

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 45

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Oct. 2011



*'Evening at the Allotments' by Deb Prytherch
Eastney & Milton Allotments Association Photographic Prizewinner 2010*

NEXT FORUM

Tuesday 1 November 2011 at 7.00 pm
Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road
AGENDA

Explanation of the NHS Reforms and City Council Involvement
Health Checks from your local pharmacy this winter
Forum AGM and Election of Committee

FORUM MINUTES

15 June 2011

Matters arising from previous Forum

a) Police Report

Although the police indicated that there are no major issues in Milton, Cllr. Vernon-Jackson raised enforcement of the 20mph speed limits with the police, and he has obtained an assurance that the neighbourhood police team will enforce the limits (using mobile speed guns) if residents of selected roads demonstrate a high level of concern. Moorings Way and Locksway Road continue to give rise to concerns, and the Chair will refer these two roads to the police for attention.

b) Brent Geese

At the last meeting a query was raised about the Field Gun Crew using the site at the Portsmouth College. They have advised us that this is only during the summer when the Brent Geese are not in this country so there is no impact on them.

c) Chaplaincy at St James' Hospital

The only support available is from a Chaplain who covers support for older people, and there is nothing specifically for adult mental health patients in St James' Hospital on a permanent basis. V Vine from LINK offered to take this up as a patient/carers issue with the NHS.

Respect Youth Initiative

Richard Davis attended, to inform residents of the funding issues affecting the Youth Project at Bransbury Park, which enables young people (5-16) to become involved in sport, arts and cultural activities and has had excellent results, recording a **60% reduction in anti-social behaviour** over the period 2007 to 2010.

The Respect Programme could be moved from the Milton area to other parts of the city with greater anti-social behavioural issues. There is positive news in that several enthusiastic coaches have been trained in working with young people, and Richard mentioned a scheme (National Citizen Service) whereby 16 year olds are supported for 8-10 weeks gaining valuable experience and skills prior to their moving on to college or employment. The Royal Navy has keenly supported Respect and offered 15 young people the chance to work with them in activities such as swimming, kayaking and orienteering.

Although future funding for the Respect Programme is uncertain, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson indicated that it may be available from other sources and a meeting is planned for Monday 20th June at which funding and plans to replicate the Respect Programme in other parts of the city will be discussed.

Dog Control Orders

The Chair outlined the Council's proposals under the provisions of section 55(1) of The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005 which will apply across the city from 1 July 2010

New designations will be made for every part of the city as one of the following:-s:-

Dogs Exclusion areas – where dogs are not permitted (e.g. parts of Southsea beach between March and September);

Dogs on Leads areas – where dogs must be on a lead (e.g. in cemeteries and allotments);

Dogs on Leads by Direction areas – where dogs must be put on leads by request of a council officer.

FORUM MINUTES 15 June

..cont

The scheme will be administered by the Street Management Team, contactable via the City Help Desk (023 9283 4092), and will also cover the fouling of land by dogs where the owner fails to clean up after an animal. Notices will be distributed and displayed across the city.

The new orders promoted broad discussion, and one local resident stated that he was unhappy with the new orders and believed them to be draconian as dog owners are perfectly able to police themselves. Another lady (who was not a resident of Milton, but who exercises dogs on St James green) stated that she would like clarification as to who can specify when a dog must be put on a lead, and why. Photographs of the large amount of dog mess collected on the village green on Saturday 11th June were passed around. These photographs seem to indicate that not all dog owners are responsible in cleaning up after their pets, even in an area where children are encouraged to play.

The Chair confirmed that there will be a "walkabout" by city council staff on Wed. 29th June at Milton Park so residents can raise any individual issues or questions.

How the Portsmouth Health Local Involvement Network works for you

Victor Vine from Portsmouth City Council gave a presentation on the Local Involvement Network (LINK), which is an initiative funded by the Department of Health, via local authorities, to serve as a facility for residents to have a voice in local health matters, involve them and help improve

Services. Anyone can become part of a LINK which has the power to ask questions and get a response within 20 days, and can make recommendations about services and issues.

Victor identified two examples of local situations where the LINK has become involved. Extra parking notices for disabled drivers at Queen Alexandra Hospital; GP out of hours service.

With a Steering Group of 21 members (11 individuals/ 10 organisations); sub-groups (Service Development; Enter & View; and Public Awareness & Engagement) the LINK makes an annual report to the Secretary of State..

Questions/points from residents

1. Could membership of core groups be open to businesses rather than individuals? – Victor confirmed that they could be, but that this would be unusual;
2. The lack of involvement locally with regard to the proposals to transfer vascular surgeons from QAH to Southampton Hospital;
3. The dictatorial way in which QAH closed ward G5 at Queen Alexandra Hospital;

4. Poor communication often, the LINKs only know about issues when they are announced in the press. Victor was thanked for his very interesting presentation, although there was a feeling that the LINKs and several other local agencies seem to "do their own thing" with little or no involvement of residents. He hoped to develop closer links with local groups such as Forums and was advised to attend an All Forums Meeting to put this view. He welcomes **your** health and social problems and can be contacted victor.vine@portsmouthcc.gov.uk phone 92811377/92827110/92841388

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DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLITZ?

My name is Derek Little. I have lived in Milton in Warren Avenue since 1976. During the war I lived in Britain St. Portsea opposite St Georges Church. As we lived so near the Dockyard, we came in for some very heavy bombing. As a matter of fact a shelter at the rear of the church took a direct hit and there was a fatality. We also stood outside and watched the dog fights of The Battle Of Britain over Portsmouth. We used to go up to the Tunnel Shelters under Portsdown Hill every night in the green Southdown buses

One particular night we didn't go to the tunnels, we went into the shelter at St Georges Square after a heavy raid. It was 1940. I was nearly 7 years old. When we came out in the morning after the all clear, there was a great big barrage balloon on the bomb site opposite our flats wallowing about like a drunken elephant with a big hole in its side.

The local lads got hold of it and tied it to a lamp-post opposite Besant House flats. Someone said that the balloon recovery unit had been informed. When they eventually turned up several days later ,they were amazed that all that was left of the balloon was two ears and a nose hanging on the lamp-post. They couldn't believe it. Nobody said any thing but following this several Portsea folk could be seen carrying silver coloured shopping bags and I was told later that the material had come in very handy for under sheets for bed wetters in some families.

After the next heavy raids we were evacuated to Parkstone in Poole ,and only returned to a very smitten City, after the invasion to France.

Hope you like my story. ,Derek Little

DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLITZ?

Eddie Wallace accepted our invitation to tell us more about the Blitz sending us this photograph of himself taken on a Sunday in 1940 in Park Road outside the then Central Fire Station (now a public house in King Henry 1 Street).



The Lord Mayor had held a Municipal Service in the Guildhall Square and his escort were Police Firemen in best dress and brass helmets. The local Evening News wanted a photo of that escort and as many other Police Firemen as possible so the single men's quarters in Spring Street nearby were 'raided' and all had to put on their best turn-out uniforms and be in the photo shoot. Eddie is the only one standing at ease – last man on the left front line, with the back of the Guildhall at right top. Eddie has written a long and detailed account of his experiences since the outbreak of World War II and we will bring some of the highlights to you in this and future issues.

“On the outbreak of war on 3 September 1939, all the cinemas and theatres in the city were closed as it was anticipated that heavy bombing would occur almost at once. The reason for this observation was obvious – Portsmouth was the country's premier naval port and dockyard and there were many military establishments and barracks in the city – the Royal Marines Barracks and Fort Cumberland at Eastney, Royal Naval Barracks in Portsea, Colwort Barracks in Old Portsmouth and smaller ones in Broad Street at Point Battery at the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour and Southsea Castle, Victoria and Clarence Barracks in the High Street area, Hilsea Barracks and Rugby Camp at its rear and the forts running along the top of Portsdown Hill. In addition there were of course, the many naval and military establishments on the Gosport side of the Harbour and around Fareham. After a period of around two weeks, as the anticipated air raids had not occurred, the cinemas and theatres were allowed to re-open.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLITZ?

It was strange to see long queues of children forming up at various locations around the city waiting to be conveyed either by bus or train to destinations alleged to be safe from air attack, so they could be billeted in un-suspecting villages! My brother Alfred who was a pupil at the Southern Secondary School for Boys in Fawcett Road (now Priory School) was one of those nominated to leave home as an evacuee, but declined.

In November 1939 all the single men in our quarters in the Central Fire Station, whether we had been on night duty in the watchroom or had just returned from extinguishing a fire, were called out to give a display of fire-fighting in the Guildhall Square before an audience of the City Council and others. The turn-table ladder was brought into use and its 100 foot ladder run out to its full length with cadet Ken Bridges standing on its platform so that water could be shot from its hose onto the Guildhall roof. It was amazing how quickly the onlookers dispersed when they were showered with water!

From June 1940 it was almost a daily occurrence for the air raid sirens to sound their warning as German aircraft approached the city to probe its defences. Prior to this I had assisted my father in digging a very large hole in the bottom of our garden at 63 Salterns Avenue and into which we erected an Anderson air raid shelter. Into this we built wooden bunks (I say 'we' but they were mainly Dad's handiwork). The shelter was then supplied with an oil lamp, a first aid box and blankets. However, the blankets got extremely damp which resulted in the family taking blankets with them on the sirens being sounded at night. Happily I was never called upon to use the shelter and neither was my father for as soon as a siren sounded, both he and I were required to return to our places of work if we were off duty and at home, Dad to either Central or Southsea Police Station and myself to the Central Fire Station.

Practically every night from June onwards, German aircraft flew over the approaches to the city laying mines in the Solent and at Spithead. During the afternoon of July 11th a large number of enemy bombers escorted by ME110 fighters, broke through the RAF's defensive circle and not only bombed the Dockyard but released a number of bombs on the houses and shops in the Kingston area of Portsmouth. In this instance the sirens did not sound until the aircraft were flying over the beach at Southsea. One bomb struck a gasometer at Rudmore causing a huge explosion whilst another destroyed the Blue Anchor public house in Kingston Road and killed Constable Spooner who was reporting to his station. He was the first British police officer to be killed in the war due to enemy action. Another bomb from that stick of three fell on Drayton Road School, North End, a part of which had been commandeered as a First Aid Post wherein a number of first aiders were killed or wounded.

From this time onwards, Portsmouth sustained almost daily air raids sometimes as a 'nuisance' bomber who flew around the city dropping an occasional bomb merely to keep the populace from their beds."

To be continued

PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2011

Our luck held out and June 11 at the Green at St James Field was a bright sunny day despite fears of poor weather. Even more people came this year. We are delighted that you all keep coming - we must be doing something right! Thanks are due to our stalwart organisers and helpers who we rely upon every year. It is thanks to you it is a success!! Thanks too to local traders Southern Co-op, About Time, Bransbury Park Butchers, Portsmouth Fruit & Flowers, Cards & Balloons R Us, Greenscape UK Ltd for their support.



Pre-event Dog poo collection!



Great cakes!



Wizard Storyteller!



And the Band Played On!



Guest Brian Kidd



Best Bouncy Castles!

PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2011



I think my sack's too big!



Winning Dog 2011



Lovely to see you all again!



It's so nice here in the sun!



Can I drive the Fire Engine?



Try our jolly lucky dip!

We are planning next year's event on 2 June just before the Jubilee.

Found – charcoal portrait of young boy. Contact 92736153 to claim

FORUM ISSUES

The next Forum will be held on **Tuesday** for a change. Do try to come along as the subject of our health service affects us all and the Council measures the success of our Forum by the level of attendance at our public meetings.

On **Tuesday 1 November** we will be featuring an issue which many people have concerns about - our local health service. **Paul Edmondson-Jones, Director of Public Health and Primary Care** will explain how the Government's Health Bill will be implemented in Portsmouth. We have also invited Cllr. Peter Eddis who is the Chair of the Council's Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel as some responsibility for health matters will pass to our local Council. Do raise your questions at this meeting. Local Councillors are our democratic representatives now on some health issues.

To give you direct and helpful advice Pam MacPherson from **Rowlands Pharmacy** will tell you about local health checks which are available to you..

We shall hold the **AGM** of the Forum at this meeting, electing Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee for the next year and discussing the new constitution which the Council is proposing for forums.

On 14 September an urgent public meeting was called to allow people to raise questions about the changes to the Eastern Road. There was not time to leaflet everyone about this many had already received the Council's plan stating that consultation would close on 23 September. We hope you saw the posters and could attend if you wished. Local people's concerns were noted and passed to Cllr. Fazackarley, the Transport Executive Member.



CONGRATULATIONS to **THELMA TURNER-HILL** who received a Civic Award at the Mayor-Making Ceremony this year. Thelma worked with the St James Memorial Trust to save our village green, has been a long serving member of Compass which helps mental health patients and their families and has just retired from the Carers' Centre. You may recognise her from the Picnic.



Miss Myrtle Stubbs 1923- 2011

Our long-serving Milton Tree Warden was proactive in saving so many trees in our area for our future. In 1995 Myrtle pushed for tree preservation orders to be placed on 1650 trees on the St James' Hospital site to safeguard them for their amenity value. She was also instrumental in safeguarding 150 trees on the old University campus. Myrtle was a great lover of nature. She wanted to keep Milton green and residents have a lot to thank her for. A keen supporter of reserving the village green area in St. James, sadly Myrtle who lived in Velder Avenue, passed away this year.

Another threat to local trees emerged in August when Portsmouth University applied to fell 5 of the poplar trees in the QEQM campus playing field. Local residents attended a 'walkabout' with the Council's Arboricultural Officer. As the number of trees on site did not tie in with the planning application, this was withdrawn and we expect re-submission.

Our current tree wardens are Jim Scarrott and Caroline Scott. If you are interested in the work of the Portsmouth & Southsea Tree Warden network who survey City trees to provide early warning of threats, disease, decay or vandalism, you can contact Pauline Powell on 02392 667962 or visit their website, www.portsmouthsouthseatreewardens.co.uk. The group arrange training and field trips. New members are welcome.

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HOW DO WE COPE??... IN TIMES LIKE THESE

“They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.” (Andy Warhol).

We look at times around us ... the difficulties and pressures of an oppressive economy and wonder how we will get through it all?

One thing we must remember is to not let the economy or other outside influences dictate how we live. And equally, if not more important, not to let external influences become an excuse for stopping us living a healthy and productive life.

Despite our circumstances .. we need to keep the simple things in focus and take heart from the opportunities in the community around us.

These are not the new discoveries downloaded to us through government commissioned ‘Think Tanks’ costing millions... or bright ideas on ‘Volunteering for the Masses’ to ease the national debt. No, they are the simple ways our great- great grandparents would probably tell us to follow if they were still with us.

Everything in Moderation - Pace Yourself - Drink Thistle Tea - Eat Carrot Soup - An Apple a Day - Take Time Out - Eat Greens - Exercise Daily... Steer Clear of Impulsive Debt.

When we take care of ourselves, external influences, (the things we cannot control), pass around us as we find ways through them.

How often do we take time for ourselves? Time each day to just stop and forget about everything and everyone around us; time to just be ourselves in our own space. You may think that sounds selfish or that you are too busy looking after everyone else. “I don’t have time to relax” you may say. Not taking the time each day to keep yourself well and free all the thoughts and troubles swimming around in your head is actually more selfish. You need that time so you can be more effective for those you support in your life.



If it seems like a ‘mine field’ trying to incorporate ‘better ways of living’ into your hectic lifestyle, then start with small steps. A complete and massive ‘resolution’ is an upheaval and stressful in itself.

Try to address the ways you approach all aspects of your daily life rather than compensating with things like crash diets or excessive exercise. Think of life as a balance rather than a series of impulses.

HOW DO WE COPE?? - IN TIMES LIKE THESE?

Take steps toward things you've always wanted to do; maybe a college course or group activity.

Find a couple of simple soup recipes and other ways to cook fresh and healthy food. (Herbs and Mood Food).

Never underestimate the power of exercise and social contact for wellbeing! (There are free healthy walking groups around the city and low cost exercise/focus groups at our community centres for all ages and abilities)

We have beaches and parks to relieve our stress levels and various meditation techniques are abundant on the internet or available in various media at local libraries.

Volunteering is a great way to regain confidence and gain new skills while helping in the community. (There are many opportunities in our city.)

Simple life choices, one step at a time, doing the things we think about and say, "Yes, I know I should ... when I get the time..." Your life is your one journey. That journey starts today.....

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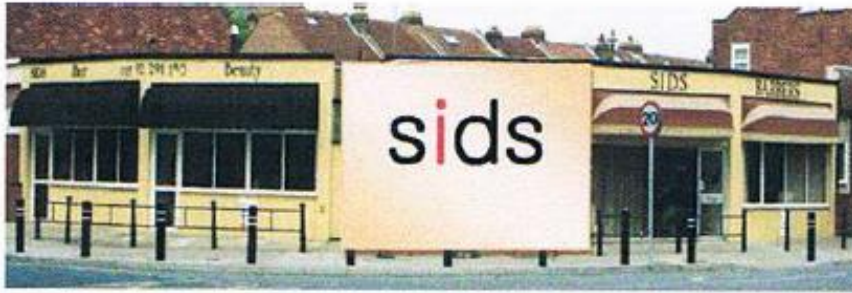
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THE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD who meet in Bransbury Park Community Centre on the fourth Monday of every month from 2-4 pm welcomes new members.

A great way for older women to socialise, find friendship and interest, meeting up for talks, trips out and lunches. For more information call Fay Goble on 9281 4518.



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Lyn Mills
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Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Sarah Dineage
30 Hamilton Court
Ashby Place, Southsea
(07590 286419)
Cllr. Caroline Scott
15 Locksway Rd, Milton
(02392 291118)

Cllr G. Vernon-Jackson
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e-mail your ward councillor at portsmouthcc.gov.uk preceded by name e.g. Cllr.Sarah.Dineage@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Please contact any Forum Representative or Ward Councillor for more information or assistance

***If you would like to be a Neighbourhood Forum Representative please write in to the Neighbourhood Forums Freepost address:-
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