

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 46

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

March 2012



## *A Milton Squirrel*

*You are never far from a squirrel – Milton Park, the Cemetery or with luck your own garden!*

### NEXT FORUM

**Wednesday 7 March 7.00 pm**

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

#### AGENDA

Do you want a 'No Cold Calling Area' where you live?  
Update on Eastern Road and Service 13/14 Bus changes  
Plans for development at St James Hospital

# **FORUM MINUTES**

## **1 November 2011**

### **Matters Arising from the meeting held 15 June 2011**

The significant item from those minutes is the recent police activity to monitor speeding traffic in Locksway Road and Moorings Way, with five drivers ticketed and a further five given warnings. Speedcheck volunteers are still needed.

### **Forum Agenda – 1 November**

The Chair apologized for a change to the agenda items. Rowlands Pharmacy had withdrawn at short notice, and Danny Johnson had stepped in to explain proposed bus route changes.

She also outlined the discussion at the Special Public Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011, called to consider the proposals to make changes to the layout and traffic control on the **Eastern Road and Velder Avenue junction**.

*(The Forum makes every effort to publicise topics of the meetings in advance, through Milton Matters, delivered to all homes in the area, but from time to time, issues come up at very short notice which we cannot always publicise, except through a quick poster a week before the meeting. The changes to the bus route and proposals for Eastern Road were two such examples)*

### **Re-routing of 13/14 Bus Service**

Danny Johnson, Passenger Transport Officer for Portsmouth City Council, spoke about the proposals by First Hampshire and Dorset Bus Company to

make changes to the 13 and 14 bus routes. As the bus company operates as a commercial venture the city council has no power to intervene in any decisions unless the routes in question are subsidised. The 13/14 route is not subsidised, and First Bus has indicated that it is the worst-performing route in south-east Hampshire. Hence changes must be made.

The council spends £650,000 per annum subsidising selected routes (including the 8, 9, 12 and 19 services), but has severe budget constraints and cannot subsidise more routes. In addition, it spends a further sum of £3.8million supporting the Concessionary Fares scheme as payments to First and Stagecoach bus companies for travel passes.

As the 13 route does **not** make a profit, First Bus will continue to provide a **reduced** service, but intends to change to twice an hour service, ceasing to serve the Eastern Road and Lake Road. This will make it difficult for people (including students attending Portsmouth College) to travel from Milton to Tangier Road/ Lake Road.

The final route is still under consideration – several residents from Mariners Walk and Warren Avenue were in attendance at the meeting, as one suggested route for the 13 service included buses using Mariners Walk and Warren Avenue. However with Danny's intervention, First Bus tried taking a bus down Mariners Walk at 3pm and found that the route was very restricted, particularly when Warren Avenue was being used for Moorings Way school pick-up.

With regard to the 14 route, there will continue to be three journeys per hour.

## **FORUM MINUTES 1 Nov.**

*..cont*

on a circular route via Hayling Avenue, Eastern Road, Tangier Road affording a better service to Portsmouth College. Both changes will operate from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Baffins Ward Councillors Lynne Stagg and Darron Phillips have organized two public meetings to inform residents of both Baffins and Milton wards of the proposed changes, and to enable them to object or sign a petition.

### **NHS Reforms and City Council involvement**

Three speakers attended for this topic, the first being Paul Edmondson-Jones, director of public health for Portsmouth. He explained that two White Papers were published twelve months ago, which were followed by two sets of consultations.

As a result, the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 (currently going through the House of Lords on its second reading) represents the biggest shake up of the NHS since its inception. Former PCTs, Health Authorities and Strategic Health Authorities will be replaced by National Commissioning Boards (dealing with purchasing of services), and GPs and local authorities will play key roles. Services such as vascular services and child cardiac services will not be dealt with at local levels, and the role of GPs will be to decide on hospital services available for individual patients.

It is expected that the changes will result in better service provision, greater choice and a more-integrated range of services.

Councillor Peter Ellis, Chairman of the Council's Health Overview Committee, stated his role was to oversee and audit performance of services such as the Ambulance Service and personal health services. Although he can comment and try to influence, the Committee has no direct power. He mentioned that topics on the forthcoming agenda of a meeting included an Ambulance Service update, personal care budgets, dementia strategy, male life expectancy and stroke/trauma/cardio-vascular issues.

Margaret Geary then spoke about local authority services such as sexual health, anti-smoking, weight control and children and adult care services (Health Improvement and Development Service). She said that there are too many assessments carried out, rather than a direct access to the patient services needed. The current LINK scheme will become "Health Watch"

Questions were raised by residents, one being the competency of GPs to undertake their new roles. Speakers felt that GPs will now have the power to make final assessments and the new arrangements will make things more democratic. Paul Edmondson-Jones urged residents to check with their GP practices to see if they have established Patient Participation Groups (which residents can ask to join).

Beds at the Rowans are purchased by the Health authority but questions on the closure of G5 ward at QA were raised. The speakers stated end of life strategy will now be led by GPs, not hospitals and this should produce more joined-up continuing health care.

Cont...

## **FORUM MINUTES 1 Nov. ..cont**

### **Election of Officers and Committee**

James Sandy from Portsmouth City Council's Democratic and Community Engagement Service conducted the elections. It was agreed that Janice Burkinshaw continue as Chair, and that all existing committee members and co-opted members continue to serve. In addition, it was agreed that Troy Hood be appointed to the committee as local schools representative.

### **Eastern Road Changes**

Councillor Darron Phillips stated that the creation of the new slip road from Alverstone Road into Rodney Road will take place in early December and will be linked to gas works being undertaken for the new housing at the former Liningtons site.

### **Report by Honorary Treasurer for Year 2010-2011**

John Couch reported on the current financial position of the Forum. He explained that the forum receives a grant from the city council towards the cost of printing each of the Milton Matters magazines, but that the grant does not cover the full cost of printing. The printing cost shortfall is met by income generated by advertising in the magazine by local traders, several of whom have reported that they are very pleased with the response by residents to these advertisements.

John confirmed that the annual event on the Green (which is not designed to make money) costs a lot to organize, with money being spent on insurance, entertainers and musicians. The outlay for the 2011 event was £1170 with income being £1217. The bank balance of the forum is currently £2,639.87  
The Chair thanked John for his ongoing and excellent work as Treasurer.

### **Additional Thanks Due**

The Forum Committee are very grateful to Chris Hill and Julie Keene at St. James Hospital for their continued support for the Forum, storing the Forum equipment and providing facilities for our monthly committee meetings.

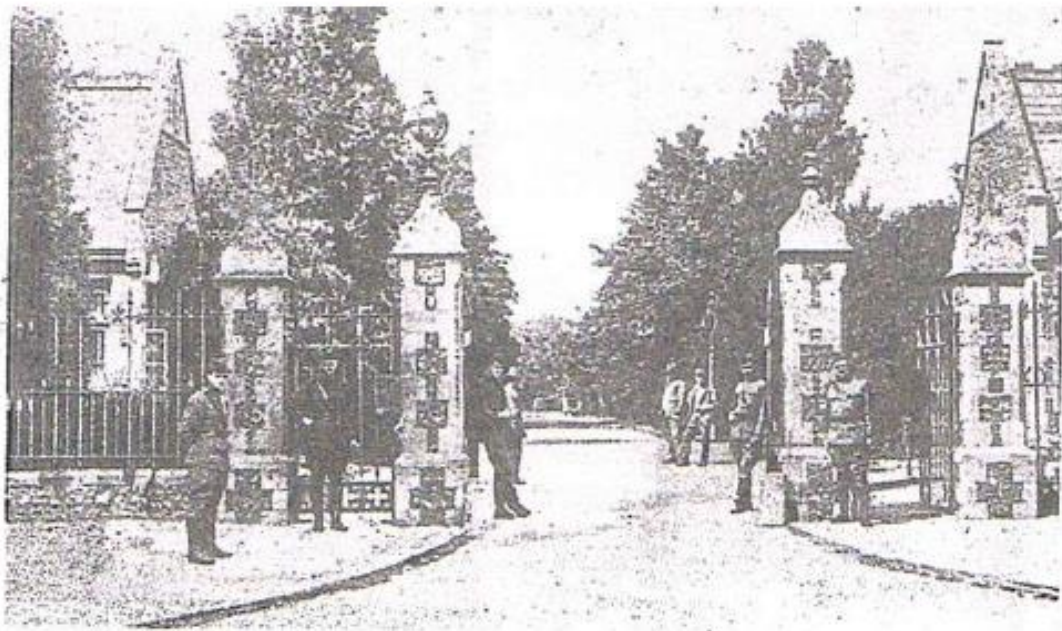
Milton Matters is only successful because of our advertisers and we do want to thank them all for their continued support and willingness to advertise in our local publication. It is very encouraging for the Forum to have the help of local businesses and to know they value the magazine. In addition, we have had feedback from residents who have used the various services advertised in Milton Matters and have been very pleased with their value for money and responsiveness

Found at Picnic on the Green – ladies 'Asian' style necklace. Contact 92736153

## ST JAMES HOSPITAL PAST & PRESENT

Following the First World War which ended in 1918 the Americans who had been fighting the War with the Allies, took over St James' Hospital, naming it USA Army Base Camp 33. The 1000 existing patients were moved to hospitals known as Asylums around the south.

Wounded American soldiers were billeted either in the hospital itself or the less serious cases in up to 40 marquees within the grounds. Sadly, many of these soldiers were suffering from influenza. An epidemic of what was named 'Spanish Flu' was sweeping the country and it is estimated that as many people died of flu in 1918 as died in the whole of the war.



*Hospital Gates during the American occupation, 1918.*

The main entrance was then the first gateway opposite Stowe Road. There were originally two lodges but only one remains today. The trees would have been planted by the first patients of the hospital when it opened in 1879. The photo shows the Americans guarding the gates. It was strictly guarded to prevent the epidemic spreading. Many of these young men never saw their homeland again. Jim Scarrott (Forum Committee Member and local Tree Warden) researched this period in the history of St. James and looked into where the Americans who perished there, were buried. He could only find a grave for one soldier, Bertram Kinsell, and uncovered a strange and sad tale.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission confirmed that only one American Army burial exists in Portsmouth – in Kingston Cemetery - that of Bertram Kinsell, aged 28 years. Why should only one of the US soldiers be interred here when so many died at St. James?

## ST JAMES HOSPITAL PAST & PRESENT

Bertram turned out to have been an Englishman all along. He was born here – probably at 62 Laburnum Grove on 4 October 1890, son of a cabinet maker probably learning that trade from his father living at 'Highbury', Ophir Road, North End.



Bertram emigrated to the USA on 30 April 1913 sailing from Southampton on the SS Majestic, Cunard Line. His destination was to be Chicago, Illinois. He was working for a manufacturing company in Decatur, living at 512, 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, Illinois. Only 4 years later in June 1917, still a single man, he volunteered for the US Army. Described as 'tall, black hair, grey eyes of medium build' he joined the 343 Infantry Company A of the 86<sup>th</sup> Division known as the Black Hawks formed by men from northern Illinois. They went to France in September 1918 but never reached the line. Bertram therefore probably never fired a shot in anger.

He was sent back to the UK for hospitalisation and ended up in St James (American) Hospital in Milton where he died from I Lobar pneumonia – acute. He was buried at Kingston Cemetery, Plot Perkins, Row 9, Grave 47 with his mother and father who died in 1919 and 1924 respectively.

St. James of course returned to civilian use. Many aspects of its history are illustrated on the Information Boards around the site. Why not take a healthy walk in the lovely grounds, look at the trees the patients planted and enjoy the access we have today to the site.



My name is Troy Hood and I am your representative on the Portsmouth Youth Parliament replacing Ben Dowling who has worked hard to represent your views over the past year. I look forward to working with the Milton Neighbourhood Forum and representing the young people of Milton on the committee and bringing your issues to PYP. I also look forward to the Annual Picnic on the Green which I know will be bigger and better than ever. I hope to bring all issues and comments from young people to the forum and ensure that young people's voices are being heard.

If you have anything you would like to bring to my attention please do not hesitate to contact me by email at: [troyhood.cio@live.com](mailto:troyhood.cio@live.com)

Thank you and I look forward to working with you, *Troy Hood*

# Milton Village Community Association

Milton Village Hall, 182 Milton Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 8PR

Tel. 02392 873788 Email: [info@mvca-milton.co.uk](mailto:info@mvca-milton.co.uk)

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## DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLITZ?

Continuing Eddie Wallace's memories of his time in the Police Fire Service during the Blitz brings us to 12 August 1940 and a very heavy day-light air raid. "I, with another cadet Tim Lyons (who was later killed in a raid over Berlin whilst in the RAF) were fishing off the police boathouse, Clarence Esplanade when a large number of enemy bombers flew over Gosport dropping bombs on the Fleet Air Arm aerodrome, HMS Daedalus and then over Portsmouth Harbour dropping incendiary bombs on the Dockyard and the Harbour Station which was almost gutted along with three stationary trains. Bombs were also dropped on houses in Portsea, Old Portsmouth and parts of Southsea. In just 30 minutes, severe damage was caused whilst Tim and I hastily returned our boat to the boathouse and returned to the Central Fire Station to find the place empty of both personnel and appliances. We filled a Bedford van with a spare hose and dashed off to Portsea where we had learned that an air raid shelter in St. George's Square had received a direct hit. Many fires had been caused by incendiary bombs during this raid and it was not until the early evening that fires were extinguished to enable the regular brigade to return to the Central Fire Station and leave mopping up to the Auxiliary Fire Service and rescue work to the ARP Rescue Teams and First Aiders whilst we prepared for the next imminent raids.

We only had to wait until the following day when the Luftwaffe commenced massed air attacks along the South Coast, not leaving out the good target - Portsmouth. It was during this time that Constable 122 Ron Organ one of the Police ambulance drivers brought back a severed foot from a German pilot who had been shot down in the upper reaches of the Harbour. I thought at the time how small the boot and foot were.

On Saturday 24 August 1940, there was a fairly large day-time raid on the city when not only houses in Buckland received direct hits, but also the Princes Cinema in Lake Road. There was a children's matinee in progress and 8 persons were killed. Luckily one of the children who was present but survived, was the youngest son of Constable Bob French living in Sophia Place where all the married police firemen lived. Sadly his 15-year old brother who was a Royal Marines bugle boy serving on HMS Fiji was lost when the ship was helping to evacuate troops from the Island of Crete.

At this time, Portsmouth and Gosport being the home of the Royal Navy and the largest Royal Dockyard, was heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns on the many naval vessels in the Dockyard and by Territorial Army troops from 257 Regiment RA (Portsmouth's own unit). Another deterrent was the RAF air balloons flying around the harbour which forced the German raider to fly higher than they originally intended.

By this time my father being a retired Royal Irish Constabulary police officer, had joined the Portsmouth City Police as a 1st Police Reserve for the duration of the war and posted to A Division (Guildhall Central Division) and given number 355. 8



## DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLITZ?

The German Air Force had not forgotten Portsmouth as two days later on Monday 26 August another raid was carried out by some 150 bombers and supporting fighters. Very cloudy weather meant it was a 'hit or miss' exercise for many bombs fell on Fort Cumberland at Eastney killing several of the Royal Marines who were billeted there. The Hulsea Gasworks was also hit in the raid.

An incendiary bomb raid took place on the following night which caused many fires in private dwellings. There was an excellent system for plotting where bombs fell through information supplied by police officers on the beat and air raid wardens. The plotters at the headquarters of the ARP situated on the ground floor on the north side of the Guildhall were also supplied with information from members of the Royal Observer Corps and members of the Civil Defence who had an excellent observation post on the roof of Commercial Buildings opposite Hyde Park Road (now Winston Churchill Ave)

It must be remembered that the Central Fire Station started off around 1872 as corporation stables for it was from there that the Portsmouth Borough Corporation dustcarts started their journeys. When the Borough Police took over the building and stables as part of its Fire Brigade, then the horses for the steam-driven fire engines, were stabled there whilst the lofts above were altered and adapted into quarters for the single men - two bathrooms, a mess room, kitchen and a parade room cum hose-repair room. A drying tower was erected in the yard and this was used not only for hauling up scrubbed hose but also as a drill tower for ladder drill.

The Auxiliary Fire Service were using commandeered vans and lorries which had to be adapted to become fire engines or at least capable of towing trailer pumps which had been brought into the Central Fire Station to be overhauled by Sergeant 2 'Tubby' Hawkins and his staff of AFS mechanics. By the time the war was six months old, stables and lofts had been converted into paint shops, hose rooms, a gas testing chamber, protective clothing rooms, etc. and part of the single men's quarters had been adapted to become a lecture room on bombs, air raids, first aid, and for additional accommodation for extra fire cadets or 'apprentice firemen' as we were often called.

About this period it was thought the German Army, having pushed the British Expeditionary Force out of France via Dunkirk, would invade England from across the Channel, landing in Kent to make for London and in Sussex to take the RAF air fields and then on to the Royal Dockyards at Portsmouth, Portland and Plymouth. Because of this we in the Fire Brigade were given rifle drill by an Artillery sergeant although most of the senior police firemen had served in WW1 and probably had more experience of rifle fire and drill than the sergeant! Although we were firemen, we were also in the police force and were told we would be suspect if the Germans ever took control. It was a known fact that they intended to kill the majority of the younger police officers. Nevertheless, we knew the main thing was to stay at our posts as firemen. '

*To be continued*



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## FORUM ISSUES

The next Forum will be held **on Wednesday 7 March at Mary Rose School**. We were planning to use this meeting to discuss the future of Vascular Surgeons at QA Hospital, but we have now heard that it has been decided NOT to move them which is great news for our community. Instead, we are hoping to bring you news of plans for the future development of St James Hospital land where clearance of non-protected trees has been going on for the past 2 months. If this is not possible, we will try to bring you the topic of local pharmacies and how they can help. We have also invited speakers to update you on issues which are on-going so expect to hear about the 13/14 bus routes and works to the Eastern Road.

At the last meeting there was a call from the floor to set up 'No Cold Calling' zones in our area. This is when someone calls at your home without a prior invitation, often legitimate traders or sales people trying to sell a product or service, charities, religious groups, political parties but at times, rogue traders or potential burglars. Anyone may put up a door sticker stating they do not wish to receive cold callers. In addition, residents of a street or block of flats, can get together and declare their area a 'no cold calling' zone. This is something which has to be agreed by the residents and there is a formal procedure to go through in order for the Council to designate an area as 'No Cold Calling'. We have invited Trading Standards to explain the issue and take details of areas wishing to proceed.

Successful protest at the loss of Poplar trees at the University Playing Field means that when any trees are lost, they will now be replaced by poplars again, not a row of sycamores which the University had planned. Hampshire Wildlife Trust has helped us make the case for this change as to help the Brent Geese flocks feeding there.

## PICNIC ON THE GREEN

**SATURDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**wear your red-white-and-blue for a Jubilee theme!**

**Opening by Brian Kidd 2PM**

**Followed by Gardeners' Questions**

**St James Green, Locksway Road**

**Punch & Judy**

**Bouncy Castles**

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## MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Janice Burkinshaw – Chair  
Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair  
John Couch – Treasurer  
Margaret Nicholas (Secretary)  
Jenny Bellinger  
Stephen Rogers  
Chris Hill  
Lorna Wilkinson  
Ben Dowling  
Troy Hood

Peter Mills  
Lyn Mills  
Demitris Papanicolaou  
Phyl Priest  
Dominic Goodyear  
Julie Keen  
Sajal Acharjee  
Don Wilkinson  
Larry Nicholas (co-opted)

### Ward Councillors – Milton

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

Cllr G. Vernon-Jackson  
39 Lindley Ave., Southsea  
(02392 834551)  
[geraldvj@gmail.com](mailto:geraldvj@gmail.com)

### Baffins

Cllr. Jim Fleming  
36 Stride Ave., Baffins  
Portsmouth  
(07812014786)  
Cllr. Lynne Stagg  
71 Highgate Road, Copnor  
(02392 780245)

[stagggl@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stagggl@tiscali.co.uk)  
Cllr. Darron Phillips  
79 Folkestone Road, Copnor  
(02392 647337)  
[darronphillips@msn.com](mailto:darronphillips@msn.com)

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*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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