



Welcome to the latest edition of our E-Newsletter,

Our February 2019 Meeting

One of our Members, Gordon Denson, gave an interesting talk entitled “A Wild Colonial Boy” sharing his reminiscences of his childhood in Malaya where he was born and grew up during the “Troubles” between the British and the Communist Rebels. It provided a good insight into the life of someone growing up in a little known but vicious war zone.

The March Meeting

The speaker at our next meeting on Thursday 4th March 2019 will be Keith Thomas who will be presenting a talk entitled “How things change: A career in the Fire Service”

Points from the Chairman

1. We are reaching a stage in our development where we are seeking two members to join the committee. The work is not arduous and only involves an extra half hour or so before and again after each monthly meeting.
2. We also need a replacement for Dane as Speaker Secretary. Dane has fulfilled this function admirably as you know from the quality and interest of the speakers he has engaged. Most speakers are booked for 2019 so it would be a “slow baptism” before new speakers would need to be located. Dane has said that he will give assistance as required BUT speakers do like to have a few months’ notice. The AGM will be with us in APRIL. If you would like to fill any of these positions, please contact any Committee member.
3. As stated in the previous four issues of this newsletter the committee have stated that it is planned to increase the annual membership fee from £16.00 to £18.00 for our next year commencing 1st April 2019 this being the first increase for NINE years (representing an annual increase equivalent to £0.22 per annum or 12% over the nine years. This increase is necessary as quality speakers’ fees are increasing as well as claims for mileage expenses. Members will be asked to retrospectively approve this at our next AGM in April 2019. When paying the membership fee it would be appreciated if members could pay by cheque for £18 made out to “Mens Get Together” rather than cash.
4. Don’t forget that it is a condition of membership that you must be a member of the New Milton Community Centre as well, for us to have access to the facilities at an advantageous rate. Members should renew their Community Centre membership for

the calendar year 2019 now. It will speed up the renewal process if you have 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.

Visits by Members to Fort Nelson

Frank Willett has now booked a visit to Fort Nelson on the Portsdown hills behind Portsmouth on Tuesday 9th April 2019. A minibus will leave the Community Centre at 09.30am and is booked to leave Fort Nelson at 3.00pm. Members who wish to join this visit should talk to Frank at the next meeting.

A guided tour of the Fort has been booked for 11.00am.

The cost for those travelling on the minibus will be £15, to cover both the minibus and the tour. Any members electing to go by car will be asked to pay £5 .00 towards the cost of the tour and there will be a £3.00 parking charge for cars payable at the reception desk, but this can be avoided if you park in the public car park opposite.

For full information about Fort Nelson which is part of the Royal Armouries group of Museums go to the following website: <https://royalarmouries.org/venue/fort-nelson/>

For those without access to the web, in short, 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.

Men's Shed Organisation

The New Milton Sheddars are meeting for a Friday natter at the New Milton Town Football Club at Fawcett Field every Friday from 12.00 Noon and if anyone is interested in helping to form or join a New Milton Shed then pop along or e-mail newmiltonmensshed@btinternet.com to be put on the mailing list for future updates.

Flying Scotsman visit to Swanage

As quite a few of our Members are railway fans, you may wish to know that the Swanage Railway will be hosting the world-famous locomotive "Flying Scotsman" which will be running between 22nd and 26th March operating five services a day each way between Swanage and Norden non-stop.

The tickets are for the round trips only and the Flying Scotsman can only be boarded at Swanage Station. The train will be hauling Car 14 Pullman Observation Car "The Devon Belle" and 6 carriages. The Flying Scotsman will be based for at Swanage Station for about 3 weeks from 22nd March but as a non-steaming exhibit to early April.

Full information and prices can be found on their web-site at <https://swanagerailway.co.uk> or by phone on 01929 425800. The staff at Swanage Station have advised that fuller details of times to visit will be available nearer the time but people wishing to book seats on the Flying Scotsman trips should do so as soon as possible.

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 am 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.

Kind regards,

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(Men's Get Together Secretary)
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