

ENIGMATIC VISIT PLANNED TO CODE-BREAKERS' BLETCHLEY

In those heady, pre-pandemic days the NMDCA organised a coach trip to the home of the code-breakers at Bletchley Park. Unfortunately, Covid had different ideas, and sadly the visit had to be postponed. However, it proved to be so popular at the time, that we have resurrected the outing.

Bletchley Park is an English country house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes (Buckinghamshire) that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. It is claimed, it was responsible for shortening the war by two to four years. The work and the people involved have inspired several books and films including 'Enigma' and 'The Imitation Game'. The site now houses exhibitions, including reconstruction of how the offices would have looked when the secret interception and codebreaking was in full flow, in blocks and huts around the estate.

The date we are going to travel to Bletchley will be Saturday 20th May, and the coach is booked and the discounted group entry tickets organised. The coach will leave from the main road alongside the Farmhouse car park at



08:30, so that we can spend a full day at Bletchley.

We felt it fair that an advance offer should be made to the people who had signed up for the original trip in 2020, and many of them have rebooked their places. Following a flyer drop around North Miller's Dale, places have been filling up

quickly, but there are still a few seats available, should you be interested. The cost, which includes entry, is £45 per person for the day. Please contact us via 02380 268562 or editor@nmdca.org.uk if you would like to book your seat for what promises to be an exciting and interesting day.

the Miller's Tale



NMDCA EVENT FIT FOR A KING!



Last year, following our successful Jubilee event on the Farmhouse green, we said that we should hold another combined community event, possibly as an annual fixture. The announcement of the Coronation of King Charles III came as an ideal excuse to plan another community event in the same vein. Last year, we were blessed with brilliant weather and a fantastic turnout of residents, all wanting to have a great time together.

The Coronation Bank Holiday Monday on the 8th May is the date to put in your diary, when we will be working with the Hiltonbury Farmhouse to make it a really memorable day. We are planning to feature live music again and lots of stalls to keep you entertained during the afternoon. In addition we have, Chandler's Ford Scouts, Eastleigh Lions, InSync, local arts and crafts, bouncy castle and children's adventure play centre.

As usual, we want to involve the community, and if you would like to run a stall or provide some other entertainment, please let us know so we can integrate you into the proceedings. We would love anyone who would like to volunteer some help on Volunteering Day, to contact us.

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After an amazing start to 2023 where we were joined by our new Assistant Manager, Sean Courtney, we are now headed into a brilliantly busy April!

Our new menu goes live on 19 April, bursting with lots of new dishes and some old favourites. To celebrate, we're holding a 'Tasting Event' on the evening of 17 April - book your table! Cost will be £10pp - proceeds going to charity.

16 April, we are starting our 'new look' pub quiz every second Sunday with local favourite Quiz Master, Pete Allen... more details to follow!

Throughout the Easter Holidays, Hiltingbury

Dj Tubbs & The Soul Salon are coming to The Hiltonbury Farmhouse on Sat 29th April
Bringing you a mixture of Soulful & Funky Grooves With a dash of Ska & Reggae

School will be having their Easter Trail - why not stop for a quick visit to us, whilst you follow their trail?

Also, 29 April we are excited to welcome DJ Tubbs and The Soul Salon, for a night of Soulful and Funky Grooves, with a dash of Ska and Reggae - get your dancing shoes on!

And of course we are all looking forward to the Coronation Party on the green.

www.nmdca.org.uk



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the Information board



To hire the North Millers Dale Community Hall

Contact via Phone to:-
Matt on
02380 274775
weekdays 09:00 - 16:00
or email
hoot@littledelwood.com

When confirmed please email:
editor@nmdca.org.uk

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North Miller's Dale Community Association

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8 Weavers Place
North Millers Dale



By the Editor
It's funny how sometimes things creep up on you. Having noted the u3a 25th anniversary, I thought we, at the NMDCA, must be getting close to that. After some work on my mobile phone calculator, I discovered that our 25th anniversary is indeed this year too!

The NMDCA went from being a steering group to being an association in May 1998. We have been producing the Miller's Tale newsletter a little longer than that with the first issue being published in 1997. With this in mind, we have to thank the King for having his coronation on a date corresponding to our 25th anniversary! We will therefore have to make sure our coronation event will be extra special.

Using one of the many functions on my phone, prompted me to think of how different the mobile phone experience was in 1998, when the handset choice was pretty much limited to the Nokia and Motorola offerings. In those days you could either make a phone call, text or play snake, and not much else. However, the big plus was that battery life could be up to two weeks, which was great if you were taking your phone on holiday and had forgotten your charger. That's assuming you could afford to make any calls, as international roaming wasn't a thing then.

Many of you may remember the fascinating gin night hosted by Clio and Malcolm of the Hiltingbury Still in our Hall back in February 2020. Regrettably the Hiltingbury Still is no longer trading. Clio wrote: 'We have now made our final delivery as the time has sadly come to close The Hiltingbury Still. We've had a wonderful 7 years, met so many good people and had a lot of fun at drinks and craft fairs.' I'm sure you would all join me in wishing Clio and Malcolm best wishes for the future.

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

Editors 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
Thomden 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
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

Assistance

Chandler's Ford Help 023 8254 1100
CF Good Neighbours 07914 757 380
One Community 023 8090 2450

LOCAL SERVICES, DON'T BANK ON IT!

Like many other communities, Chandler's Ford is slowly being stripped of many of its local services. Residents who have lived here for more than ten years, may well remember a very different scene to what we have now. Banks are no exception to these disappearing businesses.



Not long back, Chandler's Ford was served by most of the major High Street Banks, but no longer is this the case. With internet banking becoming the normal method of accessing many bank facilities, face to face customer interactions are considered no longer necessary. I'm not convinced that is the main reason, as I have never gone to the bank when it has not been without a queue to get to see someone. I suspect that the bank's head office see that providing a service is not a way to enrich their shareholders, and shutting down branches saves wages, rent and rates, and other running costs.

Apart from some notable failures, one rarely hears these days of banks struggling to make a profit. So, are these closures entirely necessary or desirable? Probably not if you are a user of the bank, having to drive to a bank rather than walk is not ideal, particularly if you still use cheques and don't use the internet. But if you're a banker, then bonuses more than make up for any pangs of conscience you may feel for the job losses and lack of accessibility.



Regrettably things don't stay the same, and the loss of local amenities is a twenty first century phenomenon. How many petrol stations did we have in Chandler's Ford at the time North Miller's Dale was built? Pretty much all of those sites now house blocks of flats. I wrote about Chandler's Ford's disappearing Post Offices back in pre-pandemic days. Bus services have been discontinued and doctors surgeries have closed and been amalgamated. However, we do still have a very good range of local shops providing individual and personal alternatives to Southampton, Winchester or Eastleigh. Some of the ex-banks have been re-occupied by some great businesses, the Steel Tank, Josies and the Wessex Bike Hub are all beneficial additions to our local street scene.

NMDCA TO MAKE TREE-MENDOUS JUBILEE GESTURE

By Doreen Lewry

Last year, we had a very successful Platinum Jubilee Party celebration. With some of the proceeds, we decided to plant a tree in honour of our late Queen. We have been in touch with Eastleigh Borough Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Recently, we have been given permission to plant a native Common Oak, (*Quercus robur*), on the edge of the Upper Flexford reserve. The site suggested is along North Millers Dale, near to the bus stop at the

Baddesley Road end which would be visible to lots of people.

Clare from HIWWT sent this information. "Unfortunately we have missed the opportunity to plant a



tree until the autumn. The best time to plant trees is always autumn or winter as they have a much better chance of survival. If planted in autumn, they can concentrate on developing their roots over the winter period rather than putting all their energy into leaves and flowers. Trees planted in spring or summer are always much more prone to drought."

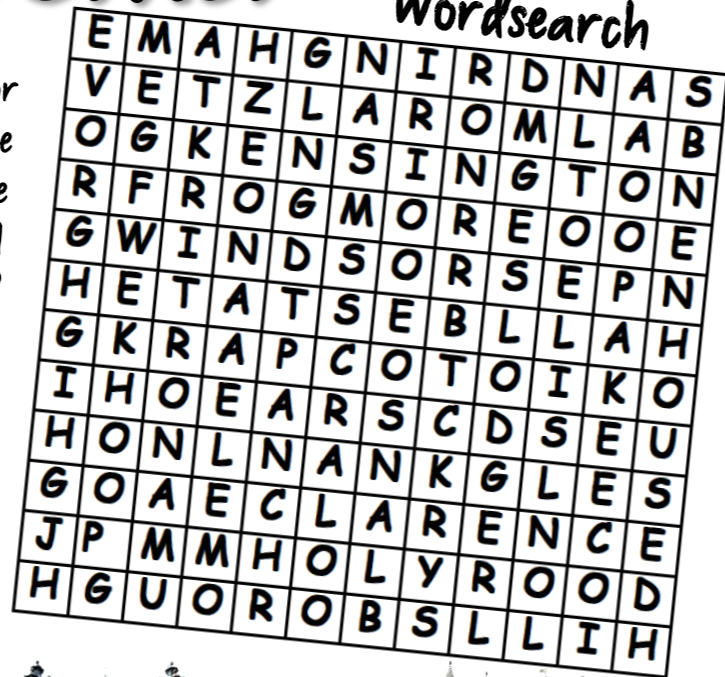
In the meantime, we will be researching tree specialists to find a healthy native specimen that we can plant in the autumn.

Kids Corner

Royal Homes Wordsearch

Palace
Castle
Hall
House
Lodge
Manor
Park
Estate

Windsor
Clarence
Highgrove
Balmoral
Holyrood
Frogmore
Sandringham
Kensington
Hillsborough
Osborne



NORTH MILLER'S DALE HALL 'PHILLED' TO CAPACITY

By Phil Heller
After a long gap in activities at the North Millers Dale Centre due to Covid, NMDCA organised a quiz on 18th March. We were pleased to welcome some familiar participants and some new faces / teams we had not seen before.



Phil and Bernice officiated as usual. The teams were treated to a varied quiz which was partly themed; words that had a family connection, and another round where words that had an association with the letters BAR. There was a music round where the teams had to pair musical artists and their nationalities, and a film round where they had to work out films starring Dame Judi Dench from the initial letters of the film title. All very varied and needed a wide general knowledge.

The atmosphere at the quiz was very lively and included some unaccompanied song renditions by some of the team members, earning a few extra points. Judging by the faces, everyone went away having had a very enjoyable evening.

As always in North Millers Dale, the scoring was high. The winning team 'Men of Cheese' scored an impressive 189 out of a possible 220 points, being top or nearly top in every round. Clearly worthy winners on the night, so well done to them. No one was disgraced however, with all teams scoring well. The round that caused the most head scratching was the round where bingo nicknames had to be identified, coupled with the century in which famous events occurred.

Contestants had brought their own nibbles and drinks to help the evening go with a swing. Doreen and Gillian had organised a raffle which was enthusiastically supported, thank you. Hopefully it will not be so long before there is another quiz at the hall, or we can hold a different event. Gillian encouraged the audience to tell us what events you would like in the future, so we can continue being the hub of the community.

Short of ideas for Half Term?

Why not join the Eastleigh Lion Hunt?
Keep your kids entertained for hours and a chance to win a great prize in the draw
Get your Lion Hunt Book soon!
Contact Charlie via editor@nmdca.org.uk to reserve a copy or see the Lions at Fryern Funtasia or NMDCA the Coronation Event



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Mayflower Close, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4AR
07459 072150 www.thespinney53.co.uk

BAY LEAVES' SPRING ANNIVERSARY

In April 2023, Bay Leaves Larder is celebrating its 15th anniversary – why not come and celebrate with us? Bay Leaves Larder is a deli & coffee shop on Hiltingbury Road you can't ignore! With its vibrant aqua green store front and ever so busy coffee shop area, Owner Sarah has spent the last 15 years working to bring the best of the county's food and drink to her community. Currently stocking over 40 Hampshire suppliers, including New Forest Teas, flowers, candles, eggs, and a range of local gins, alongside homemade smoothies, hot drinks, cakes, full English breakfasts, and afternoon teas! The list goes on and the vegan & gluten-free alternatives are also a welcomed plus.



The family-friendly business recently added an environmentally friendly refill station for cleaning products, fresh milk, and orange juice, which has been proving popular.

Bay Leaves Larder also hosts a variety of events, workshops, and Thermomix masterclasses, allowing its community to access so much more than just their usual delicious treats.

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CORONATION STREET PARTY

Is your street having a party for the Coronation?



Then let us know so we can share the memories of your festivities with other residents of North Miller's Dale.

Last year, many of you joined together with your neighbours to have a right Royal knees up for her majesty the Queen, and now we have been given another opportunity to celebrate on Sunday May 7th on official street party day.

So, please let us know your plans in advance or take some photos and write a few words and email the editor to tell us how you spent the historic day after the coronation for our next newsletter. Many thanks.

LOVELY LETTERBOX LADIES



By Sandra Claxton, Topper Team Leader

In March 2023, Chandlers Ford u3a celebrated its 25th Anniversary with 25 different things, one of which was the installation of 25 Post Box Toppers representing some of the groups within our u3a.

Twelve ladies worked to achieve the target, sometimes alone, sometimes collaborating. Each chose the post box they wanted to cover, and the group they wanted to illustrate. Some ladies did more than one, in

fact, the Questers topper was completed by four people.

The Mayor, Cllr. Adam Manning was happy to install the first two toppers at Fryern Hill and photographs of this event were published in the Southampton Daily Echo and The Hampshire Chronicle.

The North Millers Dale post-box had our Birdwatching Topper which was photographed by a local resident and put on Facebook. This received over 7,500 likes and soon we were receiving comments from all over the world.

THE Hampshire florist



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www.nmdca.org.uk



Other Chandlers Ford residents followed suit, and soon many of our Toppers, were displayed on 'UK Toppers and More' page on Facebook. Who would have thought knitting toppers could have caused such interest? For further information about Chandlers Ford u3a or our Topper Team, please visit www.cfordu3a.org.uk

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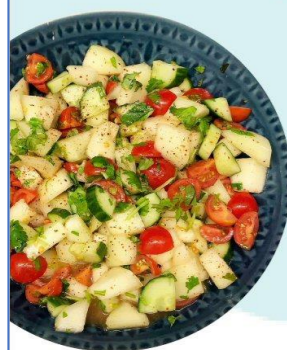
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