



MEN'S GET TOGETHER GROUP

MGT NEWSLETTER

Issue No 104 February 2022

Welcome to the latest Edition of our Newsletter,

The February Meeting

As announced our Speaker was Ian Schulz who delivered an interesting illustrative talk entitled "The Deserts of Namibia". His talk was supported by almost 100 photos and short movies, taken during his recent exploration of Namibia with his wife when they visited to catalogue the amazing Flora and Fauna.

The March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd March 2022. The planned Speaker Howard Nichols is unable to make the meeting, so Ian Schulz will be returning and presenting a talk entitled **"Google: Everything you wanted to know and LOTS you didn't know you wanted to know!"**

Following the close of the normal meeting the assemble adjourned for a short break before the commencement of the Extraordinary General Meeting called to decide the future of the Men's Get Together Meetings.

The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

As those who attended are aware, the future of the Men's Get Together meetings was discussed, various options were presented and voted upon and a final decision made voted on by members which was that the group would continue to meet monthly at the Community Centre as at present with the following changes effective from 1st April 2022:

- The MGT group will continue to operate as a Section as defined by the New Milton and District Community Centre Rules and Regulations.
- Members will no longer pay an annual fee for attending MGT Meetings, instead they will pay £4.00 attendance fee, which covers the costs of the fee to the Centre and the Speaker Costs. Anyone requiring Teas/Coffees etc., can purchase it at the Refreshment counter for £0.60.

- The £4.00 can be paid upon entry to the Common Room by Cash, Cheque or when available Credit Card.
- Members will still be required to pay the annual £12 entry fee to the Community Centre Reception desk which covers the building maintenance costs, cleaning etc.,

Members were also advised that the following current Committee Members were resigning at the end of the next meeting and new Committee Members will need to volunteer to take over these roles:

- Ted Norman Chairman
- Dane Thomas Deputy Chairman
- David Judson Treasurer
- Dave Eley Membership Secretary
- Kevin Newton Meet & Greeter
- David Rogers Doorkeeper

It is likely that the monthly Newsletter will be replaced by a simple email each month advising who the Speaker will be at the next meeting.

If a member is interested in any of the above roles full job descriptions are available.

PLEASE consider whether you could volunteer to take on one of these roles.

If we cannot get new Committee Members, then the MGT Group risks closing down.

To Emphasise this, below is a message to you all from our outgoing Chairman Ted Norman

Dear Member,

I write to try to show the importance & seriousness of the MGT Committee status.

At the AGM in April, I, with the Secretary & Treasurer & others (after due notice) will be relinquishing our positions regarding the MGT Committee.

During that AGM I will be handing over control to a new MGT Committee. If we do not have any volunteers to take up the vacant positions then it is possible the MGT Group will slide into obscurity, which would be so sad after being in existence for 50+ years.

Can I ask you to consider allowing your name to go forward for any of the Committee positions please? The tasks are not normally onerous once the system has been set, it is just regular. Granted the last few months have been a bit more difficult because we were in a unique nationwide position. This, coupled with the fact we had been acting as “custom &

practice" group for many years & not been following the New Milton Community Centre Rules & Regulations, which must abide by the Charity Commissions Regulations.

But all this is behind us now, so the new committee would work to the now existing set of condition. So, please give some thought to keep the MGT Group in existence.

Thanks & best regards,

Ted NORMAN Outgoing Chairman



Men's Get Together Group

Getting New Members

As those who attended our February Meeting are aware the number attending our meetings have dropped significantly since we re-started in October last year. Prior to the start of the pandemic we had 85 paid up members with between 50 to 60 attending regularly. The numbers attending each meeting from October to January averaged 32 with 46 attending the February meeting and EGM.

As David Judson pointed out at the EGM financially the MGT Group is not viable and will be running at a loss. This is not allowed under Charity Commission Rules (the Centre is a registered charity) and if losses continue the MGT Group will close down.

It is therefore vital that we increase the numbers attending our meetings. Some increases will come from members who have felt unable to re-join us due to continued uncertainty about the state of Covid restrictions and/or current health issues who may return as restrictions ease and health issue reduce.

We have been able to undertake some free advertising in community magazines including Focus, Barton Bugle and New Milton Mail but we do not have a budget for wider advertising and in any case the best way to get new members is by existing members introducing friends and neighbours

Please help us add new members to our group.

Kind regards

Dave Eley – Membership and Newsletter Secretary



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