



Welcome to the latest edition of our E-Newsletter,

## Our March 2019 Meeting

Keith Thomas gave us an informative and entertaining presentation on developments in the Fire Service over the last 30 years without the aid of slides or notes and evoked many questions from members which unfortunately had to be cut short because of time constraints.

## The April Meeting

**The April Meeting will commence at 10.15 rather than the usual 10.30** as it is the **AGM**. Following the AGM our speaker Bill Coombes will give a presentation on the International Space Station, comprising a close-up look at what goes on in the Space Station.

## 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. If a replacement for Dane is not found by the AGM then we will be without a Speaker Secretary. If you would like to fill any of these positions, please contact any Committee member.
3. As stated in the previous five issues of this newsletter the committee have stated that they have increased the annual membership fee from £16.00 to £18.00 for our next year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> 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 AGM.

4. 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.
5. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:newmiltonmensshed@btinternet.com) to be put on the mailing list for future updates. It has recently been announced that the Council have agreed that the club can take over the use of a building next to the Fernhill Cricket Ground in the short term.

## **Walking Football in New Milton**

Members are reminded that this activity occurs on Friday mornings from 10.00 on the all-weather pitches at the New Milton Recreation Ground. If interested, email Stan Dencher at [JSD333UK@gmail.com](mailto:JSD333UK@gmail.com) or just turn up with both (1) a predominantly dark top & (2) a predominantly light top.

## **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.

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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.

Finally, please remember that our April Meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> will commence at 10.15am and start with the AGM.

Kind regards,

David Eley  
(Men's Get Together Secretary)  
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