpa you know I really don't like guns. Why not leave me your Rolex watch instead?

Old man: You listen to me! One of these days you'll go home and find your wife having fun with another man, so what you gonna do - look at your watch and say "time's up?"

ALITTLE OF WHAT YOU FANCY

Ig and Og are two cannibals eating their dinner.

Ig: I have a problem.

Og (a management consultant in his spare time):

What is it? I am here to help.

Ig: I don't like my wife

Og: Well, that's easy - just eat the vegetables

Brian Wiseman

SENILITY PRAYER

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference!

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendon Care Get Together Club

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

2nd March: Cookery demo and tasting with Rod Fletcher.

16th March: Nicole Young will sing for us.

Saturday, 5th March: New Forest Stamp & Postcard Club Annual Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Contact Marion Adams on 629723.

Thursday, 10th March: New Forest Tinnitus Group. 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. Hearing Aids and their vital role. Keeley Salmon. Contact: www.newforesttinnitus.org.uk.

Saturday, 12th March: Girlguiding in New Milton. Coffee and crumpets 10 a.m. till noon at the Guide HQ, Lake Grove Road, New Milton.

Monday, 14th March: New Milton Macular Support Group. Tom McNulty (from HQ) will speak on Latest Developments in the Macular Society. Contact Malcolm Swan, 618925.

Tuesday, 15th March: Forest Arts Centre. "Importance of Being Earnest" 7.30 p.m. Tickets £12 (£11 concs.). Box Office 612393.

Sunday, 20th March: Music Festival Gala Concert celebrating local talent, 7 p.m. at Arnewood School. Tickets £5 at the door.

Wednesday, 30th March: Police Surgery, 10.30 a.m., Room 1 at the Community Centre.

Thursday, 31st March: 10 a.m. till noon Coffee Morning at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall.

Friday, 1st April: Forest Arts Centre. The Sorcerer's Apprentice. 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Tickets £7, £25 for 4. Box office 612393.

A REMINDER

With membership renewal time coming up please do remember to let us know if you are planning to move or have already done so

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RULES OF ASSOCIATION

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

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