

New Milton & District Community Association



NEWSLETTER

Address: Osborne Road, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 6EA
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Registered charity No. 301897

APRIL, 2018

Sections And Activities

Art

Ballroom Dancing

Bowls

Bridge

Canasta

Chess

Come Dancing

Craft

Cribbage

Darts

Discussion Group

Fabric Crafts

Jubilee Singers

Languages

Line Dancing

Literature

Lunch Club

Mah Jong

Mens Get Together

NM & District

Camera Club

Pianists

Poetry

Rummikub

Scrabble

Sequence Dancing

*Social Sequence
Dancing*

Table Tennis

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I do hope you enjoyed the early Easter break and spoilt yourselves with buns and chocolates. Worry afterwards about whether you will now get into your summer clothes!

First of all, a little nag! There have been a few instances recently where requests for amendments to the Newsletter have **not** come directly to myself as Editor, and I've learned of them second-hand - resulting in unnecessary delays as well as misunderstandings.

A particular case in point involves the taster voucher which appears each month. Wording for the voucher was agreed in committee and no thought was given at that time to the fact that members might try to use the voucher for affiliate and "outside hirer" activities. This did happen, however, which caused some annoyance. The request to amend the voucher's wording was sent to the Chairman, and so by the time it reached me it was too late to alter the March Newsletter.

If you do need to change anything (or indeed make any comment) please either phone, email or put a note in my pigeonhole, and so avoid confusion. I don't bite!!

Before we know it our AGM will be here, so please make a note in your diary now that it will be held at 7 p.m. Friday. **8th June**. Because of this there will be no section activities that evening.

Very regrettably, nobody has so far come forward to take up the role of Chairman or even consider joining the Executive Committee with the idea of becoming Chair after a period of familiarisation. Marie Morgan will definitely not continue to "stand in" beyond the AGM. Of course, the committee will continue to function, but for an organisation like this to operate without a Chairman indicates a rather sorry state of affairs.

There have been increasing problems regarding people using our **car park** without permission or displaying the necessary permit. It is **most** regrettable to report that, when our caretakers and Reception volunteers have attempted to check a problem, they have been met with verbal abuse and even physical violence, which is quite unacceptable. If you wish to use our limited parking facilities, do please obtain a parking permit

Website: <http://www.newmiltoncommunity.org.uk>

Email: info@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

from Reception and ensure it is displayed prominently on your windscreen.

Contrary to what some may think, it has to be pointed out that **members do NOT “run” the Association!** This responsibility lies with the Executive Committee which you have elected for that purpose and to provide facilities within the Centre generally acceptable to all. Certainly, the committee’s aim is to accommodate members’ wishes as far as possible, but it faces the quite impossible task of trying to please everybody. A couple of cases as an example.....

Some time ago, acting on comments that the Centre seemed a bit dull and not very welcoming to people coming in (especially on quiet or miserable days) piped music was provided in the foyer. Immediately there were complaints from people who didn’t like the classics, country and western or even “easy listening”. And so the music stopped.

Again, hearing people say that the Common Room was too big and impersonal when nothing much was happening, decorative screens were purchased to divide the room into smaller, friendlier areas with flowers on the tables. What happened? Some members apparently objected and took it upon themselves to move the screens and flowers out of the way.

Obviously, the committee wouldn’t want to continue anything of which the **majority** of members disapprove, but one wonders just how many complaints were behind those two initiatives being dropped.

Anyone feeling strongly enough about something to make a complaint will now be asked to complete a formal Complaints Form from Reception. The committee will review it and, where necessary, take action. Going this route will mean that changes won’t be quickly made in answer to a few random moans as against what most members find acceptable.

Similarly, if anyone would like to propose a new activity or facility which could enhance the Centre and make it more welcoming and attractive, there is a suggestion box in the foyer.

Many residents will be sorry to learn that **Dorothy’s Café** (opposite the Arnewood Practice) is to close its doors after providing home-cooked, comforting food for 75 years. It will be missed!

In the Affiliates News section you will find a summarised writeup on the **New Milton Residents’ Association** AGM/General Meetings, held last month. Do check it out as it covers items of general interest to residents.

St. George’s Day Concert: A reminder about what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon. As it is being organised by the Jubilee Singers, see their article for details.

One-To-One Computer Support: Apparently the session times given in the last two issues of the Newsletter were incorrect. They are held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

I must mention a word of **praise to Tesco!** I succumbed to the dreaded flu bug mid-February, just when I needed to sharpen my wits in order to complete the March Newsletter. After lying in bed for several days wondering if I was facing my last hours on earth, I gave myself a strict talking-to and made the effort to go to Tesco’s, Wrong decision! After tottering up and down just two aisles I realised I badly needed to sit down but all the checkouts were busy and I couldn’t get through to a chair. What happened next I really have no idea, for one minute I was drooping over my trolley, the next I found myself seated with a glass of water in my hand and two young female staff fussing over me. One of them completed my shopping and checked it out while the other asked if I was going to be OK at home, did they need to call someone for me,

etc. They sat with me for a while, then helped me to my car, transferred the shopping, and remained until I felt well enough to drive home. All very helpful and efficient, and I was so grateful for their attention. Apparently staff are first-aid trained because a surprising number of people are taken ill in the store.

So, if you happen to feel unwell at Tesco's you can be sure of some very competent and sympathetic aid, which is nice to know.

Phyllis Inglis

FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

I had hoped to start my April report by welcoming Spring, but perhaps that was wishful thinking! So I will start by saying we had a very successful New Members Evening last month. The weather was rather unkind but the Common Room looked warm and inviting. Appreciative thanks must go to Pam Badcock, who was responsible for the catering and decorations. Brochures and the Newsletter were distributed, and committee members explained what the Centre has to offer. Four of our sections were represented - the Art Group's Chairman Barry Richardson, Chess Group's Geoff Tilston, Jubilee Singers' Janet Trow and Table Tennis Chairman Glen Kennedy. Each gave a short description of their activity and new members were invited to take part,

making use of the Taster Voucher to see what might interest them.

I have been trying to visit various sections in my "acting" capacity and last month looked in on the Beading Group. What a talented lot of ladies they are, producing a variety of items. A very friendly group who welcomed me and described what they do while, at the same time, enjoying themselves.

I would like to emphasise what the Editor has said about the **car park**. This an ongoing problem since, with a membership of more than 1,000 and so many activities taking place, there are going to be times when we cannot find a space in our very small car park. Whilst it helps to identify a legitimate member, having a parking permit does not guarantee a space! Also, we do have three designated bays reserved for visitors/speakers which are clearly shown as such and need to be observed. **Please do not ignore the notices and take up those spaces. It is very embarrassing for the section involved if their speaker has nowhere to park, even though a space was promised.** Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

I will continue to be at the Centre each Friday morning

for the next month or so, happy to have a chat with you and get your suggestions and feedback.

Marie Morgan

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SEC.

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership and completed the renewal form which has enabled us to update your contact details.

Membership is required for you to take part in the activities provided by the Association. Do use the Taster Voucher to try them out. Affiliated organisations and external hirers set their own attendance requirements so the Voucher cannot be used.

Affiliated organisations have the added benefit of being able to publicise their activities in the Newsletter and on our notice boards. This apparently does cause some confusion among members, so the simple answer is to check first!

Nigel King

FROM THE WEBMASTER

The April issue of the Newsletter is available on the website Home page, previous issues on the Newsletter page which includes all issues back to July 2016, as well as one for March 2016 and August/September 2003!

The increase from 8 to 12 pages is just the latest amendment. The 2003 issue was bi-monthly and consisted of 16 pages but only half the current page size and claiming to be number 253. If the previous 252 issues were also bi-monthly, that would make issue number 1 having been produced in 1961. Does anyone have number 1 or any previous issues? If so I would like to borrow them so that they can be scanned and included on the website for all to read.

Have a look at the 15-year-old version and see how some things have changed whilst others have not.

Nigel King

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Reports:

More people say they are enjoying the extended Newsletter, also reading online and downloading it.

Due to bad weather closure, the Centre lost £350 but it was projected that surplus of income over expenditure this year would be at 2017 levels.

Some windows had blown during the cold weather and need to be replaced.

New members so far this year totalled 76, bringing membership to 1,107.

Recruitment/Development:

Nobody has put their name forward for Chairmanship, and the way forward after the AGM was discussed. The vacancy for a Building Maintenance Coordinator

was outlined in the Newsletter; discussion on whether this should be a paid role if no volunteers come forward.

Specific issues:

Importance of car park permits being displayed and action which can be taken.

List on the notice board indicating where the taster voucher cannot be accepted.

Non-affiliate organisations are asking for posters to be displayed on our notice boards. Agreed that such items can be accepted if community-based and space is available (not guaranteed).

Colin Bower

FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Rather belated but most grateful thanks to the 16 members who very gallantly took down the Christmas decorations in my absence. Now that I'm back I will try to get around to thank them personally. I was very touched by such consideration.

Wanted! Again a bit late in the day but I am appealing to anyone who may be moving or having a turn-out.

The Centre could do with some more Christmas trees - the sort which has its branches attached and just unfolds (we do have the more time-consuming ones with attached branches). Should you be in the position of wanting to

dispose of the quick-assembly variety please leave your name and number with Reception and I will arrange to call you and collect.

Pam Badcock

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Tell your friends about us!

As a member you can take advantage of the following:-

Informative Welcome Pack

Range of activities

Taster option for activities

Café/meeting place

Monthly Newsletter

Noticeboard detailing events

Website

Book/jigsaw puzzle sales

Use of Wi-Fi/computer

Volunteering opportunities

By joining the Association you are helping to keep it and our activities thriving. Can you help in any other way? Our volunteers are our most valuable asset - without them we could not exist. Find out more from Reception or <http://www.newmiltoncommunity.org.uk/>

POLICE SURGERY

One hour from 10.30 a.m. Wednesday, **28th March**. Local officers will be pleased to see you.

FILM SHOW

"Paddington 2", 2 for 2.30 p.m. start, Sunday, **22nd April**. Animation, adventure and comedy with Hugh Grant and Hugh Bonnerville. £2.50 includes tea/coffee.

CANGO BUS SERVICE

This needs to be used more often if it is to continue as a viable facility. It provides transport to all, covering trips to Lymington Hospital and other hard-to-access areas. Drivers are helpful and friendly; buggies and wheelchairs can be accommodated. You do need to book, however, between 7 and 9 a.m. for the service which runs Monday through Saturday. If you would like to know more about this very useful facility please call 01590 682223 or 07765 200 370. A descriptive leaflet including a timetable will be sent to you.

PASSPORTS

Be prepared to pay more for your passport from now on unless you order it online! £75.50 online, £85 by post!

HELP FROM YOUR PHARMACY

Pharmacy teams play a key role in providing quality healthcare and clinical expertise. They can give advice on minor ailments and help you decide if you should seek professional help. Our surgeries are always very busy so, if you have a problem or concern, check with your pharmacy first before trying to make that appointment.

AGE SPACE

This is a one-stop online facility for anything related to elderly care advice. They do

the hard work for you, researching the best organisations, resources and information to guide you in making the best decisions about care/support for parents and relatives. They have a friendly forum where you can ask questions and on their website they have blogs written by experts and people who have also had to find their way around the care maze. For information go to www.agespace.org.

CARELINE

Many of you will be familiar with the pendant or wristband which you can wear to summon assistance if you are taken ill or have an accident indoors. Did you know, though, that an ID wristband is available for when you are out and about - even if you are on holiday or visiting away from home?

For information and an explanatory leaflet contact the New Forest District Council's Appletree Careline on 02380 8028 5523; or visit appletree.careline@nfdc.gov.uk; newforest.gov.uk/appletreecareline

News from the Sections & Activities

ART

Contact: Chairman Barry Richardson, newmiltonartgroup@gmail.com
The Group has elected its first President! Jan Wells, a member for 48 years, was unanimously elected at the AGM in February. Before she joined, Jan was placed

on a waiting list for a year! In honour of her election the Group is planning to hold a special President's Day at the Community Centre on Wednesday, **28th March**. Invited guests will join Art Group members for a fun afternoon of speeches, competitions and presentations.

The non-profit-making Art Group is made up of 54 members from New Milton and the surrounding areas, and we presently have vacancies for six new members.

Our aim is, within a social environment, to facilitate learning and for the development of artistic/painting skills. Meetings are held every Wednesday from 2 to 4.15 p.m. at the Community Centre for our painting sessions, and we welcome everyone from the complete beginner to accomplished artists. Our members enjoy working in all media, including watercolours, oils, acrylics, pencil and pastels.

We are a social group, not a teaching class as such, but we do have volunteers, each being capable artists, available to offer help and guidance on request.

Occasional demonstrations are arranged throughout the year, given by professional guest artists or one of our "in house" experts, whose varied styles and helpful hints inspire us all.

Above and beyond the New Milton & District Community Association membership, there is an annual £2 subscription to the Group and £1 per week on attendance. The first "taster" session is free!

Whatever your skill level, you are guaranteed a warm welcome. Do contact me for further information.

BALLROOM/LATIN WITH SOME SEQUENCE

Contact: Pam Badcock, 01202 980177

Submitting this in time for the Newsletter copy deadline means that I can't report on our AGM, held on 22nd March, so I would like to thank those standing down from the Thursday Night Committee for their time and hard work. I also welcome those who have been brave enough to put their names forward for election to join the stalwart bodies continuing to serve.

Looking forward to another excellent year of dancing.

BOWLS

Contact: Janet Keats, 614996

The recent skittles event at Hoburne Bashley was well-attended. The highest scoring man was Brian Goodchild and highest scoring lady was Pat Willis. The winning team consisted of Mike Dean, June Merryweather, Liz Hawes, June Jones, Christine Hopkins, Pat Willis and Jeff Perkins. The trophy for the highest overall score was presented to Brian Goodchild. Many thanks to all who donated raffle prizes which raised £83 to be donated to charity.

The list for the John Chambers Memorial Cup competition is on the Bowls notice board, so will you please add your name soon so that the competition format can be prepared. John was a key member of the section so please do give your support in his memory. Hopefully, it will become an annual event.

The Bowls section AGM will be held at 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday, **9th May**.

We play indoor bowls every Monday to Friday when new members are always welcome to come and join us.

BRIDGE

Contact: Christopher Fradd, 614605

Despite illness, injury, difficult weather conditions and other factors, practically all of our bridge sessions have continued at their usual times each week. Whilst this in itself has been gratifying, our best wishes go out to those who have been suffering.

At the Social Bridge afternoon in February, winners were Sheila Purkiss and Elaine Davies, the runners-up being Margaret Rawling and Eve Axtell. In March, Social Bridge was held during an unseasonable, quite severe snowstorm, but we nevertheless had six tables, and winners were Pat Day and Rosemarie De Wet. Runner-up Barbara Matthews was playing solo with the assistance of a succession of roving dummies.

This month Social Bridge will be held on Saturday, **21st**. Starting time will again be 1.30 p.m. but do note that doors open at 1 p.m. so it is good to arrive early if you possibly can so that everything is ready for a prompt start.

All other bridge sessions are planned to continue as usual during April except that there will be no Chicago bridge on 2nd April, Easter Bank Holiday Monday!

COME DANCING

Contact: June, 07791 336446

If you haven't already done so, please make a note that the section AGM will be held at around 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, **10th April**, when we break for refreshments. The AGM gives members an opportunity to put

forward ideas and suggestions to the committee as well as voice any concerns which they may have. Please do give us your support by attending.

The days are getting longer with lighter evenings, and our thoughts turn to (hopefully!) drier and brighter weather. The Spring Party Dance gives us a chance to cheer ourselves up with the option of wearing bright colours and flowery outfits. To be held on **15th May**, tickets will be available after 15th April at the usual price of £2.50 for section members, £3 for Community Association members and visitors. Please come and join us. A free raffle is included in the ticket price but bring along your own refreshments for the evening.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Contacts: Bob Dowling, 838523, Colin Bower, 613254

At 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month our small, friendly group of men and women meet to discuss topics in the news. Last month we talked about the UK's options following the poisoning of a Russian spy and his daughter in Salisbury. We also discussed charging more for local public services rather than cutting them, the case for and against decriminalising the use of drugs and the possibility of reintroducing convalescent homes.

Topics for our meeting on **10th April** are:-

1. What is the case for re-nationalising the railways?
2. Are we heading for a cashless and cheque-less society?
3. Does inter-generational unfairness exist in this country and, if so, how should the government redress the balance?

JUBILEE SINGERS

Contact: Liz Northcote, 621519

Our visit to Avon Reach Care Home at Mundeford last month went very well with a small but appreciative audience who joined in some of the songs.

The choir's annual lunch visit to the Lord Bute in Highcliffe last month had to be rescheduled due to the bad weather.

A reminder that the St. George's Day celebration at the Community Centre will take place on **23rd April** in the Common Room. Tickets at £5 are now on sale at Reception. The choir will sing a few English songs followed by afternoon tea, and afterwards everyone can join in a sing-song!

As mentioned before, our summer concerts this year will be on Saturday **12th** and Wednesday **23rd May** at the Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale at Reception from 4th April. The gap between concerts is due to the Royal Wedding and FA Cup Final on 19th May.

LANGUAGES

Spanish - April

Contact: Ana Humphries, ana_humphries@hotmail.com

Conversation: 10 a.m. 1 hr.

Beginners: 11.15 a.m. 1 hr.

Mondays, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Improvers: 10 a.m. 1 hr.

Beginners: 11.15 a.m. 1 hr.

Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

LINE DANCING

Contact: Alan joy, 477246

It is with much sadness that we report the loss of a long-standing member, Rose Alcock. She had bravely fought her illness and died in

early February. We send our sympathy to her husband and family.

On a happier note it was nice to see so many at the first class and note how well they have improved. They are now doing more challenging dances, thanks to Nicky.

There will be some changes to the class times. First class 12.15 to 2 p.m., second class 2.15 to 4 p.m. More updates at the meetings.

Do contact me if you have any enquiries.

LITERATURE

Contact: Secretary Janet Giles

The group has now broken up until the autumn, recommencing in October.

LUNCH CLUB

Contact: Jean Gales

Thank you so much for the kind remarks you make about the lunches we provide. Your appreciation goes a long way to keeping us volunteers happy and feeling needed.

We were pleased to welcome a few new faces and hope they will continue to attend our monthly get-togethers.

We are sorry to lose Tina's help, but she finds that her husband's needs must come first. We all say a big "thank you" to her for her years of dedication to the Centre, and wish her and John all the best in the future.

If anyone has special dietary needs please let Reception know when you buy your ticket. Please note they don't go on sale until the first of the month.

Our next lunch will be on **19th April** - fish, chips and peas and a dessert.

POETRY

Contact: Shirley Burke, 628992. Our most recent gathering was good fun as the topic was "Humour & Limericks". Everyone found some amusing poems and several wrote limericks to entertain the group. Although our meetings are always enjoyable, this one raised spirits even more. The April topic is "Families or Advice" which should bring forward some works not yet shared and is a good subject for those who like to write something themselves.

We meet in Room 1 at 10.30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month, visitors always welcome to join in with the readings or simply listen to others do so. Make a date and go straight on for a delicious lunch cooked by Jean Gales and her helpers!

SOCIAL SEQUENCE

DANCING

Contact: Dee, 627922

The past month has certainly put us all to the test; how well-prepared are we for such unusual weather and so late in the season? It is the first time in six years that we have had to cancel one of our dances, and highlights the importance of ensuring that our register is kept up to date with correct information, particularly telephone numbers! At last things seem to be settling down again and good to be back to normal.

We are pleased to welcome Olwen who has courageously stepped in to assist with hosting and presenting an afternoon's dancing. She is most welcome and it is good to have another volunteer to share the load.

TABLE TENNIS

Contact: Secretary Gloria Lovelock, 613705
nmca.tabletennis@btinternet.com
A very big "thank you" to Marie

Morgan for organising the meet-and-greet evening for new members. We had a great time getting together with other sections and then playing tennis until 9 p.m.

Well done to you all for quickly adapting to the new session fees; funds are back on track for the year. Please note we now have an old "Arkwright Stores" till which never gives change, so please try to have the correct money with you if possible. Ta!

Our forthcoming AGM will be on the new date of **17th April** at 10.10 a.m. Please join us in the TTC where refreshments will be available. Take care and see you at the tables. **Glo and Glen**

Motto of the Month:

Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes!

News from the Affiliates

HOPe

Helping Older People, New Forest

Contact: Scheme Manager Steve Anderton, 541241
befrienders@hopenewforest.org

Befriending: You will probably know our shop on Station Road (near Subway) and the wide range of advice services which we offer to the elderly.

Now we are going to try and tackle some of the loneliness in our community by launching a befriending service. We are busily recruiting volunteers, so if you feel you can help in any way please do get in touch. Our aim is provide a regular weekly visit for a chat, usually

for about an hour. Over time we are hoping that our clients will get to know their befrienders really well, and that they will become an important part of their lives. Some "couples" play games, some go out for a walk or a visit somewhere, whilst others just chat and put the world to rights. It is up to the client and befriender how best to make the relationship work; it's that flexible!

So, if you are reading this and would like a visit, help is only a phone call away. There is no obligation to go ahead and it's a completely free service. It will cost you nothing to find out more and it may be really beneficial - so do it now. Call me or email for further information.

NEIGHBOUR CARE

Contact: Chairman Phyllis Inglis, 615069

Effective 1st April we shall have relocated from Myrtle Cottage on Old Milton Green to the ground floor of 17 Elm Avenue, New Milton, BH25 6HE - more central for our volunteers and visitors, easier parking and (bearing in mind our financial resources) less expensive to maintain. Contact details remain the same - general enquiries to 611662, Office Manager on 620430, or you can email neighbourcarenewmilton@gmail.com

NEW FOREST PLAYERS

"Enchanted April", **11th to 14th April** at Ballard School Performing Arts Centre.

When two 1920s London housewives decide to rent a villa in Italy away from their bleak marriages, they recruit two other very different English women to share the cost and experience. An enchanted month of love and laughter follows, with some surprising results. Adults £10

seniors, £8. Box Office 0845 166 8775 or you can book online at newforestplayers.com.

NM MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP

Contact: Malcolm Swan, 618925
2 p.m. Monday, **9th April**. At the Community Centre. "Skills For Seeing", with Jackie Counter.

NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOC.

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis, 615069

It was a "full-house" for our AGM/General Meeting last month. We were fortunate enough to recruit a Treasurer and two other new members, so now have new faces on a strong committee. Alan Watson was re-elected Chairman and Editorial Coordinator for FOCUS. He did say, however, that he has a very full workload and would greatly welcome hearing from anyone who might be interested in taking over the FOCUS role.

The follow-up General Meeting brought several questions from the floor on current issues....

Town Centre: Complaints regarding the overall appearance of **shop premises** - dowdy, many needing a coat of paint, signage all over the pavements, etc. Landlords are not looking after their properties. It is understood that **Specsavers** is coming to town, along with **Beatons tearoom/bookshop**. An application has been submitted for **flats to be built above the old Natwest building** but no news as yet on what will happen to the ground floor. No further news regarding development of the old **Co-op site**, freehold held by Bradbeers.

Wednesday Market: Comments were made that the market is uninviting and dwindling, so was it worth keeping it going?

Councillor Blunden said that, over the past 14 years, it has brought in some £300,000. Opinion is divided amongst residents on whether the market is worth while. It is a challenge to try and attract more stall-holders and, for an 18-month trial period - the road will be fully opened to traffic with stalls sited on the pavements. If we are fortunate to have as many as 15 stalls, then the road would have to be closed again.

Speeding: Complaints continue regarding speeding on Becton Lane, Barton Court Avenue, Stem Lane and Gore Road. Volunteers in the Speedwatch Scheme have, in all weathers, monitored these and other "hot spots" recording offenders, and warning letters have been sent out. However, due to complicated public liability/insurance issues and lack of support from the Police, the Scheme is presently on hold and action is being taken to get it back up and running a.s.a.p.

Old Skateboard Park: It had been understood that this area would be laid to lawn but nothing has happened. Its development formed part of the Vision Plan covering development of the Memorial Centre, which is presently on hold. It will, however, be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Old Milton Green: There is continued concern regarding the 20-minute parking restriction in front of the shops. It is a private car park so local councils can do nothing. However, meetings are taking place with the owner suggesting that a facility be set in place for drivers to pay for further time. Councillor Blunden pointed out that there has to be a

measure of sympathy for the owner who said that, previously, cars and vans were left there all day - and no recompense to him for maintenance of the car park and boundary wall.

Our next General Meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **24th April**, at the Community Centre. This meeting will be mainly devoted to providing important updated information on the long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan which will affect residents, businesses and the town itself. The meeting will form part of the Public Consultation. Non-members are welcome to attend.

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Contact: Eileen on 614753

Our April meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, **16th**. The speaker will be Diane Speer from EXTEND exercises. Visitors are very welcome.

OPEN SIGHT Social Club for the Visually Impaired

Contact: Secretary Patricia Batchelor, 627460

If you are suffering from any form of visual impairment why not come to our monthly get-together where you will make new friends and have an enjoyable afternoon.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bashley Village Hall. Come and take part in the entertainment followed by afternoon tea. Transport is provided where necessary by our great team of volunteer drivers.

Of course we are always in need of volunteers, be it driving, helping with tea or just lending a helping hand. If you are interested in coming along as a member or volunteer please do give me a call.

PHOENIX HOLIDAY GROUP

Contact: Pat McKean, 278669

phoenixholshighcliffe@aol.com

Our next meeting at the Community Centre will be from 10 a.m. till noon on Friday, **20th April**.

Holidays now booking:-

30th April/4th May - Harrogate, including York, RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Nunnington Hall, Yorkshire tour. £419 (ss £20 or £60).

10th/15th June - Barnstaple Imperial Hotel. Half board, One free day. £455.

7th/10th September - A Taste of the West Midlands - a step back in time to include Bletchley Park, Coventry, Worcester, Black Country Museum, Severn Valley Steam Railway. £349 (ss £45)

Outings now booking:-

26th April - Dorset Bluebell Hunt, £17.50

20th June - Mottisfont Gardens for the roses. £18.50 (+£11 for non-National Trust members)

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, the proposed August outing to either Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show or Hollycombe Steam Collection has been withdrawn.

Our next meeting at Greystones is on Friday, **6th April**.

RNLI NEW MILTON

Contact: Publicity Officer David de Lange, 617303

After a long period of service to the Branch, Anne Goulding has now stood down as Secretary whilst remaining on the committee for the time being. Anyone interested in joining or receiving further information should please contact David.

TAI CHI QIGONG

Contact: Martin, 07973 639348

Hello! My name is Martin and I've been teaching Tai Chi Qigong at the Centre on Tuesday

afternoons since last October. This ancient Chinese practice is many things. It's a gentle exercise which releases stress and tension from the body, improving mobility and balance. It is also a meditation that combines stillness with movement, good posture, relaxed breathing and a focused mind. We can then let go of the past, stop worrying about the future and be "present" to the reality of this moment.

Our first session is almost full (2 to 3.10 p.m.), so I am considering starting a new second session between 3.15 and 4.25 p.m. Sessions are £6 each or £5 if you book for the whole month.

Please have a look at www.improve-your-balance.co.uk for more information, or feel free to call me for a chat at the above number.

Stories

Growing Things:

My grannie was "green-fingered"
Could grow just anything
She talked to flowers and veggies
And watched them all take wing
Sad to say that gift was not
Passed down the line to me
A nursery is a wilderness
Though beautiful to see

When Titchmarsh gives his advice
As seasons come and go
He could be speaking Swahili
What's he saying? I don't know!
I did try planting bulbs
Quite a task for me
Probably put them upside down
For nothing did I see
Noticed something in my hedge
It looked quite old or dead
I hacked at it to get it out
Until my neighbour said
"It's taking just a winter rest
And quite alright, you know -
You're chopping at clematis
Which makes a lovely show"
I got the message loud and clear
Hadn't got a clue
I'll leave it to the experts
They know just what to do!

A Dog's View:

I am a little poodle
An apricot, a "toy"
Frightfully intelligent
A really handsome boy
I started life in Surrey -
My Dad was Best In Show
A super jet-black "standard"
Of course that's years ago
My owner is my auntie
She says "I'm not your Mum!"
Her husband is my uncle
And I let him scratch my tum
Our home was very nice there
Close by a village green
Richmond Park for walkies
And to Hampton Court I've been
But then there was upheaval
A move to pastures new
I viewed the beach with distrust
The sea - what should I do?

So then I tried the water
I played - got soaking wet
Auntie didn't mind, though
And so many dogs I've met
We all stand around in bunches
Our owners meet to chat
Lots of smells to check out
We get the frequent pat
And now I feel quite sorry
For dogs who don't live here
Can't know what they're missing
So my aim in life is clear
When I meet those canines
On holiday from town
I'll point out all the good things -
This jewel in the crown
And they can show their owners
What fun it is to be
Not in a stuffy city
But in breezy Barton-On-Sea

Should Children Witness Childbirth?:

During a power cut a paramedic responded to a pregnant woman's frantic call. The house was very dark so he asked three-year-old Kathleen to hold a torch high over her mummy so that he could see to deliver the baby. After a while little Connor was born, the paramedic lifting him by his feet and spanking his bottom, and he began to cry. The paramedic thanked Kathleen for her help and asked what she thought of what she'd just witnessed. She said "Well, he shouldn't have crawled up there in the first place!" and smacked him again. **Glo**

"TASTER" VOUCHER

This voucher entitles you to attend one of our in-house sessions or activities for the first time - free of charge - to see if it will interest you

Please note that it CANNOT be used for affiliate and "outside hirer" activities

TRY SOMETHING NEW!

This Newsletter and our website give details of the days and times when the sessions and activities take place

What's On in April

Regular Hirers

Contact the Hirer if you wish to join

Hirer	Session	Day	April
Bashley W.I.	A	Fri	20.
Brockenhurst Yoga	E	Tues	17,24.
C & NF Nat.Trust	E	Wed	4,25.
CAMEO Ladies	M	Wed	4.
Doohan Yoga	E	Thurs	5,12,26.
EXTEND	M	Thurs	5,26.
Hort. Society	E	Wed	18.
Mandela Book Grp	E	Mon	23.
Martial Arts	M	Sat	7,14,21,28.
Michelle's Slim. World	E	Wed	4,11,18,25.
NF Quilts Group	E	Mon	9,16.
Purely Pilates	M	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Purely Pilates	E	Thurs	-----
RAF Association	M	Tues	3,17.
Seq. Dance	A	Tues	3,10,17,24.
Tangent Yoga	E	Thurs	5,12,19,26.
Townswomen's Guild	A	Mon	16.
U3A Family History	M	Mon	23.
U3A Local History	M	Wed	4.
U3A Singing	A	Mon	16.
U3A World History	M	Thurs	26.
Weight Watches	M	Sat	7,14,21,28.
Wool Etc	A	Thurs	19.

Affiliated Organisations

Bashley Forest W.I.	Mrs. M. Wallace	629042
Brockenhurst College	Mrs. R. Clark	01590 625222
CAMEO - Ladies' Group	Mrs. M. Sheldrake	628675
C'church & NF National Trust Ass.	Mrs. S. Moreton	610590
Extend	Mrs. D. Steer	610756
Hamilton Townsend	Mr. D. Jenkins	01202 765404
HOPE	Mrs. J. Kane	629009
Milton Heritage Society	Mr. N. Saunders	618549
Modern & Social Sequence Dancing	Mr. R.J. Gillies	07582 969111
Neighbourcare New Milton	Mr. D. Whittington	291273
New Forest Mencap	Mrs. A. Page	621893
New Forest Organ Society	Mrs. P. Heath	611438
New Forest Players	Mr. C. Rigden	629451
New Forest Quilt Group	Mrs. J.A. Davies	620680
New Milton Healing Group	Mrs. A. Townend	619933
NM Health Centre (Spencer Road)	Mrs. C. Olsen	621188
New Milton Horticultural Society	Mrs. M. Sheldrake	628675
NM Macular Support Group	Mr. M. Swan	618925
New Milton Memorial Centre	Mr. Clive Rigden	629451
New Milton Quakers	Mrs. R. Wells	614279
New Milton Residents' Association	Mrs. P.C. Inglis	615069
New Milton Talking Newspaper	Mr. A. Singfield	616361
New Milton Town Partnership	Mr. J. Evans	610943
New Milton Townswomen's Guild	Mrs. E. Butler	614753
Open Sight	Mrs. P. Batchelor	627460
Phoenix Holiday Group (Highcliffe)	Mrs. P. McKean	278669
Purely Pilates	Mrs. C. Lillington	07738 484255
R.A.F. Association	Eileen	
Royal British Legion NM Branch	Mrs. P. Inglis	615069
R.N.L.I.	Mrs. A. Goulding	616106
Slimming World (Wednesday)	Michelle Walker	07795 275633
Sullivan Lawford	Aaron Lawford	200668
Tai Chi Qigong	Mr. M. Common	07973 639348
The Art Society New Milton	Mr. P. Ronan	638200
U3A New Milton	Mrs. R. Agar	610192
Wool Etc	Mrs. J. Daniel	01590 670625

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:

Miss W. Maund

Mr. G.F. Denson

Mr. R.G. Ferguson

TRUSTEES/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Phyllis Inglis	615069	pres@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Acting Chairman	Marie Morgan	501315	chair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Marie Morgan	501315	vchair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Treasurer	John Revill	627973	finance@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
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Reception Manager	Brian Barton	628058	reception@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
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Webmaster	Nigel King	620895	webmaster@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
	Geoff Tilston		geoffbg@hotmail.com.

Non-Committee:

Minutes Secretary/Clerk to the Exec. Committee -

Colin Bower		613254	minsec@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Maintenance	Richard Ferguson	612612	
Technical Officer	Richard Ferguson	612612	technical@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Health & Safety Officer	Rob Stevens		healthsafety@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

What's On in April

Section /Activities	Time	Day	April	Section /Activities	Time	Day	April
Art	2:00 PM	Wed	4,11,18,25.	French Improvers	12:00 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Ballroom Dancing	2:00 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.	French Intermediate	9:55 AM	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Ballroom Dancing	7:30 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	German Beginners	11:30 AM	Tues	3,10,17,24.
Beading	7:00 PM	Wed	11,18,25.	German Improvers	10:00 AM	Tues	10,17,24.
Beading	9:45 AM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	Italian - Beginners	2:00 PM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Bowling	6:30 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.	Italian - Improvers +	10:00 AM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Tues	3,10,17,24.	Italian - Improvers +	11:15 AM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Wed	4,11,18,25.	Italian - Manuela	11:30 AM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	Line Dancing	12:15 PM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Fri	6,13,20,27.	Literature Group	2:00 PM	Wed	-----
Bowling	6:30 PM	Fri	6,13,20,27.	Luncheon Club	12:00 PM	Thurs	19.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.	Mah-Jong	1:30 PM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Tues	3,10,17,24.	Mens Get Together	10:00 AM	Thurs	5.
Bridge Partner	1:30 PM	Wed	4,11,18,25.	Piano	10:45 AM	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Bridge Duplicate	1:30 PM	Wed	4,11,18,25.	Poetry	10:30 AM	Thurs	19.
Bridge Practice	1:30 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	Rummikub	10:00 AM	Wed	11,25.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Fri	6,13,20,27.	Saturday Dancing	7:30 PM	Sat	14,28.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Sat	14.	Scrabble	1:30 PM	Mon	9,16,23.
Camera Club	7:00 PM	Mon	16.	Soc Seq Dancing	1:45 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.
Canasta	1:30 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	Spanish Conversation	10:00 AM	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Chess	1:30 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Mon	16,23,30.
Choir	2:00 PM	Wed	4,11,18,25.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Fri	6,27.
Come Dancing	7:30 PM	Tues	3,10,17,24.	Spanish Improvers	10:00 AM	Fri	6,27.
Craft	10:00 AM	Wed	11,25.	Spanish Circle	7:30 PM	Tues	10.
Cribbage	2:00 PM	Tues	3,10,17,24.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.
Darts	2:00 PM	Mon	9,16,23,30.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Tues	3,10,17,24.
Darts	2:00 PM	Tues	3,10,17,24.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Wed	4,11,18,25.
Discussion Group	2:00 PM	Tues	10.	Table Tennis	2:00 PM	Thurs	5,12,19,26.
Fabric Craft	2:00 PM	Thurs	12,26.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Fri	6,13,20,27.
Film Show	2:30 PM	Sun	15.				

NEED HELP?

The following have been recommended by members. **Inclusion does not indicate endorsement by the Association.**

FERGUSONS ELECTRICIANS

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PLUMBING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Contact Guy Callway, 34 Barton Court Road, New Milton, BH25 6NR. 01425 620858/07890 172151

Editor's Contact Details: Mrs. Phyllis Inglis, 7 Chessel House, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, BH25 5WR, 01425 615069. pcinglis8@gmail.com. **Copy deadline date is 18th of the preceding month (a week earlier in December for the January edition).** The Editor reserves the right to adapt/summarise any contributions received.