

New Milton & District Community Association



NEWSLETTER

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Registered charity No. 301897

FEBRUARY, 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 THE EDITOR

I have to begin by formally reporting that Michael Minton has resigned as Chairman and, indeed, from the Executive Committee itself. He wishes me to state that his reason for doing so is that his proposals for the Association's future were not compatible with the wishes of the Executive Committee. It has to be said that over his six months with us Michael devoted a lot of time and thought to reviewing the Association's management and way forward - how its position in the community might be expanded and enhanced - so we do appreciate and thank him for all his efforts in this regard.

Vice Chairman Marie Morgan has automatically assumed the role of Acting Chairman, but this has to be on a purely temporary basis, so we are anxious to recruit a new Chairman - or at least an interested volunteer to join the committee with the idea in mind of taking on that role after a short "in waiting" period while learning what we're all about - ideally someone from within our membership who will be familiar with our activities and procedures, moderate aims and

objectives to some extent. All members of the Executive Committee have their individual roles, working together as a team, but it is mandatory that we have someone at the helm.

If anyone feels they could be that person with the interests of the Centre at heart and would like to know more, please do contact Marie, or myself as Secretary.

Meanwhile, be assured that the Association remains in conscientious, capable hands, looking after the Centre and your interests to the best of our ability. However, as a voluntary organisation it is essential that we should be able to call on your concerted support to fill key positions and offer help wherever possible to keep everything functioning day by day, as it should.

Well, after all that, here we are back to "normal" and, quite ridiculously, the shops are already stocking Easter Eggs and hot cross buns (Easter is fairly early this year with Good Friday coming up on 30th March). I expect, too, that many of you will be actively planning a summer holiday,

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

Email: info@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

perhaps somewhere hot and exotic. I think the nearest yours truly will get to “hot and exotic” will be an Indian restaurant!

If your inclination is to stay closer to home I’m sure there will be plenty going on in the town as well as in our Centre to interest you. Barton clifftop can be very “bracing” to say the least when the winds blow, but on a lovely warm day where else would you need to be? We really are so fortunate to have the sea and the Forest right here to enjoy.

Having said that, there is so much in this country to explore. Although the Other Half and I took pleasure in cruising, we did have one really memorable experience here many years ago.

Shortly after retirement we bought a motor home and, with our small dog, spent best part of a year touring this country - travelling north from Surrey, visiting good friends in the Midlands, Herefordshire and Yorkshire, seeking out the OH’s “roots” in Scotland, across country and down through Wales to North Devon where I was evacuated, lastly to Cornwall and arriving back home slightly travel-weary and the laundry basket full to overflowing, but our minds and cameras storing memories of all we had seen and heard on our wanderings.

Long remembered as one of our happiest and best holidays.

Two or three months ago I asked for comments on how you viewed the Newsletter - was it interesting, what would you like it to contain, what don’t you like, etc. Can’t say I was exactly overwhelmed by the response but I did receive positive feedback that (a) some of you found it a bit difficult to read, and (b) for those who are **not** involved in our specific activities, it doesn’t offer very much of general interest to members, especially since the last two pages are taken up by lists and standard information.

Well, I’m here to serve, so hope you will approve of this new **12-page** edition. It will obviously cost more to produce so the next few months must be regarded as a trial period to see if it’s worth while, **and your constructive feedback will, therefore, be welcomed.**

Apart from some general comments in my editorial, a few “funnies” and the occasional story for your interest or amusement quite unrelated to Centre affairs, **a lot will depend on the contributions I receive from management, the sections and activities, affiliates and possibly our regular hirers** - all to illustrate what’s going on

and what the Centre has to offer. (As a case in point, out of our 20+ affiliates, very few of them submit articles for the Newsletter, so they are not really taking full advantage of their affiliation to spread the word about their activities).

As requested by the Exec. Committee, each issue will carry a “taster” voucher which you can use to try out a section or activity free of charge.

Most of you will be aware that Natwest provides a banking service in our car park every Monday morning from 11 a.m. till noon. **In addition, the Natwest Community Banker Helen Downes will be at the Centre on Fridays 2nd and 23rd February from 10 a.m. till noon** offering advice about on-line banking, avoiding scams, and a whole lot more. She says that, despite repeated warnings, people do tend to remain gullible and trusting, continuing to divulge important personal information, sometimes without realising it. So, whether or not you bank with Natwest, do take up the opportunity to seek her help and guidance. I understand that leaflets on this facility and how to avoid scams are available in Reception.

Do you have family living away from this area? Do

you worry about who to call for help and support if there is a problem? Are you lonely? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions you might be interested to know of a new local facility called Caring & Confidential - the brainchild of Janette Duke, past Mayor of New Milton. The information I've received states....

"We are not a care agency but aim to provide support allowing families to enjoy quality time when together and a safety net when apart". Apparently, in return for a monthly subscription a basic assessment of your individual needs is carried out followed by monthly visits, weekly telephone calls, and a monthly feedback report, all involving the family who may not be able to maintain regular contact with you.

Other benefits are included which can't all be explained here so, if you think this might be helpful to you in your circumstances and would like further details on what's involved, you can without any obligation contact Janette on 01425 837958 or go to janette.caringandconfidential@gmail.com.

Whilst on the subject of help in the community..... Bereavement is indescribable and we all have to deal with it in our own way. Nevertheless, sometimes in

the depths of despair a bit of outside guidance, support and comfort can be very welcome. I think most people know of CRUSE, which provides a one-to-one country-wide bereavement-care service, and we also have local Compass Counselling (01590 674011), but I have just learned that the Hinton Park Woodland Burial Ground at Walkford hosts a bereavement support group meeting on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It's open to all to drop in for tea, coffee and a supportive chat with experienced staff. For further information call the Park on 01425 278910.

Also, you will find that the Advertiser & Times now publishes bereavement services details at the start of their classified section, sign-posted on the front page every week.

Not a pleasant subject but I hope this information may be helpful to anyone in need.

Incidentally, at last month's New Milton Residents' Association meeting it was announced that negotiations for the town's proposed crematorium are now completed. A detailed planning application will be submitted soon after Easter, with building to start in December and completion due early in 2019.

If you happen to be around the railway station area you

may have noticed that, on the corner of Station Road and Avenue Road, there is an old brick building virtually covered with a mass of singularly unattractive, quite neglected wild shrubbery. It is, in fact, our one remaining WW2 surface air raid shelter, and it seems a shame that it has been left derelict rather than preserved and marked in some way.

I am reminded of a similar shelter to accommodate about 50 people which was erected in the road almost opposite our house in South London. Initially it was very dark and dreary - empty apart from spiders and rows of very basic canvas-covered bunk beds on either side. As our homes gradually suffered bomb damage, however, rugs appeared on the concrete floor, pictures on the walls, pillows and blankets on the beds, a gramophone and even a few small suitcases holding treasured possessions.

One evening Mum, Dad, my sister and I returned from visiting family in North London to find that an air raid was in progress, so we went straight to the shelter instead of indoors. Because of the visit we were all dressed in our "Sunday Best" and Mum fretted that everything would get dirty in the shelter. We learned that houses at the far end of the street had been hit by

incendiary bombs so Dad (a policeman) was called to help out and try to organise things. He was away for a long time during which we heard sounds of crashing timbers, reports of uncontrollable fires, billowing smoke and fatalities.

Eventually Dad returned looking grey and very weary - blackened face, singed hair, his clothing badly torn and charred. Mum fell on his shoulder weeping tears of relief and then thumped him, wailing "Just look at your best suit, Charles, and we've got no clothing coupons left!" Memories of a bygone day! Do **you** have any such memories? Will be glad to hear about them.

Phyllis Inglis

FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

Slightly belatedly but nonetheless sincerely meant, I take this opportunity to wish all members, volunteers, affiliates and hirers a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

I also wish to welcome back Sue Lewis, who is responsible for the beautiful, artistic flower arrangements always to be seen in the Centre. They gladden the eye and are very much appreciated.

As mentioned in the editorial, our Chairman has unfortunately decided to resign and I start by joining

Phyllis in thanking Michael for all he put into the six months he was with us. He had some good ideas which we will be pleased to review and hopefully implement in the months to come.

Being Acting Chairman was not something I had anticipated as a New Year gift but will do my very best to ensure everything runs smoothly until a new Chairman can be appointed.

At the January Executive meeting I said we should all be very proud to belong to this Centre, run completely by hardworking volunteers, and I thank them ALL for their commitment. We really do appreciate the time and effort put into keeping everything ticking over.

I hope that, by now, you have all renewed your membership since we also need YOUR support over the year ahead. I have visited one or two sections since the Centre opened after the holiday break and hope to call in on more shortly. However, if there is anything you feel will help to keep the Centre viable for everyone please do not hesitate to contact me; my details can be found on page 11.

If you haven't already made a New Year Resolution can I suggest that volunteering at the Centre would be a good start? Or you may feel you

could help on our Executive Committee. You will be made very welcome to work with likeminded people .

I plan to be at the Centre each Friday morning for the next several weeks so please do come and have a chat as I would appreciate receiving your suggestions and feedback. I look forward to meeting as many members as I can.

Marie Morgan

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals have gone well and my thanks to all the volunteers who have been staffing the desk, which will be closing soon. Please do remember to renew your membership because, if you fail to do so and wish to rejoin at a later date, you will have to pay £2.50 in addition to the usual £8 fee.

Thank you all, too, for completing the membership renewal form. I know it was a chore but it has enabled me to check that your details on file are accurate; several errors have been discovered.

If changes to your address, phone number, etc. are necessary at any time during the year, an update form can be obtained from Reception. The forms have also been used by several members to make comments. These have been put aside to be reviewed in committee

Nigel King

WEBSITE

This is now fully working and the Room Hire page has been greatly expanded with photos and details about each of the rooms available. They can be hired for single or regular events through the Lettings Officer on lettings@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk giving specific details of your requirements along with contact information. Do remember that discounts are available to affiliated groups.

If your group has any information or photographs they would like to see included on the webpage, I will be pleased to receive them.

Nigel King

TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

If you have joined us recently, please note in your new diary that we are holding an informal drinks party from 6.30 to 9 p.m. in the Common Room, Friday, **9th March**. Come and join us as we would like to introduce ourselves and meet up with you all. **Please leave your name at Reception if you would like to attend.**

Pam Badcock
Social Secretary

POLICE SURGERY

10.30 a.m. for about one hour at the Town Hall, Wednesday, 28th February.

FILM SHOW

Sunday, **18th February**, "Victoria and Abdul" - a

biographical drama featuring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal and Tim Pigott-Smith. The Queen strikes up a strong friendship with a young Indian clerk. £2.50 includes tea/coffee. 2 for 2.30 p.m. start. Use side entrance next to the kitchen door.

John Fogerty

ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTER SUPPORT

Commencing on Tuesday, **20th March**, David Ellis will be at the Centre each Tuesday and Thursday for the foreseeable future, offering computer/ipad/phone support. Tuesday sessions will begin at 2.30 p.m., Thursday sessions at 10.30 a.m. It will depend on the take-up as to how long the sessions will last (initially two hours). A rota will be given to Reception and a notice displayed in the foyer asking people to put their names down to book their slot. David will give advice about the internet and accessing things like switching providers.

David is very patient and will go through things with you as slowly as need be. Whatever problems you have, he will do his best to help you.

News from Sections & Activities

ART

An organisational change has taken place within the group. For personal reasons John Wilkins

has stood down as Chairman and Barry Richardson has taken over that role.

BALLROOM/LATIN/ SOME SEQUENCE

Contact: Pam Badcock, 01202 980177

Now that we have survived January and all the aftermath of Christmas (and probably broken all the New Year resolutions made) we can look forward to our Valentines Party Dance on **15th February**, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Tickets at £2.50 will include tea/coffee and a splendid raffle. Bring your own drinks and nibbles; dress formal. Tickets can be obtained on a Thursday evening or from me. Come and let us see what you have picked up from the "Strictly" shows - but no lifts please, gentlemen!

BOWLS

Contact: Janet Keats, 614996
Details of the next skittles event at Hoburne Bashley will be found on the noticeboard. Closing date is **9th February** and the cost will be £10 per person for a one-course lunch and skittles. Raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted before the event or on the day.

We play indoor bowls every Monday to Friday at the Community Centre. New members are always welcome to come and join us.

BRIDGE

Contact: Christopher Fradd, 614605

Our Section Christmas Party was very well attended. Winners of the Chicago bridge played that afternoon were Ilsa Sterling and Peter Dance. Runners up were Ray Champion and Richard Ferguson.

The new year has got off to a very good start. Days of the week and times of the various

bridge sessions remain as mentioned last month.

The Social Bridge continues to be on the third Saturday of the month but in the afternoon rather than the evening. By the time you read this we will know how popular the change has been and which pair won in January. I will report on this in the next Newsletter.

In February the Social Bridge event will be held on Saturday, 17th, once again starting at 1.30 p.m.

COME DANCING

Contact: June, 619772

Now into the second month of 2018 the first themed party dance on our social calendar is the ever-popular Valentine Dance on **14th February** from 7.30 to 10.15 p.m., with fun dances, spot prizes and a raffle included in the ticket price. At £2.50 for our section members and just £3 for other Community Centre members and visitors, it's exceptional value and promises to be a good evening. Dress code is red and white. Please bring along your own refreshments.

The bi-monthly Saturday dances continue and this month will be held on the 10th and 24th. With a mix of ballroom, Latin, and popular sequence dances, plus the newly-introduced spot prize dances, these are always very enjoyable, sociable evenings, worth the effort of going out into the cold to get there. Entrance is £2 for section members and £2.50 for everyone else.

Our music presenters need our support to make their hard work worthwhile, so please do try to come along.

CRAFT

Contacts: Chairman Vera Day, 273601; Secretary Margaret Prior, 621477; Treasurer Irene Jeffries, 638254.

If you are interested in craft of any kind why not pop in to one of our sessions and see if this section is for you; your first visit is free! We meet in the Common Room annex on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. till noon.

Dates for this month are....

14th - Workshop

28th - Surprise Easter Project

DISCUSSION GROUP

Contacts: Bob Dowling, 838523
bobdowling@hotmail.co.uk;

Colin Bower, 613254
bower.colin@gmail.com

We began the New Year by welcoming 4 visitors to our January meeting. Two were from the U3A Christchurch Pros and Cons Group which Bob and I visited earlier in the month.

We looked at some of the topics that had been in the news since our last meeting and discussed the proposed merger of Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole into one unitary authority. It was good to discuss a local question. We then turned to the three questions agreed at our December meeting:

1. Is the new law forcing public companies to publish "pay" rates necessary? Will it make any difference and, if not, what legislation should be put into place?
2. Should ex soldiers be pursued, questioned or prosecuted in relation to killings in Northern Ireland 50 years ago?
3. The development of robotics is moving at an ever-increasing pace. How do we manage in a world where robots will take over humans in the workplace?

We have put the Group's collective answer to Question 1 in the Community Centre's website. Do take a look!

At our next meeting (2 p.m. **Tuesday, 13th February**) we agreed to discuss the following, allowing time to cover one or two topical questions -

1. Sir David Attenborough has called for the world to cut back on its use of plastic in order to protect our oceans. How can this be done?
2. Should begging be banned in town/city centres?
3. The NHS needs urgent funding. Where should the money come from? Should NHS car parking fees be part of the solution?

If you have views on these topics and/or would like to hear what others have to say, we would be very pleased to welcome you to our meetings.

Visit to Pros and Cons Group, January 2018:

Bob Dowling and I joined in the meeting of this group in Highcliffe to find out what they did. They are part of Christchurch U3A and meet at the Chairman's home. A small group - about the same number as in our Discussion Group. It debates two subjects, the questions agreed at the previous meeting, as were the two people who would propose and oppose the motions. A vote was taken before each debate. After the presentations everyone present was asked to participate in the discussions and a vote taken at the conclusion.

The questions do not have to be topical and the two subjects chosen for January were:-

- A monarchy is better than a republic

- The anticipation of Christmas is better than Christmas itself.

Really good questions that produced a lively and humorous exchange. It was interesting that the presenters could at least see the merits of the case presented by the other side, and it was clear they could have supported either case! One other element interesting to us was that U3A also have a Current Affairs Group.

Comparison with our own Discussion Group?

The nearest the Discussion Group have come to holding a debate was before the Brexit referendum, when a vote was taken before and after our discussions. We would not rule out a debate but, at the moment, we have plenty of topics to discuss at each of our meetings. To us, the Discussion Group sits in the middle of these two U3A groups -

- Members of our Group submit questions before each meeting (to go with a stock of other questions sent in previously)
- We choose the topics (democratically!) for the next meeting
- We allow time to look at a topical question or two.

The visit was a worthwhile exercise and we feel we could organise a debate if we thought it appropriate. The Chairman of the Pros and Cons Group and his wife joined us for our January meeting. I wonder what they thought of us!

Colin Bower

JUBILEE SINGERS

Contact: Liz Northcote

Our Christmas concerts took place to sell-out audiences attended by Town Mayor David Rice-Mundy and Councillor Valya Schooling. We performed a wide variety of carols and songs including two by John Rutter, and conductor Janet Trow gave us some amusing anecdotes. The ladies gave a good rendition of "Walking In The Air" from The Snowman, and the men sang "Mary's Boy Child", and we had quite a few male soloists this time. A donation was given to Windward Activities for those with learning difficulties who meet in the Community Centre and came to our dress rehearsal. A donation was also given to New Milton Town Council towards the Christmas lights.

We also sang for Open Sight at Bashley Village Hall, for the Day Centre at Brockenhurst Village Hall, and for the Townswomen's Guild - all very successful.

Our summer concerts will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturdays **12th and 19th May**.

Before that we hope you will join us in the Common Room on Monday, **23rd April**, to celebrate St. George's Day. The choir will be singing English songs, followed by afternoon tea and a final sing-song. Tickets at £5 will be available from Reception next month and there will be more information in the March Newsletter.

Sheila Lead, on 837973, is the person to contact if you have any queries.

LANGUAGES

Spanish - February

Contact: Ana Humphries,
ana_humphries@hotmail.com

Conversation: 10 a.m. one hour
Beginners: 11.15 a.m. one hour

Mondays 5th, 19th, 25th
(half-term 12th to 16th)

Improvers: 10 a.m. one hour

Beginners: 11.15 a.m. one hour

Fridays 2nd, 9th, 23rd
(half-term 12th to 16th)

LITERATURE

Contact: Janet Giles,
07719 606 358

We meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays through to 21st March (half-term 14th February), studying the works of Ibsen and Strindberg.

MEN'S GET TOGETHER

Contact: Secretary David Eley

Our January meeting included attendance of our ladies, and very entertaining it was, with a good buffet and wine presented by Wendy and her team, with help from Charles, Terry and Yvonne. Speaker Judy Theobald gave us an enjoyable presentation on "Christmas and Other Problems" with stories and memories from her varied life, and extracts from her humorous poems. A raffle was held following the hard work of Yvonne and Margaret in selling tickets.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, **1st February**, with speaker Tony Wright talking to us about "Tax, Care and Other Inheritance Grabbers!" - an entertaining but useful look at some vital aspects of later life planning.

On **1st March** David Hutchins is invited to talk on "Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust", its work and bus transport in the Southampton area.

As advised at previous meetings, this year will mark the **50th anniversary** of the formation of our group, and a celebration of this will take place at our **5th July** meeting, to which our ladies will be invited. **Any suggestions**

on how to mark this occasion will be gratefully received by committee members.

The search for a Treasurer goes on! Our current Treasurer, Terry Partridge, will be stepping down from his role after nine years of sterling service so, from April, a volunteer is sought to take over his duties, which are not onerous in any way.

Members are asked to consider offering themselves to assume these duties and join the committee in continuing to manage and develop the group's activities. Terry would be happy to talk to anyone about this role.

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

POETRY

Contact: Shirley Burke, 628992

Our group meeting takes place after the Newsletter copy deadline date so a report on our topic of Storms cannot be provided. The next meeting will be at 10.30 a.m. Thursday, **15th February**, in Room 1 when the topic will be "Humour and Limericks". Members take turns to read poems they have found which fit the topic or those they have written themselves. Some discussion often arises on what has been read or the actual poets, especially if not well known. Some members have more knowledge than others and happily share what they know. Everyone agrees at the end of the meeting that reading and listening has been an enjoyable and uplifting experience. Do join us to find out for yourselves.

SOCIAL SEQUENCE

DANCING

Contact: Dee, 627922

What a wonderful start to the New Year! A full turnout of dancers and a great new lively programme, everyone in good spirits, having a good time with masses of socialising. Even some new potential recruits, made very welcome by our regular dancers. Hopefully they will join us.

Our grateful thanks to the maintenance team for repainting the skirting boards, etc. A great job which is most appreciated.

TABLE TENNIS

Contact: Secretary Gloria Lovelock, 613705

nmdca.tabletennis@btinternet.com

Hi everyone! Into the second month of the year and time does fly! To those who have escaped the flu, well done, and to those who haven't wishing you a speedy recovery.

Starting this new year the subs are now £3 p.a., and the fee per session is £1.20.

A big thank-you to all for rallying round and keeping the section shipshape and Bristol fashion while we are away or under the weather. Top tip for yucky, sticky, chesty coughs - "Broncho Stop"! Take care and see you at the tables soon. **Glo and Glen**

Motto of the month:

Worrying is a total waste of time. It doesn't change anything, and all it does is steal your joy and keeps you busy doing nothing!

News from the Affiliates

MILTON HERITAGE SOC.

Contact: Chairman Nick Saunders, 618549

nicksaunders40@tiscali.co.uk

At our meeting on Friday, **23rd February**, the speaker will be David Hopkins, Hampshire

County Archaeologist. He will tell us about the Historic Environment Record of Hampshire, giving a fascinating potted account of the county through time, drawing on examples from the Milton area. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Centre.

On **16th March** (again at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Centre) we will welcome Eddie Curry, Director of the New Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times.

Do contact me if you wish to know more about the Society and how you can become a member.

NEIGHBOUR CARE

Contact: Chairman Phyllis Inglis, 615069

As reported last month, 2017 was a very busy year with eventually over 2,800 clients having been assisted despite a chronic shortage of drivers. It is expected that the new year will be even busier, stretching our resources to the limit, so **we really do need more drivers** to help share the load. Do please consider giving us some of your time to help the less able within our community. Petrol costs are reimbursed at the Government's tax-free level of 45P per mile. Call Office Manager David Whittington on 611662 or 620430.

NEW MILTON MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP

Contact: Chairman/Leader Malcolm Swan, 618925

cmswan@sky.com

Our group has now been meeting at the Community Centre on Monday afternoons for the past eleven years, welcoming folk with a range of visual problems and seeing attendance of forty each month.

We aim to provide a varied programme which mixes musical entertainment and humorous

speakers with informative sessions on sight-related issues. As our title suggests, we support local people who have been diagnosed with macular degeneration and other types of sight loss. We are not experts in the field but our national Macular Society offers an excellent professional helpline as well as a counselling service should this become necessary.

If you feel you might benefit from joining us or the national society itself please contact me. I will be happy to let you have Macular Society literature and a copy of our 2018 programme which also appears on the Community Centre website - newmiltoncommunity.org.uk. Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on **12th February**, when we have a "Wiltshire Farm Foods" taster afternoon.

NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOC.

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis, 615069

An audience of 70+ attended our January meeting to hear Head Agister of the Verderers Court New Forest, Jonathan Gerrelli, give a most informative, entertaining presentation on the dedicated work of verderers, agisters and commoners; all volunteers, providing year-round care and management of the Forest, flora and fauna, ponies, donkeys, cattle, pigs, sheep and wildlife. A hard but very rewarding life for all concerned.

In the "question time" session which followed Jonathan's talk, much concern was expressed about the number of animals killed or maimed on Forest roads. Various ideas

have been considered with the aim of making animals more visible after dark and, whilst not a perfect solution, fitting self-detachable reflective collars is regarded as the best alternative at this time.

If you witness or have an accident involving an animal, or you see an animal which you believe is in some kind of trouble, contact the Police via 999; they will attend and alert the verderers (two are always on duty 24/7) who will come and deal with the situation as necessary. Don't err on the side of caution; verderers would far rather attend a call-out which proves unnecessary than not be called at all!

No charge was made for Jonathan's presentation but donations would always be gratefully received towards the cost of providing the reflective collars (about £7.50 each). If anyone would like to make such a contribution, cheques made payable to Verderers of the New Forest can either be left for me at the Centre or sent directly to Verderers of the New Forest, The Queens House, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NH.

Our AGM will be held at 10.15 a.m. on Saturday, **10th March**, at the Community Centre, followed immediately afterwards by a General Meeting with Open Forum. This gives a particular opportunity for attendees to put forward any views, comments or concerns that they might have. Non-members welcome.

We have already been warned that, for unavoidable personal reasons, two or three committee members will stand down at the AGM, so we are most anxious for some new faces with new views to come forward.

If you are a community-spirited person who would like to contribute your support to the Association which is doing its best to work in the interests of the town, please do contact our Chairman Alan Watson on 610052, or email him at chairman@nmra.org.uk

NEW MILTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Contact: Eileen, 614753

Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on Monday, **19th February**, with a talk on Fair Trade. All visitors are welcome.

PHOENIX HOLIDAY GROUP

Contact: Pat McKean, 278669

phoenixholshighcliffe@aol.com
The next Open Meeting at the Community Centre is 10 a.m. till noon on Friday, **16th February**.

Holidays now being booked:-

25th February/1st March: Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth. Half board £430. Outings each day.

14th/16th March: London including choice of show, Kinky Boots or 42nd Street, plus backstage tour of Royal Albert Hall, Kew Gardens, boat trip on the Thames, etc. £329 (ss £34).

30th April/4th May: Harrogate, to include York, RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Nunnington Hall, tour, etc. £419 (ss £20 or £60).

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

Outings:-

8th March: RNLI College Tour, Poole. £25.

26th April: Dorset Bluebell Hunt. £17.50.

20th June: Mottisfont for the Roses. £18.50, plus £11 for non-National Trust members.

We are finalising more holidays and outings for the year and details will be given as soon as they become available.

Our next meeting in Highcliffe is on Friday, **2nd February**, at Greystones Hall, Waterford Road.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION New Milton Branch

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis, 615069

As previously announced, we will now be holding only two branch meetings a year - one in June and the other in November which will incorporate our AGM.

However, apart from being social occasions, our regular lunches at the Rising Sun will be regarded as informal branch meetings for an exchange of information and comment.

Our next visit to the Rising Sun will be 12 for 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, **20th February**. On Thursday, **8th March** we shall have a Ploughman's Lunch, 12.30 p.m. at the Memorial Centre.

So that numbers can be firmed up, it would be helpful for you to let me know if you wish to attend either of these functions.

TAI CHI QIGONG

Contact: Martin Common,
07973 639348

Hello! My name is Martin and I've been teaching at the Centre since late last year. We now have a group of around eight regulars enjoying the

class. Tai Chi Qigong is gentle exercise which helps release stiffness and stress in the body and mind, allowing energy or Chi to flow uninterrupted around the body, improving mobility which, in turn, improves balance. The practice is also a Mindful Movement, which means that the body, breath and mind coordinate as one and allows you to be "in the moment". Variations of this ancient Chinese self-healing practice were performed and recorded some 3,000 years ago!

We have spaces for beginners and the more experienced, and the class can also be followed from a chair, so please do come along and see what it's all about.

We meet from 2 to 3.10 p.m. every Tuesday, £6 per class or £5 if you book for one month. Contact me if you would like further information or visit my website www.improve-your-balance.co.uk.

Story Lines

My teacher pointed at me with his ruler and said "At the end of this ruler there's an idiot". I got detention after asking which end!

Glo

Did you know

Why are a man's "naughty bits" sometimes referred to as the Crown Jewels? In medieval

times men wore protective cod-pieces and those of the more affluent or important members of society were often over-large and prominently displayed - not only to imply that they were covering equipment to be proud of but because they were used as a "purse" containing money and even small items of jewellery. Hence the Crown Jewels! Yuck!

Why do brides carry a bouquet of flowers? This practice started many years ago when, of course, hygiene concerns weren't anything like they are today and, very often, the bride didn't smell very sweet - so she carried a bouquet of aromatic herbs and flowers to disguise the fact.

Down on the Farm:

A farmer called at a neighbour's farmhouse and the door was opened by a small boy. "Is your Mum and Dad at home?" he asked. "No", replied the boy, "they've gone into the village". "Well, how about your brother Ben?" "No, he's with Mum and Dad but I can take a message if you like" The farmer stood uncomfortably for a few minutes and then said "I really need to talk to your Dad about Ben getting my daughter pregnant!" The boy thought for a moment and answered "Yes, you'll have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges £500 for the bulls and £150 for the pigs, but I've no idea how much he charges for Ben!"

"TASTER" VOUCHER

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

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 February

Regular Hirers

Contact the Hirer if you wish to join

Hirer	Session	Day	February
Bashley W.I.	A	Fri	9.
Brockenhurst Yoga	E	Tues	6,20,27.
C & NF Nat.Trust	E	Wed	-----
CAMEO Ladies	M	Wed	7.
Doohan Yoga	E	Thurs	1,8,15.
EWE 2 Club	A	Thurs	-----
EXTEND	M	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
Hort. Society	E	Wed	21.
Mandela Book Grp	E	Mon	19.
Martial Arts	M	Sat	3,10,17,24.
Michelle's Slim. World	E	Wed	7,14,21,28.
NF Civil Service	M	Tues	-----
NF Quilts Group	E	Mon	5,12.
Purely Pilates	M	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Purely Pilates	E	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
RAF Association	M	Tues	6,20.
Seq. Dance	A	Tues	6,13,20,27.
Tangent Yoga	E	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
Townswomen's Guild	A	Mon	19.
U3A Family History	M	Mon	26.
U3A Local History	M	Wed	7.
U3A Singing	A	Mon	19.
U3A World History	M	Thurs	22.
Weight Watches	M	Sat	3,10,17,24.

Affiliated Organisations

Arts Society	Mr. P. Roman	638200
Bashley Forest W.I.	Mrs. N. Buckner	629204
Brockenhurst College	Mrs. R. Clark	01590 625222
CAMEO - Ladies' Group	Mrs. M. Sheldrake	628675
C'church & NF National Trust Ass.	Mrs. S. Moreton	610590
EWE 2 Club	Ms. J. Daniel	01590 670625
Extend	Mrs. D. Steer	610756
Forest Arts Centre	Nicky Shepperd	619983
Hamilton Townsend	Mr. D. Jenkins	877900
Helping Older People, NF (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	611439
New Forest Players	Mr. L. Reid, chairman@newforestplayers.com	
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
New Milton Indoor Bowling Club	Mr. R. Wilson	612437
NM Macular Support Group	Mr. M. Swan	618925
New Milton Memorial Centre	Mr. C. Rigden	629451
New Milton Quakers	Miss 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
NFDC Digital Champions	Alison Talbot	02380 285000
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	Mr. A. Tizzard	610955
Royal British Legion NM Branch	Mrs. P. Inglis	615069
R.N.L.I.	Mrs. A. Goulding	616106
Slimming World (Wednesday)	Michelle Walker	07795 275633
Tai Chi Qigong	Mr. M. Common	07973 639348
U3A New Milton	Mrs. R. Ager	610192

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
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Phyllis Inglis	615069	news@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Nigel King	620895	memsec@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Lettings Officer	Chris Lynott	—	lettings@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Catering Manager	Betty McNie	639482	(no email)
Reception Manager	Brian Barton	628058	reception@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Social Team	Pamela Badcock	01202 980177	social@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Webmaster	Nigel King	620895	webmaster@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk

Non-Committee:

Minutes Secretary/Clerk to the Exec. Committee -

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

What's On in February Regular Events

Section /Activities	Time	Day	February	Section /Activities	Time	Day	February
Art	2:00 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	French Improvers	12:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19.
Ballroom Dancing	2:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.	French Intermediate	9:55 AM	Mon	5,19.
Ballroom Dancing	7:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	German Beginners	11:30 AM	Tues	6,13,20,27.
Beading	7:00 PM	Wed	-----	German Improvers	10:00 AM	Tues	6,13,20,27.
Beading	9:45 AM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	Italian - Beginners	2:00 PM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Bowling	6:30 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.	Italian - Improvers +	10:00 AM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Italian - Improvers +	11:15 AM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	Italian - Manuela	11:30 AM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	Line Dancing	12:15 PM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Fri	2,9,16,23.	Literature Group	2:00 PM	Wed	7,28.
Bowling	6:30 PM	Fri	2,9,16,23.	Luncheon Club	12:00 PM	Thurs	15.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.	Mah-Jong	1:30 PM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Mens Get Together	10:00 AM	Thurs	1.
Bridge Partner	1:30 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	Piano	10:45 AM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Bridge Duplicate	1:30 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	Poetry	10:30 AM	Thurs	15.
Bridge Practice	1:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	Rummikub	10:00 AM	Wed	7,21.
Bridge Cut in	1:30 PM	Fri	2,9,16,23.	Saturday Dancing	7:30 PM	Sat	10,24.
Bridge Chicago	1:30 PM	Sat	-----	Scrabble	1:30 PM	Mon	5,12,19.
Camera Club	7:00 PM	Mon	19.	Soc Seq Dancing	1:45 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
Canasta	1:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	Spanish Conversation	10:00 AM	Mon	5,19,26.
Chess	1:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Mon	5,19,26.
Choir	2:00 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Fri	2,9.
Come Dancing	7:30 PM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Spanish Improvers	10:00 AM	Fri	2,9.
Craft	10:00 AM	Wed	14,28.	Spanish Circle	7:30 PM	Tues	13.
Cribbage	2:00 PM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Darts	2:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Tues	6,13,20,27.
Darts	2:00 PM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Table Tennis	7:00 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.
Discussion Group	2:00 PM	Tues	13.	Table Tennis	2:00 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22.
Fabric Craft	2:00 PM	Thurs	8,22.	Table Tennis	10:00 AM	Fri	2,9,16,23.
Film Show	2:30 PM	Sun	18.				

NEED HELP?

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

FERGUSONS ELECTRICIANS

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

FRUSTRATED BY COMPUTERS?

I can help you! I offer a local, friendly, inexpensive repair and tuition service. Over 25 years' PC experience. Contact me, David Mason, on 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 nail-cutting only. Appointments in the comfort of your own home. For enquiries and appointments call 01425 839313.

PAINTER & DECORATOR

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

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.