

# New Milton & District Community Association



## NEWSLETTER

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

**MARCH, 2018**

### *Sections And Activities*

*Art*  
*Ballroom Dancing*  
*Bowls*  
*Bridge*  
*Canasta*  
*Chess*  
*Come Dancing*  
*Craft*  
*Cribbage*  
*Darts*  
*Discussion Group*  
*Fabric Crafts*  
*Jubilee Singers*  
*Languages*  
*Line Dancing*  
*Literature*  
*Lunch Club*  
*Mah Jong*  
*Mens Get Together*  
*NM & District Camera Club*  
*Pianists*  
*Poetry*  
*Rummikub*  
*Scrabble*  
*Sequence Dancing*  
*Social Sequence Dancing*  
*Table Tennis*

### **FROM YOUR EDITOR**

So far, I've received few comments about your extended Newsletter so, working on the premise that no news is good news, I will continue with this format and see how it goes. Much depends on the input coming from our own groups and affiliates - some of whom don't make use of the Newsletter to spread the word about their activities, which is a shame.

I have been asked to include the Centre's closing dates for the year, so please note the following in your diaries:-

Closed 30th March, reopening 3rd April

Closed 7th and 28th May

Closed 27th August

Closed 22nd December, reopening 2nd January.

I've also been asked to mention the café opening times and encourage more members to use this facility.

9.45 to 11.45 a.m., 2 to 3.30 p.m. (opens at 10.15 on Mondays and Saturdays). Teacakes on Fridays.

Instead of sitting indoors, why not spend an hour or so in the Centre's warm and comfortable environment, meet up with friends,

read your paper or a book. or play one of the board games that are available. Even use the free voucher in each Newsletter to try a section or activity!

Have you ever given much thought to what goes on at your Executive Committee's monthly meetings? Well, from now on a regular feature of the Newsletter will be a summarised version of what was discussed, prepared by Minutes Secretary Colin Bower, giving some insight into how the Centre is managed and maintained, the problems which come up to be resolved, etc.

You will see from the Chairman's article that, at last month's meeting, we were happy to welcome back Brian Barton after his long period of sick leave. We also welcomed two new members onto the team.

Unfortunately, to date nobody has come forward or shown any interest in taking over Chairmanship, so Marie Morgan is battling on in an "acting" capacity, trying to juggle these responsibilities along with her other commitments. She really

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

Email: [info@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk)

doesn't want this to continue indefinitely, however, and the AGM will be with us before we know it, so some positive action is needed.

So here we are coming up to Easter which still appears to be a favoured time for getting married and it seems that, these days, people are talking of spending **thousands** on organising the big event. A young acquaintance recently told me that he had become a father and I asked him if this would encourage him to make his partnership "legal". He visibly paled at the suggestion and said marriage wasn't on the agenda - they had more interesting things in mind on which to spend their money and, in any case, who knew how long they'd be together. Which says it all, doesn't it?

Fast-track backwards to my own wedding many years ago, and you will find an account of it on page..... Nothing at all to do with Centre matters, of course, but I thought it might raise a smile and maybe stir some of your personal memories of what might have been difficult times when the amount of money spent on that Big Day wasn't referred to in telephone numbers!

A bit of inconsequential information! Where does the word "quarantine" come from? In the 15th century a plague or Black Death

invaded Venice, apparently brought there by ships overrun with rats infecting the sailors. To try and eradicate the disease a small island in the lagoon was specifically isolated to accommodate everyone who began to show symptoms, and ships were made to dock there and offload their crew. Many thousands did indeed die on the island, untended and ignored, but it did result in saving the population of Venice. The island to this day remains uninhabited (apart from studying archaeologists) and Venetians still avoid it "like the Plague".

When the disease petered out and to prevent re-infection another small island was set aside where all ships arriving had to remain for forty days, to be inspected and checked out for good health before being allowed to enter Venice itself. The Italian for forty is quaranta - "quarantine".

**Phyllis Inglis**

### **FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN**

Well, I seem to have survived the first month in my "acting" role and thank all who have given me help, support and encouragement. I was extremely pleased and delighted to welcome Reception Manager Brian Barton back to our Executive meeting last month. He has been receiving some quite intensive treatment over a

long time, so it's good to have him with us, hoping he will continue recovery until his health is fully restored. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Gill Ferguson who has taken over during Brian's absence, and she will continue to assist him for the time being.

Also at that meeting (as you will see from Colin Bower's summary) we were able to welcome not one but two new members onto the committee who, I have no doubt when they have settled in, will bring some valuable skills and new ideas, helping us to move forward with a stronger team.

We have a number of events to look forward to this month. On Friday, **9th March**, we have a New Members evening from 6.30 to 9 p.m., with drinks and nibbles in the Common Room. If you have joined us over the last six months do come along and meet your Executive team and learn what the Centre has to offer you for your enjoyment and interest.

On Friday **23<sup>rd</sup> March**, (not 14th) Mary Bishop and Gill Ferguson will host a Homemade Cake Day where you can get a drink of your choice along with a slice of cake for 85P. Where else in New Milton could you get that? You are welcome to bring a friend.

I will continue to be at the Centre each Friday morning for the next month or so, pleased to have a chat and get your suggestions and feedback. I look forward to meeting as many members as I possibly can.

**Marie Morgan**

### **FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

In this introductory summary it should be explained that the Association's Executive (Trustees) Committee meets every month to receive reports from the Chairman, Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Lettings Officer, Membership Secretary/Webmaster, Social Secretary, Reception and Catering Managers. The Technical Officer and Health & safety Officer submit reports and/or attend the meetings as and when required.

At present there is a vacancy for a Maintenance Coordinator. If you feel you could help in this regard or assist the Centre in any other way please do contact the presently Acting Chairman or Secretary.

At the February meeting we were pleased to welcome back Brian Barton who expressed his thanks for the excellent work undertaken by Gill Ferguson, who managed Reception in his absence. We also welcomed Alan Watson and Geoff Tilston onto the team. Alan is Chairman of the Residents' Association

and involved in other local groups including the Lions and RNLI. Geoff was Club Manager/Events Organiser at Hoburne Bashley; he also has Health & Safety and fundraising experience, e.g. Help For Heroes. Clearly, they will provide additional input and support, particularly in publicity and, having been briefed on our activities, both will have a lot of catching-up to do.

Reports were received on

- \* Steps being undertaken to recruit a new Chairman and Maintenance Coordinator
- \* Last month's Income and Expenditure
- \* Renewals and new members
- \* Positive feedback on the new 12-page Newsletter format
- \* Publicity initiatives including the New Members Evening on 9th March
- \* Website activity
- \* Maintenance undertaken and under way including the installation of new casting following break-down of the warm air boiler serving the Jubilee Room, and strengthening of tables in the Common Room
- \* Take-up of tickets for the Jubilee Choir concerts and One-To-One Computer Support

- \* Agreement on the Centre's closing dates.

All the above gives you some idea of what goes on behind the scenes to keep your Centre running smoothly.

**Colin Bower**  
**Minutes Secretary**

### **VOLUNTEER(S)**

#### **WANTED**

#### **Building Maintenance Coordinator**

Can you spare some time to help keep the Centre looking good? What you would need to do:-

- \* Keep an eye on the building generally
- \* Identify any work that is required
- \* Liaise with our caretakers, maintenance team and contractors to get the work done.

Time spent? You can organise this to suit yourself, allowing about three hours a week to cover all eventualities. The building is in good repair, no major works are planned. If you are already involved in a Centre activity you could work your "inspection time" around that.

The more people who give us their time means less time per person. If you would like more details and have a chat, please call me on 620987 (office number).

**John Revill,**  
**Treasurer**

## MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. If you still have to do this please do so promptly to avoid paying the additional £2.50 rejoining fee.

The Attendance Sheets for March will include a special section for those members who have not renewed (as at the time of printing). If you **have** renewed and find your name in this section my apologies, and you will be moved back to the main section in the April sheets.

If there are other changes required on the Attendance Sheets (members who have left, time changes, etc.) please make the change on the Attendance Sheet so that I can correct.

**Nigel King**

## WEBSITE

The Room Hire page has been extended and now includes the basic price of hiring per session.

Updates have been made to the Discussion Group, Film Show and Men's Get Together pages, and a new one created for the One-To-One Support. The Art Group's page now has a section of photographs.

If your group has some photographs you would like to see included, or any other information, please let me know.

Don't forget there is also the What's On page which starts

with those less frequent events and ends with a list of regular activities. The News Stories page should also be checked for items of interest.

**Nigel King**

## USED STAMPS

One of our members has asked for a big "thank you" to be recorded to all who donated their used stamps, particularly over the Christmas period. At times the box was overflowing! They will be gratefully received by Naomi House and Guide Dogs for the Blind, so do keep them coming. The collection box can be found in the Lounge.

## NEW MEMBERS EVENING

A reminder that if you have joined us recently you are welcome to attend an informal drinks party from 6.30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, **9th March**. Do 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 can be with us.**

**Pam Badcock**  
**Social Secretary**

## CAKE/BEVERAGE EVENT

Please come along and join us for home-made cake and a beverage of your choice for just 85P on Friday, **23rd March** - 10.00 to 11.30 morning only **You will be very welcome to bring a friend!**

An opportunity to meet up and perhaps see what is on offer at the Centre for all to enjoy.

**Mary Bishop**

(Mary brought cake samples in to the Exec. Meeting one morning. Oh, very nice!)

## St. GEORGE'S DAY

A reminder that the Jubilee Singers would like to invite you to a St. George's Day Afternoon Tea Party at 2 p.m. on Monday, **23rd April**, in the Common Room. The choir will sing a few English songs and then we will have tea (so don't eat a big lunch!). There will be a general sing-along of favourites like Rule Britannia, White Cliffs of Dover, Daisy Daisy, etc. You will be most welcome to join us, especially if you add to the atmosphere by wearing red and white. Tickets at £5 from Reception from 5th March. However, only 50 are available so you do need to book quickly.

If you have any queries call me on 837973.

**Sheila Lead**

## FILM SHOW

2 for 2.15 p.m. start on Sunday, **18th March**, "Murder On The Orient Express". Price £2.50 to include tea/coffee. Kenneth Branagh, Penelope Cruz and Willem Dafoe. Hercule Poirot is recruited to solve a murder case.

Please use the side entrance next to kitchen door

**John Fogerty**

## **ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTER SUPPORT**

This is a reminder that David Ellis will be at the Centre each Tuesday and Thursday commencing **20th March** offering computer/ipad/phone support - Tuesdays 2.30 p.m., Thursdays 10.30 a.m. It will depend on the take-up as to how long the sessions will last - initially two hours. There is a form on the notice board for you to enter your name so that your "slot" can be booked. He will give advice about the internet and accessing such things as switching utility providers.

## **BARTON NEWS**

**Ongoing cliff collapse!** Following some significant cliff movement and actively eroding areas south of the golf course, the NFDC has instigated closure of the beach below as a precaution. The public are strongly advised to take heed of the warning signs as the recent stormy weather and heavy rainfall is likely to cause further movement. The coastal team will continue monitoring the situation, the beach remaining closed until stability improves.

After a long, long wait it is now confirmed that the **Co-op will take over the entire shops site on Sea Road.** It is understood that work will commence shortly with the plan to open in about three months' time. Also after a long wait, we are given to

understand that **re-opening of a post office has been given the go-ahead**, located within the convenience shop on the clifftop next to Pebble Beach. Again, a lot of work to be carried out before it's in business.

**Believe the above, all ye of little faith!!**

## **BLOOD DONATIONS**

This literally life-saving scheme is facing a constant challenge to recruit new donors when, at the same time, demand is high. Please - will you and your families consider becoming donors. You can register online at [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) or call helpline 0300 123 23 23 for information. Session information will be found in the foyer.

## **ARE YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER?**

You have joined the gym, vowed to adopt a more active and sensible lifestyle, given up the wine and chocolate. But.... Do you also need to put your legal affairs in order? Not sure? Then read on.....

**Do you have a Will?** If not, you are not alone. Two thirds of adults in this country don't, but do you know what will happen in the event of your demise? The intestacy rules which apply may not naturally favour the people you care for most. There is no such thing as a "common law" husband or wife, and even if

partners have been together for many years the survivor will inherit nothing, but will have to make a court claim against the estate for some provision - costly, time-consuming and traumatic. It is never too early or too late to consider making a Will and legal advice is that you should review such matters regularly. If you made a Will some time ago, ensure that it still fulfils your wishes.

**Do you have a Power of Attorney?** More and more people are having a lengthy "old age" but not many will consider who should manage their finances or personal affairs if unable to do so for themselves. If you do know why you want to provide this assistance for you, consider appointing them as attorneys to act for you if you lose capacity. This avoids an application to the Court of Protection, which is a very costly, lengthy process. The application fee alone is £400, against a maximum of £82 for a Power of Attorney. Going this route will make life as easy as possible for yourself and your family, now and in the future.

## *News from the Sections & Activities*

### **BOWLS**

Contact: Secretary Janet Keats, 614996

The family of John Chambers have kindly donated a trophy in his memory. The committee would like to hold a short mat

bowls competition for members. For those who wish to compete please put your name on the list attached to the Bowls notice board. Details and date of the competition will follow when the number of participants is known. John Chambers was a key member of our section so please do support what we hope will become an annual event.

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

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

### **BRIDGE**

Contact: Christopher Fradd, 614605

As mentioned in previous issues of the Newsletter, the monthly Social Bridge has been changed from the evening to the afternoon, third Saturday in the month. In January this proved a huge success, with many more tables than we've seen for a very long time. By the time you read this we will know if February has been equally successful; I certainly hope so! January's winners were Genevieve Sagar and Jim Nicholson. Runners-up being Margaret Rawling and Betty McNie.

This month the Social Bridge will be on Saturday, the **17th**. Starting time will again be 1.30 p.m. but please note that the doors open at 1 p.m., so it is good to arrive early if you possibly can so that everything is ready for a prompt start.

Duplicate bridge has also been a great success since it was moved from the evening to the afternoon. It takes place promptly at 1.30 p.m. every

Wednesday and, thanks to Ray Champion's efficiency, results are usually available the same day.

All other bridge sessions continue at the same times as usual.

It is sad to report the death of Gwen Johnson. She had been a stalwart of our duplicate bridge for many years but had been in poor health for some time. She was quite a character and will be much missed.

### **COME DANCING**

Contact: June, 619772

The weather continues to be wet and dismal but, hopefully, with the onset of lighter evenings at the end of this month and the promise of Spring we will find the motivation to leave the comfort of the sofa and venture out to enjoy the very friendly company and varied programmes of music and dance that this section provides.

Another great Valentine Dance last month with a varied romantic selection of music to dance to. Thanks go to our music presenters, those who helped set up the tables and decorate the room, and all who helped tidy away at the end of the evening. With everyone supporting the red and white theme the room looked very bright and cheerful.

The Saturday evening dances this month will be on the 10th and 24th, £2 for section members, visitors £2.50 - great value for a night out! Please do try to come along and support these dances; you may even go home with a spot prize! No tea bar on a Saturday so please bring your own refreshments. All welcome.

A reminder that the AGM will be held on Tuesday, **15th April**, during the refreshment break. If you wish current committee

members to serve for a further year they need to be re-elected; they don't automatically carry on! The nomination sheet will soon be displayed on the notice board. Please write down the name of anyone you wish to nominate for the committee. As always you must first check with the person you are proposing that they are willing to stand (or be re-elected). If you would like to join the committee yourself, please enter your name on the sheet.

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Contacts: Bob Dowling, 838523; Colin Bower 613254

At 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month our small, friendly group of men and women meet to discuss topics in the news. Last month, as well as the topical issues of the fate of the captured jihadists by US forces and whether or not suffragettes should be pardoned 100 years after their crimes, we discussed how we can cut back on the use of plastic in order to protect our oceans, the issue of begging in town centres, and how the NHS can be urgently funded.

Topics for our meeting on **13th March** are:-

1. Is it time to start charging more for local public services rather than cutting them?
2. We appear to be losing the so-called war on drugs. Is it time to take a different approach and decriminalise their use?
3. In Portsmouth it was suggested that convalescent homes be established to ease pressure on hospital beds and A&E. Is this a glimpse of the blindingly obvious?
4. What is the case for re-nationalising the rail-ways?

## JUBILEE SINGERS

Contact: Liz Northcote

Our two summer variety concerts are now on Saturday, **12th May**, and Wednesday, **23rd May**, both at 2-4 p.m. We had to move away from 19th May due to Prince Harry's wedding and the FA Cup final. As a result of this change we hope to have good audiences at each concert. Tickets will be on sale in Reception from 4th April.

The choir's visit to Meeting Point at Barton-on-Sea at the end of January (one of our regular venues) went very well with a large, appreciative audience. We sang music from last summer's concerts and, afterwards, enjoyed lovely refreshments. Last month we sang at Silverway Nursing Home in Highcliffe, which was another success and we were made most welcome. The fairly large audience enjoyed the programme which included Cavatina, the theme from the film The Deer Hunter, played with great feeling by pianist Richard; afterwards Averil sang "He Was Beautiful". We've been asked to return as soon as possible.

## LANGUAGES

### Spanish - March

Contact: Ana Humphries

ana\_humphries@hotmail.com

**Conversation:** 10 a.m. one hour

**Beginners:** 11.15 a.m. one hour

Mondays 5th, 12, 19th, 26th

**Improvers:** 10 a.m. one hour

**Beginners:** 11.15 a.m. one hour

Fridays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

## LITERATURE

Contact: Janet Giles

2-3 p.m. on Wednesdays to 21st March, studying the

works of Ibsen and Strindberg.

## MEN'S GET TOGETHER

Contact: Secretary David Eley

Last month Tony Wright gave a very informative, entertaining talk on "Tax, Care & Other Inheritance Grabbers", looking at some vital aspects of later life planning. He outlined the importance of making a will and discussed two types - A Trust Will and Lifetime Trust. He also spoke of the need for people to seriously consider the creation of both a "Property & Financial Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney" and a "Health & Welfare LPA", both of which are recommended. There are several excellent solicitors and other organisations locally who would be able to offer advice on these matters, either in their offices or in the privacy of your own home.

On **1st March** speaker David Hutchins will present a talk on the Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust - its work and bus transport in the Southampton area.

On **5th April** we have invited Bob Mizon who will speak about "Oddities of the Solar System". The universe is full of bizarre things - some of them closer to home than we might imagine.

The committee would like to thank group members who have already renewed membership of the Centre. A reminder to those who have yet to do so!

The search for a Treasurer goes on. As previously reported, Terry Partridge will be stepping down from the role after 9 years of sterling service, so a volunteer is sought to take on these duties which are not onerous in any way. Members are asked to consider offering to come forward and to join your committee in continuing to manage and develop the activities of the group. Terry will be happy

to talk to anyone interested. **It should be emphasised that the group cannot function without a Treasurer!**

Frank Willett has arranged for a visit to the Army Flying Museum near Stockbridge on Thursday, **26th April**. Cost will be £20 per head which includes return travel from the Centre, entry to the museum and a guided tour of the exhibits. Transport will leave the Community Centre at 9.45 a.m. and leave the museum at 3 p.m. There is a café on the premises where light lunches can be purchased. If you are interested in taking part please see Frank at the next meeting.

If any members of the group have histories, experiences, interests or hobbies which they think could be of interest and would be happy to give a presentation at a future meeting please talk to Dane Thomas.

## Walking Football for young folk aged 50-ish and over:

Think your footie days are over? Make a comeback - no need to book and no charge. One of our members has suggested that some may be interested in this growing activity. No medical facilities, changing rooms, drinks, team shirts or insurance cover provided. Just turn up with a predominantly dark top AND a predominantly white or light top.

**When:** Every Tuesday morning from 17th April to 19th June (a trial period, to be continued if successful) starting at 10 a.m. for about 60-90 minutes.

**Where:** On the recreation ground all-weather pitch at the north-west corner next to the tennis courts.

**What:** At your own risk you can have fun playing, watching, refereeing, heckling or just socialising.

## **SOCIAL SEQUENCE DANCING**

Contact: Dee, 627922

Our thanks go to Joy and Mavis who have recently taught us The Black Country Blues, a nice little new routine which we can add to our weekly programmes. It is sometimes difficult to know which dances to include as we now have quite a choice. However, with four different music presenters it is good to have so much variety. We are looking forward to welcoming Joy and Bill back on a more regular Thursday basis, as they have recently moved into the New Milton area and are already familiar with many of our dances. We wish them well in their new home.

## **TABLE TENNIS**

Contact: Secretary Gloria Lovelock, 613705

Hi everyone! We have had a very healthy start to the new year, many new members keen to join us. We do stipulate previous experience is a requirement as we do not offer training or coaching facilities. Starting this new year the subs are now £3 p.a., the fee per session £1.20.

### **Members Welcome Evening:**

If you have joined the Centre recently please note that we are holding an informal drinks party from 6.30 to 9 p.m. in the Common Room, Friday, **9th March**. Do come along as we would like to introduce ourselves. We shall be open from 7 p.m. for table tennis - a free session.

**Motto of the month:** Time and good friends are two things that become more valuable the older you get!

## *News from the Affiliates*

### **CAMEO: LADIES GROUP**

Contact: Secretary Margaret Sheldrake, 628675

dsheldrake@talktalk.net

Our talk by Ron Taylor last month on the Mediterranean islands was extremely interesting, covering not only the flora and fauna but the British involvement in the islands over the years. He spoke about the Balearic Islands and how they became British for a time before being returned to Spain. Ron also covered Sardinia, Corsica and Malta, and the British heroes at that time, including years before Nelson to WW2 and beyond. Very fascinating, and it opened our eyes to how much involvement we had in those islands.

At our meeting on **7th March** we have Kay Staines talking about Selfridges, and on **4th April** the speaker will be Paul Sturgess on Dorset Owls and their Habitat.

Call me for further information on Cameo. We are always pleased to welcome new members and for visitors there is a fee of £3 per meeting. Join us at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (except August).

### **EXTEND**

Contact: Diana Steer, 610756

I hope you kept moving during the cold spell. Exercise can prevent us from becoming sluggish in both body and mind, and can also improve our circulation. Why not give our gentle chair-based exercise class a try? We meet at 11.15 a.m. on Thursdays for new members. If in any doubt please call me.

### **MILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: Chairman Nick Saunders, 618549

nicksaunders40@tiscali.co.uk

On Friday, **16th March**, we will welcome speaker Eddie Curry, Director of the New Milton Advertiser & Times - "Looking Back and Looking Forward" - covering the history of this family-run business from 1928 until the present day. Technology used has changed massively over the years but other aspects of the company still rely on the same journalistic skills.

Come along to the Memorial Centre at 7 p.m. No charge for members, visitors £5.

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

### **NEW FOREST PLAYERS**

The Spring production will be "Enchanted April", **11th to 14th April** at the Ballard School Performing Arts Centre. When two proper 1920s London housewives decide to rent a villa in Italy for a holiday from their bleak marriages they recruit two other, very different, English women to share the cost and experience. Romance and laughter!

Adults £10, seniors £8. Call the box office on 0845 166 8775 or book online at [www.newforestplayers.com](http://www.newforestplayers.com).

### **NM MACULAR SUPPORT GROUP**

Contact: Malcolm Swan, 618925  
2 p.m. Monday, **12th March**.  
"George, Don't Do That!" (Joyce Grenfell).

### **NEW MILTON RESIDENTS' ASSOC.**

Contact: Secretary Phyllis Inglis, 615069  
10.15 a.m. Saturday, **10th March**, AGM followed by General Meeting with Open Forum at the Community Centre. Non-members are very welcome.

## NM TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Contact: Eileen, 614753.

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. Monday, **19th March**, when the talk will be a travel log on the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. All visitors welcome. Call me for further information.

## PHOENIX HOLIDAY GROUP

Contact: Pat McKean, 278669  
phoenixholshighcliffe@aol.com

Our next Open Meeting at the Centre is on Friday, **20th April**, 10 a.m. till noon.

### Holidays (now booking):

**14th/16th March:** London, to include choice of show, backstage tour of the Royal Albert Hall, Kew Gardens, boat trip on the Thames, etc. £329 (ss £24).

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

**10th/15th June:** Barnstaple. Imperial Hotel, half board, 1 free day. £455.

### Outings Now Booking:

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

**8th March:** RNLI College Tour, Poole, plus scenic tour. £25.

**26th April:** Dorset Bluebell Hunt. £17.50.

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

### Future Outings:

**August:** Either Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show or Hollycombe Steam Collection.

**Autumn:** Sussex Tour (Autumn colour).

We are currently finalising more holidays and outings.

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

## Story Time

### Coincidence:

A chicken farmer went to a local bar, sat down next to a woman and ordered champagne. The woman said "how strange - I've also ordered champagne."

The farmer said "That's a coincidence but it's a special day for me and I'm celebrating".

The woman replied "Well, that is a coincidence for I'm celebrating too. My husband and I have been trying to have a child for years and today I learned that I'm pregnant"

The man said "I'm a chicken farmer and for years all my hens were infertile but now they're all set to lay fertilized eggs".

The woman asked "What did you do for your chickens?" "I used a different rooster", said the man.

"Oh what a coincidence!" smiled the woman. **Glo**

### An Austerity Wedding:

It is often about this time of year when weddings take place, these days costing thousands. In my day there was the added incentive of income tax relief if a marriage was held just before the start of a new tax year. Doubtful if that happens now!

Terry and I married from my home in Peckham, South London, in 1951, so food rationing, points and clothing coupons were still the order of the day. Born in Scotland but brought up in Coventry, he had no immediate family to be considered and lived most of his life with foster-parents, so we just wanted to save our pennies to put a home together after a quiet wedding. Mother would have none of it,

though, no raised eyebrows at a small, quickie ceremony! However, whilst it wasn't to be a shotgun wedding, Terry said he felt it was going to look like one because the best man and the Uncle giving me away were both Police Inspectors - close friends and colleagues of my recently departed father.

One day my mother returned from a shopping expedition and triumphantly announced she had bought my wedding dress at a cost of £5! One didn't argue with my mother but I did have the temerity to comment that I'd have preferred to choose my own dress; she replied that I ought to be grateful because she'd sacrificed **her** clothing coupons to buy it. In fact I did like the dress - a full-length brocade creation with a demure neckline and long sleeves fastening at the wrist with a row of tiny pearl buttons. My own coupons were spent on two pretty pale blue silk bridesmaids' dresses and an aunt loaned the "something borrowed" in the shape of a lovely long veil.

Terry and I insisted on the wedding breakfast being held at the Conservative Club instead of a room above the local pub but lost the battle regarding the meal itself - mother organising soup, a ham and beef salad followed by tinned fruit and ice cream, with Uncle Albert in charge of the bar. More goodies than we'd seen in many a long day, and no questions asked as to where it all came from - with a strong police presence among the guests the words "black market" were not uttered!

Deciding on the seating arrangement for a gathering of some 50 people was a nightmare - my Nan expected to be on the top table but refused to sit next to Aunt Alice, who wouldn't sit next

to Uncle Mark, and Uncle Albert's vocabulary meant he ought to be seated far away from stuffy family members, etc., etc.

Three days before the wedding a small group of us went to the Nag's Head (yes, there really was a Nag's Head as mentioned in Only Fools & Horses). My dear old battle-axe Nan, who lived next door to us, was collected by Terry who automatically turned off all the lights before shutting her front door, unfortunately leaving her beloved dog in the dark - a definite "no-no" as far as Nan was concerned, which Terry didn't appreciate. Returning from the pub and realizing her pet had been left howling in darkness, she blew her slightly inebriated top and threw epithets at the luckless Terry's head, questioning his parentage in no uncertain terms. We thought the morning after would restore things to normal but, no! Nan arrived on the doorstep asking for her wedding gift bedlinen to be returned, saying she would come to the church but only to throw something heavier than confetti! Terry, who had come to stay with us for a few days, shrugged and suggested I ride the storm and look forward to our week's honey-moon in Barnstaple - something we **had** been

allowed to organize for ourselves. However, he was persuaded to grovel for the sake of peace and quiet so Nan, not impervious to the blandishments of an attractive young man pulling out all the stops, capitulated and graciously accepted the apology along with a Guinness and a bone for the dog.

The big day arrived - an early Easter Saturday which was bright but bitterly cold. Terry was instructed to go and get his hair cut before collecting a hired suit and keep out of the way while I got ready. Problem! Whilst I'd put the dress on two or three times to ensure a good fit, I'd not tried the veil. It was beautiful but rather heavy and its weight crushed the large puff sleeves of the dress making them droop unbecomingly. Panic! Then mother came up with an idea and stuffed the squashed puffs with thick wads of toilet paper. It did the trick to a degree, but the wads tended to slide down my arms so needed a shove to put them back into place every so often. The Baptist Church was of slightly different design in that there were two aisles either side of a central "block". This allowed everyone to sit companionably together but it also placed my mother immediately behind me for the ceremony which was punctuated by her prodding and telling me to hold my back up, grabbing my arms now and then to push up the straying wads of toilet paper.

Nuptials over, we stood on the church steps in bracing wind, teeth chattering and the bridesmaids turning as blue as their dresses while all the photos were taken.

Fortunately, all went well for the rest of the day, the meal and subsequent knees-up enjoyed by everyone. Quite an experience for poor Terry who (due to circumstances too long to mention here) had no knowledge of family life or responsibilities, or the Cockney way of letting their hair down. He bore it all with slightly bewildered patience and innate good humour, but owned to a very sore head next morning when we took off for Devon. So many memories to store away.

All the above must seem very odd when compared with today's wedding plans and ceremonies. Simple things meant such a lot then; wedding presents were mostly practical and greatly appreciated, all the more so at that time when money and nice things were scarce. Even though I've downsized I still cling on to some original wedding presents and fondly remember those who gave them to us. In comparison, my three-times-married niece requested an appreciable sum of money each time, all spent on holidays and nothing to remember. But that's today's world, folks!

## **"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 March

### Regular Hirers

Contact the Hirer if you wish to join

Hirer	Session	Day	March
Bashley W.I.	A	Fri	9.
Brockenhurst Yoga	E	Tues	6,13,20,27.
C & NF Nat.Trust	E	Wed	-----
CAMEO Ladies	M	Wed	7.
Doohan Yoga	E	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.
EXTEND	M	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.
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 Quilts Group	E	Mon	5,12.
Purely Pilates	M	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Purely Pilates	E	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.
RAF Association	M	Tues	6,20.
Seq. Dance	A	Tues	6,13,20,27.
Tangent Yoga	E	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.
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	29.
Weight Watches	M	Sat	3,10,17,24.
Wool Etc	A	Thurs	15.

## Affiliated Organisations

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

### INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:

Miss W. Maund

Mr. G.F. Denson

Mr. R.G. Ferguson

### TRUSTEES/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Phyllis Inglis	615069	pres@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Acting Chairman	Marie Morgan	501315	chair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Marie Morgan	501315	vchair@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Treasurer	John Revill	627973	finance@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Phyllis Inglis	615069	news@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Nigel King	620895	memsec@newmiltoncommunity.org.uk
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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
	Geoff Tilston		geoffbg@hotmail.com.

### Non-Committee:

Minutes Secretary/Clerk to the Exec. Committee -

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

## What's On in March

### Regular Events

Section /Activities	Time	Day	March	Section /Activities	Time	Day	March
Art	2:00 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	French Improvers	12:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Ballroom Dancing	2:00 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.	French Intermediate	9:55 AM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Ballroom Dancing	7:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.	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	1,8,15,22,29.	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	1,8,15,22,29.
Bowling	9:45 AM	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.	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	7,14,21.
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	1,8,15,22,29.	Rummikub	10:00 AM	Wed	14,28.
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	17.	Scrabble	1:30 PM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Camera Club	7:00 PM	Mon	19.	Soc Seq Dancing	1:45 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.
Canasta	1:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.	Spanish Conversation	10:00 AM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Chess	1:30 PM	Thurs	1,8,15,22,29.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Mon	5,12,19,26.
Choir	2:00 PM	Wed	7,14,21,28.	Spanish Beginners	11:15 AM	Fri	2,9,23.
Come Dancing	7:30 PM	Tues	6,13,20,27.	Spanish Improvers	10:00 AM	Fri	2,9,23.
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	1,8,15,22,29.
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.

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#### **FRUSTRATED BY COMPUTERS?**

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#### **GILES TATHAM, RFHP, SACDip., FHP**

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#### **PLUMBING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

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

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