



Welcome to the latest edition of our E-Newsletter,

December Meeting

Our December Meeting on 6th December 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!!”

This meeting will also be the last time that members will be able to purchase tickets for the January 2019 meeting to which partners can be invited. The tickets cost £3.00 per person for the meeting which will include light refreshments prior to the speaker’s presentation.

January 2019 Meeting

Please note that this meeting will be on the **second** Thursday this month being Thursday **10th January**. Please also note that attendance will be limited to members who have **purchased tickets in advance**. No visitors/non-members will be admitted.

The speaker will see the return of Patsy Taylor with a talk entitled “The Secrets of Cunard”, which will cover the history of the company and how the QE2 was very nearly never built due to some questionable decisions by the directors at that time. Patsy also explains why the shipbuilders made a huge loss and continues with her time on a world cruise where one meets so many eccentric, if not to say quite bonkers, passengers.

The November Meeting

Our previous meeting on 1st November heard Stuart Wheeler give a most informative and absorbing talk about the emerging use of tanks in the first World War and particularly to decisive effect during the 8th to 11th August 1918. This was the opening offensive of what became known as the Hundred Days Offensive which ultimately led to the end of the First World War.

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.

Any new members joining in December 2018, February 2019 or March 2019 will pay a reduced membership fee of £6.00, £4.00 or £2.00 respectively and membership renewals for the year commencing 1st April 2019 will become payable at the Meeting on Thursday 4th April 2019.

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.

New members will be asked to complete a dual-purpose form which will act as a 'Membership Application' and a 'Data Protection' form giving us their approval to hold their details for the purposes needed for us to contact members.

Members of your Committee will be in attendance in the Community Centre on Saturday 24th November 2018 at the Christmas Fayre to spread the word about our Group and hopefully interest potential new members.

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.

Starting in December there will be available the option for members to renew their Community Centre membership for 2019. It would speed up the renewal process if you had your old membership card and the correct money which is the same as last year i.e.

- £8.00 for 2019 membership
- £1.00 for a 2019 car park permit, (a permit does not guarantee a space will be available), and
- 50p if a new windscreen holder is required

This membership runs for each calendar year and can be renewed 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 so that he can get an indication of the numbers of members who may wish to make this visit in order that transport can be researched and arranged.

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 but blank copies will be available at the next meeting for members who have yet to do so.

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

Members are reminded that this activity occurs on Friday mornings from 10.00 on the all-weather pitch at the New Milton Recreation Ground. If interested, email Stan Dencher at JSD333UK@gmail.com or just turn up.

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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