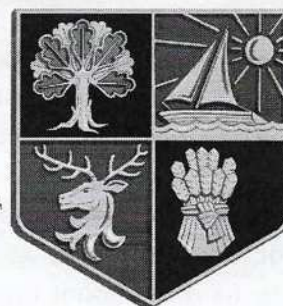


FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter for members of the
NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NMRA

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Regretfully, after some unexpectedly fine September weather, it's about time to put away the barbie and garden furniture, and sort out the winter wardrobe - wondering if that waistband will be a bit tight after all those sundaes and cream teas! Earlier than ever, it seems, the shops have been preparing for the festive season and certainly the town is beginning to gear up for entertainment to cheer us over the coming months.

Before going any further, please note that I have a new email address (see page 3). And what a pain it is to make such a change!! My apologies to those of you who were unable to contact me because of this - brought about (for some reason which I still don't understand) by necessity, not choice. I did my best to advise as many contributors as possible before the copy deadline date but just couldn't reach everyone.

A disappointingly very low turn-out for our General Meeting last month, which tends to beg the question whether such meetings are worth while and, certainly, how do we face and excuse ourselves to speakers who have taken the time and trouble to be with us - often at no charge! Fortunately, the small audience was very receptive, asked questions, and appeared genuinely interested in what they heard that day.

At the meeting it was announced that, according to the Clerk of Works, the Westcliffe Buildings on Sea Road will be vacated by the builders on 12th October. At the time of going to press, no date is given for re-opening of the post office.

Some while ago I spent an interesting hour or so going through very old copies of FOCUS. Apart from noticing the changes in style, format, advertising and number of pages (at one time only 6!), I realised that, in those days, each issue was virtually filled with letters and articles from members. They seemed much more interested in what was going on around

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 8th November, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

Tuesday, 12th January, 2017, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 7th November, 19th December

Amenities - 10th October, 21st November

Fin. & Gen. - 24th October, 5th December

Planning:

13th & 27th October

10th & 24th November

All Council Meetings 6.30 p.m.

The Town Hall

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

them and putting their comments into writing. Why doesn't this happen now, especially when many of us have an email facility? Do we feel our opinions no longer matter and that local authorities aren't, in reality, interested in what we have to say? Have we become disenchanted and believe we have no part to play, or are we simply apathetic and willing to "go with the flow?"

Anyone reading FOCUS will know that a fair bit of the subject matter comes from what I have been able to put together, and there is very little comment from readers (other than details of club activities, etc.). When such comment does come my way I am only too happy to use it, provided the subject is of general interest, inoffensive, non-political and not too controversial.

Do remember that this is **your** Association, FOCUS is **your** Newsletter to be used to best advantage.

Members will be pleased to learn that the subscription fee for the coming year will remain unchanged at £3 per household; advertising at £80 per single space.

Visit our website - www.nmra.org.uk

I should mention here that your Chairman will represent the Association at next month's Remembrance Service, and our usual donation will be made to the Poppy Appeal.

A reminder that Peter Roberts from the New Forest Association will be at our November meeting, telling us more about this wonderful facility on our doorstep which perhaps we tend to take for granted. I understand that both his presentation and photographs are very interesting.

On 23rd August a brief ceremony took place at the memorial clock opposite Bradbeers dedicated to those residents who lost their lives in the WW2 bombing of New Milton. I have the list on file if anyone would like a copy. Very sad to read that it includes children, the youngest only four years old.

Just to follow up on queries that have come my way to be dealt with:

1. **Request for a seat to be provided in the bus shelter on the corner of Sea Road and the A337.** Approval was granted so a perch seat should be in situ by now.
2. **Query regarding empty "patches" on Station Road where trees have been removed.** Replanting has been delayed until some time this month, providing a better chance of healthy growth.
3. **Lack of seats on the north-western side of Station Road - nothing between mine by the Bradbeers bus stop and Arthur Lloyds' seat outside the Conservative Club.** A request has been submitted for one to be provided mid-way, perhaps near the Cancer UK shop. The pavement is thought to be a bit narrow but the suggestion is being considered, so watch this space!

Do you get very frustrated when, trying to book an appointment with your preferred GP, you are told that he/she can't see you for several days? It is all the more annoying when you realise that part of the problem is that people just don't turn up for their scheduled appointments. Literally dozens and dozens of appointments are missed every month affecting all of our three surgeries, at great unnecessary cost to our struggling NHS.

Please try to make a prominent diary note of your appointment and call your surgery if, for any reason, you can't keep it. It could mean that someone in real need of a consultation can take up your spot.

My editorial mention last month about going to Bournemouth brought several comments from readers regarding the town as it is now against what it was years ago. It also brought very kind queries from some of you asking if I'd seen my sister, Daphne, since I've not mentioned visiting her lately.

Well, I did plan to see her in the Spring but went down with that awful virus which affected so many of us and seemed to last for ever. When I did feel well enough to make the trip to Essex it was her turn to be unwell and she has been so ever since for one reason and another. Daphne is younger than I, but I guess the passing of the years has to be acknowledged and we don't bounce back after an illness as we used to, do we?

Whilst we talk on the phone every week I don't suppose she tells me all her troubles (as I don't tell her mine!) and the distance between us means that we can't give much practical help to each other. It was fortunate, therefore, that her daughter (who lives close by and sees her regularly) arrived here last month on a short visit with her husband, so we were able to have a proper catch-up on how things are. Without doubt, Daphne's mobility problems mean that she won't be able to visit **me** in future, so I will have to make the effort to go and see **her**, taking my trusty rollator with me.

Phyllis Inglis

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

As I prepare this latest report I hope you have all enjoyed this "Indian Summer" which our part of the country has experienced. I know that, personally, it has made it difficult to start turning my thoughts towards autumn and the winter months ahead.

Having just driven back through the town with my wife, Jean, from a brief vacation I was again reminded of the excellent job done by our Town Council ground staff in regard to the floral decorations, not just in the town centre but many other areas. Well done to them, especially as I am pleased to learn the Council is discussing further enhancements next year, and considering starting the process to enter the "Britain In Bloom" competition.

I was, however, much more concerned to chair last month's General Meeting at Barton-On-Sea when we had two excellent speakers from Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Blue Lamp Trust. The audience was the smallest we have had in my time with NMRA, and it prompts me to wonder whether it is our choice of day, timings, topics or locations which are wrong. It was somewhat embarrassing to

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(Affiliated to New Milton & District Community Association)
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* Editor's role is ex officio

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

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

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

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have invited an exceptionally busy and professional senior Fire & Rescue officer to come and talk to us, only to find there were so few members present.

Our audience attendance varies wildly as, at our July meeting, over 140 people attended. Even that didn't do justice when you consider we have a membership of over 3,000 households! It seems we must try harder to persuade more of you to take a practical, active interest in what we are trying to do.

Your committee (and especially the Secretary) are currently working on our 2017 programme, and I would personally appreciate some feedback from you all on what sort of topics you would enjoy, comments on the days, timings and locations of our meetings (an established pattern which we have followed for many years). Call me or send an email because we do want to ensure that we put together a programme which interests as many of you as possible. We cannot please all of the people all of the time, of course, but your guidance will be appreciated.

The summer has also been a busy period for Public Consultations, as mentioned last month, and I hope that as many of you as possible participated. It is only by getting your feedback that the various organisations involved can react to meet your needs and satisfy the widest range of residents.

Once again I make my plea that we should communicate more effectively with as many of you as possible. The Association's Constitution states "the aims and objectives shall be to safeguard and further the interests of residents in any matter of public concern or topicality to the best of its ability".

You may feel that I have been somewhat critical in this report but it's only as a result of a desire to improve the Association's effectiveness - which is the constant aim of your committee.

On a more welcome note, I hope you are looking forward to the NMRA CIA "Big Band Night" on **29th October** at the Memorial Centre (see article in this issue); tickets are selling fast! Then onwards to the Christmas Crafts & Gifts Fair on **26th November**, followed on **3rd December** by the Christmas Festival and Lions Club Lantern Parade.

This year your Association is one of the main financial sponsors of the town's Christmas festivities,

and again we will see the magnificent display of lights with NMRA continuing its sponsorship of the lights on the large tree outside Boots.

Alan Watson, 610052/07771 754025
chairman@nmra.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I know this is called "Membership Matters" but am happy to say there are few to comment on at this time. The main topic is usually distribution, so may I thank our regular distributors and those who have agreed to cover for illness and holidays.

New regular distributors are Jackie Coup, Ian Feltham, Katherine Dempster, Dianne Gibb, Sally Grant, Phil and Sheila Kerby, Derek Sheldrake and Eve Street.

There is always a need for a reserve list of members willing to cover an emergency situation, and both Day Lane and Lyn Wyld very kindly did so last month. If you would like to add your name to the list do please let me know. I quite understand that, if I call on you for help, you may not be able to do so at that time.

If you believe your name is already on the list but haven't been contacted, this may be due to our having an incorrect phone number so I would appreciate your giving me a call to check this out. The more members we have on the reserve list, the less load is placed on our "regulars", so your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated

Nigel King

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce that Tanya Bailey has been appointed to the new post of **Youth Coordinator for New Milton**.

The main focus of this role will be to establish relationships with young people and the organisations which support them. Promoting the needs of young people in the community and developing services and support for special needs groups is another area in which Tanya has experience. She has a desire for our community to be inclusive and wants to contribute in creating opportunities to improve lives. Her enthusiasm, communication and liaison skills shone through during her interview, these being key attributes required for the job, as well as her non-judgemental approach.

Working with the many groups within our community will be an enjoyable challenge for Tanya, who has

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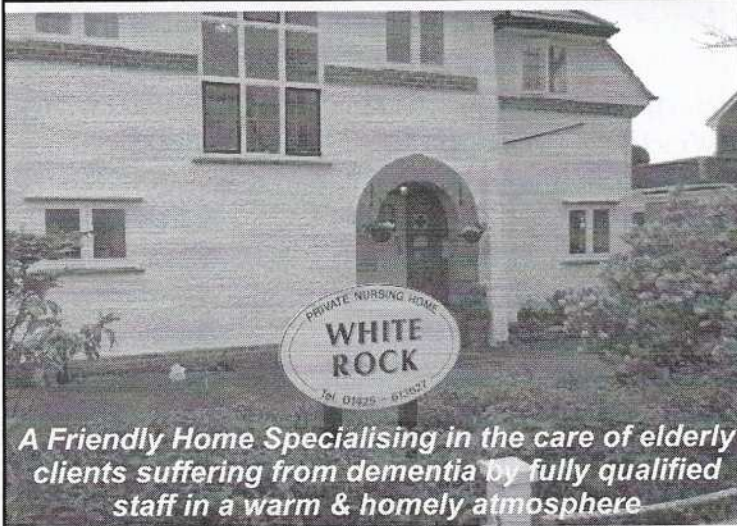
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already spent time shadowing the police and seeing the night-time economy in action. She says "Together we can enable every young person to reach their potential, and it begins by believing in them and offering encouragement".

In New Milton we are experiencing changes in youth services, facilities and provision, so it is really important to maintain continuity, enhancing our engagement with this generation of citizens, giving them confidence and opportunities for the future.

Local Plan Review: The Town Council recently responded to the NFDC Local Plan Review. This document, which shapes and directs development in our area over the next 20 years, is being reviewed because of significant changes to national planning policy intended to increase house-building. New evidence suggests there is a need for 600-700 homes to be provided annually within the New Forest district (the area around the outside of the National Park). For New Milton, this means an extra 930 homes over the period 2016-2036!

New Milton is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. By taking this positive approach in meeting the government's targets locally, we can help influence where developments in this town are built and ensure they contribute to the vitality of our community whilst addressing the urgent need for affordable homes for younger people and families.

Devolution - Options For Local Government:

The Town Council has also recently responded to a Hampshire County Council consultation regarding the future of local government in Hampshire. **Serving Hampshire** is about finding alternative ways to sustain public services and secure a devolution deal from Government for Hampshire towns, parishes and cities.

Hampshire County Council launched an 8-week consultation period at the end of July, stating that any future proposals for change will impact on everyone living and working in Hampshire and the way in which council services such as roads, social care, waste collection and housing are run. It has been made abundantly clear that, as a result of significant reductions in funding, councils need to find different ways of delivering public services. The County has been busy reducing costs over the last eight years.

In setting out the alternatives, HCC included options that could see the Council and District Councils merged into a single unitary. Some people have called this option a "mega-unitary", but it would be no larger than the current County Council.

HCC believes this would hold a real prospect of delivering a council tax cut for many households, prevent services from being reduced and provide savings of £40 million p.a.

Meanwhile, the New Forest District Council is taking part in a separate review of local government in Hampshire, and independent advisors PwC have been appointed. Working with the Dept. of Communities & Local Government, 14 authorities in the county and other organisations, the PwC study follows on from recent work on a possible HCC devolution deal in the future. This study has been commissioned by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council on behalf of Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley and Winchester councils. In addition, support has been pledged by the Solent Combined Authority group of councils.

The move comes in response to the HCC consultation announcing that it is planning to consult residents across the county on a unitary option for Hampshire after rejecting the idea of either joining a combined authority for the Heart of Hampshire or a Solent Combined Authority.

Whilst retaining the status quo may be an option, it could mean missing out on securing more powers and funding from Central Government at the local level, lost opportunities to achieve better value for money, and difficulty in sustaining core council services in the future, according to the HCC consultation document.

Hampshire County Council has expressed a strong interest in a county-wide unitary authority, serving 1.3 million residents, but the other councils in Hampshire argue that a comprehensive review of all the options is needed as well as focusing on value and cost efficiency. Set against this background, and with no direct consultation with local councils regarding future responsibilities or funding, the New Milton Town Council notes the ongoing debate regarding devolution and local government reorganisation.

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING held at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 13th September, 2016 at Barton Methodist Church Hall

In the Chair: Alan Watson

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Approved for signature.

Matters Arising:

The meeting had been primarily taken up with discussions on the number of additional dwellings required in New Milton over the coming years.



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Strong objections have since been raised regarding proposals to develop Lower Ashley Farm and the north-eastern part of the town.

Speaker:

Station Commander Shaun Lawrence from Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service was introduced.

Two years ago consultations were held on proposals for the future and, as a result of these and Government reductions in funding, there will be changes from an operational point of view.

There have been environmental changes over the past few years with a 52% reduction in fires due to people being more aware. The majority of time is spent in training, working on new fire-fighting techniques and equipment, and encouraging safety in the home and workplace.

An engine costs around £360,000, £10,000 p.a. to maintain, and there are 76 in the New Forest fleet. It also costs between £100,000 and £1 million to crew a fire engine each year, depending on whether it is staffed by full-time firefighters or retained part-timers.

There will be three types of vehicle in use - large, intermediate and small. New Milton will be manned by an intermediate and small engine, with a larger type located in Lymington.

The **small "first response"** engine, with a crew of 2-4, will arrive quickly and carry out a full assessment of what's needed. It will be equipped with the most advanced technology, oxygen, defibrillator, etc.

The **intermediate** engine, crewed by 2-5 firefighters, will carry additional equipment.

The **large** engine will be fully equipped, ready to deal with a major or more complicated situation, crewed by 4-6 firefighters.

There will be **no station closures** or compulsory redundancies, but some 225 firefighters will be lost through natural attrition.

The result of all these changes will, in fact, increase vehicle availability, reduce the time taken to respond, and bridge the budget gap by some £3.7 million.

Having dealt with a number of pertinent questions from the floor, Shaun was thanked for his knowledgeable and informative illustrated talk.

Our second, unscheduled speaker was then introduced - Mark Scovell from the Blue Lamp Trust. This is a charity which works very closely with

the Police and Fire & Rescue Service to promote and provide advice on safety in the home. Upon request they will visit and carry out a comprehensive survey of a property, suggest what can be done to improve safety/security, and **fit any necessary equipment free of charge.**

Warnings were given on the many scams which are particularly targeted at the elderly and vulnerable, as well as the need to protect your home, garage and shed as much as possible against unwelcome visitors. Explanatory leaflets were issued and members of the audience invited to check out Mark's display of deterrent equipment.

Any Other Business:

The Chairman drew attention to the Devolution issue and the many changes which are likely to come our way. A very good book on the subject is available at the Library which explains all that it entails.

There was a question from the audience regarding the charges to be made for certain items taken to the tip. The fear is that this will very likely lead to an increase in fly-tipping. Whilst Hampshire County Council says there is not enough money to run the tips as at present, the New Milton Town Council has strongly opposed these charges and will closely monitor the situation and deal with any local fly-tipping which may occur.

BLUE LAMP

As you will have read above, a representative from the Blue Lamp Trust gave a short presentation at the General Meeting. We were recommended to the Trust by the NFDC which operates the Lifeline and Careline schemes to help you if you have an accident or become unwell, either at home or out and about. Particularly for those of you who were not at the meeting, this is what the Trust does.

It is a registered charity offering a **FREE** home survey to assess if anything is needed to make homes of vulnerable and elderly residents safe and secure. They will **NOT** urge you to have anything that is unnecessary but, if required, will supply the following **completely free of charge** -

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A Key Safe can also be fitted at a cost of £75.

The Trust will also send you a very helpful booklet on "Reducing Burglaries in Residential Premises" and "Fire Safety in the Home".

As its name suggests, the Trust works very closely with the Police as well as the fire and safety services. Its Key Safe is the only one approved by the Police. Don't know what that is? The purpose of the safe is to hold your spare door key(s) readily available if you forget to take your key when going out, or if a friend, family member or emergency service needs to gain entry.

Measuring only about 6" x 4", the device is fixed to a wall adjacent to your front door. You tap in a chosen security code which opens up the safe, and the whole thing has a weather-proof cover.

The charity is funded by the Fire & Rescue Service and the Police. Whilst it fits all but the Key Safe at no cost, a donation towards funds will, of course, always be appreciated.

You can obtain further details by contacting 0300 777 0157 or www.bluelamptrust.org.uk. Should you wish to take the matter further a representative will make a "no obligation" visit from the Trust's HQ in Eastleigh.

PLANNED CREMATORIUM

Despite the strong campaign mounted by some residents against this project, the New Forest District Council gave it their firm approval. However, the matter must now go before the Secretary of State, so no irrevocable decision has yet been made.

SAVILL GARDENS TRIP

"On 15th August a friend and I joined other NMRA members for an organised visit to the Gardens in Windsor Great Park. The weather was perfect, we had a lovely drive courtesy of Steve of Solent Coaches, arriving with plenty of time to stroll around before heading for a pleasant lunch in the restaurant. Then another short drive to Runnymede where we boarded the boat for a most enjoyable trip on the Thames; a leisurely experience and very interesting going through the locks which delayed us slightly but it was such a beautiful day that we didn't mind at all. Finally, we had a lovely cream tea before disembarking and then on to the coach again for the journey home.

A really happy day out, so thanks to Treasurer Gerry Bryer and his wife, Jenny, for planning and arranging everything".

Ann Fox, Barton

Ed: This is just one of several letters received saying what a great day it was and thanking our Treasurer, Gerry, for organising it. Hopefully, more to come!

NMRA DAY TRIPS

As you will already know, a second visit has been arranged to go the Mill Theatre at Sonning, on 14th January, 2017, to see the show "High Society". Good seats have been booked for our group and, whilst we have a sufficient number of members who have already reserved places, a few seats are still available. Cost is £66.50 per person to include coffee break at a hotel, lunch in the theatre restaurant, the matinee performance and return coach transport. Pick-up will be outside Bradbeers at 9.30 a.m., returning about 7 p.m.

If you would like to join the party please send your cheque to me (post-dated for 1st December, 2016) together with a note giving names of all passengers and your phone number, email address. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

In last month's FOCUS we asked members to let us know if they would be interested in a re-visit to the Mary Rose now that the Exhibition has been re-opened with a greatly improved viewing facility. Whilst aiming for June of next year, no date has yet been arranged and we are waiting to hear if there is sufficient support for making the trip. Please let the Chairman or Secretary know if you are interested.

All contact details can be found on page 3.

Gerry Bryer

NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There will be a series of three local Consultation Meetings organised by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, as follows:-

Monday, 10th October, 2 till 7 p.m. at Bashley Village Hall.

Wednesday, 12th October, 2 till 7 p.m. at the Memorial Centre.

Friday, 14th October, 2 till 5 p.m. at Barton Methodist Church Hall.

These "community engagement meetings" are the first phase of preparation of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. They follow the recent NFDC Consultation on strategic sites which have been identified for the additional 900+ dwellings proposed to be built in New Milton over the next twenty years.



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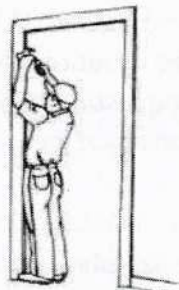
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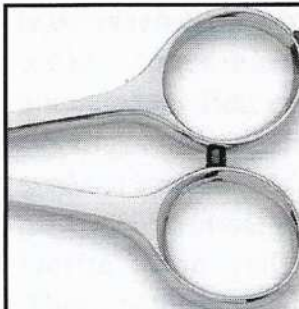
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Please see the local press for further information. All are invited to go along to any of the locations to provide feedback on a number of key questions and issues.

POLICE SURGERY

The September Surgery has yet to take place, but the August session was very poorly attended. Of course, it could be argued that this was a very good sign in that nobody had problems to report. At the same time, though, people are still complaining that they never see a policeman and can't make contact with them. (We are asked to point out here that, in fact, officers **are** around the town but often in "plain clothes" so that they don't attract attention).

Whilst having one (or sometimes two) officers sitting in the Community Centre twiddling their thumbs when they probably have more important duties to perform, they are still keen for the surgeries to continue and provide a regular "presence". You don't need to have a specific problem in order to attend - just pop in for a general chat and use the opportunity to communicate.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre is urgently seeking a Maintenance Manager to join its team of volunteers, and it is hoped that the opening might suit a reader who is newly retired from a practical/business background but wishes to keep mind and body occupied and, at the same time, offer a meaningful service to the community. The role requires that the Manager needs to -

1. Oversee repair/redecoration programme for the Centre including purchase of materials.
2. Liaise with caretakers for setting-up of rooms, cleaning programme and materials purchase.
3. Check out invoices for work and materials.
4. Liaise with our Health & Safety officer on insurance, alarm systems, lift/electric door maintenance, annual safety checks.
5. Involvement in negotiating best deals for the above with suppliers, etc.
6. Report to the monthly Executive Committee meeting.

If anyone is interested and would like to know more, please contact Chairman Malcolm Swan on 618925 or email cmswan@sky.com. He will greatly appreciate hearing from you.

NEW MILTON CRAFTS ARE BACK

Once again the Memorial Centre will come alive with the sights and sounds of over 50 stallholders, many of whom will be exhibiting here for the first time. The New Milton 2016 Autumn Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, **8th October**, with a slightly different opening time of 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. - brought forward by half an hour from timing of events held last year and in April in order to allow stallholders to get away a bit earlier as the nights close in.

As usual, you can enjoy refreshments and light lunch snacks in the "bistro", and take a well-earned break from viewing one of the most unique ranges of stalls that have been put together.

This will be an ideal opportunity to do some of that early Christmas shopping or for buying something different for someone special.

The New Milton Town partnership looks forward to welcoming you all.

NMRA COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Enjoy a Car Boot Sale In The Warm!

Now that the Car Boot Season at Fawcetts Field is drawing to a close (last one on Sunday, 2nd October, organised by the Lions Club; sellers any time from 6.30 a.m. Buyers from 7 a.m., £5 per pitch), the CIA is again holding a series of Table Top Sales at the Memorial Centre. Dates are:-

Saturday, 19th November

Saturday, 21st January 2017

Saturday, 18th March 2017

Sales will start at 8 a.m. and close around 12 noon. Pitches available at £6, £10 for 2, £14 for 3. You can register for pitches **now** at the NMRA website www.nmra.org.uk, emailing cia@nmra.org.uk or by telephoning the CIA team on 610052/07771 754025.

NEW FOREST SHOW

More than 90,000 people attended the Show this year, and organisers wish to give a big "thank you" to all who supported the event, including 500 volunteers without whom the Show could not have been staged. Next year's dates - July 25, 26, 27.

NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

This comes a bit too late for summer in England but it might be worth making a note that if you are going anywhere likely to be bothered by wasps -

- Don't wear white or yellow clothing
- Don't wear perfume or aftershave

If you personally or have a friend needing to take medication at certain times but might forget, a pill box **with digital alarm** to give the alert is available from chemists and online retailers such as Amazon.

During the year 2014-15 some 5.6 million out-patient appointments were missed in England; an estimated cost to the taxpayer of £108 per appointment. The combined cost to our Health Service of missed outpatient and GP appointments is almost £1 billion a year!

Ever wondered why it is called an Adam's Apple? According to the bible, when Eve gave Adam the forbidden apple a piece of it stuck in his throat and that "bump" has been passed down through the generations.

Ever wondered why the gathering after a funeral is called a "Wake"? Long ago it was apparently often the case that a person was assumed dead when, in fact he/she had fallen into a coma or a long period of unconsciousness. Friends and relatives, therefore, sat around the coffin waiting to see if the "body" would show signs of life - wake up!!!

If you felt you were getting too old to take a holiday or your disability would make things difficult, Able Community Care can help. Its Holiday Companion Service offers assistance in the UK, Europe and further afield. For a free brochure contact 01603 764567 or www.ablecommunitycare.com.

Question: There are so many ways to purchase goods for the disabled and elderly especially online. How can I know that what I'm buying is fit for purpose and well made?

Answer: Make sure that any product you are considering buying has the British Standard kite-mark. This tells you the item has been tested and approved by the British Standards Institute.

Question: Although not a regular churchgoer I have been confirmed as a Catholic. I am now at an age where moving into a care home is being considered and, if possible, I would like one that is Catholic-based. How can I find out?

Answer: The Sisters of Nazareth welcomes older people into their care homes, and there are many located around the country. Find out more by visiting www.sistersofnazareth.com/united-kingdom

COMPUTERADVICE & SUPPORT No. 15

Two short topics for you this month - the first about Windows 7 updates and the second regarding a new scam I read about in Computer Active.

My client had a Toshiba Laptop which, since its upgrade from Vista (by me) in January, had refused to download and install any updates for its Windows 7 operating system. After a couple of days' research and trying various things, I became aware that there are literally thousands of users experiencing the same problem, with no single solution. Many different suggestions and some even claimed to have fixed the issue, but I tried several to no avail.

Then I read about one experienced PC technician who said he had fixed it but it took a "sledgehammer" to achieve success. The software "sledgehammer" was a downloadable file which searched for all the updates from the launch of Windows 7, downloaded them into a file and then over the next 36 hours installed them slowly. The "sledgehammer" referred to is a programme called "wsusoffline". Running it allows the user to download Microsoft Updates for Windows 7 or 8.1, Office and a few legacy products. It starts with a Dos Script, downloading the required update into a saved location and then can be installed offline. This was successful and later updates were then installed automatically.

The scam I read about works in a familiar way. Users receive a "pop-up" which claims to be from their ISP (talktalk in this case) telling them that malware has been detected on their computer and providing a phone number to call to have the infection removed. Victims are then persuaded to hand over control of their computer to, or asked to pay for, removal software.

You might think that this type of scam has been around for a while but the change is that these fraudsters can correctly identify your ISP, making them able to tailor their message to align with your ISP's way of operating/communicating. Again, do be careful. I get many of these myself on a regular basis and some are very convincing.

Ring/email me if you are unsure.

david.mason1948@gmail.com

01425 626112/07851 335749

ANCESTRY

I agree wholeheartedly with the Editor's article in last month's FOCUS. Realising that so much interesting family history can be unnecessarily lost, an organisation called Autobiography Ltd. has been

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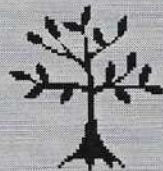
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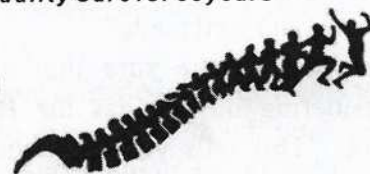
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Bob Lowe

LET IT ALL OUT!

Having coffee in a café recently I couldn't help but overhear some of the conversation taking place between four ladies at the next table. I gathered it was a concerted whinge about men in general, and one lady said "he winds me up so much sometimes I could scream!" Well, that reminded me of something which happened to me a long time ago when we lived in Surrey.

Mainly due to his health problems and business worries, the Other Half and I were going through an extended period of "having words". Offloading my spleen to a friend one day she said "Why don't you have a good scream?" I stared, and she went on "If you feel like exploding go to the bottom of the garden and let out a good yell - it does relieve the tension!" I did actually consider it but decided that a madwoman standing screaming in her garden wouldn't, in all probability, go down very well with the neighbours.

Then, after a particularly stressful couple of days, very early on an autumn Sunday morning I left the OH reading his newspaper and took the dog for a walk in nearby Richmond Park. There was quite a thick ground mist, all was quiet and I hadn't seen a soul. As I followed the dog and simmered over recent events, I gave vent to pent-up emotions and experimented with a loud scream - just as, out of the mist, came a policeman on his horse! Pandemonium! My surprise screech alarmed the dog who started barking and dashing around the horse's legs; the horse reared up, throwing its rider to the ground (fortunately soft grass) and galloped off with the dog in hot pursuit.

The policeman very shakily picked himself up and asked "What the b****y hell did you do that for?" I answered "It helps relieve my feelings". "Damn your feelings", he replied, I could have been killed and now I've got to find the b****y horse!" We glared at each other for a bit and then burst out laughing. After a short search we found the horse quietly nibbling at a bush and casting a disdainful eye on my dog who was happily splashing around in a very muddy pool.

During our walk I had explained my behaviour to the policeman and, when we exchanged a friendly "goodbye", he said "Well, don't do that again. If you

want to let it all out do what my wife does when she gets mad - throw some crockery".

Well, I didn't try that and did I ever scream again? Oh yes, but very quietly in bed with the covers thrown over my head!!

Phyllis Inglis

LYMINGTON TOWN TOURS - OCTOBER

These are the last tours of the season - all on Sundays:

2nd: "Pens & Personalities", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, ends on the Quay.

9th: "Story of Lymington", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial ends on the Quay.

16th: "Victorian Lymington", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the railway station, ends on New Street.

23rd: Story of Milford", 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Starts on Milford Green, ends at the Beach House.

30th: "Courts & Alleyways", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, ends at St. Thomas's Church.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our September meeting Hazel Fotheringham from the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust told us about its work of wildlife and habitat protection. It has been going for more than 50 years, managing 48 nature reserves. The Trust is part of a UK-wide partnership of 47 Trusts with a collective membership of over 800,000 people. Together, they are the nation's most active and influential nature conservation group. Hazel gave an excellent presentation, providing leaflets and books for the audience to take away and further their interest in a very worthwhile, important subject.

For our meeting on **6th October** we have invited Bob Curtis to talk about "The History of Sanitation", a light-hearted look at an important facility! On **3rd November** we have the ever-popular local historian Nick Saunders to give us an update on "The Milton Heritage Collection". You can see samples of his work on display at the Community Centre.

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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NEW MILTON

This year our local branch's annual Strawberry Tea was held for the first time in the Barton Methodist Church Hall. The larger facility proved to be

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necessary as ticket sales almost doubled on previous years. The event was a great success, and special thanks go to the five ladies (branch members) for all their hard work, as well as to the Tesco Community Champion. We also thank Tesco for their very welcome donation and all who donated raffle prizes. The event made a profit of £441, which will be added to the amount collected in the town during last year's Poppy Appeal (a total of £18,878!).

Appreciation and thanks go to all who support us.

Ron Back, Chairman

NEW MILTON

CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Our friendly, informal group meets every second Monday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, Whitefield Road. On **10th October** we welcome back Jenny Heslop who will entertain us with a talk about her recent visit to South Africa. Come and join us for tea in the supportive company of fellow carers. No charge! Please contact Maggie on 614714 for further information on the Group's activities..

"SIDE BY SIDE FRIENDSHIP GROUP"

Bereaved recently or some time ago?

This is a new venture by people in the same position who feel there is a need. You are welcome to meet up with us for tea/cake or just a chat **on the first Sunday of each month, starting 2nd October**, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Barton Methodist Church Hall. We look forward to your joining us.

For further information on what may be felt to be a very welcome and helpful support facility, please call 07751318483, 07908780571, 07904189009.

Angela Smith

CONCHORD SINGERS

We returned to choir practice last month and, as expected, our Musical Director had new and exciting songs to learn. Our lead-up to Christmas will give us many opportunities to show-case all we have been practicing.

Our diary seems pretty full but a phone call to the Secretary on 629102 may prove fruitful if you would like us to sing for you.

Should you wish to join our successful, happy group of singers we meet at the Conservative Club at 2.15 p.m. for about two hours every Tuesday, and we will be pleased to see you.

Sylvia Camp, PR Lady to the Singers

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

It is hoped to start up a **new** weekly Beginners' Class this autumn. It would be held at the Community Centre. If you are interested to take part and would like further details, please call the Centre on 610495 or drop in and enquire at the Reception Desk.

NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

The Bruges of van Eyck and Memling:

Many of you will have visited the Flemish city of Bruges with its medieval architecture and circuitous canals, as this "Venice of the North" has been hugely popular with tourists since the 19th century. It may be that van Eyck's painting "The Arnolfini Marriage (1434) is one of your favourites in the National Gallery, London, home also to several religious paintings and portraits by his contemporary Memling, e.g. The Virgin and Child (c.1475).

In her lecture, Dr. Paula Nuttall will take us back to 15th century Bruges (its golden age) where both the German Hans Memling (c.1430-1494), leading painter of his day, and the Dutch Jan van Eyck (c.1390-1441) - credited, incidentally, for having invented oil painting - lived and prospered.

Please do join us at the Memorial Centre on Thursday, **13th October**. Coffee will be served from 10 a.m. for a 10.30 start. Visitors welcome at a charge of £6.

Further details from Ann Clegg on 01590 643046;
newmilton@dfas.org.uk;
<http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

CAMEO - LADIES GROUP

The talk at our September meeting was given by Peter Roberts on the Changing 19th Century Forest. His presentation and photographs were very interesting, enjoyed by all who attended.

On **5th October** Mary Randall's talk will be on "Homeless - Salvation Army Meal Run" and, on **2nd November**, we will be entertained by the Sway Bell Ringers.

On **7th December** we have our AGM including a Christmas Social with music and quiz.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the



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month (except August) at the Community Centre, always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. Refreshments available. For further information contact Secretary Margaret Sheldrake on 628675.

NEW MILTON U3A

The speaker at our next meeting will be Mr. Curtis on "Life in a Submarine". 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **26th October**, at the Memorial Centre. Visitors very welcome at £2. Refreshments. Look forward to seeing our members.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

NEW MILTON FRIENDS GROUP

The Group holds a Cabaret Evening at Hoburne Park twice a year, ideally to raise funds to support local good causes. Anyone who attended the March event will surely have enjoyed the "au naturel" presentation by the New Forest Rockchoir followed by the fabulous performance from our Debbie as Shirley Bassey.

This year we are giving you fun, humour and solid rock'n roll. An evening with Joel Coombes as Elton John, with TV comedian Paul T. Eyres. Thursday, **20th October**, doors opening at 6.30 for an 8 p.m. start at Hoburne Holiday Park, Sway Road. Bar refreshments available. Tickets £12.50 from Hardy's Electrical Stores or Janet on 626047 (or £15 on the door). They can also be obtained from, and delivered by, myself. Tables of 10 can be reserved.

At the same venue we are also planning to make an "on stage" presentation of a donation to one of our main recipients in the Macmillan Cancer Support Group. Your attendance in supporting this event will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

Graham Fearis, Chairman, 610916

NEIGHBOUR CARE NEW MILTON

It has been a rather gruelling time for our office volunteers, particularly over the last two or three months when so many drivers were away on holiday and they were struggling to meet clients' requests. **With winter weather not far away now, we desperately need more drivers to help spread the load and enable us to deliver the transport service which is so much needed.**

On a happier note, we have been fortunate to receive some funding by way of individual

donations and legacies. These are all very much welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Now that the summer holiday season is over and maybe you might wish to do something in your occasional spare time, do please give us a thought and consider joining our team of volunteers - either as a driver or to help in the office. Call Manager Jo Swayne on 611662 for further information. Thank you.

Phyllis Inglis, Chairman

BARTON ON SEA

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, **19th October**, at Barton Methodist Church Hall when we shall be welcoming Mr. Ian Schultz to give a talk on "Ants to Elephants in Africa".

Refreshments, sales table, raffle, competition and latest news on the Guild's group activities.

ewe 2 CLUB

Our group enjoys spinning, weaving, knitting, etc. with meetings in New Milton, Sway and Lymington. All welcome, we learn from each other. The next meeting in New Milton will be at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, **20th October**, at the Community Centre.

Further information from ewe2club@yahoo.co.uk and ewe2club.org.uk.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

This will be staged at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall - **Friday/Saturday, 4th/5th November**, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., also **Sunday, 6th November**, from 12 to 4 p.m. Refreshments and stalls.

On **5th November**, in conjunction with the Festival an Annual Market will be held in the Church Hall from 10 a.m. with a wide variety of stalls and refreshments.

Ed: Regarding the Fete held on 23rd July, the sum finally raised was an incredible £2,700! - not £250 as reported last month. Grateful thanks to all who supported the event - and apologies from me for the typo and missing out an all-important "0"!

CHRISTINA NOBLE

CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

We will be holding a film afternoon at 2 p.m. on Friday, **14th October**, at the home of Anne Mason

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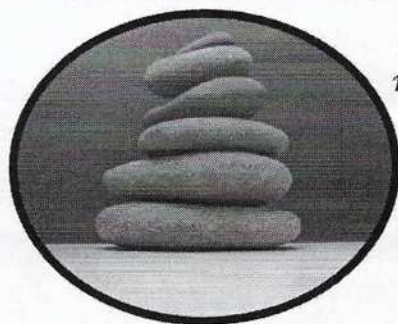
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(2 Fir Avenue, New Milton, BH25 7DB) showing the story of our founder, Christina Noble. Entrance by donation. Please arrive promptly so that the showing can commence at 2.15 p.m. We will also be selling tea/coffee and cake as well as other items. If anyone can contribute a cake we would be grateful. Anne and I will be visiting Mongolia at the end of this month, taking all money raised and deciding, with the advice of staff, on how it should be spent to best advantage. It is also hoped to have a raffle and will welcome any prize donations.

Those wishing to attend should please call Anne on 626112. if the date is inconvenient for you, let Anne know because we shall arrange an evening showing at a later date.

Jackie Preis

NEW MILTON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Our season started on 26th September at our Club adjacent to the Memorial Centre, Whitefield Road. Here we have two lanes, a small kitchen and dining area, and toilet facilities for ladies and gentlemen.

We have members of all skill levels and would be delighted to hear from any potential new members. Regular weekly sessions are held for practice, a Wednesday League, and we play friendly matches against other bowling clubs in the area. In addition, there are competitions for singles, pairs and triples.

For us, it is not all about serious match-play. We love it when our teams win but are just as enthusiastic about our groups that simply meet to roll-up for fun.

Bowls is a game for all ages and combines modest exercise with some welcome social activity, particularly during the winter months. For anyone wishing to try the game for the first time we supply the equipment and instruction for a free trial session.

If you are interested and think that this activity is something you could enjoy, simply contact us for further information on 01425 622572 or email aclark1812@hotmail.co.uk. You can also visit our website www.newmiltonibc.co.uk

To all existing member we wish you a rewarding season and look forward to seeing you again at the Club.

Mel and Colin

BIG BAND SWING NIGHT

Are you a fan of Glenn Miller, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Peggy Lee, to name but a few? If so it's time to dust off your dancing shoes for a night of swing music from the 30s, 40s and 50s featuring the popular New Forest Big Band.

Through this event, which takes place on Saturday, **29th October**, the NMRA CIA (Community In Action) will be raising funds for local causes

Please do make a note of this in your diary; it promises to be a great, most enjoyable evening of music and dance. Tickets at £10 are available from the Memorial Centre, Marie Morgan on 501315 or Alan Watson on 07771 754025.

A bar will be available and doors open at 7.15 for an 8 p.m. start.

DANCING HOLIDAY, BOURNEMOUTH

A four-day Social Dancing Holiday at the Mayfair Hotel, **18th to 22nd April, 2017**. For further details contact Dee on 627922.

Quotes of the Month:

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

If you are given the choice between money and sex appeal, take the money. As you get older your money will become your sex appeal.

Katherine Hepburn

Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime it is to waste it on children.

George Bernard Shaw

Remember to love people and use things, rather than love things and use people!

U.S. Bishop F. Sheen

HARVEST THOUGHTS

The golden tints of autumn
Have now come to the fore
There is the hint of summer's ending
We really can't ignore
The harvest has been gathered in
Through these last warm halcyon days
Yet images of our summer
Within my memory stays
I remember still the perfume
Of honeysuckle on the wall
Of bees around the runner beans
Whose flowers excite us all
I can recall the scent of night-time stocks

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Of midges round the pond
 Of the lazy tweet of sleep birds
 Of green fern-feathered frond
 Autumn now is with us
 Winter's waiting in the wings
 But we must look again at Mother Nature
 For the seasonal blessings she brings
 The church bedecked with harvest gifts
 Of fruit and ripened grain
 Brings a reminder that all summer's joys
 Will return to us again

L. Wadlow, New Milton

MOVING HOUSE

My partner died three years ago
 I thought that I would stay
 In our clifftop bungalow
 No need to move away
 But then one day I felt the urge
 To start my life anew
 A flat in town would suit me
 The idea grew and grew
 And that's when it all started -
 Agents, would-be buyers
 Solicitors, surveyors
 Let-downs and crossed wires
 A couple came to view one day
 Critical and rude
 Pulled our home to pieces
 What an attitude!
 Looking in my bedroom
 At a painting of our cat
 The woman gasped in horror saying
 "How could you live with that?"
 The décor in the lounge met with
 "It will have to go!"
 Bathroom fittings sniffed at
 Kitchen demolished blow by blow
 All these comments got me wild
 I'd really had enough
 Threw my front door open
 And told them to shove off

Weeks went by, problems grew
 The details I had to give!
 Forms to fill in, fees to pay
 I lost the will to live!
 Then suddenly things calmed down
 The way ahead was clear
 Exchange achieved, the flat was mine
 I raised a hearty cheer
 Felt quite proud to think
 That I'd managed it alone
 Not so daft as I had feared
 My confidence had grown

Was it worth, it you may ask?
 At times I'd have said "no way"
 But settled in my new abode
 The move has made my day!

Anne Bennett, New Milton

FRIENDSHIP

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 Friends who'll go with you
 When you want to paint the town
 There are friends who come for dinner
 And those who ask you out
 Friends who feed the cat for you
 When you are not about
 Some you make on holiday
 Whilst some you've known for years
 Some can turn into foes
 And cause you many tears
 But the friend you can rely on
 Who will always lend a hand
 Has a shoulder you can lean on
 When things don't go as planned
 Will stay by you through thick and thin
 And never leave the fold
 Then this is truly your best friend
 And valued more than gold

Linda Johnson, Milford

FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 5th October: Brendoncare Get Together Club. Entertainment by Jane Lane Ukulele Group. 2 p.m. St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Contact Evelyn on 839885 or Bernie on 6385440.

Wednesday, 5th October: Literature Group. Exploring novels of 19th century. Bronte, Gaskell and Eliot. 2 p.m. New Milton Community Centre. For further information call Janet Giles on 07719 606358.

Thursday, 13th October: New Forest Tinnitus Group. Annual Review and 2017 plans. 2.30 p.m. Lyndhurst Community Centre. £2 per session with refreshments. Contact jan.petty@ntlworld.com

Thursday, 27th October: Coffee Morning 10 a.m. till noon at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall.

Saturday, 29th October: "Big Band Swing Night", featuring New Forest Big Band, New Milton Memorial Centre. Bar opens 7.15 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start. Tickets at £10 from the Memorial Centre or 07771 754025 and 01425 501315. Organised by NMRA CIA.

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