

New Milton & District Community Association



NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER, 2018

Art

Ballroom Dancing

Beading

Bowls

Bridge

Canasta

Chess

Come Dancing

Craft

Cribbage

Darts

Discussion Group

Fabric Crafts

Film Show

Jubilee Singers

Languages

Line Dancing

Literature

Lunch Club

Mah Jong

Mens Get Together

Pianists

Poetry

Rummikub

Scrabble

Sequence Dancing

*Social Sequence
Dancing*

Table Tennis

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Here we are at the year-end. I hope it has been reasonably kind to you and not given problems which you've found difficult to handle. Inevitably, a few members will be facing a first Christmas without someone who has been a large part of their lives for a long time, so the festive days ahead are likely to be rather hard. Hopefully, family and understanding friends will be on hand to support them.

On behalf of your Executive Committee I wish everyone a really happy Christmas - a most enjoyable time to look back on with pleasure.

With the New Year fast approaching it's time for me to review the Newsletter and think about what I should (or should not) do to maintain readers' interest. From time to time I've invited comments on the content, but received only second-hand rather than direct feedback. There would appear to be two separate schools of thought - (1) the Newsletter should be restricted to basic information from sections/activities/affiliates plus updates from the Executive, and (2) general "newsy" items as well as occasional stories and funnies are welcomed to make it a more interesting "read", particularly for those members who don't take part in many, if any, of the Centre's organised activities. I would, therefore, be most grateful for your comments - what you like or dislike about your Newsletter, what you think should be added or dropped from the present format. You can either email me at pcinglis8@gmail.com or drop a note in my pigeonhole. A simple "keep it going" or "it's rubbish" would at

least give me food for thought! Can't hope to please everybody but trying to do so will be my New Year challenge!

After a successful "try-out" at the Macmillan Cake Morning, I played piano at last month's Cake Day with the aim of providing easy-listening background music while everyone got on with a companionable natter. I don't **think** I drove anyone away so will be experimenting again on the next Cake Day - perhaps making it a regular feature if it's decided to continue the Cake Days into next year and members approve.

A reminder that you can now renew your membership for 2019 - £8 and £1 for a car parking permit. It will be very helpful if you can remember to bring your membership card with you.

I understand that the directive regarding no alcohol in the Jubilee Room didn't go down very well, with nobody accepting responsibility for the spilt wine incident. Whatever, the damage to the floor was clearly visible and unnecessarily costly to put right, so we don't want it to happen again, do we? Better to be safe than sorry!

Year-end figures apparently indicate that the café is not being used sufficiently or to worthwhile effect. This is of some concern to the Executive who would welcome your ideas on how this situation might be improved. As you will read in a separate article, it **has** been put forward that the choice of coffee might be improved, but perhaps other things could be reviewed. Put

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

Email: info@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

a note in my pigeonhole if you have any helpful suggestions to put forward.

I've been asked to include a plea for paperbacks - NO hardbacks, videos or CDs as they just don't sell. Do have a cupboard sort-out and see what you can find.

Talking Point - Locals or Grockles?

Through my various activities I get to chat with quite a few people and we often exchange stories about our "roots" - were we born and bred here or did we relocate from other parts of the country, etc. I wonder what is the proportion of local people as against "newcomers"? Certainly, we have a much larger percentage of older people living here measured against the UK overall. And why not? How can anyone **not** be attracted to spend their easing-down, leisure years in an area which has so much to offer? In discussion with friends, would any of you who moved here own up that you wished you'd stayed where you were? I must admit that when I lost my Other Half almost 14 years ago I was sorely tempted to return to Esher in Surrey or even move to be nearer my sister in Essex, but everyone here was so very kind at that time and I **was** heavily involved in voluntary work, so I decided to stay put. The right decision, as Surrey friends who still keep in touch tell me that things are no longer as I remember them there. I am, of course, a Londoner and always imagined I'd be happy back in "The Smoke" - to me, wearing the rose-tinted glasses of years ago, a place and community like no other. And then some time ago a friend and I went to London for a few days' retail therapy and to take in a West End show - and I was so relieved to get back here!

Have **you** gone back to your old haunts and wished you'd never left it

or are you, too, glad to return to the sea, the Forest, and perhaps a more relaxed way of life? Although we have a moan from time to time about things that happen (or don't happen) here, I think it takes a lot of beating.

Phyllis Inglis

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First of all, can I say "thank you" to the Sections who completed and returned the survey sent out last month. We have some really interesting and quite different suggestions, as you will see from the separate article. As always, we will do our very best to provide most of what you asked for, but this may take a little time.

At our Executive meeting we discussed the fact that, in FOCUS last month, we had three articles (excellent publicity for the Centre). However, each one had a different heading. We know that our official charity title is The New Milton & District Community Association but that is rather a mouthful so could anyone writing an article for publication **please note that the heading should be The Community Centre** so that people get used to using that name.

Our last Cake Day of the year will be held in the Common Room on Friday, **14th December**, when Editor/Secretary Phyllis will play some Christmas music and the Art Group will hold a mini Art Exhibition. They have some really talented artists, so some of their recent creations will be on view to see and buy. There will also be a raffle and Father Christmas will attend. Come along and bring a friend to enjoy the morning.

The Ukulele Band concert is on **12th December**. I understand they are really great, so join us for an evening's entertainment.

I end by thanking everyone at the Centre for their help and support during my first six months as Chairman, and wishing members, hirers and affiliates a very Happy Christmas with good health and happiness to follow in the New Year

Marie Morgan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Summary of Nov. Meeting

A review took place of November actions and plans for December and beyond.

Vice Chairman Glen Kennedy laid our wreath at the War Memorial on 11th November.

Following collation of the results of a Centre Survey a marketing consultant will be asked to make a start on helping us draw up a Marketing Plan for the Centre.

It was hoped that more use of the Centre can be encouraged to warrant its maintenance and heating as well as the time spent in the building each day by our volunteers.

In future, our Film Shows will be for members and their guests only, and the classification of films will be indicated.

Plans were in hand for our stall at the Christmas Festival, and the sale of coffee/tea/sausage rolls for £1 on **24th November**.

Our Reception Manager reported on sales of tickets for the Jubilee Singers' concerts and the Ukulele Band night on 12th December.

Preparations are in hand for a new worktop in the kitchen and replacement of four double-glazed windows. We await response from the NFDC Planning Department on the air-conditioning unit proposed for the Ambrose Room, and some additional flags.

Colin Bower, Minutes Secretary

CENTRE SURVEY

Leaders of Sections and Activities were recently asked to discuss with their group members and complete a survey on how they view the Centre and its facilities. Twelve survey forms have so far been submitted to the Executive Committee, and thanks are due to all those who took part. The various comments made will be considered by the Executive, the Publicity Team and the marketing consultant who is to help us draw up a Marketing Plan. Insufficient space here to list all the comments and suggestions, so here is a summary. The full list can be seen on our website.

Compliments: There were five compliments about the Centre, its facilities and volunteers.

Other Activities Proposed: Of the 22 put forward, several were along the same theme of arranging social gatherings - without a particular activity or talk.

Improvements: There were 15 suggestions. A number of groups would like better and more choices of coffee.

The Future: Nine comments indicated differences of opinion. Some wish to see younger people welcomed whilst others feel there are things for younger people to do elsewhere, and we should concentrate on the retired community who use the Centre more often and help to keep it going. **This matter is brought up regularly at Executive meetings so, looking to the future, a decision needs to be taken on where our focus should be.**

EVOLUTION OF THE PUBLICITY TEAM

The Executive Committee's continual aim is to attract local people to the Centre and hope they take out membership and join in our activities. Over 1,200 enjoy the benefits of membership each year as well as Associates and outside hirers.

However, the challenge has been, and continues to be, getting more residents to know we are here and what we can offer. The building itself is well-maintained, with a lovely garden, flower displays and seasonal decorations. Once people enter it, the Community Centre (and its range of activities) to an extent sells itself, and prospective members are able to use "taster" session to see if what we have is of interest.

Over the years, the two main ways in which the Centre has publicised its activities and the rooms we have for hire has been our Newsletter and website. The Newsletter and brochure are included in the town's Welcome Pack. We have also gained from advertising taken out by regular hirers and Associate members, as well as people attending events held at the Centre. The Newsletter is sent to all Associates and copies delivered to the Town Hall and Library; it can also be viewed on the website.

It is the range of activities including new ideas promoted in the Newsletter and website, together with word-of-mouth which attract new members, particularly people moving into the area.

So where do these ideas come from? Some have been organised for years, like the Open Days where Sections and Activities can display and demonstrate what they do. Regular events such as the Men's Get Together are publicised in FOCUS, the Residents' Association monthly Newsletter. Some ideas come from the membership and volunteers, like the monthly Cake Days. Chairman Marie Morgan also developed the idea of a lunch to say "thank you" to our wonderful team of volunteers, and hosted the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning. Vice Chairman Glen Kennedy has arranged for flags

to be flown outside the building and lighting for our stall at the Christmas Festival. Social Secretary Pam Badcock and her team decorate the Centre throughout the year. Other ideas come from discussions at Executive Committee meetings but many suggestions and initiatives have come from the Publicity Team. The Team was set up when Malcolm Swan was Chairman, and each Chairman since then has played a leading role. Among the activities and initiatives introduced and/or developed have been:-

- A review of our own Welcome Pack
- Introduction of New Members' meetings.
- The 2017/18 colour brochure.
- Running stalls at town events.
- Greater use of the external notice board.
- Photographic display in the foyer.
- Wider promotion of "tasters".
- The idea of a mini Art Exhibition on our December Cake Day.

Further ideas are coming forward and a marketeer is to look at what improvements can be undertaken, so the Team is likely to be very busy! It has always had the support of the Executive Committee and other people have made valuable contributions, including Malcolm Swan, Gill and Richard Ferguson. The Team currently comprises - Marie Morgan (Chairman) Pam Badcock (Social Secretary) Nigel King (Webmaster) Colin Bower (Minutes Secretary)

It usually meets once a month to agree implementation of events and plan initiatives. If you have any ideas for publicising the Centre and/or would like to help in the planning and organisation of events, please do contact Chairman Marie Morgan.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership renewals have now started and I thank those who have agreed to man the renewals desk, hopefully open all day Monday to Friday, thus leaving Reception to carry out their normal role.

Nigel King

FROM THE WEBMASTER

There are some potential changes at the Centre, some of which are the results of the survey previously mentioned. If you would like to see a summary of these results visit the website and click on the link in the Latest News section, below the list of Sections & Activities.

This Newsletter will have gone to press before the Christmas Festival on 24th November at which we had a stall. If you missed seeing it and wish to see what we had available please visit the Centre News Stories page where a selection of pictures should be available .

Nigel King

UKULELE BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, **12th December**, in the Common Room. Tickets at £2 include tea/coffee. Excellent reports on the entertainment provided by the Band, so do come along and enjoy it.

NEW YEAR DANCE

8 p.m. to 12.15 a.m. Monday, **31st December**, in the Jubilee Room. Ticket-only entrance at £5 to include a raffle, from Pam Badcock on 01202 980177 or enquire at Reception. Please bring your own drinks.

FILM SHOW

Sunday, **16th December**, 2 for 2.30 p.m. start. "Mamma Mia - Here We Go Again" with Meryl Streep (PG rating). Please use side entrance by kitchen door.

John Fogerty

"CHRISTMAS SPECIAL" CAKE DAY

From 10 to 11.30 a.m. Friday, **14th December**. As you will see from the Arts Section writeup, they will be arranging a display of their paintings for sale. There will also be a raffle, some seasonal music at the piano - and we may be welcoming a special visitor! So do come along and enjoy a pleasant morning, meet up with friends in warm and comfortable surroundings..

HELPFUL HINTS

Waterproof Cast Covers: If suffering a broken limb you will know how difficult it is to keep it dry when bathing/showering. Check on a product called Dry Arm and Dry Leg which can be made to measure with a 100% guarantee that water will not penetrate. Contact Hammond Dry Suits on 01474 708 123 for information.

Gas Safety: If your gas hob flame is burning with a yellowish rather than blue flame, it is not functioning as it should and could be dangerous, so it is wise to get it checked a.s.a.p. Be aware that carbon monoxide is a by-product which can kill, so it is strongly recommended that you buy an inexpensive detector. Also, check that your smoke alarm is working. If you are an older person your local fire station can visit and advise.

Trees In Your Garden: The owner and/or occupier of land on which trees stand is generally liable for any loss or damage resulting from falling branches or, indeed, fall of the tree itself. It could be that a branch comes down on your (or another person's) car or a neighbour's fence. It could be that someone in your garden might be injured. It is advisable, therefore, to check your home insurance policy to see if such potential accidents are sufficiently covered.

ADVICE FROM AFFILIATES ACCORD LEGAL SERVICES

Contact: Consultant Rebecca Callow, 07712 045969

rebecca.callow@accordwills.co.uk

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA): There are several types, all of which serve different purposes. Some give greater control of your finances, others give you a say on your future health care. Depending on your circumstances, you may require more than one type.

1. Property & Affairs

This LPA permits your financial affairs to be looked after by the people you have chosen to do so when you are no longer able. They can make decisions about buying/selling your property; open, close and operate bank/building society accounts. Your attorney can also claim, receive and use your benefits in your best interests as specified by you. This money can be used for expenses, nursing home fees, utilities and other outgoings. Having an LPA is a safe way of maintaining control over decisions made for you. This is because it has to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before it can be activated. You choose the people appointed as Attorneys, and they must follow the Code of Practice and always act in your best interests.

2. Health & Welfare

This LPA permits your attorney(s) to act for you only in respect of your personal affairs and welfare. It allows the people you have chosen to make decisions about giving or refusing consent to particular types of health care, including medical treatment decisions. They can also decide whether or not you should stay in your own home, perhaps with help and support from Social Services. If it is best for you they can also help you move into a residential home. The LPA allows

them to help choose the right care home for you, and covers your day-to-day routine.

3. Business LPA

If you have a business and become ill or have a serious accident you might find that your absence makes it difficult for it to operate. Who can handle the finances and make decisions on your behalf, specifically in relation to your business assets? We all love our family and, whilst they may be the best people to look after your personal interest, they may have no idea of the complexities involved with your business. **Therefore, a Business LPA is an essential document.** You can have an entirely separate LPA appointing attorneys to act for you specifically in relation to your business affairs - people you know and trust to run things while you are unable to do so. You are safe in the knowledge that, if something unexpected does happen, your business will continue to run as smoothly as possible until you are able to pick up the reins again.

Once any of these LPAs are produced, they need to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be activated.

Prior to 1st October, 2007, it was possible to arrange an **Enduring Power of Attorney** rather than an LPA. Whilst it is no longer possible to do this, **many are still in existence and remain valid but your attorneys are not allowed to make decisions about your health and welfare.** EPAs did not have to be registered but do still need to be so if the person who made it loses capacity. If you already have an EPA for your financial affairs, you can still make an LPA for health and welfare.

Feel free to contact me if you would like a home chat to be arranged.

News from the Sections & Activities

ART

Contact: Chairman Barry Richardson

newmiltonartgroup@gmail.com

At the invitation of the Executive Committee, we shall be holding a mini Exhibition and Sale in the Common Room during the morning of Friday, **14th December.**

Throughout the year the Art Group exhibits paintings in the Common Room and this has proved to be so popular that it was a natural progression to display some at the Cake Day, giving members the opportunity to purchase an original painting in time for Christmas. They will include water colour and acrylic, all very reasonably priced. Ours is one of the largest sections and we are delighted to have been given the chance to display and sell some of our original works.

At the Group's AGM Barry Richardson was re-elected Chairman to serve for a second year. In his report Barry referred to Jan Wells having been unanimously elected as the Art Group's **first President** earlier in the year, describing it as one of the best days in the Group's history. Jan has been an active member for almost 50 years, her forthright views always being sought and welcomed. She continues to lead in-house workshops which are stimulating and interesting, as well as offering help to those who ask.

Barry also mentioned that weekly attendances remain good, but the Group is still operating a new membership waiting list. It is anticipated that membership renewals which are now taking place will allow those wishing to join to be invited to do so.

The new form of in-house competitions is working well with two sections - one for past winners and the other for aspiring artists. During the year trophies were introduced for each category as well as retaining the usual cash prizes.

The Art Group expressed thanks to the Community Centre for its continued support.

BALLROOM/LATIN AND SOME SEQUENCE

Contact: Pam Badcock, 01202 980177

First of all I would like to wish members a happy Christmas and thank them for their support over the past year. Remember that the Christmas Party Dance is at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, **20th December.** Tickets are now on sale at £3 to include the usual splendid raffle, tea and coffee.

BOWLS

Contact: Janet Keats, 614996

Short Mat Bowls: The John Chambers Memorial competition will be held in February next year. If you would like to compete please enter your name on the entry form, to be found on our notice board in January. It has been decided that we shall play three woods over seven ends for early rounds, and ten ends for the semi-final and final.

We would like to wish all of our members and their families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year, looking forward to another good year of short mat bowls.

BRIDGE

Contact: Marion Short, 291793

Preparations are under way for our Christmas Party on **8th December.** Tickets at only £3.50 including a raffle are now available from Barbara Matthews or myself. **Please note the slightly later start of 1.30 for 2 p.m.** This is because the

Common Room is booked for a morning event and we need a little more time to set up.

Saturday Social Bridge continues to be popular. October results: Winners Joyce Rooker and Christopher Fradd Plus 970, second were Sheila Purkiss and Elaine Davies Plus 960. November - winners Elaine Davies and Inez Wray Plus 960, second Lorraine Burns and Barbara Matthews Plus 950. Due to the Party there will be no Social Bridge in December, so the next one will be on Saturday, **19th January**. Please try to arrive in good time for a 1.30 p.m. start.

There will be some changes to the room for **Monday** Chicago players. The committee is conscious that a number of our faithful players are experiencing difficulty with the small flight of stairs to the Ambrose Room. After some discussion and contacting the Lettings Officer we have been offered a ground floor room on some Mondays but not possible every week. So please check the lettings board when you come in to see where we will be playing that day. We will review this arrangement in the New Year.

COME DANCING

Contact: Andre Bidmead, 219519

With winter now on its way why not make this the time to come and join our section from 7.30 to 10 p.m. every Tuesday? What do we have to offer? A friendly and warm atmosphere, an alternative to the gym, contemporary music to dance to and we even throw in a cuppa and biscuit! All this for a modest fee of £2 for members and £3 for visitors.

With Christmas in mind we will be holding an American Supper on **4th December** and dancing to follow. Tickets £2.50 for members, £3 for visitors. On Tuesday, **18th December**, we have a Party Dance and raffle with live music supplied by Sugar & Spice, a lively vocal duet playing keyboard and guitars. Tickets £3 members, £5 visitors.

Our November Saturday Dance had a remembrance theme and was well-attended. Music was well-sourced and represented the centenary. The next Saturday Dance will be on **10th December**.

JUBILEE SINGERS

Contact: Liz Northcote, 621519

The choir's recent visits to Woodpeckers in Brockenhurst, St. George's Nursing Home and Danestream House in Milford-on-Sea were very successful with everyone enjoying themselves. Our visit last week to Waverley House in New Milton also went well and we were made welcome with an impressive selection of refreshments. A group of us joined in the Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Centre, singing hymns and songs from both World Wars. We will be singing at four local venues before and after our Christmas Concerts, so this is going to be a very busy month!

Tickets for our three Christmas Variety Concerts (**8th, 12, 15th December**) are on sale in Reception; £6 for adults, £3 for children, including a raffle and refreshments. We again thank those in Reception for helping with ticket sales. Our programme has a wide variety of musical numbers, soloists, a piano duet, carols and amusing songs, so come along and enjoy!

Anyone wishing to book the choir should please contact sheilalead@hotmail.co.uk

LANGUAGES

Italian For Beginners

Next year there is a possibility of starting up a new, weekly Beginners' Class here at the Centre. It would involve language-learning purely for pleasure in an informal, supportive atmosphere. The emphasis would be on comprehension and communicative skills, largely for tourism and holidays, although grammar would also be studied. **No prior knowledge of Italian is needed.**

If you may be interested in making a start on this beautiful language with a qualified, experienced teacher, or simply wish for further details, please contact Maggie on 614714.

German - December

Contact: Susanne Platt, 612680; susanneplatt@alktalk.net

Improvers Plus: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. for one hour

Beginners/Improvers: Tuesdays, 11.30 a.m. for one hour.

Spanish - December:

Contact: Ann Humphries
anna_humphries@hotmail.com

Conversation: 10 a.m. for 1 hr.

Beginners: 11.15 a.m. for 1 hr.
Mondays, 3rd and 10th.

Improvers: 10 a.m. for 1 hr.

Beginners Plus: 11.15 a.m. 1 hr.
Fridays, 7th and 14th.

LITERATURE

Contact: Janet Giles, 07719 606 358
As we near the end of our study of novels dealing with the British in India, we look forward to meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday, **9th January**, to read the poems of John Donne, George Herbert and others. New members are very welcome.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

Contact: David Eley
eleydave@outlook.com

Our meeting on **6th December** will see the return of Ian Schulz,

presenting a talk entitled “An Alternative Christmas”, sub-titled “Mosquitoes, Birds, Bugs and Reptiles - but no turkey!”

Advance notice that our January meeting will be on the **second** Thursday of the month (**10th**). Also, as usual, being the first meeting of the year members can invite partners to join us for light refreshments.

POETRY

Contact: Chris Battison, 626550
Our subject for the recent session was “dancing”, and what an interesting mix we had. Several items were also songs, so there may have been one or two astonished visitors to the Centre who were subjected to a rousing chorus of Waltzing Matilda as they passed Room 1! Who said poetry was dull?

Our next meeting will be at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, **13th December**, when the subject will be “celebrations”. Please come and join us, with or without poems. Mince pies welcome!

SOCIAL SEQUENCE

DANCING

Contact: Dee, 627922

We start this month on a very sad note. Peter Holmes, one of our regular and very dedicated dancers, died suddenly at the end of October. A great shock to everyone and he will be greatly missed. Our condolences and sympathy are with Lorraine at this tragic time.

As mentioned last month, our Party Dance will take the form of an American Supper, to be held on Thursday, **13th December**. We do need volunteers to help in the kitchen, please. This will be our last dance of the year, and the first one for 2019 will be on Thursday, **10th January**.

A very Merry Christmas to you all, with good health and happiness to follow in the year ahead.

TABLE TENNIS

Contact: Secretary Gloria Lovelock, 613705

Behind-the-scene preparations for Remembrance Day, Festival Day and the Christmas Party went on during last month. Thank you all for your appreciation and help. Glen felt very honoured to lay the wreath on behalf of the Centre on Remembrance Day. The parade went well, with so many people attending that everything went on longer than anticipated but worth it for such a memorable occasion. (Glen used up all his emergency glucose trying to keep his sugar levels up!). The follow-on gathering at the clifftop went well with even more people taking part.

Good attendance in the section, which is a sure sign that you still enjoy it.

By the time you get to read this the Christmas Lunch may be over, so I hope you will have enjoyed it. See you all at the Amberwood 12.30 for 1 p.m. Thursday, **6th December**.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all volunteers, members, sections and Exec., not forgetting Albert and Manuel and our “mystery gardener” Genevieve.

Glo’s Do-Dahs: In life it is difficult to say who does the most mischief - enemies with worst intentions or friends with the best!

News From The Affiliates

CAMEO - LADIES GROUP

Contact: Secretary Margaret Sheldrake, 628675

dsheldrake@talktalk.net

We had a most interesting

demonstration by Judy Fengvesi on Christmas Table Decorations. Our audience was fascinated by how she put the three arrangements together and used foliage from her garden and other areas to form them. One was small and round with green and variegated foliage, red roses, oranges, cinnamon and rosemary. The second was a floral basket of carnations with gold sprayed cones and pink lilies. The third was an oblong basket of chrysanthemums, lilies and gold sprayed twigs. All were raffled for the audience.

The next meeting is our AGM for members only, 10 a.m. Wednesday, **3rd December**, with a Quiz.

For your new diaries - **2nd January** meeting with Steve Roberts on 150 years of the London Underground; on **6th February** we have Ron Taylor on Stourhead to Stanpit. Always very pleased to welcome new members.

MILTON HERITAGE SOC.

Contact: Nick Saunders, 618439

nick@miltonheritagesociety.co.uk

7 p.m. Friday, **11th January**, at the Memorial Centre with a talk by John Lay-Flurrie entitled “Family Stories”. He researched and wrote about the origins of his family name and has given several talks on family history. This led to him becoming aware of our interest and concern in ancestors to the extent that we neglect our own family stories. What will our great-great grandchildren know about us? This should be a very thought-provoking presentation. Entrance free to Society members, £4 to visitors.

NEW FOREST PLAYERS

Family pantomime, “Puss In Boots”, **3rd to 6th January**, at the Memorial Centre. 7.30 p.m., with 2.30 p.m. matinees on the 5th and 6th. Adults £12, children £8. Contact 01425 542414; www.newforestplayers.com

NEW MILTON MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP

Contact: Malcolm Swan, 618925
2 p.m. Monday, **10th December**,
Milton Ukulele Strummers Klub.

NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis,
615069

Last month local historian Nick Saunders gave an enlightening presentation on "The Great War And The Impact It Had On This Community". He took us through events which led us into the war and its repercussions, both on the front line and at home. Illustrations helped us to realise, to some extent, the terrible price paid by our young men as well as the truly horrendous conditions under which they fought - "standing firm to the last man and the last bullet". Here in New Milton women (some probably for the first time) took up jobs in businesses, shops and on farms while the men were away. Nurses were in great demand, serving both here and abroad. Eighty-three local servicemen died during the war, seven of them from Byron Road in Barton! Many more returned home with mental and physical wounds which never healed. There was no doubt that the war changed this community to a great extent.

At the end of his talk we learned that, having studied for the past six years for a Batchelor's degree, at Open University, Nick qualified earlier this year and is now a BA (Hons) History - a very well-deserved award.

Our next General Meeting will be at 2.15 p.m. Tuesday, **15th January**, at the Community

Centre. Speaker on planned merger of local surgeries to form a Coastal Medical Partnership.

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Contact: Janet, 617052
Our meeting this month will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, **17th December**, when the Conchord Singers will entertain us to get everyone in the festive mood.

PHOENIX HOLIDAY GROUP

Contacts: Pat McKean, 278669,
Richard White 01590 682427
phoenixholshighcliffe@aol.com

Holidays:
24th/28th December - Bideford, 5 days £610. Outings most days, festive food and entertainment.

1/3rd February - London weekend, 3 days £389 (ss £34) half board. Best seats for "Matilda" musical, tour of Wimbledon, Apsley House and the National Theatre.

17th/21st February - Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth. 5 days £450. Half board, outings each day.

5th/9th April - Jersey flying from Southampton. 5 days £495 (ss £56). Half board, trips, some free time.

Outings:
9th December - Christmas Lights. £27.50. Few seats available.

6th February - Carvery Lunch in South Devon, with scenic tour.

Note: Non-Phoenix members £1 extra. All outings provide a suitable lunch location (not included).

New Diary Dates:
16th/21st June - Imperial Hotel, Barnstaple. 6 days £470. Half board and outings, one free day.

6th/10th September - Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. 5 days, details to be confirmed. To include Chatsworth House & Gardens, Lincoln, etc.

17th/21st November - Belmont Hotel, Sidmouth. 5 days £440 (sea view £460). Half board, outings.

Next meeting at the Community Centre 10 a.m. till noon Friday, **14th December**.

Next meeting at Greystones Hall, Highcliffe 2.30 p.m. Friday, **7th December**.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION New Milton Branch

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis,
615069

Thankfully, the forecast rain kept off for the town's 11th November commemoration, with the largest-ever gathering at the War Memorial and literally thousands taking part in the evening's clifftop events. So gratifying to all those who spent time and effort arranging everything. After the morning's follow-on service at the Memorial Centre, 30 Branch members and guests met for lunch at the Conservative Club which was absolutely bursting at the seams. I hope to report shortly on the success of this year's Poppy Appeal, sponsored by Pennyfarthing Homes.

A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

I have always been interested in history - not particularly the rather dry stuff we learnt in school but how and where people lived, how the local community evolved, etc. Consequently, when I recently moved to Whitefield Road and the deeds hinted of vast changes there over the years, I contacted Nick Saunders of the Milton Heritage Society. He is an absolute fount of local knowledge and came up with the following:-

According to a map dated 1898 the Whitefield area was, in fact, Haywards Farm, but the name Whitefield stuck because of the daisies which grew there in large numbers. The actual farmhouse and farmyard extended to our main

crossroads, later becoming Robert Adlards Builders Merchants and gas showrooms, now Charlotte Court/Mitchells/Kimbers. Then, in 1919/20 the Reverend John Edward Kelsall raised £800 through public donations and bought the field from the farmer. He arranged for the war memorial to be built there and when it was unveiled and dedicated in September, 1920, he announced that the field was to be used as a recreation ground, given debt-free in perpetuity to the people of New Milton in memory of local people who lost their lives in WW1. You can see the Reverend Kelsall's commemorative stone seat by the Memorial.

Also, according to the 1898 map, at the crossroads roughly where we now have Boots, there were clay pits stretching down to a kiln opposite the Bradbeers site. The clay in this area was regarded as being of fine brick-building quality, so it was excavated, shaped in wooden moulds, left to dry on Whitefield and then fired in the kiln. The bricks were used to build many of the once big houses in New Milton and transported by rail to Bournemouth for large building projects there, still seen today. Apparently, we had additional brick works in Ashley, Gore Road and Stem Lane, so quite a big local industry at that time. Hard to imagine, isn't it?

All this may answer why you complain of clay when digging in your gardens!

Phyllis Inglis

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

So many miles he'd travelled
But the journey was now done

Behind him lay a dusty land
Hard-baked beneath the sun
He breathed the chilly night air
Of this most modest town
A setting unremarkable
A place of no renown
But here a baby had been born
Of this he was aware
He had vowed to see that child
No effort did he spare
A certainty within him burned
He found its power strange
Now this child had come at last
His life would surely change
Weeks before, in harsh terrain
He'd watched as the sun sank
A man to whom respect was due
For he was of high rank
Then, as the sky drew darker
He picked the brightest star
Said "Child, you are far away
But I'll come to where you are
No obstacle shall bar me
All hardship I'll abide
Till I bridge the gulf between us
And stand right by your side"
Now, having kept that oath
He stood before a door
Steadying himself to see the sight
He'd so long hungered for
Others, too, had come to see
The mother and her child
The loving smile on every face
Showed they were beguiled
He had no frankincense to give
No gold or myrrh to show
Not one thing so widely coveted
Did he have to bestow
He only had himself to bring
But hoped this would suffice
A gift is valued by what it means
Much more than by its price
When those gathered saw him
Still greater was their joy
For a soldier safely home on leave
Could hold his baby boy!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Things have been happening here lately and I don't know what to make of it all. Cases have been brought down from the room in the roof, which usually means the sun is

shining and we go away to strange places, but today it's cold and dark outside. Also, I'm not receiving as much attention as I'm used to; in fact, Mum in particular keeps telling me to keep out of the way, be quiet or play with my toys. That noisy vacuum cleaner seems to be running for hours while she is going around dusting and polishing everything in sight. There's a room upstairs that's not used very much - just now and then when Mum and Dad "have words" and he slams the door and spends the night there in a bad mood. But now they're **both** spending ages in there cleaning and moving things, warning me to keep out. Mum's been busy washing and ironing, and also told me to get out of the way while she gets china and glass from the cupboards. A couple of days ago we went to a kind of park where there were lots of trees, and we came home with one of them which Dad put up in the big room with the fireplace! Trees indoors?? Later that day the cases from upstairs were opened up, lots of coloured things were taken out and put all over the tree which I must say made it look much better. I went forward for a closer look and was again told to keep away. I think my name has been changed from Jamie to "Don't Touch"! Yesterday we all went shopping and came home with more bags than I've ever seen. Dad put lots of bottles and packages in a cupboard while Mum shut herself in the kitchen where some very interesting smells came out. It has been dawning on me that something special is afoot and certainly this morning we were all up very early - lots of bustle, even more lovely smells from the kitchen, and Mum looking out of the window every five minutes. To be honest it's all been getting very boring and unsettling for me, and I wish everything would settle down quietly - and me getting some attention again.

Now a car has arrived outside
and the doorbell's ringing.
Strange grown-ups in the hall,
hugs and kisses - yuck, think I'll
disappear. But hey, what's this?
The group has parted and I see a
shy little thing being brought into
the room on a lead, wearing a
sparkly collar and a pink bow in
her hair. We stare at each other
and her eyelashes flutter. Well,
how about that! This is all going
to be a lot more interesting than I
expected.

Happy whatever-it-is everybody!

Jamie The Jack Russell

Laugh Lines

TO SANTA

Santa, please listen to me dear
Re your visit this time of year
I've no actual stockings
To hang by my bed
So I hope you'll understand
I've hung up knickers instead
Yes, they may be tired and saggy
But my body's old now

So I like them thick and baggy
Their elastic's lost its stretchiness
So I've tied them with some string
But the fact of the matter is
They'll hold anything you bring
As you creep into my bedroom
See those knickers out of fashion
Can I just remind you they belong
To a woman once full of passion
Now this year I need a man,
A sort of "handy" kind
One who can do some odd jobs
You know the type I have in mind
I don't mind cooking him a meal
But don't want him in my bed
He can go off home again
After he's fixed my leaking shed
I don't want to appear greedy
But if it's buy one get one free
Could you find it in your heart
To leave them both here for me?
Of course you may well think
That you yourself could be that man
So I'll leave it up to you
To sort out what you can
But leave those blessed reindeer
Well and truly out of sight
I don't want nosey neighbours

Seeing you've been here
Half the night!

Bikers:

A tough-looking group were out
riding when they saw a young
woman about to jump off a bridge,
so they stopped. The big, burly
leader said "What are you doing?"
and she said "I'm fed up, I'm going
to jump". An opportunist, he asked
"Well, before you jump give me a
kiss". She gave him a long,
lingering kiss and he said "Wow!
That's the best I've ever had. You've
got a real talent there, so why in the
world would you want to jump?"
She replied "My parents don't like
me dressing up as a girl!"

The authorities think she may have
been pushed! **Glo**

Christmas Fable: A stork came to
see the Baby Jesus and noticed he
lay with no pillow, so it plucked
feathers from its plumage to make
one. Since when storks have been
the symbol of new birth.

REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ONE OF OUR OWN SECTIONS OR ACTIVITIES YOUR FIRST "TASTER" VISIT WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE

NEED HELP?

The following have been recommended by members and pay a nominal sum to advertise in this
News letter throughout the year. Inclusion does not indicate Association endorsement!

BATHROOM & KITCHEN UPGRADES

Mike Brewster, Halton Property Services, 19 Farm Lane South, Barton-on-Sea, 01425 615236; info@haltonps.co.uk,
www.haltonps.co.uk. Check us out on www.checkatrade.com.

FERGUSONS ELECTRICIANS

Specialising in small electrical repairs/replacement/maintenance. Age Concern approved. Fully insured. Contact Richard
Ferguson, LCGI, IFL. 31 Barton Court Road, New Milton, BH25 6NW. 01425 612612./07910 176376.

FIRST CHOICE ELECTRICAL

Dave Woodhouse for all electrical work. 01425 619705/07971 050557, fc.electrical@outlook.com

FRUSTRATED BY COMPUTERS? I offer a local, friendly, inexpensive repair and tuition service. Over 25
Years' PC experience. David Mason, 01425 626112/07512 890768. david.mason1948@gmail.com.

GILES TATHAM, RFHP, SACDip., FHP

Qualified foot health professional. Nail cutting, callus, corns, diabetic foot care. Full treatment or just nail-cutting.
Appointments in the comfort of your own home. Call 01202 986164.

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Andy Scrutton. Prompt, reliable service. No job too small. 01425 276973/07526 542040.

PLUMBER & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Contact Guy Callway, 34 Barton Court Road, New Milton, BH25 6NR. 01425 620858/078980 172151.

What's On in December

Regular Hirers

Contact the Hirer if you wish to join

Hirer	Session	Day	December
Bashley W.I.	A	Fri	14.
Brockenhurst Yoga	E	Tues	4.
C & NF Nat.Trust	E	Wed	-----
CAMEO Ladies	M	Wed	5.
Doohan Yoga	E	Thurs	6,13,20.
EXTEND	M	Thurs	6,13.
Hort. Society	E	Wed	19.
Mandela Book Grp	E	Mon	17.
Martial Arts	M	Sat	-----
Michelle's Slim. World	E	Wed	5,12,19.
NF Quilts Group	E	Mon	3,10.
RAF Association	M	Tues	4.
Seq. Dance	A	Tues	4,11.
Tangent Yoga	E	Thurs	6,13.
Townswomen's Guild	A	Mon	17.
U3A Family History	M	Mon	-----
U3A Local History	M	Wed	-----
U3A Rummikub	A	Tues	18.
U3A Singing	A	Mon	-----
U3A World History	M	Thurs	-----
Weight Watches	M	Sat	1,8,15.
Wool Etc	A	Thurs	13.

Non-affiliated groups are responsible for their own promotion, contact details, etc.

Affiliated Organisations

Accord Legal Services Ltd.	Ms. R. Callow	07712 045969
Bashley Forest W.I.	Mrs. M. Wallace	629042
Brockenhurst College	Mrs. R. Clark	01590 625222
CAMEO - Ladies' Group	Mrs. M. Sheldrake	628675
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	611662
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 Friends Group	Mr. G. Fearis	610916
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 Indoor Bowling Club	Mr. R. Wilson	612437
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. J. Litten	617052
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.	Ms. B. Laine -	
	secretary.nm.bos.rnli@gmail.com	
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. V. Reece	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
Chairman	Marie Morgan	501315	chair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Glen Kennedy	613705	vchair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Treasurer	John Revill	627973	finance@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
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Lettings Officer	Chris Lynott	—	lettings@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Publicity Manager	TBA		publicity@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Catering Manager	Betty McNie	639482	—
Social Secretary	Pamela Badcock	01202 980177	social@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Health & Safety Officer	Bob Stevens		healthsafety@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

Non-Committee:

Minutes Secretary/Clerk to the Exec. Committee -			
Colin Bower		613254	minsec@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Reception Manager	Gill Ferguson	612612	reception@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

What's On in December Regular Events

Section /Activities	Time	Day	December	Section /Activities	Time	Day	December
Art	2:00 PM	Wed	5,12,19.	French Improvers	12:00 PM	Mon	3,10,17.
Ballroom Dancing	2:00 PM	Mon	3,10,17.	French Intermediate	9:55 AM	Mon	3,10,17.
Ballroom Dancing	7:30 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.	German Beginners	11:30 AM	Tues	4,18.
Beading	7:00 PM	Wed	-----	German Improvers	10:00 AM	Tues	4,18.
Beading	9:45 AM	Thurs	6,13,20.	Italian - Beginners	2:00 PM	Fri	7,14,21.
Bowling	6:30 PM	Mon	3,10,17.	Italian - Improvers +	10:00 AM	Fri	7,14,21.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Tues	4,11,18.	Italian - Improvers +	11:15 AM	Fri	7,14,21.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Wed	12,19.	Italian - Manuela	11:30 AM	Thurs	6,13,20.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Thurs	6,13,20.	Line Dancing	12:15 PM	Fri	7,14,21.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Fri	7,14,21.	Literature Group	2:00 PM	Wed	5,12.
Bowling	6:30 PM	Fri	7,14,21.	Luncheon Club	12:00 PM	Thurs	20.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Mon	3,10,17.	Mah-Jong	1:30 PM	Fri	7,14,21.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Tues	4,11,18.	Mens Get Together	10:00 AM	Thurs	6.
Bridge Partner	1:30 PM	Wed	5,12,19.	Piano	10:45 AM	Mon	3,10,17.
Bridge Duplicate	1:30 PM	Wed	5,12,19.	Poetry	10:30 AM	Thurs	13.
Bridge Practice	1:30 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.	Rummikub	10:00 AM	Wed	12.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Fri	7,14,21.	Saturday Dancing	7:30 PM	Sat	8.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Sat	-----	Scrabble	1:30 PM	Mon	3,10,17.
Canasta	1:30 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.	Soc Seq Dancing	1:45 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.
Chess	1:30 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.	Spanish Conversa- tion	10:00 AM	Mon	3,10.
Choir	2:00 PM	Wed	5,12.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Mon	3,10.
Come Dancing	7:30 PM	Tues	4,11,18.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Fri	7,14,21.
Craft	10:00 AM	Wed	12.	Spanish Improvers	10:00 AM	Fri	7,14,21.
Cribbage	2:00 PM	Tues	4,11,18.	Spanish Circle	7:30 PM	Tues	-----
Darts	2:00 PM	Mon	3,10,17.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Mon	3,10,17.
Darts	2:00 PM	Tues	4,11,18.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Tues	4,11,18.
Discussion Group	2:00 PM	Tues	11.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Wed	5,12,19.
Fabric Craft	2:00 PM	Thurs	13.	Table Tennis	2:00 PM	Thurs	6,13,20.
Film Show	2:30 PM	Sun	16.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Fri	7,14,21.

Editor's Contact Details:

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