

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 49

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

May 2013



***A LOCAL VISITOR TO A MILTON GARDEN***  
*One of a pair of jays who regularly feed there*

**Wednesday 22 May 7.00 pm**  
**Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road**  
**NEXT FORUM AGENDA**  
**Any Plans for Fratton Park?**  
**Peter Roberts - Update on Milton Common**  
**Portsmouth Council's Plans for Building on Local Sites**  
**Review of Locksway Road Roundabout**  
**Adoption of Revised Constitution**

## **FORUM MINUTES 6 Feb 13**

**MILTON COMMON - Peter Roberts**, Countryside Officer with Portsmouth City Council who had been unable to attend the last Forum, spoke about his role and responsibilities focussing on Milton Common where the wildlife management aims are:-  
To maintain and enhance biodiversity; whilst promoting awareness and interest in the natural world.

He spends about half a day per week specifically on Milton Common now that a £50,000 Natural England grant has been obtained to spend over 10 years.

Responding to items raised by residents, he confirmed that there is a need to control the spread of brambles and there is currently a danger because of the flooded coastal path. Brambles are needed because birds and mammals eat them, but it is also necessary to exercise control and contain them. He plans to expand the amount of reeds. Regarding the issue of flooding on the coastal path, this has been referred to coastal protection for appropriate action.

Peter mentioned methane problems (because the Common is on reclaimed land) and that a series of notice boards will be installed to give information to members of the public about the wildlife and plants. The area needs to be managed as a whole to attract all types of birds, plants and mammals, and residents can volunteer to work with him to promote the common and to keep him informed of significant problems, preferably by e-mail [peter.roberts.cse@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.roberts.cse@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

## **AIR POLLUTION**

**Richard Lee** and **Reduan Sadak** from Portsmouth City Council's environmental health team gave a presentation about why air quality matters and what information is obtained by their team to help improve health and environmental benefits for residents of the city.

Richard stated that everyone has a responsibility for improving air quality, not just local authorities but every country around the world, and we all have a role to play. He then explained that his team undertakes air quality monitoring (continuous and passive), air quality dispersion modelling in Portsmouth, and reporting. The main pollutant is nitrogen dioxide but others are benzene, 1,3 butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, particles and sulphur dioxide. Continuous monitoring takes place at Gatcombe Park, London Road at North End, Mile End Road and Burrfields Road.

The main strategies for the city council to improve air quality are:-

**Cars:** to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow;

**Buses:** to improve services and technology;

**HGVs:** to re-route, consolidate and avoid congestion.

Richard then stated that data provided by his team is not necessarily acted upon by the city council, as the council cabinet makes decisions that may or may not reflect his team's advice. One resident

asked why the onus for improving air quality should be down to residents if the city council cabinet members disregard advice from Richard's team. He reiterated that his team simply provides accurate data, and that the democratically elected councillors on cabinet take responsibility for implementation

## **FORUM MINUTES 6 Feb ..cont**

### **POLICE MATTERS**

**PCSO Lara Dent** spoke about the current police emphasis on “immobilize”, an initiative whereby residents can have their valuables registered on a free police website for them to be included in a national property database. Practically any item can be logged, from cameras to toys, and should any item(s) be stolen, the police can be informed and the immobilize system can be updated to enable recovered items to be traced back to the rightful owner.

Visit:

[www.hampshire.police.uk/immobilise](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/immobilise).

**There is** the renewed interest in **Neighbourhood Watch** and residents who were keen to become involved were invited to contact Lara

[Lara.dent@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lara.dent@hampshire.pnn.police.uk).

In addition, both PCSOs asked residents to report any matters requiring police involvement such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism etc.

### **REVISED CONSTITUTION**

The Chair reminded residents of the election of committee members and officers undertaken at the previous public meeting in October 2012, which though legal and within the terms of the existing forum constitution, had been questioned by a small number of residents and it had been agreed to re-run the election at the Feb.2013 forum.

A revised Constitution has been drawn up and copies handed out to residents attending tonight's meeting to enable them to be aware of the changes which include a requirement to give 7 days notice of the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers. This having been given via Milton Matters:-

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Janice Burkinshaw**, Chair, presented her report on the work undertaken by the forum during 2012, and thanked the committee members for their diligent application to the forum's activities, including the event on the green, and to the deliverers of Milton Matters.

**John Couch**, Treasurer, gave a report on the Accounts for the year, confirming that the 2012 event on the green resulted in a loss of about £808. Insurance costs are increasing and an additional outlay was the hire fee for a top-quality “Punch and Judy” man, who proved to be very popular with children and adults alike. The forum bank account currently stands at £2,801, but there are sums still to be paid out plus further income due from an advertiser who, to date, has not yet paid. He pointed out that “Milton Matters” costs in the region of £792 for each twenty-page print run, which is a significant amount to fund for each issue.

At this point, the officers and committee members officially stood down.

**Steve Taylor**, Portsmouth City Council Engagement Officer, then thanked the Chair and committee for their work and sought nominations from the floor for committee members and officers to serve on the Forum committee for a period of one year. All of the present officers, 9 committee members were re-elected plus D. Anderson and D. Jordan.

One resident queried why the same people tend to serve on the committee year after year. Committee membership is open to all, but, sadly, very few people volunteer to undertake office. The revised Constitution was deferred. 3

## DECIDE, CONSULT, IGNORE!

We featured the Council's proposals to close our local toilets in the last issue of Milton Matters. You responded to our encouragement to fill in the Council Consultation forms and give your opinions on whether this was practical or welcome. There were **988** responses to the survey of which the highest number of comments (**280**) came from PO4 (Milton) postcodes! Of the 988,

**65% disagreed** with the Council's proposals, **28% agreed** with **7%** don't know.

- 448 objected to the closure of Eastney Point Toilets
- 182 against Bransbury Park
- 142 against Milton Park
- 124 against Hilsea Lido

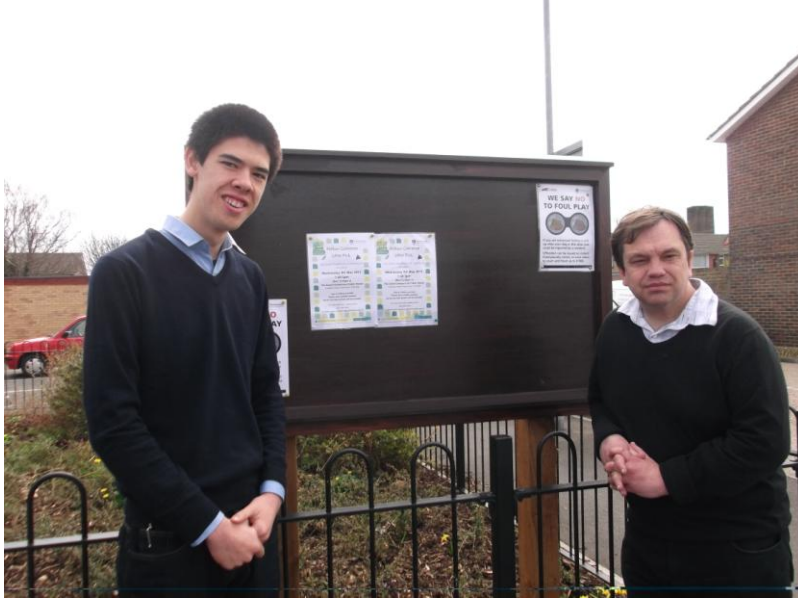
However, 3 petitions from residents of Eastney with 200 signatures against the closure of Eastney Point toilets, must have carried the day as these toilets are to be left open for 2-3 years until alternative facilities are built.

So despite over 50% of respondents disagreeing with the Council's proposals, **ALL THE CLOSURES BAR ONE, ARE GOING AHEAD.** You can read the results at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/Public\\_toilet\\_consultation\\_outcomes.pdf](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/Public_toilet_consultation_outcomes.pdf)

Bransbury Park and Milton Park toilets will close by September. Discussions are on-going with the nearby Community Centres to see if they can be used instead although if they are, they will not be signed as Public Toilets! The Council's report recommends demolition or letting of old toilet buildings as soon as possible to prevent them attracting anti-social behaviour. Users of the local parks and shops will now be seriously disadvantaged not to mention people who have to work around the city driving taxis, buses and sweeping streets or working in the parks and roadways. Still, you can nip along to Albert Road or up to Baffins Pond as these loos will be staying open or find the nearest laurel bush.

This illustrates what Council CONSULTATION means. What are the rules? We know it is not a referendum but what percentage carries any weight? In the respect that your views are NOT influential, will you feel like completing the next survey you hear about in Flagship or through the Council website? At least in May 2014 a majority vote at the Ballot Box will carry weight!

## NEW COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS



*Forum Committee Member Ben Dowling and Cllr. Darren Sanders*

When the Community Noticeboard in the Good Companions Pub Car Park blew over in a storm, neither the pub nor the Council would replace it. Baffins councillor, Darren Sanders stepped in with his ward allowance to meet half the cost of a new board and the Forum paid the remainder. Steve Hardham who advertises in Milton Matters gave us a good price to make the board and the Council offered space in the grounds of Shearwater House at the end of Moorings Way opposite the site of the old board. We planted the daffodils. We now have a new board to keep local people informed of meetings and events and we hope to add useful information of interest to all. Radion Housing Association have agreed to give us a grant of £1200 to put 3 more boards up in the Milton Forum area so these should be appearing soon.

**A revised Forum Constitution** was issued to people attending the last Forum but those attending wanted more time to consider it. This is now on the agenda for the next Forum on 22 May. A paper copy is available in Milton Beddow Library and on line at <http://tinyurl.com/MNFconstitution>



## A SPRING WALK IN MILTON

*A regular Milton Matters reader's report on a day in her life in March '13*



We walked to St Mary's Hospital for my annual appointment with the Diabetic Retinopathy Eye Screening Service. This time the results were different (not good). We took a short walk through the beautiful peaceful Milton Cemetery and looked at some of the Commonwealth War Graves – those young lives cut short during the two World Wars. The Chapel Foundation Stone from 1910 records the Mayor, Col Sir W T Dupree, I must look up some information about him as I know there is a superb golfing trophy still given in his name.



Our walk continued along Milton Road crossing the horrible, busy junction faced by the retirement complex. We stopped at the Milton Village Hall for a splendid healthy lunch – mine was a baked potato with salad. My husband had a small fried breakfast and saved a sausage for the fox. Continuing our walk we went through Milton Park meeting people exercising their dogs.



It was a shock to cross the road at the site of the former White House pub to see it now fully demolished waiting for clearance and new homes to be built by Radian Housing. Another landmark from Milton has disappeared just like the Travellers' Joy!

## A SPRING WALK IN MILTON



Onwards to the lovely old sweetshop (Gilberts) for my husband's favourite butterscotch. We tried to get some curly kale from Andrew's greengrocery for the rabbits but it is out of season. We picked up birdseed from the Petshop and returned homewards, via the Post Office in Locksway Road.

Crossing over into St James Hospital we collected some healthy dandelions for rabbits Oliver and Orlando - (identified now as sisters not brothers). Another small single storey outbuilding has been demolished on this side of the hospital.



We walked up Nelson Drive and saw long trenches being excavated by Southern Electric and stopped to take a photograph at the plot where once Light Villa stood. Only a caravan belonging to Comley Demotion now remains at this site. Further along Nelson Drive we looked across the site of the former Gleave Villa towards Lapwing Road.

On reaching home around 2.30pm we could hear players on the hard courts in the University Rugby Field. We could also hear the geese at the lower end of the field. They have not migrated this year yet due to the severe weather no doubt. Let's hope we still hear them next year when the University's new all-weather pitch

will be complete taking more of the grassed area in the field.

*(Sir William Dupree was the owner of the Portsmouth United Breweries whose former pubs all have the dark green tiled frontage. Together with John Brickwood another local brewer, he was one of the founder members of Portsmouth Football Club in 1898.)*

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# THIS YEAR'S 'PICNIC ON THE GREEN

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TUESDAY	9AM-6PM
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FRIDAY	9AM-7PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM

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## FORUM ISSUES

On Wed. 22 May we shall hear from the **Council Planning Department** which sites in **Milton and Baffins** wards have been earmarked for development in their latest document which is out to consultation (that word again!) until mid June when it will then be formally adopted and become a guide to developers in the future and will serve to protect other areas, not included in the development plans. It is important that you come along and hear how you will be affected by these schemes as a planning application is in for 190 new homes on St Mary's Hospital site already. Following the change in ownership of the Football Club, we have asked the Planning Representatives to explain the current status of the **Fratton Park car park** within the City Plan as there are many rumours circulating about a new major store on the site which would have a huge impact on traffic in our area and on our local shops. Local Councillors are also visiting and reviewing the **Locksway Road Roundabout**.

**Peter Roberts** the Council's Ranger will bring us news of wildlife on **Milton common**. Our thanks to those who told us that the photo in last Milton Matters was of pre-fabs at the Avocet House site. We have more old photos of those days which we hope to include in the next issue which will be our 50<sup>th</sup>! Milton Matters..

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## GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON



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# Milton Village Community Association

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

Tel. 02392873788 Email: [allisonmvca@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonmvca@hotmail.com)

Office Hours: 9.30am – 12 noon Monday to Friday

Check out our **NEW WEBSITE** [www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk)  
for more info & latest news about your community centre!

## Current Activities at Milton Village Hall



*Both halls are available for private hire - ideal for children's parties!*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
Music Mad	Music Mad	Music Mad	Weight Watchers	Yoga	Toddler Rugby	Keep Fit
Maths Skills	Craft (m)	Toddler Tennis	English Skills	Games Club	Act 1 Drama	AA
Curling 60+	Post Natal Pilates	Little Steps Gym	Zumba	Tai Chi		Light House
		50+ Keep Fit	Toddler Rugby	Beginners LineDance		Church
Zumba		Lighthouse Church	Pilates	Messy Mad		
Tap Dancing	Yoga	Keep Fit	Line Dancing	Yoga		



## Events at Milton Village Hall



**60's Night Buffet & Disco Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

An evening of fun & nostalgia! Members £7.50 (NM £8.50)

**Royal Naval Sub HMS Alliance Talk Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2pm**

Find out more about life on board inc. film show. Members FREE (NM £1)

Includes light refreshments

## Seats available on Current Trips & Holidays



**Thur 20<sup>th</sup> June – Abbotsbury Swannery & Gardens**

- Tue 20<sup>th</sup> August – Groombridge Place & Enchanted Forest
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December – Robinson Crusoe Xmas Show (Mayflower)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> September 4\* London & Mediaeval Banquet Break
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December – Belgium & Holland Xmas Party River Cruise

**For more info on hall bookings, activities, trips & membership, please see our website or contact the office**

## MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

[MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)

Janice Burkinshaw – Chair  
Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair  
John Couch – Treasurer

Margaret Nicholas (Secretary)  
Jenny Bellinger  
Dorothy Anderson  
Ben Dowling  
Dominic Goodyear

David Jordan  
Lyn Mills  
Peter Mills  
Demitris Papanicolaou  
Phyl Priest  
Larry Nicholas (co-opted)  
Sajal Acharjee ( “ )

### Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Will Purvis  
53 Boulton Road  
Southsea, PO5 1NS  
(07590 282135)

[wapurvis@me.com](mailto:wapurvis@me.com)

Cllr. Caroline Scott  
15 Locksway Rd, Milton  
(02392 291118)

[lynne.stagg2@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.stagg2@gmail.com)

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
39 Lindley Ave., Southsea  
(02392 834551)

[geraldvj@gmail.com](mailto:geraldvj@gmail.com)

### Ward Councillors - Baffins

Cllr. Darren Sanders  
59 St Mary's House  
St Marys Rd, Portsmouth  
(02392 177575)

[darrensanders59@gmail.com](mailto:darrensanders59@gmail.com)

Cllr. Lynne Stagg  
71 Highgate Road, Copnor  
(02392 780245)

Cllr. Darron Phillips  
79 Folkestone Road, Copnor  
(02392 647337)

[darronphillips@msn.com](mailto:darronphillips@msn.com)

*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:-***

**FREEPOST (SCE4514) PORTSMOUTH PO1 2YZ**

**or e-mail [MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)**

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