

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND
(CHARITY NO. 301891) FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 31 MARCH 2025

In November, 106 years since the end of WW1 in 1918, we remembered all those who lost their lives in the 1st & 2nd World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

The year 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the largest seaborne invasion in history. 11 Milton Parish men lost their lives supporting ground forces in Normandy on 6 June 1944. We remember all those who lost their lives.

We welcomed 99-year-old D-Day veteran Jim Justice, a Green Jacket who lives locally. Rifleman Jim Justice landed in Normandy, his platoon then marched to liberate Bayeux, encountering resistance and hand-to-hand combat. Last year, Jim visited commemorative events in Normandy with the RBL and had tea with the Royal Family.



In New Milton, we remembered all 223 local servicemen who lost their lives in the two world wars - 83 in WW1 and 140 in WW2.

The names of all the servicemen who died in both wars appear on the Memorial. We also recalled 31 others who died as a result of WW2 bombings on the Town.

In total, over 250 local people lost their lives in the two World Wars.

Events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground April 2024 – March 2025

25 May 2024	New Milton Lions Club Family Festival D-Day 80 th Anniversary
2 June 2024	Afternoon of Music with Christchurch Royal British Legion Band
6 June 2024	D-Day 80 th Anniversary - Act of Remembrance
13 July 2024	Varun Choir
4 August 2024	Afternoon of Music - Total Madness + NF Mencap "The Potholz"
25 August 2024	New Milton Lions Club – Town Show
1 September 2024	Afternoon of Music with Groovemeister
10 November 2024	Remembrance Sunday Parade & Wreath-Laying
11 November 2024	Armistice Day - Act of Remembrance
27 November 2024	Planting Commemorative trees for D-Day 80 th Anniversary with D-Day Veteran Rifleman Jim Justice, a former "Green Jacket". And planting of Celebratory trees for VE80 & VJ80 Days in 2025



Mayor Cllr Alvin Reid with Total Madness on War Memorial Recreation Ground - 4th August



Town Development Manager Report For Town Council Meeting 23rd June 2025

1. *Neighbourhood Plan Review –*

Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan is now in the Regulation 14 Consultation period. March this year saw the Neighbourhood Plan go to informal public engagement, where we interacted with the public, opened discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan and welcomed comments on the proposed policies. Results from the informal public engagement were considered and used in the current draft plan. Regulation 14 consultation now opens comments from the public and from statutory consultees. The six-week period runs from 2nd June – 16th July 2025. Consultees are directed to the Neighbourhood Plans dedicated website, and a hard copy is held for public viewing at the 4 primary community locations in the town – Town Hall, Library, Memorial Centre and the Community Centre.

Engagement

Advertising is present in FOCUS magazine, New Milton Advertiser and Times print and Facebook, Town Council social media, Princes Publications, New Forest District Council newsletter, Town Council e-news, high street noticeboards and the Town Hall. Email communication reached statutory consultees at the start of the consultation period and posters reached post offices and business parks via a mail-out campaign. Other advertising can be found in New Milton Rugby Club Fun Day programme and New Milton Town Robins Tournament programme.





Comms Officer Report

For Town Council Meeting on 23 June 2025

Update on New Website

- The Recreation Ground Event Booking form has been designed and successfully tested.
 - In-house training has been completed with officers and the meeting papers uploaded, and the calendar updated with upcoming meetings and events.
 - Further discussion has taken place with Juice and Rejuvenate in planning an online payment function to be installed on our new website offering access to a secure Worldpay portal to receive payments.
 - Currently completing proof-reading and checking links on the new website.
 - Getting ready to discuss and agree the launch of the new website.
 - I recently attended a very useful and interesting WordPress training webinar, learning more about the editing functions and website content management.
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News Articles/Press Releases

July 2025	Monthly E-news sharing meetings, events, community news
July 2025	Announce Mayor's nominated Charity
July 2025	Promoting Afternoon of Music
July 2025	Launch of new website

Summer Afternoons of Live Music

This year's programme has been supported by donations from New Milton Residents Association, New Milton Freemasons, Innovus UK, Bethel House Care Home and Keffen Plant Hire.

Sadly, the event on 1 June was cancelled by the band at 1330 hours, due to concerns about the south-westerly wind affecting their music stands and music sheets.

However, we are looking forward to welcoming future performers:

- Groovemeister on 6 July
- The Wise Guys on 3 August
- Total Madness on 7 September



Civic Events

Working with Joy in the planning of our proposed programme of Civic Events for 2025/26.

- Harvest Festival Service at St Mary Magdalene Church on Sunday 28 September – TBC
- Remembrance Sunday Parade, Wreath-Laying and Service on Sunday 9 November
- Annual Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene Church on Sunday 6 December
- Arrangements for the Mayor's Tea Party possibly taking place in February
- Arrangements for the Civic Celebration event possibly taking place in March

Community Engagement

1. Dementia Community Allotment

- Since opening to receive visitors at the end of April we have been delighted to welcome regular visitors to the Allotment.
- The Dementia Allotment is open from 11am-1pm on Tuesdays during the summer months.
- We've arranged 2 social events at the Allotment during the summer, which will be a singalong and ice-creams for our visitors.
- We are looking forward to welcoming the members of the Dementia Social Club in New Milton who will be joining us in August.
- We are very grateful to NMRA and Cllr Neil Tungate for their generous grants towards hosting events this summer.
- More volunteers are needed to join our small team. Tasks include welcoming visitors, doing weeding and watering.

2. NP Engagement

Working with Chiara to complete a Comms Plan promoting the NP Reg 14 consultation from 2 June to 16 July 2025. Comms activities include:

- Messaging on social media and our website
- Advertising in Focus and Prince publications, NMA&T, noticeboards, and post offices
- Sharing via e-news and community emails