



Welcome to the latest edition of our E-Newsletter,

October Meeting

Our October meeting was held on Thursday 4th October and the speaker was Andre Edwards who talked to us about “The Pilgrim Bandits Charity” which was established in New Milton by a small group of Special Forces veterans with the sole aim of using their unique training and experience to help and inspire our injured Forces to live life to the full and go a little further.

Andre described and showed videos of some of the recent challenges undertaken and described their latest challenge cycling the length of New Zealand with paraplegic men and women.

November Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 1st November at 10.00 for 10.30 when Stuart Wheeler will give a talk about the “Tank Museum” and particularly about tanks in the First World War.

December Meeting

Our December Meeting will see the return of Ian Schulz who this time will be presenting a talk entitled “An Alternative Christmas” sub-titled “Mosquitoes, birds, bugs and reptiles – but no turkey!!”

January 2019 Meeting

Please note that this meeting will be on the **second** Thursday this month being Thursday **10th January**. Also, as usual for the first meeting of the year, members can invite their partners to join us and light refreshments will be served.

Membership of Men’s Get Together Group

As we are receiving visitors on a regular basis it has been agreed that a visitor’s first meeting will be free but they must join the group and pay for any subsequent attendances.

Most Members have now renewed their membership of our group but for those who were unable to do so, please come prepared with the membership fee which remains at £16 (for

the 9th year) to 31 March 2019 at our November meeting. For those paying by Cheque, please make it payable to “Men’s Get Together”. New members will be charged on a pro-rata basis based on the proportion of the year.

Members should be aware that the Committee will be recommending an increase of the annual membership fee by £2.00 to £18.00 to cover the increasing costs of good speakers etc., This will be the first increase in nine years and, if approved, will start for the year commencing 1st April 2019.

Community Centre Membership

Members of our Men’s Group are reminded that a pre-requisite for being a member of the Men’s Group is that you must be a member of the New Milton Community Centre.

The committee would like to thank the many members of our group who have already renewed your membership of the New Milton Community Centre and those who have not renewed their membership should do so for the year to December 31st 2018 by talking to the team on the front desk.

Visits by Members to Attractions

Frank Willett is looking into the possibility of organising a visit to Fort Nelson on the Portsdown hills behind Portsmouth. Built between 1860 and 1870, Fort Nelson along with four other forts were the biggest defence projects ever undertaken in Britain and they were dedicated to providing the fire power to deter an enemy attack on Portsmouth from inland, although it never saw any action against the French.

The Royal Armouries museum was opened in 1984 and today is one of the largest such museums in the UK. Over 700 items of artillery from many countries and spanning 600 years have been brought to life whilst sensitively telling the unique stories behind them.

Fort Nelson is one of the few places where you can experience live black-powder firings of historic artillery pieces and daily gun firing occurs every day at 1pm.

If you may be interested in joining this visit, please talk to Frank at our next meeting.

The Committee and particularly Frank will be happy to receive suggestions from members of Attractions that they think could be of interest to the Group. These could include places previously visited or places people wish to visit. The Committee will also be checking local coach company one-day trips to see if any may be suitable.

Any suggestions will be gratefully received and can be discussed at the next meeting.

Men's Shed Organisation

The Men's Shed Organisation is an expanding group of meeting points for men which started in 2013 and is now a registered charity with over 400 branches across the UK. There are plans afoot about setting up a Men's Shed locally. Further details will be provided as these plans develop. Visit www.menssheds.org.uk for more information.

EU Data Protection Regulations

Most members have completed and returned the GDPR form that all members were asked to complete and return. Blank copies will be available at the next meeting for members to complete then.

A full multipage document is displayed on the Noticeboard in Reception for the information of any member who wishes to see the full details of the EU General Data Protection Regulations.

Walking Football in New Milton

As the date of this activity has changed to Friday I include the full details should members be interested in a fun way of meeting people and/or keeping fit.

WHEN: Friday mornings from 10:00 am for about 60 minutes

WHERE: On the all-weather MUGA tarmac pitches at the New Milton Recreation Ground next to the tennis courts & bowls club on Whitefield Rd.

WHAT: Play or referee Walking Footi at your own risk. Usually, there is free on-street car parking on Whitefield Rd. Bring both a predominantly dark top & a predominantly light top.

WHO: Young folks aged 50-ish & over.

COST: There is no charge. The MUGA pitches are free to use, but no medical facilities, changing rooms, drinks, team shirts or insurance cover provided.

WHY: Have fun outdoors while getting healthy exercise.

Please note that in view of the probability of some weather disruption during the autumn/winter the group are also now playing indoors at the Arnewood Leisure Centre (next to the school) on Tuesday mornings, between 08.30 and 09.30. This slot has been booked until the spring and there is a cost of £2.50 per session.

If interested, email Stan Dencher at JSD333UK@gmail.com or just turn up.

Asian Hornets

Please see the important flyer from the New Milton Town Council below:

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

What is it?

An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Suspected records should be reported immediately. A highly aggressive predator of native insects, posing a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Accidentally introduced to France in 2004 and spreading rapidly. Not yet present in GB but likely to arrive soon.



Where might I see it?

Most likely to be seen close to bee hives - bee keepers should be alert. Active from February to November in suburban areas in the south of England and Wales, or around major ports.

What does it look like?

Distinctive hornet, smaller than our native species. A key feature is the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the 4th segment which is yellow.

- > Slightly smaller than native hornet
- > Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow
- > Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- > Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

Asian Hornet abdomen

Native Hornet abdomen



- > Makes very large nests



- > 'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies killing bees as they attempt to defend their hive

DANGER!

This hornet stings. Do not disturb an active nest. Seek advice using the details below.

For more information or to report any sightings please email:

alert_nonnative@ceh.co.uk

Sending out Monthly Newsletters

I am aware that there are some members who do not have e-mail addresses, so I will be hand delivering or posting the monthly newsletter to them. If you acquire an e-mail address or change it at any stage, please let me know so that I can update your details. Thanks.

Look out for our notice board in the hall at our meetings, where we advertise all of our activities and news of recent events etc.

I look forward to seeing you all again at our next meeting.

Kind regards,

David Eley
(Men's Get Together Secretary)
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