THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM



By Nigel Williamson.

What a transformation there has been from a why not contact me, Nigel winter flooded quagmire to a dry, sunny Williamson spring. Eastleigh Borough Council and the 02380261214, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have begun to look at the reserve more closely at long last, after many years of apparent neglect. The wet winter has increased damage to the footpaths making some areas treacherous for walkers. The bright spring has brought the Nature Reserve's flora and fauna out in abundance. If you keep your ears and eyes alert and you move quietly, you may catch glimpses of a variety of wildlife: orange tip butterflies, little white egret, two or three deer, a kingfisher, heron and magnificent buzzards. The flora seems to have responded well to the amount of rainfall in the winter and the sunshine now with the splendid white "wild garlic", yellow celandines, primroses and bluebells with foxglove about to appear.

Eastleigh Borough Council and The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have at last begun to recognise the poor state of the paths. Councillors have met on site and realised that work is needed on Health and Safety grounds to improve the paths and to preserve the natural environment of the reserve.

This spring tree felling has been started to remove dangerous branches, ash die back damage and growth under telegraph wires. They stopped work when it was pointed out that this was being undertaken during animal mating and nest building season.

Now that we are all in Lockdown, and the economy is insecure, how likely is it that the Nature Reserve will receive further attention?

However there are far more visitors appreciating the meadows and woodland, as well as those of us who visit regularly throughout the year.

Should you have any concerns about the Nature Reserve's well-being or the safety of users, please do contact Rachel Hardy at Eastleigh Borough Council or Clare Bishop at the Wildlife Trust.

If you are interested in supporting improvements and would like to be involved in an action group,

nwilliamson70@icloud.com

There may well be practical actions we can take to improve the Nature Reserve us and future generations.



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North Millers Dale Community Association Newsletter July 2020

the Miller's Tale



Registered Charity

VE DAYS PAST AND PRESEN

75 years. In the first **Pam Holden Brown** where it was and asked if anyone relates how she, at the age of ten, knew the people in the photo. I am celebrated the end of War in Europe. In 1995 The Croydon Advertiser printed the camera, my sister (16) is 3 metres this photo identifying it as a VE party and away from me and there are also

Issue 45

my family in the the early part of my school life avoiding

sitting in the front row squinting up at other members of

> photo - the house with the door open is where I lived. I started school (in Wokingham) after war declared, so spent

> the bombing. Some

This is a tale of two events separated by wanted to know if anyone knew was very close, including finding a fist sized piece of shrapnel, on the cat's enamel plate outside our back door, and having windows broken. Victory in Europe was a wonderful experience for a 10 year old, and my sister and I went up to London to join in the celebrations.

> 75 years later under the strange circumstances of a pandemic lockdown and social distancing another celebration was held in Weaver's Place, North Miller's Dale and Sue and Graham **Brookbanks** take up the story.

The 8th May 2020 dawned bright and sunny and the residents of Weavers Place were out hanging up colourful bunting to mark this special anniversary of the end of fighting in Europe. It was in memory of the celebrations of 1945 but also to reflect on the sadness and great losses of the

Unfortunately, like everyone across the UK, lockdown rules meant our anticipated BBQ street party had to be scaled right back. Neighbours at the top of the 'Place' organised a socially distanced tea party. Families sat in their own front gardens and adult households from down the road were invited to pitch up safely on the verges!

There were outfits of red white and blue, garden umbrellas up, tables laid with teapots and cosies, best china teacups and cake stands with special cakes, plus maybe a beer or two and glasses of wine! Surplus plants at the edge of drives found



new homes! Memorabilia and old photographs of family members laid out on the grass sparked tales of previous generations wartime experiences. A cake with candles was carried out and we all heartily serenaded Naomi, our birthday girl!

All went quiet as we listened to Winston Churchills speech broadcast from your Editors house. The words had a sober resonance. 'we may allow ourselves a brief period of reioicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toils and

efforts that lie ahead' Then the loudspeakers relayed wartime songs and we listened to Vera Lvnn. Doris Dav. Bing Crosby and Glen Miller.

It turned out to be a simple, gentle gathering, fitting to the era being remembered. Everyone appreciated catching up with each other, having a chat trying to shade from the scorching sun. A rare and relaxed moment in this troubled period. It made us appreciate our good fortune, how lucky we are to have the community of Weaver's Place and North Miller's Dale. However difficult life and the future seems right now, it is nothing compared to the conditions and lifestyle previous generations endured during and

after wartime. We can look forward, like them, and fondly recall our afternoon coming together in lockdown to celebrate VE Day 75.



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Charles Lewry

Gillian Warde:

doreen@nmdca.org.uk



Contact: Articles or Advertising:



editor@nmdca.org.uk

Website www.nmdca.org.uk



Or drop articles into: 8 Weavers Place North Millers Dale



the world As starts to come out of what seems like a prolonged hibernation, we look forward to what we hope will be happier times ahead and back over one of the strangest times any of us can ever remember. With the restrictions in place we were forced to release our first ever virtual newsletter, which for those of you who may have missed it, can still be seen at: https://nmdca.wordpress.com/newsletters/

This time around, we are back in print, which means we are able to reach everyone in North Miller's Dale when your copy drops onto the doormat. The last newsletter had a literary theme, which was quite apt as many people were finding themselves with a lot more time to pick up a book during lockdown. This time we thought we would look back at personal experiences of lockdown and forward to plans and strategies for the future.

Again, we are very pleased to have engaged a good selection of different contributors to the newsletter. In particular I would like to welcome and thank Adam and Jasmine Pearson from Weaver's Place who are our guest editors of 'Kids Corner' and had a free rein on its content in this issue.

I think our book competition in the last newsletter may have been a bit too hard for our readers as no-one was able to send us the correct answer. So we are re-running the competition to win a signed copy of local author Nicola Slade's extremely enjoyable book, 'The Convalescent Corpse', with hopefully a more manageable test. (See page7)

I hope you will be pleased to see the return of the printed Miller's Tale and will find something of interest within its pages. As ever if you would like to contribute to the next edition please get in touch with the editor, details in the box to the left. If there's anything you do like with the newsletter or anything you don't, please drop us a line to let us know as feedback is always useful.

Useful Numbers

Instead of thumbing through the Telephone Directory or Yellow pages to find that important number, look no further than the Miller's Tale. If you have any suggestions for a useful number that is not included please contact us

Editor Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562 Gillian 07917 858 752

Emergencies

Electricity (Power Cuts)	0800 072 7282
Gas (escapes)	0800 111999
Police (non urgent)	101
Southern Water	0330 303 0368

Schools

Hiltingbury Infant School	023 8026 5414
Hiltingbury Junior School	023 8026 1808
Knightwood Primary	023 8026 1900
Merdon County Junior School	023 8026 5255
Thornden Secondary School	023 8026 9722
Toynbee Secondary School	023 8026 9026

Post Office

4 Ashdown Road 0345 722 3344

Local Services

Chandlers Ford Library	0300 555 1387
Eastleigh Tourist Information	023 8026 5500
Eastleigh Borough Council	023 8068 8000
Blue Star Buses	01202 338 421
Zelabus	02380 644 715
Southampton Int Airport	0844 481 7777
Red Funnel Ships	023 8001 9192
Railway Enquiries	0871 244 1545

Medical Services

Park Surgery, Hursley Road	023 8025 2131
St Francis Surgery, Valley Park	$023\ 8025\ 2131$
Boyatt Wood Surgery	$023\ 8061\ 2051$
Fryern Surgery	$023\ 8027\ 3252$
Eastleigh Health Centre	$023\ 8061\ 2032$
Southampton General Hospital	$023\ 8077\ 7222$
Winchester Hospital	$01962\ 86\ 3535$

Dentists

Hursley Road Dental Practice

157 Hursley Road 023 8026 7141

Vital Dental Care

67 Bournemouth Rd 023 8026 7889

North Millers Dale Community Association Newsletter July 2020

WHAT DID YOU DO IN LOCKDOWN?

By Gillian Warde

On 13th March, I wrote to my friend in Milan to wish her a happy birthday, by that stage Italy were already in lockdown. Her reply to me was: "the situation is surreal, but to get ready, because drastic measures will be taken shortly for the rest of Europe, including the UK." They were in a tight lockdown, not allowed out for daily exercise except to get groceries and to the chemist. I think we were all in denial and a lot of people did not think we would lockdown and the virus would not make it this far.

It has been particularly hard for the elderly. My now 92-year-old Dad was one of those. On the day of lockdown, I finally persuaded him to get his freezer up and running and then it took me the next three weeks to get him stocked up with enough food to last a month or so. It was hard when I went to the supermarkets. I was looking for things that everyone else wanted, and that was topped off by the shortages.

Each Thursday night we would clap for the NHS and Carers. It was very poignant because I was so grateful for Mum's carers. Thursday night was also a time for some social contact, because all our close neighbours in Weaver's Place came out. One night Adam played his saxophone and another young neighbour played his drums and that drew people from the other part of our close. It really engendered a sense of community. VE Day was another high when we had a socially distanced celebration.

So many other celebrations were affected. Two of us in the close had big birthdays but plans had to be cancelled. It was hard watching the daily briefings and seeing the numbers of people who were, and still are, dying. Obviously we were all aware of the tremendous efforts of the NHS staff, but you became aware of the people that you take for granted; the shop workers, the postman, the delivery drivers, carers, bus drivers and railway staff. Let's hope we continue to appreciate all that they do for us.

What would we do without Zoom? A lifeline. I was regularly in touch with friends and family and I know of others involved in Zoom quizzes. We have always spoken to my husband's family in New Zealand on a Sunday morning on SKYPE or Messenger and this became was even more important. It was so good to be able to see them and to share what was happening with them.

Our NMD Book Club kept going and we had several meetings on Zoom to discuss our books. It was lovely to see everyone and to hear what they had been up to. We also had NMDCA several Zoom committee meetings, and once again it was good to see people. We have always enjoyed walking, but our daily exercise became a lifeline. The lovely thing about it was that we got to talk to so many North Miller's Dale residents, and in the woods to dog walkers. It really made us appreciate all that we have on our doorstep.

Another thing that kept us sane was our allotment. At first, we thought we wouldn't be able to visit it, so we were delighted when Michael Gove said this was fine. We had already ordered some seeds but needed other vegetable plants. A lot of our neighbours had spares, and these were swapped around the community. It is great to see plants growing and to think that they came from Doreen or from Gerald. It was also good to see enterprise on Chandlers Ford Facebook, e.g. one young boy selling plants to raise money for

The garden and various DIY projects also kept us going. Thank goodness for the B&Q click and collect service. Projects that we thought would never get done, have now taken

shape and are a long way down the track. It has also been great to watch the neighbours working with their projects. I think the queues at the tip show how much we all rely on this resource. What would we do without it?

A trip to Motisfont on the very first day was fantastic. It was so lovely to see the roses and their perfume was stunning due to the warmth. It felt great to be doing something normal even if everything revolved around social distancing and oneway systems, which were very well organised.

My husband has spent three evenings a week playing bridge on-line. He and his partner have teamed up with other people from the bridge clubs he goes to and plays against them. This has helped to keep him sane.

Many people on North Miller's Dale will have been home schooling. I admire vou all. Often this has been alongside having to work from home.

We all have a new vocabulary: social distancing, shielding, bubbles, insolating, air corridors... I wonder how the Covid 19 pandemic will be taught in schools in future and what future generations will make of it. We didn't foresee this in our lifetime. what does the future hold?

LITERARY COMPETITION

Another chance to win a signed book by our own best-selling author Nicola Slade. A murder mystery based around this locality just after the first World War which has a five stars rating on Amazon. The Convalescent Corpse is the latest of ten novels written by this award winning author.

- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Barbara Hillier
- Claire Gradidge
- Emily Bronte
- Jane Austen
- Antony M Brown Charles Dickens

Nicola Slade



To enter, select which of these eight authors doesn't have a connection with Hampshire and email your answer to editor@nmdca.org.uk. The first correct answer arriving after 12:00 on July 20th will be deemed the winner.

www.nmdca.org.uk www. nmdca.org.uk

Guest Editors Adam and Jasmine Pearson

Homeschooling fill in the gaps (make it as silly as you can!) The weather today is _____. My day started with breakfast and as always I had some _____ and ____. Next I

got dressed and for a change I thought I would put my on my _____. For my daily exercise I

1	Sic	dd	10	0
		2 1000	LE	.5

1) You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?

2) I have keys, but no locks and

space, and no rooms. You can enter, but cannot go outside. What am I?

water:
4) A girl fell off a 20 foot ladder.
She wasn't hurt. Why?
5) Where can you find cities, towns,
shops and streets but no people?
(answers at the bottom of the page)

Lockdown Wordsearch

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pretending to be a _____. I looked up in the sky just as a _____. dropped a _____ on my ____. Then I went downstairs to start my school work. To my surprise my English homework was to write about _____ which turned out to be very _____. In the afternoon the delivery man arrived with my new _____which kept me busy for at least _____. I went to bed very tired and dreamt about ___ and woke up in the middle of the night feeling . I hope tomorrow will be a much ____

MASK **ENGLISH** CLAPPING CORONAVIRUS FUN MATHS **SCHOOL NEIGHBOURS FRIENDS** ONLINE **GARDEN** DISTANCING HOME ZOOM SOAP

 δ . A map the bottom step 4. She fell off 3. A sponge 2. А Кеуроага married 1. Everyone is Riddle answers

Which King of England was round

and purple? (Alfred the Grape) What is an octopuses' favourite (Diary of a Wimpy Squid) What do you call a duck with a big ice-cream? (A lucky ducky. If he gets it all over himself he's a mucky ducky!) How do you make a tissue dance?

(You put a little boogie in it!) Why did the ant get wet? (Because the centipede!)

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North Millers Dale Community Association Newsletter July 2020

CHANDLER'S FORD HELP CHANDLER'S FORD

By Richard Carpenter Chandler's Ford Help was formed by a small group of locals at the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, to help the older and vulnerable in our community. CHANDLER'S

We have 1,400 volunteers and we have 4 key areas of support: -

- Shopping
- Prescription Collections, Pet Care and Walks
- Friendly Ears Trained volunteers to talk to
- Food Care Packs and Food Collection / Donations

Many Chandler's Ford residents have used our services. Families who are struggling due to the financial impact of the pandemic, elderly residents who are self-isolating or people who or vulnerable and need to shield.

We work closely with the GP Surgeries and Pharmacies in the area. Many of the pharmacies are actively discouraging elderly and vulnerable patients from collecting their prescriptions personally. You will see Chandler's Ford Help posters and leaflets in many pharmacies. We currently have over 500 clients using the prescription collection service!

To date we have carried out over 3,000 tasks and have helped nearly 1,000 Clients (of which some were families, so this number is far higher). We have also supported nearly 200 Extremely Vulnerable Clients (as defined by the Government). We would not be able to offer this support without the help of our amazing volunteers, many of whom have helped form the

systems, teams, and documentation of the group. We are also extremely grateful to Eastleigh and Test Valley Borough Councils for their financial support in the form of Grants. We have also received Grants from Tesco and Valley Park Parish Council.

Thank you also to St Francis and St Boniface Churches for their amazing support.

We are still going strong and adding new clients daily. We are currently undergoing the process of making the Volunteer Group into a Charity with the intention of keeping this support going for those in need!

Chandler's Ford Help would not work without the community spirit, so lastly, THANK YOU ALL!

INSYNC WITH THE CHANGING SITUATION

By Tony Forward As Chairman of a Social Group aimed at older singles, you can understand that the inability to run social events or even enjoy a pint at the local, coupled with our age vulnerability, presented myself and my Committee with a few problems! All of our planned events such as dances, 'special' birthday parties and scheduled days out were cancelled. Our weekly bridge meetings either in pub or houses became non-events and even the very popular Sunday walks were non-starters.

So, what do we do to keep our members involved? We immediately cancelled collection of annual subs, it seemed inappropriate to collect these for no return and, fortunately, the club is solvent.

We instituted a craft contest with all members invited to show their lockdown craftwork at a date to be decided once the 'all clear' is given. Our Publicity Officer produced a number of newsletters which publicised various suggestions from the membership from social media keep fit to Hampshire Library on line services. Our computer supremo set up a chat room, dubbed the InSync Coffee Bar, where any member could take part in a face to face chat, alas you have to supply your own coffee. Another member kept us up to date with on-line cultural offerings of Ballet productions. Shakespeare plays etc.

All in all, we have got through the pandemic so far and I am pleased to report that, to my knowledge, no-one within our little group has suffered from Covid19. We remain hale and hearty and, as the rules are gradually relaxed we have enjoyed golf again, socially distanced walks are taking place, tables have been booked at one of our locals and some bridge 4s have happened. Our annual pre-Christmas weekend has been booked and is oversubscribed, so we are tentatively taking small steps to becoming a Social Group once again.

LOCAL LIONS LOCKDOWN

The plans we had for fund raising over the spring and summer all had to be cancelled or postponed, meaning our support for local and national charities has had to be carefully controlled with the reduced resources available to us. Luckily following the hard work of the Lions team in the month before Christmas at the Santa's Grotto at Brambridge Nursery, we did receive a lump sum which we have been able to put to good use. These are some of the good causes we have supported this Lions year (July – July):

Telephone: 023 8254 1100 FORD HELP

Email: chandlersfordhelp@yahoo.com

www.chandlerfordhelp.org

- Sensory Pavilion on the Park,
- Lymphoma Action,
- Wave 105 Cash for Kids,
- Samaritans,
- Mayor's Charity,
- Highbridge Community Farm,
- Open Sight,
- Mini Bus Age Concern,
- Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust,
- Cystic Fibrosis Holiday Fund,
- Chandler's Ford Men's Shed,
- MIAB.
- Fledge,
- Eastleigh Food Bank

See more on our website www.eastleighlions.org.uk

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN



By Ursula Nicol

What have the Age Concern team been doing since lockdown? Happily, we are pleased to report that our Covid 19 Volunteer Team of Jackie, Maggie, Chloe, Michelle, Beth, Melanie and Devan managed the following (totals correct at the beginning of July):

- 647 chat calls
- 27 prescriptions collected and delivered
- 32 shopping trips and 1 dental trip
- 289 craft bags distributed
- 3 handyman service visits
- and 7 post office trips.

One thing is certain, older people will remain amongst those hardest hit by this disease and the extremely challenging restrictions that so many have had to contend with.

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North Millers Dale Community Association Newsletter July 2020





FARMHOUSE

hiltonburyfarmhouse.co.uk 02380 269974

By Hana Fincher

Having closed its doors just before Mother's Day, the new look Hiltonbury Farmhouse reopened Saturday 4th July, following a full outdoor renovation.

During the pubs closure, owner Rob Preston established a successful grocery delivery business, including NHS staff food parcels and a weekend takeaway delivery and collection with popular 'Fish & Chip Fridays' and take away Pizzas.

In the last few weeks the takeaway and grocery orders have been closed to enable the pub to be redone ready for reopening. Rob Preston said 'Our takeaway and grocery delivery has been really popular and we were so pleased to be able to provide a grocery delivery service during lock down for those who could not get supermarket slots. Going forward, we will be reopening this service as a farm shop selling artisan cheeses, high quality meats and produce. Takeaways will also be relaunched with orders being taken via Deliveroo.'

The pub has had a lot of support and good will from its customers during lock down for continuing to provide a useful service to the community. Regular Jason Brinson who is also helping to refurbish the outdoor area said, 'We are so proud of our local, where other pubs have just closed their doors and shut up shop, the Farmie has really tried to help local customers.'



The Hiltonbury Farmhouse have installed new outdoor seating pods on their terrace area to help with social distancing measures and Perspex screening in both the indoor and outdoor spaces.

When bookings opened on the new online booking system, the tables were fully booked for the opening weekend within a few hours. Customers have time slots allocated to try and avoid all day drinking and mitigate the risks of coronavirus.

General Manager Emma Starbuck said 'Although we were excited to be welcoming customers back, being the only pub in Chandlers Ford ready to open, we had to make sure that we are running bookings only to avoid a Bournemouth Beach Mark II situation occurring!

We have been working really hard to put all the social distancing measures in place, to ensure our staff and customers are kept as safe as possible. Our number one priority is to make sure that customers can feel happy and relaxed in the new environment. We have launched ordering via a new app called Hopt for our customers dining outside. We will be offering table service inside with no orders being taken at the bar.'

The Hiltonbury Farmhouse looks forward to taking your bookings and welcoming you back.



By Jos Pieda

This current situation has not made things easy for any of us and sadly we were forced to close our doors for a while, like many other businesses, but we have not let this pesky virus hold us down and we are back!

Having made a few policy changes and sorted out a few minor issues we have been able to reopen our doors with a smaller team, restricted numbers and shorter hours for the time being, but it seems to have been successful. We have been able to carry on, much as before, whilst sticking to the current government guidelines, but continuing to keep things safe and enjoyable for the children in our care. We have had some lovely walks around the area looking for numbers and shapes. You may have seen us checking out your house or car registration numbers or admiring the patterns and shapes on your driveways! Thank you for your kind words of encouragement.

Although not all of our families have returned at the moment, we are very pleased to know that they will all be back with us in September, along with many new faces who are set to join us too. We cater for children from the ages of 2 to school age, and our sessions are 8-1, 9-3, 8-4 and 1-4 Monday to Friday, term time only.

We are planning to set up a holiday club so we can offer our services all year round. Sadly, this will not be up and running in time for the summer holidays but, hopefully, ready by October half term. We plan to cater for children from 2-8 years. This will be run as a separate entity from the Kindergarten with its own team. Keep an eye on our web site for further details!

On the subject of our holiday club, we have a staff vacancy for a full/part time Kindergarten manager to run the admin side of things along with taking charge of the holiday club and its team. This lovely person must be child care trained to at least level 3 and have a minimum of 3 years' experience in early years.

If you are interested contact us on hoot@littledelwood.com for more details.

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North Millers Dale Community Association Newsletter July 2020



By Doreen Lewry, NMDCA Secretary

For obvious reasons we are unable to host an NMDCA AGM this year, but the committee are still working as best we can on your behalf.

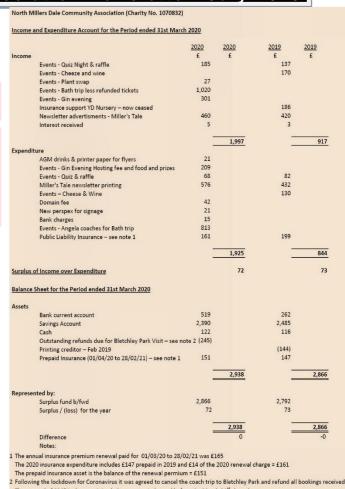
Clearly one of the main functions of the AGM is the election of officers, but in the absence of the option of a face to face meeting, we hope that the NMD residents have no objections to the current committee continuing for a further year. If there is anyone who would like to join us, we could co-opt you to the committee in advance of a formal election, whenever that might be possible.

During the last year, we have had an active events committee. Phil Heller hosted another successful Quiz Night. A full coach went to Bath to visit the Christmas Market. In February, Clio and Malcolm hosted a Gin Tasting evening which was very interesting and enjoyable! Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Coach Trip to Bletchley Park, which should have been in May. We plan to do this another time/year.

Meetings between the Manager of the pub, its local neighbours and representatives from NMDCA continued to meet, to discuss any problems which arose. Until March, we continued with our local monthly, 3 mile walks. We hope to be able to resume this sometime. The Book Group was able to continue using Zoom online get togethers.

We lobbied the Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Committee about safer parking and driving on North Millers Dale, near the pub and around the bend. The LAC was asked to consider putting yellow lines near the Stratfield Drive junction. This was considered to be the most difficult and dangerous junction on the estate, due to visibility, when we conducted our own mini survey. Unfortunately, they have not acted on this. Yellow lines have now been painted on other junctions and near the pub.

The last edition of "The Miller's Tale" was available online only. It can be



viewed on our website www.nmdca.org.uk/newsletters

If you have any issues you would like us to address, we are happy to do what we can. Contact us via email at editor@nmdca.org.uk to let us know about worries, issues, news or anything else you would like to bring

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