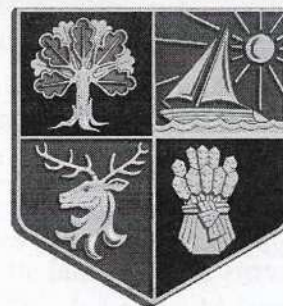


FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter for members of the
NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NMRA

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Well here we are, probably beginning to count the days and putting our festive season plans in hand. At the time of preparing this issue still enjoying some nice weather even if it's cold enough to put on another layer of woollies and upping the central heating thermostat. I do hope you will wrap up and turn out for Remembrance Sunday on the 13th when your Chairman will lay a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the Association. As part of the ceremony, Cadets will plant small wooden crosses to acknowledge each of the nine New Milton residents who lost their lives at the Somme and Battle of Jutland in WW1.

Also, of course, we look forward to the Christmas Festival (see separate article) which promises to be bigger and better. A lot of very hard work goes into preparing the event, so do take part and support it.

A final reminder that our speaker at this month's meeting will be Peter Roberts, formerly of the New Forest Association, telling us things we didn't know about this wonderful amenity on our doorstep.

Our speaker in January will be the ever-welcome Alex Jennings bringing us up to date on important things which could affect legal (and financial) issues.

My editorial last month stated that the cost of advertising in FOCUS would remain at £80 for the coming year. However, it has been decided in committee that the rate must unfortunately be raised to £85 per single space. Still a very competitive price for twelve issues reaching over 3,000 homes.

Contributors Please Note: Copy for the January issue needs to be with me a week earlier than usual (8th December) so that the printers can deal with it before closing for the holiday period.

For the December edition I would welcome any stories you have to tell - perhaps about a special

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 8th November, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

Tuesday, 10th January, 2017, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 7th November, 19th December

Amenities - 21st November, 9th January

Fin. & Gen. - 5th December, 23rd January

Planning:

10th and 24th November

8th and 22nd December

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.

The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

Christmas/New Year happening or celebration which stays in your memory. Send them typed or hand-written, it doesn't matter. Let's wallow in a bit of nostalgia!

The From Our Files column in the A&T is often interesting reading, covering events which made the news years ago. This was seen in a recent issue...

50 Years Ago: Complaints of noise and disturbance at the Mini Diner on Old Milton Green were voiced at a meeting of the New Milton, Barton & District Ratepayers' Association (our earlier title). Motorcyclists who frequented the premises - stated to be open until midnight seven days a week - raced their machines along roads in the vicinity and made "terrible" noises outside by revving up their engines. Members also complained of the noise from a jukebox, shouting and bad language coming from motorcyclists parked in the pavement.

Things don't change much, then, do they?

Phyllis Inglis

Visit our website - www.nmra.org.uk

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Each month, as I sit down to write my report on activity within the Association over the last weeks, I always hope to be more positive and constructive in my views on how we should take NMRA into 2017 and beyond, as well as try to improve at meeting your expectations and needs. Last month I expressed concerns at the dismal attendance we had for our last General Meeting held in Barton, which included two very professional speakers from Hampshire Fire & Rescue and The Blue Lamp Trust. In my last report I again invited comments, either by phone, letter or email, to help your committee and my Office Bearers to plan for the future. Apart from just one or two comments received by our Secretary, the silence from you all has been astounding!

As a result, by the time you read this your committee will have sat down for its last meeting of the year and had to make some decisions about the 2017 programme, without any feedback from our large membership base. You were asked for thoughts on the days, timings, frequency and style of meetings yet, apart from very few comments, we will have attended our meeting with little idea of what you, our members, really want from us. Therefore, I am afraid you will have to live with and accept decisions made in committee which may well not please everyone! Equally, our appeal for those of you who are computer-literate to sign up to our mailing list to help keep you informed has, so far, resulted in only 141 subscribers from a membership base of some 3,000 households. Please do sign up now at www.nmra.org.uk.

I know that this lack of feedback is not only confined to our Association. As I write this report I am aware that other forms of Consultations largely receive a similar poor level of interest from town residents as a whole. As the NMRA representative on the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, I have to date assisted at three of the four Public Sessions on this very important activity relating to the town in which we all live, work and play. I have been astonished at the almost complete lack of response to appeals made in FOCUS and large local press advertisements. This follows an announcement made by the NFDC that we must see an increase of some 930 dwellings within our town. The Neighbourhood Plan is a unique, golden opportunity (which comes along very rarely) to try and influence decisions which will have to be made to encompass this growing population over the next 20 years. What do you feel about the loss of green belt and the urban sprawl of housing in New Milton? Would you want a cinema in the town? Would you like to see a pedestrianised town centre? What leisure facilities need to be provided

and/or enhanced? What do you feel about traffic problems? Do we have adequate medical and school facilities which can cope with perhaps a 10% or more increase in the town's population? All important questions on which the Working Party needed your help and guidance.

The meeting at Bashley was attended by less than could be counted on one hand and, in New Milton, only about 18 people were there; hardly representative of the feelings of a town with some 25,000+ residents! Hopefully, we will have received many more views from our appeals to complete a questionnaire online on the Working Party website and by paper copies. As the Neighbourhood Plan, to be developed over the coming months, HAS to be community-led, it might be that we will have to slightly extend the period when responses can be accepted from residents. I would, therefore, urge you all to go online at www.newmiltonplan.org.uk and give us your feedback - or pick up and complete one of the questionnaires that are available in the Town Hall, the Library, Community Centre, Memorial Centre and some key retailers. If you cannot do so or don't have the time, please contact me with your comments and, as your representative, I will put forward your views. Early this month the Working Party will start preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and we need your views to enable us to steer forthcoming developments in a way which suits the majority of residents. I guess it's a case of "speak now or forever hold your peace"!

I hope you understand and appreciate the frustration that your committee feels when we ask for your feedback to help us steer the Association in the years ahead. Without knowing what you want from us we will have to decide on a path and hope that our decisions will be acceptable to you.

I should also point out that, with our Annual General Meeting only some four months away, it is **quite imperative** that more volunteers come forward to join our committee and share in the work which you all expect of this Association. Previous pleas for help (particularly in the production of FOCUS) have fallen on stony ground but, with such support to spread the load, the future of NMRA looks bleak.

I can only apologise that this month's report has been so critical and gloomy, but I personally feel that it's important to say how things are in reality. Hopefully I can be more encouraging in the December issue of FOCUS. Please do communicate with me and other members of your committee so that we can provide what you want to see from us in the future.

Alan Watson, 610052
a.d.watson@btinternet.com

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alan Watson
01425 610052
Email: chairman@nmra.org.uk

55a Chiltern Drive
Barton, BH25 7JZ

Vice Chairman

Marie Morgan
01425 501315
email: mariemorgan@talktalk.net

4 Cheridah Court,
Spencer Road,
New Milton, BH25 6BZ

Secretary/Editor of FOCUS*

Phyllis Inglis B.E.M.
01425 615069
email: pcinglis8@gmail.com

7 Chessel House
Fernhill Lane New Milton
BH25 5WR

Treasurer

Gerry Bryer
01425 611254
email: gerrya.bryer@gmail.com

The Orchard
15b Appletree Close
New Milton BH25 6PA

Membership/FOCUS Distribution Coordinator

Nigel King
01425 620895
email: membership@nmra.org.uk

5 Lymington Road
New Milton BH25 6PW
(near the roundabout).

Advertising Manager

Marie Morgan
01425 501315
email: mariemorgan@talktalk.net

4 Cheridah Court,
Spencer Road,
New Milton, BH25 6BZ

Planning Secretary

Goff Beck
01425 619941
email: goff.beck@newforest.gov.uk

24 Vectis Road
Barton, BH25 7QF

Welcome Pack Distributor

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jeanwatson43@btinternet.com

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Barton, BH25 5JZ

Accounts Examiners:

Westlake Clark, Chartered Accountants

Hon. Legal Advisor to the Committee:

Mrs. A. Jennings, Heppenstalls Solicitors

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

* Editor's role is ex officio

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

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

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

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thanks must go to all members who pay their annual subscriptions by bank standing order. It really does save a lot of work by the volunteer distributors as well as the Treasurer. Please see page 23 for his writeup on how you can do this as well as the relevant form for completion. As he says, a standing order is just like an automatic repeating cheque. Unlike a direct debit, the bank will pay the amount you specify, at the frequency you set, and NMRA cannot change your instructions.

My special thanks go to Shirley Bruce, Ray and Helen Hartnell, Sue Jones and Betty Lawrence, all of whom have agreed to take on a regular role of distributing FOCUS. Thanks also go to Liz Burton, William Couper, Alison Harris, Judith Holiday, Gay Lane and Alex McMillian who covered for regular distributors who were unable to deliver last month. There is always a need for a reserve list of members willing to distribute the Newsletter and cover for illness/holidays, etc.

My appreciation and thanks go to all volunteer distributors; without you we would not be able to enjoy our FOCUS read every month.

Nigel King

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

New toilets on the recreation ground: Following closure of the building and internal demolition last month, the contractor is expected onsite during the week of 14th November, with practical completion due by the end of March, 2017. During this period the public conveniences off Spencer Road will remain open, but will close permanently once the new toilets on the rec. are made available.

Improved Play Area on the recreation ground: From recent public consultation, 31 responses were received on the Open Day event, plus online comments, summarised as follows:-

1. Path to the MUGA - The suggestion is that this follows the existing hedge around the southern bowling green; given that this creates a blind corner, a "refuge" area allows greater sight and an escape route into the play area. This removes the need for a gate at the MUGA end. It will result in removal of some planting and cutting back of a small bank.
2. Tunnel/Drawbridge - To accommodate the above changes, the position of these to be adjusted. The tunnel will be covered with rubber mulch rather than grass.

3. The consultation resulted in a request for a longer zip wire, but this would require a planning application due to its height. Concerns were raised about vandalism and increase in noise, impacting on Whitefield Road residents, advising there are other cableways locally at Highcliffe and on the North Milton estate.
4. Having looked into the above suggestion with Proludic (the preferred supplier), an alternative piece of equipment called an aero-skate was recommended.
5. In addition, the consultation brought a request for a climbing wall or scramble net which requires a lot of space, albeit a scramble net could perhaps be fitted onto the existing unit with the loss of one of three slides.
6. Members of the Working Party thought some items could be eliminated (stepping stones, wooden balancing poles) if that helped to remain within budget.

Consequently, the following was proposed:-

1. Retain the hedge between the play and MUGA areas.
2. Alter the footpath from the skate park to the MUGA area.
3. Install an aero-skater in lieu of the zip wire.
4. Provide additional seating and picnic tables that may be sponsored.
5. Install six pieces of adult gym equipment.
6. Scramble net to be affixed to in situ climbing frame.
7. Delete minor items no longer required.
8. Provide public consultation feedback on Facebook and Twitter.
9. Make final recommendation to full Town Council incorporating these changes.

The Town Council has now endorsed the proposed improvements to the play area, and work is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2017.

Ultrafast Broadband coming to New Milton:

Following a presentation by Network Expansion, Virgin Media, Project Lightning has begun and is expected to be finished by end February, 2017, with customers enjoying full access three months on from then. New Milton will benefit from the advantages of the ultrafast network which is all optical fibre laid in narrow channels throughout the town.

Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme: At a recent Town Council meeting it was suggested that New Milton should have a cadet scheme to include 13-17 year olds assisting in a safe environment, enhancing community relationships and developing community

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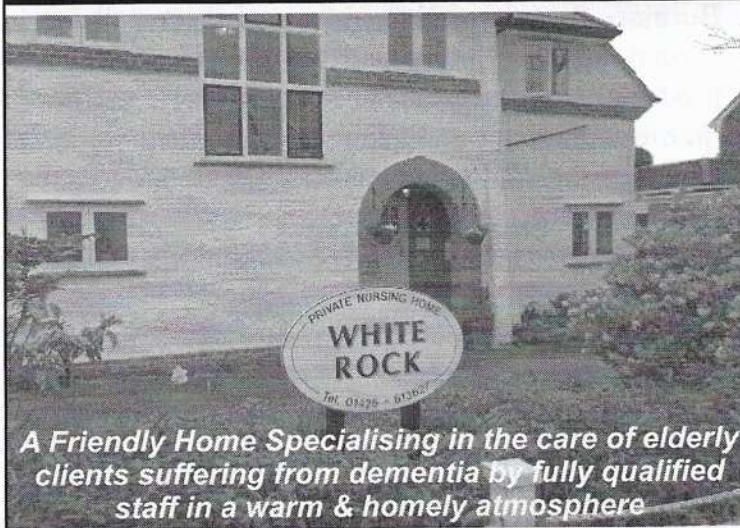
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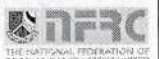
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skills, e.g. first aid, learning about law procedures, crime prevention, technology and access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. However, due to a lack of local leaders and volunteers, the Press and councillors were asked to pass on details to encourage suitable volunteers aged 19 and over with something to offer. It was confirmed that the Police Service would support and oversee a local scheme, which is funded nationally.

Paralympic Gold Medallist Swimmers to be honoured: Two local swimmers, Alice Tai and Mickey Jones, who won gold medals at the Paralympics in Rio are to be honoured for their outstanding achievements.

1. Two commemorative seats will be provided on the recreation ground, painted gold.
2. A Civic Reception will be held to celebrate their successes at the Memorial Centre on Saturday, **12th November**.
3. They will take part in the Acts of Remembrance at the war memorial at 11.30 a.m. on **Sunday, 13th November**. **All are welcome to attend.**

CHRISTMAS IS A-COMING!

Saturday, 26th November will see the Memorial Centre play host once again to the opening event of our town's Christmas celebrations. The **Christmas Festival Crafts & Gifts Fayre**, organised by the New Milton Town Partnership, will be open from 10 a.m. till 3.30 p.m., admission by donation, all of which go to helping fund the massive cost of running the main Festival Event. The Centre will be bursting at the seams encompassing almost 60 stalls offering, amongst other things, the best in handcrafted Christmas items and those unique gifts for someone special.

Whilst the Fayre is already fully booked, if you wish to go on a waiting list for any cancellations, please call 07771 754025 urgently. Bead Art Picture Kits, hand-knitted teddy bears, reindeer food, clay sculptures, bee products, rag dolls, dolls house miniatures, scarves, handbags, fossil gifts, jewellery, children's books and toys, original artists' work, Christmas cards and Snowman Soup are a few of the items to be found on display - the largest that we will ever have held in New Milton.

Then, on **Saturday, 3rd December**, under the auspices of the New Milton Town Partnership and sponsored by your Association, Hampshire County Council, New Milton Town Council and The Lions Club of New Milton, together with The Rotary Club of

New Milton - the town centre, Old Milton Road and surrounding area will come alive for the **Annual New Milton Christmas Festival**.

Starting at 12 noon, there will be in excess of 100 stalls in the various areas, with many local community organisations, crafters, products and services and, of course food and drinks stalls, to tempt you with their offerings. We will see the welcome return of the authentic "France At Home" market on Old Milton Road. Our own town centre retailers will also be on hand to celebrate with us, especially as it's Small Business Saturday 2016! Many of them will have special Festival offers and a wonderful range of products and services on hand, so make sure you have time to come along and support our local businesses.

Amongst the significant elements of the programme that day will be:-

12 noon: Opening Warm-Up Act with **Crazy M The Clown**.

12.45: **The Rock Choir** of over 100 voices.

1.30 p.m.: The much-acclaimed "**Forever Queen**" **Tribute Band**, paying a welcome return visit.

3.00 p.m.: Start of the **Pilgrim Bandits Santa Fun Run** from the town centre.

4.15 p.m.: **Lions Club Festival Lantern Parade** - with a surprise visitor!

5.00 p.m.: **Christmas Lights Switch-On and Finale**.

Throughout the afternoon Santa's Grotto will be open in Heppenstalls Solicitors at 82 Station Road.

Full details of all the events and activities and a final programme are online via the community website **www.newmilton.net**, and detailed programmes will be posted around the town and surrounding locations for the preceding two weeks.

If you would like a stall at the Festival (very few left!) please call 07771 754025 or visit **www.newmilton.net**.

Should you wish to participate in the Pilgrim Bandits Santa Fun Run (for adults and children) visit **www.newmilton.net** where there will be a link to the Pilgrim Bandits website for online bookings.

If you would like to be involved either individually or as a group in the Lantern Parade call 07771 754025 or visit **www.newmiltonlions.org.uk**.

We will be keeping everything crossed for us to be blessed with a fine winter's day, and look forward to seeing you all let your hair down and come along to be part of what we hope will be the town's biggest, brightest and best-ever Christmas celebration.

New Milton Christmas Festival Steering Group
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The Centre Manager: 01425 629 451

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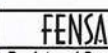
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COMMUNITY CENTRE

As part of the Christmas Festival celebrations on 3rd December, the Centre will have an Open Day for people to pop in and find out what happens there and the activities which take place regularly. Refreshments available. After more than 50 years in the town it is amazing that so many residents still don't know the Centre is there!

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NEW MILTON

In September New Milton was launched as a dementia-friendly town, with Lawrie McNemeny as Dementia Ambassador and Bob Lowe from Esther Rantzen's Silverline as special guests. Bob gave a moving, yet practical talk on the realities of living with his wife when she developed Alzheimer's disease. His loving and understanding approach did not flinch from the emotional turmoil that it brings to all who are affected by it.

This was a special celebration of six months' hard work by dedicated volunteers who formed the New Milton Dementia Action Group in April, with the broad aim of raising awareness of the challenges faced by those living with dementia, their families and carers. New Milton Town Council and the New Milton Town Partnership were proud to strongly support this important initiative.

Sue Whiffen, Chairman of the Action Group, led with passion and enthusiasm; Town Development Officer Ros Bowles and TC Administrator Joanna Hayward ran regular dementia awareness sessions, free for all to attend, particularly aimed at local businesses and organisations. Ros has also delivered sessions direct to businesses in the town, including Bradbeers who have appointed their own Dementia Champion. One of the aims was to ensure that a broad range of businesses became dementia-friendly, e.g. banks, pharmacies, insurance companies, solicitors and retail outlets, so that those living with dementia can feel confident about being able to carry out their daily activities.

Sue Whiffen emphasised how many people have contributed to this intense effort and how more help is needed. Lawrie McNemeny presented certificates to the dementia-friendly businesses and spoke of the importance of raising awareness and enabling people to continue to contribute to their community - at the same time amusing the audience with anecdotes from his time in football.

The Ocean Breeze Care Home has become the first dementia care home in New Milton to complete an action plan. They are looking for volunteers to help by taking residents out or at coffee mornings. For a rewarding volunteering experience just drop in to see these warm, friendly people who will give you a great welcome.

For more information and where to find help visit Age Concern or HOPE (both in Station Road) or visit <http://dementiaroadmap.info/westhampshire/groups/new-milton-dementia-action-group/#.WAFcluArLIU> which includes details of drop-in community dementia cafes and support groups.

POLICE SURGERY

The last Surgery of the year will take place at 10.30 a.m. Wednesday, **30th November**, at the Community Centre. Whilst this facility isn't attended as much as was hoped (yet people still complain they have no contact with the Police!), it is hoped that the Surgeries will continue next year.

RUBBISH!

Does anyone else feel as cross as myself at the amount of litter thrown down in our streets, and the lack of bins in certain places? I am forever picking up bottles, crisp packets, food cartons, etc. As I live in a Close off the Old Milton Road I often walk past the school where there is always loads of rubbish but no bin! Few bins also in Barton. The Council does a sterling job in trying to keep the skate park area clear each day, but they shouldn't have to do it if people were more considerate. I also wonder why people won't at least pick up stuff dropped outside their own properties (or their neighbours' if it's known they can't do so themselves). I really don't know what the answer is but it is such a shame to see our town and clifftop so spoilt.

Wendy Beaumont

Ed: We have also received several complaints about people not cleaning up after their dogs, mainly along the clifftop and surrounding streets where there are grass verges. I do so agree with these complaints. What are the answers? In the case of litter I'm not sure that more bins will help; when I wish to walk into town I have to go over the railway footbridge and see any amount of rubbish just thrown over the rail or left on the ground, yet there is a waste bin right there! The same could be said for the dog poo problem. No doubt these are country-wide problems, not restricted to New Milton. If people have such dirty habits and are inconsiderate enough to chuck bottles, food and packaging etc. onto the ground instead of binning them, how can we possibly expect them to clean up after their dogs?

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LIPREADING

Following up on a member's recent enquiries, there is a very good free programme on the computer at www.lipreadingpractice.co.uk. There is a lady in Ringwood who teaches lip reading but she is ill at present and I am waiting to hear if and when she can resume her lessons.

Gill Allen

THE HOUSING PROBLEM

We are told that New Milton is facing an increase in housing! Since settling in this area some ten years ago, within a couple of hundred yards of our home we have witnessed three back-garden developments providing some fifteen properties.

On a recent visit to Dorset I met a gentleman who said "Oh, New Milton - I bought some land there back in the 50s. It was plot 190 and became part of Roseberry Gardens". Well, I don't know what the highest number was, but 190 would indicate a large increase in housing for the area at that time.

As the population increases people need homes and, in the present circumstances, it can't be done by just building in back gardens. Besides which, with so much being purchased online these days, the only way shops in our town can survive is through an increase in local residents. We may not totally approve but I believe this to be an unavoidable situation. The question is, however, what will be the property sizes AND prices? For young people or for oldies like me?

Barrrie Legg, New Milton

NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

Elderly people needing to go into a care home face average fees of £30,000 a year! Costs are rising ten times faster than pensioner incomes. One of the housing sector's biggest elderly-specialist landlords is selling its £30 million home care business as tough market conditions bite.

Each year scams cause billions of pounds-worth of detriment to UK consumers, mainly targeted at older, vulnerable adults.. In addition to the financial impact, scams can have a severe emotional and psychological impact on victims. A campaign has been launched by Trading Standards called Friends Against Scams, designed to encourage people to talk about them, especially to older friends, relatives and neighbours in the hope that it will protect them against handing over money to a fraudster. For further information on this initiative you can visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk.

If you would like to give a Christmas present of a flowering bowl of hyacinths, a perfect gift for

someone who used to love gardening or would just like to have their scent in your own home, buy bulbs which are labelled "prepared". Then visit this website for advice on how to plant them and guarantee success - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=102>.

It is easy for less mobile people to slip in the shower, and a way to help prevent this is to wear shower shoes which have a non-slip sole and mesh top. Several retailers sell them, e.g. Damart and suppliers online.

Question: Where can I buy large print puzzle books?

Answer: Amazon UK have plenty of choice, including crossword books, Sudoku and word searches. www.amazon.co.uk.

Question: I am disabled and wish to book a holiday in the sun. What help can I expect from airport staff when I arrive and return?

Answer: Do not arrive or depart without advising at least 72 hours ahead that you will need assistance. Pre-book through your airline or travel agent with whom you booked your holiday. If you turn up without booking in advance you will be helped but only after other travellers who have pre-booked are dealt with, so you may have a very long time to wait.

SUPRABHAT!

GOODMORNING FROM INDIA.

En route to Australia but popping in to India on the way (and Cambodia on my return, which is another story). This is my Indian experience.

Looking out of the plane window I could see beautiful red/green and gold stars - and that was without a drink, so no pink elephants either! It was bonfire night and we seemed to be in competition with the rockets to see which could fly the highest. We won!! How can you have Delhi Belly just after leaving Heathrow Airport? But I managed it. My flight was spent galloping around looking for the nearest loo sign and by the time we arrived in Kula Lumpa I'm sure I managed the 4-minute-mile without even trying. While waiting for the onward plane to India I had to make another quick visit to the loo, but this time to look in the mirror to see if I had sprouted horns or at least two heads. This was how I felt after having some 600 pairs of eyes staring at me. Every single passenger was Indian and I was the only pale face among them so I was definitely an oddity and talking point. Lots of photos were taken of me with children; if only I had charged it would have paid for my flight!



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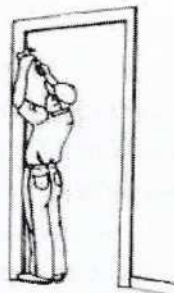
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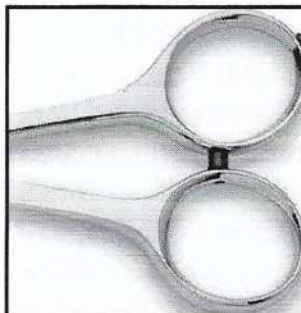
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Arriving in Delhi the first thing to hit you is the heat and then the smell - not unpleasant but a mix of spices and dust which stays with you all over India and three or four days after you return home. There is an abundance of bright, vibrant colour everywhere. My home stay was a 6-bedroomed house with high metal gates and a guard outside - apparently not to keep people in but undesirables out. Water is a bit of a hit and miss affair, which is really interesting when you are having a shower and the water goes off leaving you looking like a foaming snowman. India uses some **12 thousand million gallons a day**.

Off to the market in a pedal-driven *tuc tuc*; the drivers get so close to other vehicles that you can see the whites of their eyes. In between all of the traffic you have the animals which make you think you are on the way to Noah's Ark - water buffalo, horses, pigs and goats are strolling in the road, monkeys are running alongside, elephants and camels are tethered to roundabouts, cows are just wandering wherever they want to go as they are sacred in the Hindu religion. It's a tragedy if one of them is killed, it being explained to me that killing a cow is as bad as killing your mother-in-law!! Traffic lights seem to be just an illuminated decoration since nobody seems to attend to them. The market sells everything you can think of. Men with sewing machines ready to run up any article and rails behind them filled with embroidered saris. I'd have liked to buy one but didn't think it would be practical for walking down the streets of New Milton in the pouring rain! Roads and houses were lit up like Christmas trees, with fireworks going off everywhere. I had not realised that this was for Diwali (Festival of Light). I was invited to join a queue of ladies to see the Guru who beckoned me forward, put a mark on my face and gave me a bag of sweets.

On to see Delhi's Red Fort, Indian Gate, the Gandhi Memorial and spectacular Lotus Temple, shaped with 27 marble petals, holding 2,500 people. Then it was the Taj Mahal at Agra - pure white sparkling marble encrusted with jewels, built in 1632 for the Shah Jahan's favourite wife. He had 7 in all, and 14 children, so a very energetic gentleman!

My next visit was to Jaipur or the Pink City - with lacy-type brickwork, like looking through rose-tinted glasses - where I was given the opportunity to paint an elephant's ears ready for his carnival procession. I sat astride, bareback, with a pained expression on my face. The elephant pulled the branches down to eat and I completely disappeared

into the treetops when he let them go - flying through the air but not with the greatest of ease!

A journey, then, to Mandawa in Rajasthan (the old Silk Road where the rich once lived. Once great beautiful mansions with painted murals on the walls and magnificent galleried staircases, now all abandoned and left in ruins. There was a puppet show, similar to a grown-up Punch & Judy, very common in India. I woke in the morning to find a mosquito had enjoyed a five-course meal on my face; one eye closed, two noses, fat lips and hamster cheeks - and all without Botox!

My "Luxury Volvo" coach arrived; well, it **was** luxury in 1950! Red plastic seats, the road visible from the floor, curtains in shreds, no bonnet on the engine, but it did go! Off to the toy train to Shimla, a two-gauge rail track costing £2.95 for a 6-hour journey with unsupported rail tracks in places and sheer drops on both sides. Health & Safety was a fairytale. Shimla is at the base of the Himalaya Mountains so much cooler. It was the home of Rudyard Kipling in 1880 and the Gaiety Theatre where he performed is still standing in splendid gold and green decor. Monkeys everywhere - yes, they look delightful but if you have food it needs to be thrown away before they take a nip of your flesh instead of the crumbs.

Would I go back? You bet I would except for the £120 visa charge, which gives me second and third thoughts!

Norma Jenkins, New Milton

Ed: Members who have been with us for a while will know that Norma is an intrepid traveller to exotic parts of the world and sends us stories of her adventures - usually giving us glimpses of strange sights, sounds and customs in sunny climes when we are in the depths of winter.

COMPUTERADVICE & SUPPORT No.16

I have been providing help to FOCUS readers for about three years. Interestingly, a few of my earlier clients are now replacing their ageing PCs with bright and shiny Windows 10 laptops. Some of those that have been discarded have found their way to me for the Christina Noble Children's Foundation, which my wife supports. Two have been "tweaked" to accompany her and Jackie in their visit to Mongolia this month.

Whilst this is a lovely idea to donate to charity, another way is to improve/simplify the old one and retain it as a

backup for your precious photos and a platform for the grandchildren to use when they visit (keeping their hands off your new technology and ensuring your settings are not changed!).

I would like to explain the tweaking process. One of the two laptops donated to the Foundation was running extremely slowly, making me fully understand why my client had got shot of it. To improve it I did the following:-

1. Remove programmes that weren't required for normal operation.
2. Remove adware from the browsers (I have shown many clients how to do this on Google Chrome).
3. Simplify the startup sequences. Privacy Eraser (free from the internet) has a function to identify programmes that start automatically, e.g. Skype.
4. Upgrade the memory to the maximum the laptop would support (often 4GB on 64bit systems and 2GB on 32bit systems).

Interestingly, Windows 10 has a programme that will do some of what Privacy Eraser does. To get to it -

1. Launch Task Manager (press Control+Alt+Delete)
2. From the top tabs select "start up".
3. Check to see what programmes start automatically or are delayed. The more that are "enabled" the longer the startup will potentially take.

Onto Windows 10 security and Windows Defender: Recently I have been called to clients whose computers (laptops mostly) were running VERY slowly. In most cases it was their antivirus software programmes which were causing significant delays in the computer startup. One client was using Norton, another AVG, another McAfee. After determining that (if necessary) we had the means to re-install their purchased antivirus programmes (i.e. licence codes, etc.), we uninstalled their purchased products and reverted to the native Windows Defender as bundled within the standard Microsoft Windows 10 Operating System. In all cases my clients were happy with the significant improvement in startup time.

This is a test I invite you to do. My Medion Laptop, running Windows 10 Professional with the built-in Win 10 antivirus Windows Defender, 8GB of memory and the OS on a Solid State Hard Drive starts in 12

seconds. Granted, I have gone to some lengths to keep it tuned, but some improvements for everyone are possible. Funnily enough, some clients admit that they don't mind switching their PCs on and leave them to warm up while they make a cup of tea! More next month.

david.mason1948@gmail.com

01425 626112; 07512 890768

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Despite low numbers, our Coffee/Film Afternoon at Anne Mason's house raised a magnificent £188 which, by the time you read this, we will have taken with us to Mongolia for personal distribution. Photos and updates from the visit will form part of a future presentation.

A special "thank you" to the lady who has been knitting specially for children in the coal-mining district. Please be assured I will personally see that her beautiful knitwear will go to those children.

We are really, really desperate for knitting wool and sets of buttons (not shirt or coat buttons, please). If you can donate anything please do contact Heather Waterman on 613782. Cameras and binoculars are also required.

Note: Somebody who attended the Coffee/Film event left behind a cardigan with car keys in the pocket. How did they get home, I ask myself? If the owner is reading this will they please get in touch with Anne on 626112.

Jackie Preis

CONCHORD SINGERS

There are just two concerts to go before we switch to our Christmas repertoire - one is a lunch-time event at the Conservative Club, the other at a Friendship Club where the welcome we receive is always very rewarding. We shall be introducing at least three new soloists and know they will do the choir proud.

Our numbers are remaining steady at around 38, which is just right for many of our concerts although sometimes at smaller venues fewer singers can still produce a wonderful sound.

As always, our new Secretary, Juanita Woods on 629102, can advise on future dates which we may be able to offer.

If you would like to join us our meetings are on a Tuesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. If you love to sing, come along and see if you'd like to participate. Be assured of a very warm welcome.

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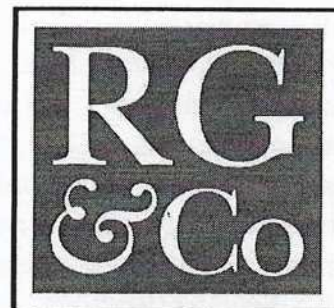
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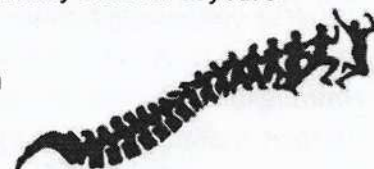
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NEW MILTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Association is twinned with Canteleu, near Rouen, in France and has a friendship link with Buchholz, near Hamburg in Germany. Exchange visits are arranged annually. No foreign language skills are needed. Monthly social activities for local members - walks, talks, lunches and teas, and visits. French conversation twice monthly for those interested in maintaining their French.

We meet for coffee on the first Wednesday of the month at The Willow Restaurant, Old Milton Barns, on Gore Road. We are very keen to recruit new members so why not pop in to our coffee morning to see what it's all about or, for further information, contact Sue on 01202 483981 or Jacqui by email at massieja@gmail.com.

CHESS

The Chess group at the Community Centre continues to grow, albeit rather slowly! If you are looking for an enjoyable afternoon now that summer holidays, gardening, and grandchild-minding are over, why not come and join us. Stimulating the brain helps to avoid dementia and Chess certainly does this, even for beginners who we will gladly teach. Our lady beginner is progressing very well and enjoying it.

We are now starting at 1.30 p.m. on a Thursday, but this is not mandatory and you can come along at any time during the afternoon. We now have a 3-man chess set so that three players can compete, playing a conventional game on an hexagonal board. So we don't have the problem of waiting for a game if there are already pairs of players.

As previously stated, your first visit will be FREE and it's only £1 for the two-hour session after that. To get a "feel" for the game a puzzle is posted on the noticeboard at the Centre each month. Come and see how easy it is. For more information please contact me, Ken Clark, on 613666 or simply just turn up.

NEW MILTON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

On visiting the Club for the first time this season, members were delighted to find that installation of a new heating system is well under way. We wish to extend our grateful thanks to New Milton Town Council for their support in this improvement to our facilities.

Many members, having played outside on the greens during the summer, are now getting used to the much

faster lanes of the indoor game.

Competitions Secretary Mike Cox reports that the Wednesday league is under way and competitions for the singles, doubles and trebles will start early this month.

Now is a really good time for players to join the Club and newcomers are very welcome to come along and try the sport for themselves. We have a friendly team of ladies and gentlemen who will be very pleased to show you how to get started. A game or two each week will get you out of the house for some light exercise during the winter months. Simply contact us on 622572 or email aclark1812@hotmail.co.uk for further information. You can also visit www.newmiltonibc.co.uk.

NEW MILTON FRIENDS GROUP

I guess by the time you read this we will have pulled off another one of our memorable Cabaret Evenings with the help of Elton John at Hoburne Holiday Park. This was in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support, so many thanks to NMRA members who attended.

Our next fund-raising promotion will be our most challenging Quiz Night at Highcliffe Golf Club on Wednesday, 9th November. Tickets (£10 to include hot food) from Janet on 626047. If you know the answer to this question you are the quizzier we are looking for so.... "In what sport does the winning team move backwards"???

Look out for us at the Christmas Festival and try our "Egg Factor" game.

Graham "Rocky" Fearis, Chairman, 610916

CHRISTCHURCH & NEW FOREST NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

The Association has held a variety of activities over the past couple of months. The most recent illustrated talk was a lively presentation by returning speaker Christopher Le Grand on a journey through South Africa. This started in Cape Town where he took atmospheric pictures of Table Mountain and moved on through Boulder's Beach (home of the Jackass Penguins) to Cape Point and the beautiful Kirsten Bosch Gardens. The Huguenot town of Franschoek was followed by West Kynoa and, finally, the Shamwari Game Reserve. On safari there were many opportunities for photos to be taken of wild animals, encountered at close range.

Last month we had a splendid talk by Hugh Lane on "The History and Creation of Spencer's Holy Box at Sandham Memorial Chapel". It is filled with paintings by the highly talented Stanley Spencer who was

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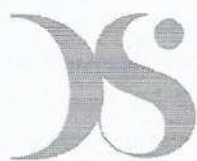
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inspired by his experiences as a medic in WW1 and painted them in the tiny chapel which benefactors enabled him to have built in 1926. The speaker was so enthusiastic about his subject that, as each picture appeared onscreen, it was brought to life in every detail. Members who had not visited the Memorial Chapel decided to do so in future.

We also had an autumn supper and a self-drive guided tour of Winchester Cathedral.

For more about the Association and coming events please call me, Shirley Burke, on 628992 or visit www.cnfnta.org.uk.

OPEN SIGHT - SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

We need help! This is a social group for anybody suffering any form of sight problems. We meet from 2 to 4 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Bashley Village Hall. Member numbers are rising but **we are in need of more drivers**. Members are picked up, mostly from New Milton, and returned after the meeting. Cost of petrol is reimbursed, so all we need is a little of your time. If you can help us please do contact Pat Batchelor on 627460.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our October meeting Rob Curtis told us about "A Social History of Sanitation", a light-hearted look at an important facility. It was a very entertaining history covering about 2500 BC to the present day.

On **3rd November** we have the ever-popular local historian Nick Saunders telling us about the Milton Heritage Collection - an update on its creation and progress.

On **1st December** we have been fortunate in getting Simon Hayes, ex Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, to give a talk on the Commissioner's role.

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

JUBILEE SINGERS

The choir returned some weeks ago from its summer break and songs for our Christmas Concert have been selected by conductor Janet Trow and librarian Averil Meek. We all wish to thank Averil for her hard work in choosing and sorting out the music as well as playing the piano and conducting when the need arises. A lady of many talents!

Our new pianist, Richard Dingle, is fitting in very well and has made a good start. We also have a new lady

and gentleman who joined this term, so the choir is up to full strength again.

In September we performed songs from our summer concerts at a local care home and a day centre, which were very well received. In October a small group sang for the Welsh Society at the Mayfair Hotel in Bournemouth, also with great success.

Tickets for our Christmas Concert (2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Sunday, **4th December**, at the Memorial Centre) are now on sale in Reception at the Community Centre as well as from choir members. £5 for adults and £2 for children, including refreshments and a raffle.

Liz Northcote

BRITISH LEGION

NEW MILTON BRANCH

AGM/Social Evening at 7 p.m. Wednesday, 23rd November, at the Memorial Centre. New members will be welcomed.

NEW MILTON CARERS'

SUPPORT GROUP

Our friendly, informal group meets on the second Monday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House, Whitefield Road, from 2 to 4 p.m. Having pulled a lot of strings(!), on **14th November** we are expecting a visit from some very special puppets accompanied by their good friend John Lay-Flurrie. So do come along for support and companionship among fellow carers over tea and biscuits in our relaxed, cafe-style, setting. Newcomers are always warmly welcomed and there are no charges or strings attached! For further information on our various activities please contact Maggie on 614714.

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, **21st November**, at the Community Centre, with a talk on Pageantry - Pride & Nostalgia. Do come and join us, you will be made very welcome. For information, please contact Janet Litten on 617052

ASPECIAL EXHIBITION

Two Barton residents have joined together to present an exhibition of sculptures, textiles and paintings called "Beyond Boundaries" - to be shown at the Forest Arts Centre in conjunction with the Hampshire Cultural Trust. It will take place from **16th November to 21st December**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Saturdays. There will also be a preview from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, 17th November. Do go along and see what promises to be a very interesting exhibition of local talent.



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CHARITY DANCE IN AID OF OAKHAVEN HOSPICE

A special dance will be held from 7.30 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, **16th November**, at the Community Centre. With a theme of ballroom, Latin and popular sequence, the evening should provide a good mix of music and dance for all. Please do give your support to this very worthy cause. Admission £3. Raffle. **Please bring your own refreshments.**

DANCING HOLIDAY, BOURNEMOUTH

A four-day holiday at the Mayfair Hotel, 18th to 22nd April, 2017. Full details from Dee, 627922.

BARTON METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This will take place from 9.30 a.m. till noon on Saturday, **19th November**. Lots of stalls offering toys, cakes, jewellery, Christmas cards, china and glass, £1 stall and much more. Christmas music playing. Refreshments available. All welcome to the Church's largest fundraising event.

TABLE TOP SALES

Your Association is organising a series of Table Top Sales during the winter months which will be held on the third Saturday of alternate months at the Memorial Centre, Whitefield Road:-

19th November
21st January, 2017
18th March, 2017

Tables cost £6 or two for £10, and setup time is from 8 a.m.; public to be admitted at 8.30 a.m. Tea and coffee will be available during the morning until closing time at noon. Parking for stallholders is immediately adjacent to the Centre entrance. You can book your table(s) online at www.nmra.org.uk/cia/events.html or you can either phone me on 07771 754025 or email chairman@nmra.org.uk.

Make a note of the dates in your diary now - remember that your rubbish may well be someone else's treasure!

Alan Watson

Quotes of the Month:

No pleasure is worth giving up for the sake of a couple more years in a geriatric home in Weston Super Mare.

(Kingsley Amis)

It isn't pollution that's harming the environment.

It's all the impurities in the air and stuff what's doing it.

(President George Bush)

Be careful about reading health articles. You could die of a misprint!

(Mark Twain)

And in remembrance.....

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings
Sunward I've climbed to join the tumbling mirth
Of sun-spilt clouds and done a hundred things
Yet have not dreamed of -
Wheeled, soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence, hovering there
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark nor even eagle flew
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the face of God

(Written by John Gillespie Magee, Jr., a Canadian airman killed in a flying accident over Lincolnshire in 1941 aged just 19. Full story on Wikipedia. Sent to us by Sue Siggs of New Milton Baptist Church)

HOMEWARD BOUND

I am lying in the bomb bay of a Lancaster watching for the English coast to appear. We have been targeting a German city; I am the bomb aimer. Our tour of duty is 30 raids and this is our last one, so we are fortunate to survive the tour. What my wife, Joyce, will be feeling I cannot imagine. Tonight I will have bombed armament factories and houses, killing several people. Not all of them are our enemies, but many are. They know they have lost the war but are still sending flying bombs and rockets to needlessly kill our own people. They have to be stopped; if you can think of a better way I would be the first to volunteer.

There is a faint moon and I can see the coast coming into sight. We stagger along on three engines and, at the airfield, our pilot makes his usual good landing. We are the last to arrive, three of our planes were shot down. I sit and realise that no more will I have to kill people nor each night put myself up there to be killed. My relief is beyond expression. I have been given permission to phone the police station, the only phone in our village. I dial the number; it's not a policeman who answers but Joyce, who has been waiting there all

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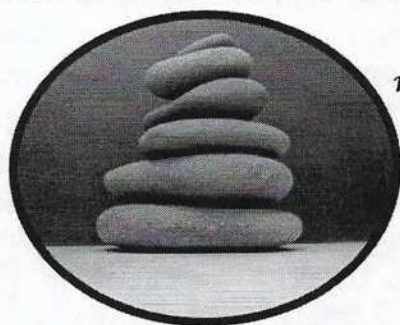
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night. When she hears my voice neither of us can speak for weeping.

55,000 air crew were lost; that is about 180 a week for each week of the 6-year war.

Brian Wiseman, Barton on

SeaAnd for a lighter touch.....

THE WILLOW TREE

Weeping willow, so full of grace
Who's elegance mine eyes embrace
From whence doth come thy fragrant charm
To soothe and doubtful thoughts disarm
Thy branches cast their wondrous drape
And so do infinite beauty make
If thou art called the tree of lament
Then sure it for us was meant
To see such beauty unsurpassed
For ever in our thoughts to last
Divine - entwine, embrace with me
For my love is cast in thee, willow tree.

James Cade, New Milton

PHOTOGRAPHS

Bring out the albums, let's have some laughs
And take a look at the old photographs
These were all taken on our summer breaks
We had wonderful times up in the Lakes
Who is that girl in the silly white hat?
Good grief, it can't be - I'd never wear that!
Look at the children all in the nude
Now they are adults, some of them rude
You fell from the swing there
And made such a fuss
Here's Mum and Dad on an open-top bus
Wasn't he handsome, wasn't she sweet?
Oh look! A party we had in the street
To celebrate peace, that was in '45
I wonder how many of them are still alive?
Lots of relations, some living abroad
A family black sheep there
Sent down for fraud!
This is the '60s - look at those skirts
Fat legs and stick legs
Makes you laugh till it hurts
A hotel in Greece, that villa in Spain
Don't suppose we shall see them again
Weddings and parties, babes by the score
Faces of loved ones with us no more
Let's put them away now, we've seen enough
Nostalgia is fine but such heady stuff
It's nice to imagine that those who come after
Will look at our albums
And join in the laughter

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendoncare Get Together Club

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Wednesday, 2nd November: Know Your Antiques Quiz. A humorous talk on all things "vintage".

Wednesday, 16th November: Talk by Jenny on the inimitable Joyce Grenfell.

Contact Evelyn on 839885 or Bernie on 638540.

Saturday, 19th November: NMRA Table Top Sale 8 a.m. till noon at the Memorial Centre. Tables £6. Contact Alan on 07771 754025.

Tuesday, 22nd November: New Forest Organ Society Concert with Penny Weedon. 7.15 p.m. at All Saints Church Hall, Milford. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. Contact Keith Evans on 612515.

Thursday, 24th November: Coffee Morning St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. 10 a.m. till noon. An opportunity to chat over coffee/tea and make new friends. No charge but a donation is always appreciated.

Saturday, 26th November: New Milton Christmas Festival Crafts & Gifts Fayre 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the Memorial Centre. Contact Alan on 07771 754025

Wednesday, 30th November: Police Surgery 10.30 a.m. Community Centre.

Saturday, 3rd December: New Milton Christmas Festival, town centre and Old Milton Road. From noon till approx. 5.15 p.m. Also Open Day at the Community Centre.

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The option to pay subscriptions by cash or cheque is still available, but it does mean that the volunteer distributor has to call at each home, request payment and wait while the member finds cash or writes a cheque. More than one visit is often necessary. He or she then has to carry the money around while calling on other people. The cash and cheques eventually come to me for bagging up and taking to the bank. Doing this several times during the renewal season can become a bit tiresome and time-wasting.

In view of all the above, **I would now ask those who have not already completed a Standing Order to again consider completing the form below and forwarding it to me.** The banking system will then take care of future payments and neither you, the distributor, Membership Coordinator nor myself have to get involved. Please do help to simplify the collection process in this way - do it now and don't wait until the distributor calls at your door!

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