

FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter for members of the
NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



NMRA

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Well, we **have** had some nice weather, after all! That very humid period proved a bit too much for me and I've been so envious of all those slim young things who were able to strip down to the bare essentials and didn't have to still wear all the "underpinnings" to prevent everything sliding southwards!!

A last reminder that our speaker(s) at this month's General Meeting will come from the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service, telling us about future plans and procedures which are likely to affect their operation.

Looking ahead to November we will welcome Peter Roberts from the New Forest Association. Most people who visit here are envious of our having this wonderful area on our doorstep, yet we probably don't fully appreciate it ourselves. We understand that Peter's "overview" presentation will include some surprises and tell us much more about the Forest than we may already know. Intriguing? Do note the date in your diary to come along and hear what he has to say.

Some of you will remember that in May of 2014 (yes, it was that long ago!) the Association organised a very enjoyable, successful coach trip to see the Mary Rose. As you may have read recently, after months of costly and painstaking work the Exhibition has now re-opened, displaying more artefacts and a greatly improved viewing facility which makes one feel almost aboard the ship itself. It has, therefore, been suggested that we arrange another visit and we will be happy to do so (aiming for June next year) depending on the level of interest shown. Accordingly, if this is something you **would** be interested in please let us know now. No commitment, of course - it's just so that we can gauge whether organising the trip would be worth while. Phone, write or preferably email the Chairman or myself; contact details on page 3.

NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 13th September, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

Tuesday, 8th November, 2.15 p.m.

Barton Methodist Church Hall

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council - 26th September, 7th November

Amenities - 13th September, 24th October

Planning -

1st, 15th, 29th September

13th, 27th October

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME

A couple of months ago a member asked if there were any lip-reading classes in the area. No news on these, but I am grateful to a very kind lady who has contacted me to say that a most helpful book is available **free of charge** on Amazon entitled "Self-Help for Lip-Reading".

Although it's almost on our doorstep I haven't visited Bournemouth for years, and so was delighted to be taken there for a three-day break last month as a birthday treat. My goodness, how it has changed, particularly in regard to the area around the pier, the Square and loss of some of the nicer, more up-market shops which I remember - and of course it was absolutely heaving with people. Very little that I recognised, but the gardens are still perfectly lovely and we were fortunate to be able to admire them while strolling in warm sunshine.

Although we were in the mood to indulge in some serious retail therapy, I can't say we saw much that was sufficiently interesting enough to catch our eye, and decided we would probably find just what we want back here in New Milton! However, we did

Visit our website - www.nmra.org.uk

enjoy nice meals and wine, sitting comfortably and watching the people go by - most of them still glued to their phones/pads instead of taking pleasure in the world around them. It was a most welcome change from routine, which I think we all need now and then, even if only for a few days, to forget responsibilities and recharge the batteries.

Phyllis Inglis

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

It only seems like yesterday since I was writing my last report, and here we are with two-thirds of the year already passed us by!

The last few weeks have been exceptionally busy on the Association front with the onset of three major Public Consultations currently in process and on which we, as an Association, must give careful thought on behalf of our community. Some might cynically say that choosing the summer and holiday period to hold such Consultations is a clever ploy - I "could not possibly comment!"

I have detailed later in this issue information on these major Consultations and would urge you all to take part in them and ensure your voice is heard. All three current topics (proposals and ideas from Hampshire County Council for local government reorganisation; plans and site locations to build some 930 dwellings in New Milton over the next 20 years; the Crime & Policing Priorities for the next five years) have deadline dates in September.

It's no good just sitting back whinging, complaining and leaving it to others and this Association to voice concerns and indicate levels of support (or otherwise) on various issues. It is vital that you make your **own** voice heard, and participation in such consultation is our duty in the democratic process. For those with access to computers it is simple and painless, but I do appreciate that things are more difficult for anyone who is not computer literate. However, all of the information is usually available at the library and Town Hall which would enable you to make your views known on these issues which are key to our future. Some would say that, as we grow older, the issues don't matter since we may not be around, but we must always think of the legacy that we will leave for our children and grandchildren.

Whilst on this topic, can I stress the importance of your Association being able to communicate with its members and, once again, note that it only takes a few moments to sign up for our Mailing List by

visiting www.nmra.org.uk. Also, your committee and I urge you not to bottle up any thoughts, issues or concerns that you might have on any subject and communicate with us via any media open to you. Contact details will always be found on page 3 and I will personally be pleased to hear from you. The Association is here to represent you, our members!

Your committee is pleased at the gradual increase in attendance at our General Meetings, whether because of the topicality or importance of items on the agenda or a desire to learn more about a particular subject. I would stress, however, that whether or not we have a speaker, every meeting includes a short "open forum" session where you can raise any issues and have the opportunity for others to debate and make their own views known. Please come along on 13th September and have your say on anything which concerns you or put forward matters that you think, as an Association, we should be addressing.

As I write this article we are enjoying a mini heatwave, which really does bring home to me how fortunate my wife, Jean, and I are to live in such a great part of this country twixt the Forest and sea. However, we will soon be moving towards autumn and, dare I say it, Christmas and 2017. Many organisations are already turning their thoughts to next year and I know that some major plans are even now being put forward for events and activities which will take place. I encourage all of you to learn more and perhaps get involved in some of the exciting plans being made. Visit www.newmilton.net - the community website for New Milton.

Alan Watson

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

May I please ask members who move to let me know, to ensure they get FOCUS delivered to their new address. Of course, this is done locally free of charge, thanks to our team of valued volunteer distributors. However, if you move out of the area but still wish to receive our Newsletter for the remainder of your membership year a charge of £1 per issue is made to cover postage. Subsequent renewal will cost £3 membership fee plus £12 P&P for the year.

A welcome and thanks must go to new regular distributors who have agreed to take on distribution routes. They are Jackie Coup, Ian Feltham, Dianne Gibb, Sally Grant, Phil and Sheila Kerby, David Smith, Eve Street and Lyn Wyld. We are most

NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' 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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grateful for their coming forward to help us. Even regular distributors need to be covered for when they are on holiday or unable to deliver for some reason. This month we thank Nigel Cox, Cyril and Stella Lanch for stepping in.

We have a need for a regular distributor for Carrick Way and the roads leading from it (off Caird Avenue, near Tesco's). It involves delivering some 23 copies each month. If you can help do please contact me (see page 3 for details).

There is also a very necessary need to add more names to the reserve list of those who can help cover for holidays/sickness, etc. Again, please contact me if you can help.

Nigel King

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce that Suna King has been appointed to the new post of **Town Development Manager** for New Milton. Suna grew up and was educated in Bournemouth, and comes to us with a highly successful background in marketing. The main aim of the post is to raise the town's profile and deliver a high quality environment to meet the needs of businesses, residents and visitors. Town Mayor David Hawkins said "With her proven marketing abilities Suna will act as a springboard leading the revitalisation of the town centre, invigorating the market and working closely with businesses to enhance new employment opportunities throughout the area".

New accessible play area for the recreation ground:

Plans for a new, secure play area and adult open air exercise apparatus are being presented by the Town Council for public feedback. Designed with accessibility in mind, the area will suit children of all abilities up to 12 years, while the exercise equipment is for adults of all ages and varying abilities. The play area takes on a medieval theme to promote role-playing - allowing children to use their energy to explore, climb, swing, jump, slide, bounce, rotate or zip on a variety of equipment for individual or group play.

Proludic (the provider selected) has now prepared plans, together with an artist's impression of the area and equipment, available for public feedback before being finalised. Such feedback will be welcomed from all interested parties, including parents, grandparents, carers - anyone who might want to bring children along to play there - as well as those who would like the opportunity to use the adult exercise apparatus.

The plans will be displayed (with feedback forms) in a large gazebo on the rec. on Saturday, **3rd September**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and in the Town Hall from **5th to 9th September**. From 2nd to 7th September plans and feedback forms can be seen by visiting newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Deadline for all feedback is 9th September.

PLAY A FULL PART IN THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY

Three very important Public Consultations are in progress, each of which will close during September. Please play your part in them and make your voice heard. Information is available online as well as at the Library and Town Hall.

Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner: Input sought for strategy over next five years.

Your help is required to prepare the Police & Crime Plan which sets the strategic priorities for the Hampshire Constabulary and gives direction for policing and tackling crime in this area. Your views are important and this is your opportunity to help shape the Plan.

Closing date: Wednesday, 14th September.

Website: www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/survey

Local Plan Proposals by New Forest District Council.

The main focus of this consultation is to get people's views on the potential locations for the new housing developments needed to provide accommodation over the next 20 years.

Closing date: Friday, 16th September.

Website: www.newforest.gov.uk/localplan2016.

Serving Hampshire- Hampshire County Council

The Council is asking for views on different ways in which the County Council and the 11 district councils in Hampshire could change or be reorganised. These options could affect you - for example, in terms of how much council tax you pay, the influence you have on how public money is spent, what council services you receive in the future, and the way they are delivered.

Closing date: Tuesday, 20th September.

Website: www3.hants.gov.uk/servinghampshire

NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

"On 12th July I attended a Residents' Association meeting at the Community Centre to hear about proposals for this Plan which could affect local residents. I feel sure that I speak for the majority of the audience (around 100) in saying I thought Chairman Alan Watson did a remarkable job of

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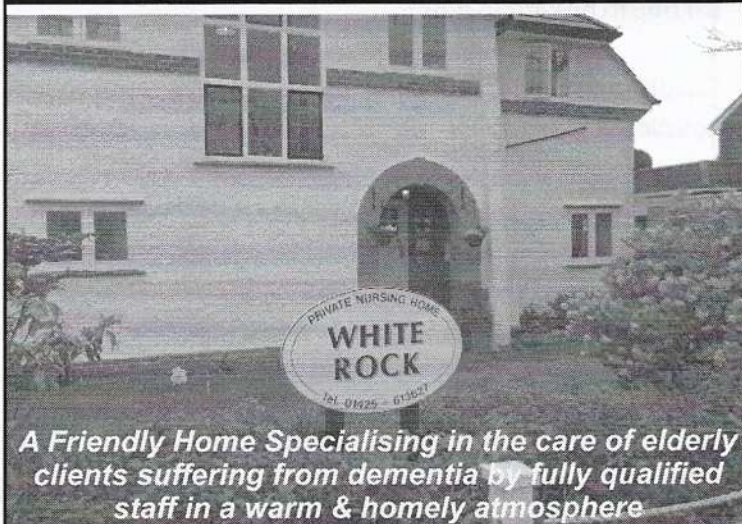
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.presenting facts to us in a clear, lucid manner. Councillor Steve Clarke ably assisted him and was able to clarify a number of points raised by members of the audience during "question time". We were told that there will be further meetings as the situation develops, and I recommend all those interested to take the time to attend."

Paul Woods, New Milton

YES - ANOTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION BUT AN IMPORTANT ONE!

As some of you may already be aware (and as mentioned earlier), there are moves afoot for Portsmouth, Southampton, some nearby towns and the Isle of Wight to break away from Hampshire and become a single unitary authority - perhaps with the name "Solent City", with an elected Mayor.

Hampshire County Council is holding a Public Consultation to seek the views of all Hampshire residents about the future of local Government across the whole county, and have released information about a number of options for the way forward.

As these moves by part of the existing Hampshire area might have far-reaching effects, you are encouraged to review the options put forward and make your views known in the recently announced Consultation before the closing date of Tuesday, 20th September. See earlier article "Play Your Full Part".

This Association strongly urges you to participate in this most important Consultation seeking your views on how the County Council and 22 District Councils within Hampshire could change or be reorganised for the future. If you hold any strong views and would like to tell us about them I would be pleased to receive your emails so that members' opinions can be assessed overall. Please let me have your comments on chairman@nmra.org.uk.

Alan Watson

BARTON POST OFFICE

Residents in the area have been very upset at the closure of the post office in Sea Road and concerned that this much-needed facility might be permanently lost. An HQ spokesperson has confirmed that the post office **will** reopen but no definite date can be given at this time. The repair/refurbishment was initially stated to take three months, but since actual work onsite was suspended for several weeks before being resumed, there is now some doubt on whether this time frame will be achieved.

In July this Association approached the building contractor concerned for some assurances on how things were progressing but, at the time of going to press, we have not had the courtesy of a reply.

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Enrolments are now being taken for the September courses. It is never too late to start that new interest!

COMPUTER ADVICE & SUPPORT No. 14

At the time of writing I have just left a 90-year-old client, now thankfully quite happy but earlier today he was most distraught. He had received a cold call from a well-spoken man claiming to be from Microsoft Technical Department, asking if he was having problems connecting to the internet? When my client said "yes", this very believable salesman convinced him to press Windows Key+R and type in www.supremo.com. Thousands of apparently "hacked in" files were displayed.

The salesman then asked him to download and install this file but, thankfully, he smelt a rat and after asking this person a series of questions terminated the call. My client immediately called me and, after investigation, we determined that the number used had been reported as being involved in such a scam many times. Also the www.supremo.com is a legitimate programme used to give someone remote access to the computer. Once in, they gain access and can do irreparable damage to the computer and steal information.

To end this story, I restored the computer to a build state taken a month or so ago and, just to be prepared for any future problems, we took a Windows 7 Style System image backup. This would give us even more protection should it happen again - though my very computer-savvy client won't be fooled again!

If you get a number you suspect, type in your search engine the URL www.shouldianswer.co.uk, and then type the number in their search engine. You will quickly find out if it has been reported as a scam. If you want to report a scam there is help on the web under <http://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-report-a-scam>.

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Sessions will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Nedderman Centre, Marryat Road, New Milton, BH25 5NY, on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th September.

Booking is essential, so please call 01425 621893 to book a slot. Although there will be some available, if possible, bring your own smartphone, tablet or laptop.

For further information please visit alison.talbot@nfdc.gov.uk

MEMORIAL CENTRE

Referring to the article in last month's FOCUS, not all residents believe that things should remain as they have always been! The Memorial Centre is just that - a place to remember the fallen of the area BUT wouldn't they want all residents (the young and not-so-young) to have somewhere to meet, chat and enjoy? What did they fight for but our freedom to live a carefree, happy life? Because things change it doesn't mean that all that has gone before has been forgotten. I wonder how often the relatives of the fallen visit the Centre's British Legion anteroom to sit in quiet contemplation?

The development of the recreation ground is to be welcomed; what is it for but recreation? The skatepark has been brilliant for the youngsters; where else would they gather? The Pavilion has brought much joy to many - superb for musicians and singers. Have the "grumblers" been to any of the free concerts? Try it - you might be surprised!

New Milton is for ALL residents, so let us all encompass and welcome changes.

On the subject of more eating places, we are in desperate need of somewhere to enjoy a good quality, quiet meal. An evening economy waiting to be realised.

Drag yourselves into the 21st century and be happy. That's what our relatives would have wanted for us. Well done to our forward-looking Council!

Name and address supplied

GRASS CUTTING

In response to your article on grass being cut very short, according to my observations the Town Council seems to have adopted a practice of "strimming" swathes of grass rather than mowing! In my area a section of green space with trees has been largely treated in this way. Instead of just strimming the small "collar" of grass at the base of the trees, the whole area under the canopies has been effectively shaved.

To summarise guidance from the "Gardening Know How" website - "Grass seldom grows well under trees due to the shade. Most types of grass prefer sunlight, which gets blocked out by this shade. As trees grow, the amount of shade increases and eventually the grass beneath begins to die. Grass also competes with trees for moisture and nutrients; therefore the soil becomes drier and less fertile. Rain shielded by the tree's canopy also limits the amount of moisture in the soil. Mowing lessens the chance of grass survival, thus **grass under the canopy should be left higher than surrounding areas** to help retain moisture levels."

Strimming right up to the tree trunks also damages the bark, which allows disease to enter and, *in extremis*, kills the specimen. The base of the hedges around the Rugby Fields have been so aggressively strimmed that much is just bare earth!

Philip Benstead

NEW MILTON CRAFTS AUTUMN FAIR

Your chance to just indulge yourself, get in some early Christmas shopping or seek out that unique gift for someone. The 2016 Fair will be held at the Memorial Centre on Saturday, **8th October. Note the new opening time is from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.** We have many exhibitors joining us for the first time and a wide variety of items for you to peruse and hopefully make purchases.

We often have a couple of cancellations before the event for various reasons so if you fancy giving one of the best and largest craft fairs in the County a try, please give me a call.

Alan Watson, 07771 754025

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FLU JABS

Arnewood Practice: 24th September, 1st and 22nd October. Appointments can be made now.

Health Centre, Spencer Road: Only one clinic, on Saturday, 1st October. Patients are asked to attend at the following allocated times according to surnames so that queues and delays can be avoided

A-B: 9 to 10 a.m. C-E: 10 to 11 a.m.
F-H: 11 a.m. to noon I-M: 12-12.30 p.m.
12.30-1.00 closed
N-Q: 1 to 2 p.m. R-T: 2 to 3 p.m. U-Z: 3 to 4 p.m.

Shingles and pneumonia jabs can be pre-booked to have them on your flu day.

Barton Surgery: 1st October, 5th November, 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (At Lymington Surgery 1st October 9 to 11.30 a.m.).

These are walk-in clinics and no appointment is necessary. However, if these dates are inconvenient, please telephone for weekday appointment.

NEWS FROM ABLE COMMUNITY CARE

"Holiday problems on the rise as people don't get what they've paid for". This is the rather alarming heading on the Citizens Advice Bureau website. Flights which don't exist, hotels next to rubbish dumps and cancelled transfers leaving people stranded are just some of the problems making people's holidays a misery.

The CAB website has a fund of good advice in order to help prevent holidays being ruined - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>.

The benefits of lavender: This is the time of year when the smell of lavender can be found everywhere. However, after the flowers have gone there are still ways to enjoy it by purchasing a small bottle of lavender oil, which has been used for centuries -

- Relax or enjoy a good night's sleep by putting a few drops on a handkerchief or in a bath.
- A few drops massaged into the temples can ease a bad headache.
- Because it's mildly analgesic, the oil can be used to relieve sunburn.
- It is also antibacterial so can be used to soothe skin irritations and spots.
- Lavender moth balls will repel the insects and give clothes a pleasant smell.

According to new figures released by the NHS, the amount it now spends on diabetes drugs has increased

to almost £1 billion a year! It takes up to 10.6% of the cost of prescribed drugs in England, reflecting a rise in the number of people who have contracted the condition.

Question: I have an elderly relative who needs care but has limited means. How can I find out if the Council will pay?

Answer: You can contact her local Council as it is a legal right for a person to request a free assessment of their need for care. Any such care will be identified, checked against national criteria and, if your relative qualifies for care support, a further financial assessment will be carried out. Depending on this, your relative will either be asked to pay for the service she receives, part-pay, or the Council will pay the whole.

Question: My aunt is in a care home and her sight is deteriorating. She cannot get into town for a test so would an optician be prepared to visit her and how much would it cost? She is aged 87.

Answer: The care home Manager can arrange for an optician to see your aunt. As she is confined to the home she qualifies for an NHS-funded mobile sight test and, being over 60, any eye test is free.

Question: I have a Motability car and like to get out and about but need my care workers to drive me. As they change frequently, can I put named care workers on my insurance policy?

Answer: Many people with a Motability car have this problem but it is possible to accommodate those who have different carers who may change regularly. You will need to contact RSA Motability to ask about an Open Policy which allows multiple drivers on the insurance - www.motability.rsagroup.co.uk. Documentary evidence may be required or copies of driving licences. All drivers must meet the scheme's insurance eligibility criteria through the life of the policy.

CHESTNUT COURT REST HOME (Copse Road, New Milton)

Following on recent refurbishment, Becky Wilson (who has worked there for six years and therefore has much experience to contribute) has been appointed the new Manager. There is an open door visiting policy at the Home, so anyone interested to view the facilities will be made welcome. For further information please telephone 620000 or email beckyw@beritazcare.co.uk.



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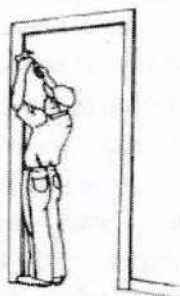
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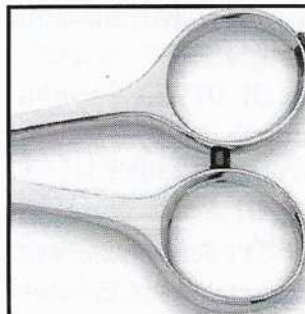
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LIFELINE

In a recent issue mention was made of this "safety at home" scheme run by the NFDC's Appletree Careline. As those using it will know, wearing the gadget round your neck or on your wrist ensures prompt assistance if you feel unwell or have an accident indoors - providing a level of support which is a great comfort.

An additional scheme has now been introduced offering a wristband which provides similar protection **if you are in the garden or out and about**. It is effective wherever you might be in the UK; also useable abroad but whoever calls the UK Careline would need to add +44 to the contact number. As with the home locket/wristband, cover is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can register between now and 31st March 2017 free of charge; nothing to pay until April next year, when the fee will be around £24 p.a., which can't be bad for giving peace of mind. Call 02380 285523 or email appletree.careline@nfdc.gov.uk for a brochure and further information.

LYMINGTON TOWN TOURS - SEPTEMBER (www.lymington-town-tours.co.uk)

Sunday, 4th: "The Walls Walk", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the War Memorial, St. Thomas's Church, finishes on the Quay.

Saturday, 10th: "Secrets of Pennington", 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Starts on the green, junction of Highfield and A337, finishes at Pennington Cross.

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

Sunday, 18th: "Sea, Salt & Smuggling", 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Starts at the Quay Slipway, finishes at the Yacht Club.

Sunday 25th: "The Story of Milford", 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Starts at Milford Green, finishes at the Beach House.

ANCESTRY

When my Nan died the chore of clearing her effects was left to me. She had no money and, apart from a couple of small keepsakes and a photo album for my mother, all her possessions were willed to the Salvation Army. They came in a small van and, in less than an hour, her flat was empty as if she'd never existed - which, having held that down-to-earth, cantankerous old lady in such high regard, I found quite lowering.

Many years later when my mother died in her nursing home after some 20 years in care, again there was no money - her bungalow having been sold long ago to help cover the fees. Everything in her room was left for the use of the Home, and all I took away with me was a rather battered little case which I thought contained only my Nan's and mother's photo albums.

When I felt able to open it up I found it held two other items which were most interesting. The first was a letter written by my Dad to Mum during the war when she spent a few months on evacuation with my sister and me in Bideford. It was a beautifully written, astonishingly affectionate letter which she had obviously cherished and read many times, but I wondered why she had kept that particular one until I noticed what she had written on the back of the envelope - "This just goes to show that, although he doesn't say it very often, he loves us all so much and misses us dreadfully."

The second item covered many pages in the form of a diary kept by my Dad at the age of 18 while on a troopship going to India in World War One ("Why India?", I ask myself). Very non-PC of course by today's standards, describing the places, food, people and their customs as seen through the eyes of a boy who had never strayed far from North London and was seeing strange sights. But, hey!, you can't (or shouldn't!) change history, and that's how things were all those years ago. I felt that such a document shouldn't be binned so wrote to the Imperial War Museum and they were absolutely delighted to display and retain the diary in their archives.

Browsing through the photo albums I found pictures of men stiffly posed and sporting walrus moustaches, ladies richly dressed in Edwardian and Victorian clothes, yet I knew nothing about them at all. Intriguingly, there was a picture of a young man wearing a full bathing costume and a medal round his neck. On the back of it Nan had written "Uncle Sid - he swam for England". Now what was all **that** about?

The moral of this little story? Don't let family history die. Take the opportunity while you can to talk to parents and grandparents about their lives, experiences and memories. Yes, of course you can log on to ancestry-dot-whatever, but how much more emotive and enlightening to get these stories first-hand - go through the family albums with them, put names to faces and take time to investigate your roots. It can be so interesting and rewarding.

Phyllis Inglis

CONCHORD SINGERS

Way back in June we had a gathering of past and present members celebrating 40 happy years since our wonderful choir was created; several founder-members reflecting on how things used to be in their day. It was interesting to hear how the choir was run then compared to today.

We return to the Conservative Club at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th September, ready to start rehearsals for our autumn and Christmas concerts. We have a full diary right through to the end of the year!

Further information on the choir can be obtained from Juanita Woods on 629102.

Sylvia Camp, PR Lady to the Singers

NEW MILTON HEALING GROUP

Quaker Meeting House, Whitefield Road.

Hello everyone! This is just a quick reminder that we will be back again on **7th September**. Please do remember, however, that if at any time you feel you would like a healing and cannot come to us, telephone to arrange a home visit.

Our next dates are 7th and 21st September, 5th and 19th October, 10 a.m. till noon (last healing 11.15). Please try not to come later than 11.15 as we have to be out of the rooms by noon and wish to give you your full time for a healing.

Donations are gratefully received to cover rent and expenses but our time is freely given. Call Anne on 619933 or Hilary on 01202 483329.

Anne Townend

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

At our August meeting Arthur Fairchild described his experiences while serving in the Royal Navy during WW2 when he was part of a crew who had to take a tank landing craft (designed merely to cross the Channel) from Plymouth to Cochin in India. He spoke of the various things they got up to for entertainment, including forming a football team and beating the local team who had invited them, which

caused some problems. When they eventually reached Cochin they were informed that their mission was no longer needed! Apparently, more than a thousand of these vessels were sent, some never made it and were lost at sea.

We have had several "history" talks in the past but this came from a speaker who was part of that history and, at 91 years of age, he gave the whole presentation without reference to notes and included much humour, facts, and sadness!

On **1st September** we have Hazel Fotheringham from the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust telling us about its work, including wildlife and habitat protection. On **6th October** we have invited Rob Curtis to give us a light-hearted look at "A social History of Sanitation" - an important facility!

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

PARLEZ-VOUS DEUTSCH?

Are you interested in French or German? If so, language courses are held at the Community Centre, starting again this month:-

French (intermediate) - Mondays 10 a.m. till noon, from 5th September.

French (beginners/improvers) - Mondays 12 till 1 p.m. from 5th September.

German (improvers) - Tuesdays 10 to 11.30 a.m. from 6th September.

You can just turn up, and the **first "taster" class is free**. Further information available from Susanne Platt on 612680.

NEW MILTON TALKING NEWSPAPER

We will be manning a stand at the forthcoming Open Sight "Sight Loss Information & Equipment Event", taking place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, **13th September**, at **Milford-On-Sea** Community Centre. Free entry. Refreshments available. We will be delighted to chat with anybody about our news recordings for people with sight impairment difficulties and, of course, it's a great opportunity to see the vast range of aids and equipment available.

For further details about the Event itself contact Open Sight on 02380 646380 or pam.bateman@opensight.org.uk.

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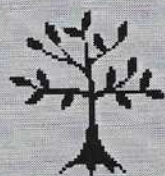


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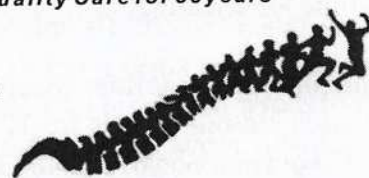
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BASHLEYWI

We have moved from Bashley Village Hall to the New Milton Community Centre. The reason for this is to attract new members who would like to join us but find it too difficult to get to Bashley.

We meet at 2 p.m. on the second Friday of the month and have some great speakers booked for forthcoming sessions.

A chance for you to make new friends, so just turn up on the day or contact Muriel Wallace on 629042 for further information.

NEW MILTON FRIENDS GROUP

Further to my introduction to the Group last month, I would now like to take this opportunity to update you on our work over the past two months.

We have made much-valued donations to First Opportunities in Ashley, a pre-school for children with special needs (£750), Christian Against Poverty in Lymington, a charity group offering a teaching/work related service to homeless people (£500), Arnewood School, to support students on their charity aid trip to Zambia (£300), and the Honeypot Children's Charity in Exbury, to buy catering equipment for their new underprivileged kids' holiday camp in the New Forest (£300). Also, as previously reported, £750 was donated to the New Milton First Responders for the purchase of a paramedic first aid kit - a newly-formed group of trained volunteers who attend local emergencies and provide basic life support until an ambulance arrives.

However, to do all this we must commit ourselves to raise the necessary funding and, in this respect, a Cabaret Evening has been arranged featuring Joe Coombes as our Elton John tribute act and TV comedian Paul T. Eyres. This will take place at Hoburne Holiday Park, Bashley, on Thursday, **20th October**, with doors opening at 6.30 for an 8 p.m. start. A good food bar will be available. Tickets at £12.50 can be obtained from Hardy's Electrical in New Milton or from Janet on 626047.

We also have our regular car boot venues, the next being on Sunday, **24th August**, at Fawcetts Field, New Milton. Sellers at 6.30 a.m., buyers at 7 o'clock. £5 per car, entrance by donation. Refreshments available onsite.

A Quiz Night will be held at Highcliffe Golf Club on Wednesday, **9th November**, 6.30 for 7 p.m. Hot food available, prizes and raffle. Tickets at £10 per person are available from Janet on 626047.

Do put these dates in your diaries to come and support us.

For further information call me or visit www.newmiltonfriendsgroup.org.uk.

Graham Fearis, Chairman, 610916

NEW MILTON U3A

Members attending our last meeting enjoyed a presentation by the Chapter & Verse Company entitled "Eat Drink and be Merry for tomorrow we diet". The Company raises money for the Winchester Churches Night Shelter.

Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **28th September**, at the Memorial Centre when a talk will be given by the Senior Maasai, telling us about his life and customs. This should be very interesting so why not come and join us? A good opportunity to socialise and we have some new groups starting which could be of interest to you.

Evelyn Lamb, 839885

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

At its July meeting Secretary Roger Osbury was thanked for organising a successful founders' annual lunch at the Lord Bute as well as an enjoyable visit to the Ringwood Brewery. At the expense of volunteer drivers, members were able to try some of the many brews available!

Due to refurbishment of Hoburne Park (the Club's usual venue) a unanimous decision was made to move monthly meetings to the South Lawn Hotel in Milford, which hosts two other Probus Clubs.

At the meeting speaker Dr. Ian Dickins, a retired University lecturer, gave a presentation on "From Canal Lock to Gridlock", reviewing transport history since the 1800s. Some 250 years ago the transport revolution began with development of the canals; 100 years later came the railways and 50 years ago saw introduction of the motorways.

The irony is that, even today, it can take just as long to make some journeys! A most interesting and thought-provoking talk, enjoyed by everyone.

The Club welcomes new members so, for further details, please contact Secretary Mike Crook on 617772 or visit www.newmiltonprobusclub.co.uk.

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Following our summer break our next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, **19th September**, at the Community Centre. The talk will cover the life of Jane Austen and her Hampshire family.

Visitors will be welcomed and if further information is required please contact Janet Litten on 617052.

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BARTON ON SEA TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our next meeting will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st September, at Barton Methodist Church Hall, welcoming the return of a favourite speaker Mr. John Lewis on the subject of "Off The Beaten Track". We can promise his pictures will be breathtakingly beautiful! Tea, sales table, raffle and competition. Visitors and new members welcome.

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 **12th September** we shall welcome Louise Fay from the British Red Cross who will conduct an Everyday First Aid training session for us. Do come along for some expert advice as well as a relaxed, social afternoon with fellow-carers. Tea and biscuits served. No charge!

For further information on our various activities please contact Maggie on 614714.

CHESS

The Chess Club, which meets at 2 p.m. on Thursdays at the Community Centre, continues to expand. Several members who have not played before are finding that, with tuition, the game is easier than expected. A stimulating way to pass an afternoon so, whether you have played before or are a complete beginner, why not join us? Contrary to what some believe, this is **not** a man's game, and ladies will be most welcome. Your first "taster" visit will be free of charge; subsequently it will cost you only £1 for the two-hour session.

Just turn up or if you would like further information please contact Ken Clark on 613666.

NEW MILTON MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP NEEDS HELD!!

The problem of sight loss through macular degeneration has received nationwide publicity in recent years. Sadly, as we live longer more of us will have personal experience of this or perhaps have relatives and friends who are affected. In New Milton we are just one of over 300 groups of fellow-sufferers who seek to offer support, company and encouragement.

Our main activities centre around a schedule of monthly meetings held at the Community Centre providing a varied programme - medical, musical and social. It is our belief that humour is often the best medicine and that social contact helps to combat despair.

All are welcome to our meetings; there is no

requirement to join our National Society but we welcome the fact that many choose to do so. All we ask is that attendees pay £2 a session towards room hire and refreshments.

Currently we see around 50 people each month, but the present committee (which has led the group for almost ten years) is not getting any younger and has recently been badly hit by bereavement and ill health. However successful our past may have been we are looking for "reinforcements" - namely reasonably energetic people with some personal experience or understanding of visual problems.

If you would like to know more or may be interested in helping, please do contact me.

Malcolm Swan, 618925

EWE 2 CLUB

Our group enjoys spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, etc, meeting in New Milton, Sway and Lymington. Come and join us to find out what we do; all welcome, whether beginners or experienced. The next meeting in New Milton will take place at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, **15th September**, at the Community Centre.

Further details from ewe2club@yahoo.co.uk.

LITERATURE GROUP

After our summer break we return on **5th October** to explore more of the rich seam of novels from the 19th century: Bronte, Gaskell and Eliot. We meet from 2 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Community Centre. For further information call Janet Giles on 07719 606358

NEW MILTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Come and join us for what promises to be a fascinating first lecture of our 2016/7 season - "Masterpieces in Chinese Landscape Painting".

Speaker Professor Marie Conte-Helm, OBE, will help us to discover this less well-known genre of painting as she charts the development evolution of an important tradition, and its essential elements of mountains and water or "shan sui".

By introducing a range of examples from different periods, the lecture will reveal ways of "reading" Chinese landscape painting, understanding the differences in content, style and philosophical inspiration which have contributed to this unique artistic genre.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, **8th September**, at the Memorial Centre. Coffee is



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Visitors are very welcome at a charge of £6. Further details are available from the Membership Secretary on 614409, newmilton@dfas.org.uk, or our website <http://newmilton.dfas.org.uk>.

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUND.

Last year the weather for our Open Garden event was against us, and this year we were hampered by unforeseen technical problems which affected the music. Nevertheless, all was not lost and we raised a magnificent £800.

Our Mongolian visitors told us something of their lives and how the Foundation has helped the children in terms of health, education and general well-being. They were very impressed to learn of all the hard work that goes on here to raise the money necessary.

A huge "thank you" for all the ongoing support coming from FOCUS readers. Please do keep letting us have cameras, binoculars, unwanted costume jewellery, knitting wool, fabric, musical instruments AND wheelchairs or other walking aids. Contact Anne Mason on 626112 or myself.

Anne would also be delighted to hear from anyone willing to sponsor or "joint" sponsor a child, which costs £20 per month. We are particularly looking for a sponsor for a family who have twin boys and a 4-year-old son who cannot stand properly due to rickets.

Jackie Preis, 613708

CHRISTCHURCH & NEW FOREST NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Rob Curtiss recently entertained members with an illustrated talk about Thomas Hardy (1840-1928). He led a literary life, writing a huge number of poems and novels; Grandmother Mary, Mother Jemima and Teacher Mrs. Martin encouraging him to study.

As a child living in Lower Bockhampton, Hardy saw many things which were wound into his stories. He also played the violin at family gigs which produced lively sections in novels where country yokels played jolly tunes. Having studied architecture in London mainly in regard to churches, he returned to the south-west where he met and married his wife Emma. Returning to London, Hardy went through a phase when Napoleonic matters interested him, reflected in

Trumpet Major. A stay in Wimbourne in 1881 inspired the Mayor of Casterbridge. Later came The Woodlanders, written at his home, Maxgate, and Tess of the Durbervilles, which had a mixed reception. His dark and depressing novel Jude The Obscure was severely criticised.

Hardy liked the ladies and three of them figured strongly in his life. Florence Henniker he met when young and after Emma died he married young Florence Dugdale who adored and cared for him in his old age despite his depression.

When he died of a heart attack in 1928 his wish to have his heart buried in Stinsford was respected, but his cremated remains were buried in the Poets Corner of Westminster Abbey. Now, a statue in Dorchester and a "whistler" window in Stinsford Church pay tribute to him.

Shirley Burke, 628992

NMRACIA (COMMUNITY IN ACTION)

Following on from our successful Quiz Night in June, we are now pleased to present a **Big Band Swing Night** featuring the popular New Forest Big Band. This event will take place on Saturday, **29th October**, at the Memorial Centre. Doors open at 7.15 for an 8 p.m. start.

Please do make a note of this in your diary and join us to enjoy music, dance and more. It promises to be a great evening of entertainment. A bar will be available. Tickets at £10 available from the Memorial Centre on Marie Morgan on 501315.

ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 26th November: Christmas Festival Crafts & Gifts Fair, 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the Memorial Centre.

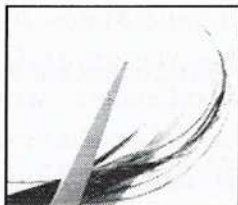
Sunday, 27th November: Byron Road Christmas Lights Switch-On from 4 p.m.

Saturday, 3rd December: New Milton Christmas Festival in the town centre, Station Road, Old Milton Road and the recreation ground between 12 noon and the town lights switch-on at 5.15 p.m. approximately.

The Christmas Festival will give many more the chance to be a part of and enjoy the event even more than in previous years. You will be encouraged to take part in the Adults' and Children's Santa/Fancy Dress Fun Runs being organised to support "Pilgrim Bandits" - the New Milton-based charity which helps and supports injured soldiers. Nothing too serious, strenuous or competitive

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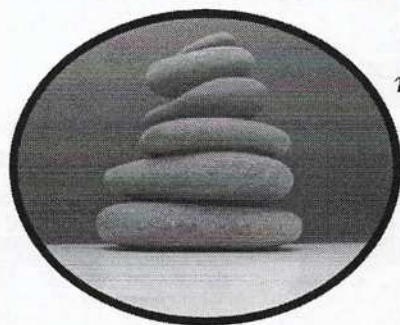
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- just a chance for you to have fun whether as a participant or spectator. We also encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to join us in the Lions Club Lantern Parade which will culminate in the Christmas lights switch-on across the town.

For more details about these great events later in the year, visit www.newmilton.net. Some stalls are still available for the 26th November Craft Fair and, of course, for the Festival itself, but bookings will close shortly.

**New Milton Town Partnership
Festival Steering Group, 07771754025**

CAR BOOT SALES

Sundays 4th and 25th September: Elm Avenue car park (behind Hayward Fox estate agents). Sellers after 8.30 a.m. Cars £5. Buyers 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Good quality bric-a-brac needed (no clothes) and will collect. Contact Chris on 628937 evenings. In aid of New Milton Stroke Group and Neighbourcare New Milton (providing medically-related transport).

TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday, 10th September: Outside Boots on Station Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items for sale can be collected by calling Chris on 628937 evenings. In aid of New Milton Stroke Group.

Quotes of the Month

"The key to success in show business is sincerity. Once you can fake that you've got it made!"

Bob Monkhouse

"If you lived in Sheffield and were called Sebastian you had to learn to run fast at a very early age".

Sebastian Coe, Olympic Gold Medal Winner

"Kindness is something which the deaf can hear and the blind can see"

Mark Twain

"Others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do would rather die on our feet than live on our knees"

Franklin Roosevelt

A LOVELY DAY

I wish to go one sunny day
To a place not far away
To Barton by the sea
And there I'll have ice cream and tea
Then I'll sit upon the green
And gaze upon the lovely scene
The Isle of Wight shows clear and bright
And really is a pleasing sight
I'll watch the seagulls in the sky
As they fly and glide so high

Then study the vast shimmering sea
And wonder how it came to be
A special way to spend a day
Enjoyable in every way

James Cade, New Milton

TRAVELLING LIGHT

My hubby and I are off on our hols
And I'm ready to pack the cases
I'm looking forward to a nice break
New sights, new sounds, new faces
He delivers his annual sermon
Shakes his grey head with a sigh
"Remember, my dear, only pack what we need
Or our plane will fall out of the sky!"
So I started with lightweight essentials
Nighties, underwear, tights
My horseshoe shaped pillow
To comfort my head in the night
Then sundresses, jacket, cardies and slacks
Something formal with sleeves, and a hat
Sandals, high heels, slippers and pumps
Think I'll get by with all that
But I mustn't forget my tablets
Arranged in a day-by-day box
I need sun cream and insect repellent
Creaky-knee gel and some socks
I've bought a lovely new long dress
(Remembered to remove the price tag!)
In goes my swimwear, skirts, scarves and tops
And my favourite essential beach bag
I've included some tea bags and marmite
Toilet rolls, torch, tapestry kit
A photo of the grandchildren
I really must make it all fit
I'll take my flask and alarm clock
Binoculars, notebook, pencil case
Camera, dressing gown, toilet bag
With soap, flannel, toothbrush and paste
I'll sneak in my recently bought Kindle
I really enjoy a good read
There must be things I've forgotten
Just hope they're what I won't need
I struggle to zip up the cases
And with a last breathless gasp
Manage to close them completely
And force the lock onto the clasp
Now my husband is standing before me
Sadly he seems in a huff
He moans through clenched teeth
"Just a minute -
You've forgotten to pack all MY stuff!"

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A HELPING HAND

I wish the world could be a better place
With love between nations regardless of race
Let the fighting stop and friendship begin
To care for your neighbour is such a kind thing
So many people need help these days
We can be of service in so many ways
Now old Mr. Willerby, who's in some pain
Is waiting to have his hip done again
I get his prescriptions and food for a week
And sometimes a cream cake just for a treat
Mrs. Tate's bunions have just been done
I'll pop in to see her - I promised her son!
Frail Mrs. Carey loves a ride in my car
Providing the journey isn't too far
She sits up straight so she can be seen
Waves her hand, pretends she's the Queen
Miss Moon waits for me in her new wheelchair
We'll go to the park 'cos she loves the fresh air
I guess a knock on the door and a friendly smile
Makes the old folk happy, at least for a while
On Fridays I look after young Sarah Jane
While her mother goes for a scan once again
There are always dear friends who live far away
So I write lots of letters to brighten their day
As I climb into bed I give a big sigh
I'm tired but happy - Can you guess why?

Diane Claire, Milford

THE PROPERTY LADDER

My parents bought their first house
Just after they were wed
A brand new semi it was
With bathroom - a 3-bed
A kitchen and dining room, nice hallway too
A lovely long garden with open country view
When my husband and I bought our first house
A semi we thought took some beating
It cost five times more than my parents' house
But ours had central heating!
When our children's turn came to buy a house
Things had really changed
Ten times more than ours - for a terrace!
A semi was out of their range
And so as many years went by
We got less and less for our money
But now and then something happens
Which makes even inflation seem funny
We recently made a purchase
Not a luxury item, for sure
It cost three times as much as my parents' house
What was it? A new back door!!

Pauline Withers

FOR YOUR DIARY

Brendoncare Get Together Club

(2 to 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall)

7th September: Talk from "Animals Voice", Animal Rescue Charity.

21st September: "Hat Trick" singers entertain.

Saturday, 3rd September: RNLI Sale of Christmas cards, calendars and diaries. 10 a.m. till noon at the Community Centre.

Thursday, 8th September: New Forest Tinnitus Group. Topics decided by members, e.g. relaxation, tai chi, reflexology, sleep therapy. £2 per session includes refreshments. Contact jan.petty@ntlworld.com.

Monday, 12th September: New Milton Macular Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. Community Centre. Denise Edwards will talk about her career as a stunt performer on film and TV. Contact Malcolm Swan on 618925.

Sunday, 18th September: Dementia Tea Club, 2 to 4 p.m. at Bupa Ashley Lodge, Golden Hill, Ashley. Suggested donation of £2.50 per person. Contact Susan Wiffen on 07884 300641; suechef@live.co.uk

Tuesday, 27th September: New Forest Organ Society. 7.15 p.m. at All Saints Parish Church, Milford. Concert with Chris Powell. Contact Keith Evans on 612515.

Wednesday, 28th September: Police Surgery 10.30 a.m. at the Community Centre. Even if you have no particular concerns, you are welcome to pop in and meet your local bobby.

Thursday, 29th September: "Frank Sinatra - His Way". Robert Habermann tells the story of Ol' Blue-eyes' life and the hits that made him famous. 2.30 p.m. at the Forest Arts Centre. Tickets £8 (£7 conc.). Booking Office 612393.

Thursday, 29th September: Coffee Morning, 10 a.m. till noon, at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Preserves, cards, etc. **Our recent Fete went very well, making a profit of £250.**

Tuesday, 4th October: RNLI Bingo Evening with Fish & Chip Supper. 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre. Tickets £9 from Weldon & King Estate Agents. Book early to get a seat!

Thursday, 13th October: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Presented by the Pantaloons Theatre Company. 7.30 p.m. Forest Arts Centre. Tickets £13 (£12 conc.). Booking Office 612393.

Saturday, 29th October: C.I.A. Big Band Swing Night featuring the New Forest Big Band. Bar opens at 7.15 for 8 p.m. start. Tickets at £10 available from the Memorial Centre, 07771 754025 and 01425 501315. Book early for this always popular event.

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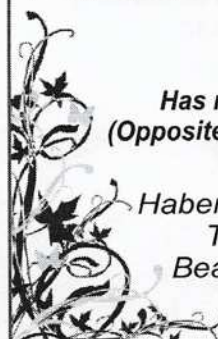
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