

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 35

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

May 2008



Good Luck Pompey on 17 May!

**In this issue – Picnic on the Green – Milton gets a facelift –
Memories of Milton Villas – centre pages**

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 21 May 2008 7.00 pm

Meon Junior School, Meon Road

AGENDA

Proposals to Improve Southsea Sea Front

Report on Contaminated Land at Waterside Housing

COLAS Lampost Installations

Police update

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – PICNIC ON THE GREEN 14 JUNE

FORUM MINUTES 5 March

The Chair spoke about topics discussed at the previous Public Meeting and at Committee, including dog fouling, paths on Milton Common, planning applications in Milton, the need for double-yellow lines in Mariners Walk and Moorings Way

SOUTHERN WATER PROPOSALS

The Forum Committee was surprised and alarmed that Southern Water's proposals had not been accepted by the City Council, since the works to be undertaken would benefit residents across the City in times of heavy and prolonged rainfall.

A panel of speakers for a "Brains Trust" debate on the topic had been invited - Councillors Alex Bentley, Darron Phillips and Terence Henderson, Ben Green (Southern Water), Mike Allgrove (PCC Policy & Planning Manager) and Alastair Hogg (PCC Emergency Planning Officer). Cllr Henderson had to withdraw through sickness.

Mike Allgrove introduced the debate and gave a brief update on the work undertaken by the City Council regarding sea-defences (currently being considered by the Environment Agency) and mentioned that the Local Development Framework (LDF) is replacing the former City Plan. He also stated that the City Council always consults Southern Water whenever planning applications are submitted for developments of ten or more dwellings because of the need to ensure that sustainable water drainage systems are maintained.

Alastair Hogg stated that Portsmouth is a "high-risk" area, having 25,000 properties within the flood plain, and confirmed that a Flood Contingency Working Group is operating to deal with matters to protect the infrastructure.

Darron Phillips stated that the reason for the refusal of Southern Water's original proposals was the fact that buildings at the Pumping Station would be very large and overbearing.

Ben Green then went on to confirm that two-thirds of the City is below sea level, 14,700 new homes are identified as being needed in the Local Development Plan, sea levels are rising and climate changes are evident. As a result, Southern Water had agreed to spend a substantial amount of money in upgrading the infrastructure in Portsmouth, but the City Council had rejected its plans. Rather than appeal against this decision (and probably win the appeal), Southern Water has produced a Scaled-down set of proposals to install back-up to pumps at Eastney Pumping Station.

Discussion points covered -

The question of drought versus flooding (climate change)

Southern Water cannot block new housing developments (which then put additional strains on the already-stretched infrastructure)

A new reservoir to store water is planned for Havant to alleviate water shortage problems

FORUM MINUTES 5 MARCH

Back-up pumps are necessary to alleviate current problems at Eastney Pumping Station;

Combined Sewer & Surface Water overflows help to reduce storm waters reaching Eastney but require a capacity increase;

The Fire and Rescue Service has big pumps to assist in flooding situations

Southern Water is promoting a "bag-it-and-bin-it" policy, to prevent fats being flushed into sewers and creation blockages;

Flooding on the Eastern Road Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson proposed a vote of thanks to Southern Water for listening to the issues previously raised by residents and the City Council and for producing an amended set of proposals.

NHS CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICE

Anne Fleming, Manager of this Service, explained that they had been operating from 2 unsuitable sites at Battenburg Avenue and Southsea. The Primary Care Trust have offered a villa at St James Hospital to be re-named Falcon House, adjacent to the rear gate of the Hospital and the move will be most welcome.

Anne explained that one in ten youngsters has a mental health problem, such as depression and/or eating disorder. The Service, Catering for youngsters up to age 18 is based on specific appointments and an outreach service. There will be a sensory garden in the new facility. Residents were in favour of the move.

POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Steve Hutchings said that, through better partnership working, crime in the area is (down by 10%, although Albert and Palmerston Roads continue to be violent crime areas, needing greater police attention. He stated that his role was a difficult one, in that he was required to achieve Home Office targets as well as providing the level of service demanded by residents.

Acting Sgt Clare Brewer replacing d Heather Terrett, said ongoing initiatives with local schools show a reduction in anti-social behaviour and burglaries. She stressed that residents should continue to report all instances of crime and anti-social behaviour and is pleased that use of the 101 reporting telephone number is continuing. Tasking Group Meetings with local Councillors and Police each month are useful and effective. Graffiti issues at Gisors Road continue to be a problem.

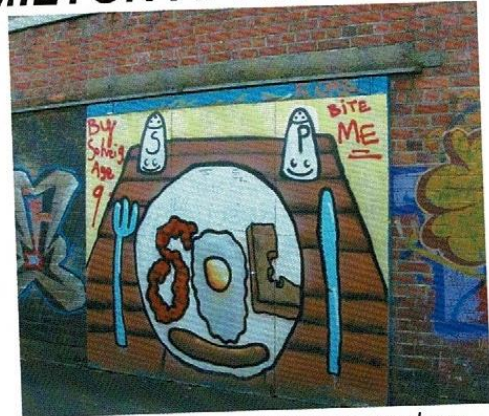
Sgt Andy Lynch from Cosham Traffic Policing has a team of 5 who deal with traffic issues and speeding. He is prepared to become involved in specific situations where speeding occurs at a rate of more than 1 per hour. He has now been given a mobile speed tracking vehicle which will help his limited team enormously.

Warren Amor, Senior Community Warden said his team of 6 people are continuing to work on problems of underage sex and drinking, working closely with the Police. Problem times are Friday and Saturday nights and potential vehicle arson and problems in parks and open spaces are a priority.

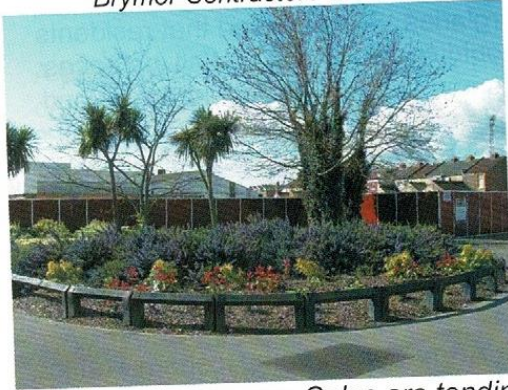
BRIGHTENING UP MILTON APRIL 2008



Royal Bank of Scotland Community Service Team paint Moorings Way School fence with Brymor Contractors' materials.



Pompey FC encourages modern art



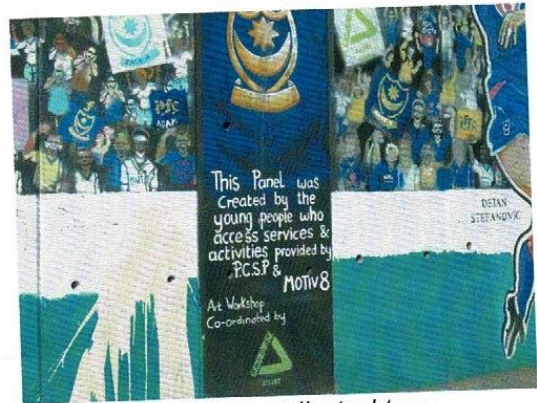
What a change now Colas are tending Rodney Road beds! See opposite!



Rodney Road beds in June 2004

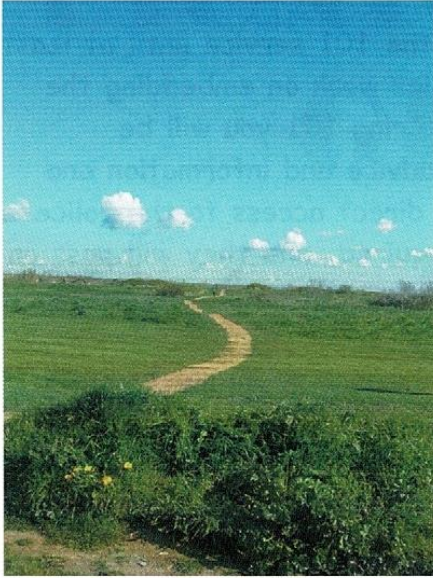


Zak and Harley admire the artwork on Pompey's Hall of Fame



Motiv8 contributed too

LOOKING AT MILTON COMMON



The paths on Milton Common have all been re-laid this winter. Why not take a walk over there and see the range of wildlife waiting for you. The lakes contain ducks that will be having their pretty young at this time of year. The moorhens do not keep to the water but walk around freely on the paths alongside the rabbits.

There is a good variety of insects and swifts were very plentiful last year.



Langstone Harbour alongside offers a completely different set of birds which vary according to the seasons. Now the Brent Geese have gone but the terns, curlew, dunlin and small waders are a plenty. You may see a heron if you are quiet and go with care.



PICNIC ON THE GREEN

Saturday 14 June

2pm

Tree trail

Bouncy castles for all ages

Sports displays

Dog show

Races for adults and children

Ice creams and refreshments

Community stalls

Music and fun for all

St. James Field, Locksway Road

Admission free

Bring a picnic

Memories of "West" Milton

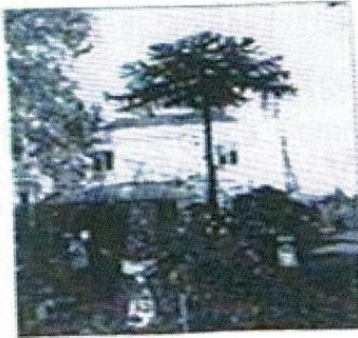
My story begins in 1936 when as a 5 year old with twin sisters of 18 months my parents took out a mortgage on a house in Vernon Avenue. It was a quiet road nicely situated for Milton and Fratton Parks the latter an addiction started by my paternal grandfather and perpetuated by my late father and his children to this very day.

Vernon Avenue was built between 1905 and about 1911 and is unusual in that on the east terrace it numbers 1 to 31 whereas on the west side it numbers 2 to 66 extending the full length to its junction with Priory Crescent.



The reason was that the south eastern half was dominated by Milton Villas (pictured left) and its grounds and gardens. The original part of Milton Villas was started in 1820 and can be seen on an 1833 map of Portsea Island facing the then Upper Milton Farm. It was set well back from Priory Crescent and the house was symmetrical at the front with full length glass canopy or veranda which enclosed the front entrance door and was partly closed in to form a conservatory. The bedroom

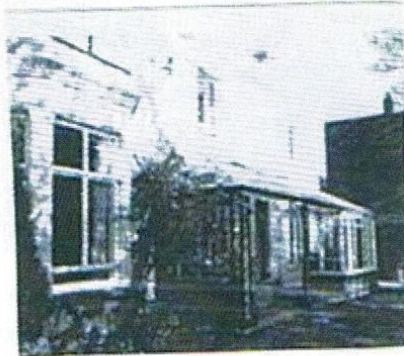
windows were fitted with storm shutters and an upper parapet partly hid the roof. The front garden contained a generous circular drive from Priory Crescent which surrounded the central part of garden. This was decorated with three large urns and dominated by a large Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria Araucana*). Around the outsides of the drive there were mature trees including sweet and horse chestnuts as well as shrubbery and the whole garden was fenced in with chestnut paling.



To the rear of the house there was a large orchard of apples, pears and gages enclosed by 8ft high chestnut paling fences. The house was extended to the west side in 1870 and also to the rear; the latter believed to contain bathrooms. The extensions blended well with the original house. When we first came to live here, Milton Villas was owned by the Richards family. . In those pre-war days motor cars were relatively few and far between but curiously part of the Richard's estate included a row on 10 to 12 corrugated iron garages built on wooden frames with wooden swing doors which fronted on to Vernon Ave.

The shelters flooded regularly to quite a depth and children formed a chain gang with buckets and mops to bail out and were rewarded when the hat was passed round during the air raids!

Schools were damaged or closed and schooling was severely disrupted. In 1942 I joined the Southern Secondary school which had previously been evacuated to Brockenhurst in the New Forest. Vernon Avenue was fortunate in that it suffered only superficial damage as a result of enemy raids.



After the war ended things slowly began to change as the original houses were modernised. Bungalow baths and outside loos" were gradually replaced with modern facilities, some with the aid of Council grants. The biggest changes concerned the Milton Villas estate. As the numbers of cars progressively increased in the late 60's most of the orchard was grubbed up and replaced by new garages to be rented out- my sister and I using a double garage. At about this time the two London Plane trees became diseased and had to be removed. A new detached house (number 51-53) was constructed for the Richard's family. As building land became a premium some of the new garages were demolished and a row of 8 town houses were built to become known as Vernon Mews. Following on from this through the 70's Milton Villa was demolished, the land cleared for further town houses to be built in two blocks, one in Vernon Avenue and the other in Priory Crescent. Today there still five houses which have been in continuous occupation by descendants of the original pre-war families including one lady nonagenarian who still manages to do her own shopping.

J.C.

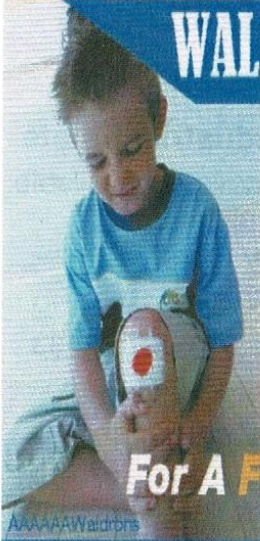
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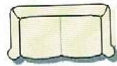
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