

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 37

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

March 09



*January 2009 brought frozen ponds to Milton Common
Photo Alex Michou*

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 18 March 6.30 for 7.00 pm

NOTE VENUE FOR THIS MEETING

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

AGENDA

Tour by the Head of the new Mary Rose School - come at 6.30

Pathfinder Play Plans for adventure play at St James Field

Police Update & Traffic concerns at Velder Ave junction

Consumer Issues in Portsmouth – Amy Forster

FORUM MINUTES

15 October 2008

FRATTON PARK PARKING

Michael Robinson, Portsmouth Council Deputy Parking Manager, stated that the recently-advertised temporary parking restrictions around Fratton Park (to assist in a speedy exodus of traffic onto the Eastern Road) will not be applied for future fixtures.

TOUR OF THE MARY ROSE SCHOOL

Unfortunately a tour of the school could not take place but will be arranged for a future public forum.

POMPEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Alan Burnett, Chairman of the Pompey Pensioners Association, gave some of the association's successes in the past, such as the promotion of flower baskets across the city; support for the setting-up of Neighbourhood Forums and a Milton Park PFI scheme. He stated that "Help the Aged" and "Age Concern" have merged and that there are 12 million people over the age of 60 in Britain. It is therefore important for older people have a say in what goes on, and there are 36,000 people of pensionable age in Portsmouth.

The PPA was formed in 1990 and "Compo" (actor Bill Owen, from "Last of the Summer Wine") attended the inaugural meeting. The Association has in the past campaigned for pedestrian crossings, home help services, and free TV licences for pensioners. It produces a magazine ("The Pompey Pensioner")

and has stalls across the city to promote and publicise significant issues. Surveys are undertaken and PPA lobbies for things, such as the re-introduction of travel tokens this year following the start of the central government bus pass scheme. The lobby was successful and 10,000 residents opted for travel tokens in preference to a bus pass this year.

Alan stated that 20% of pensioners live below the official poverty line and the PPA has lobbied the government for the retirement pension to be increased. In addition, PPA is twinned with an Ethiopian group and is establishing a day centre in Ethiopia (not surprisingly named the Pompey Centre). The President of PPA, Muriel Deacon, is an active advocate of all things geared to enhancing the lives of pensioners, with special emphasis on crime prevention, parking, discrimination and environmental issues, fighting the plans for closure of post offices. They have also campaigned to keep open Civic Offices Cashiers' section for payments of Council Tax, etc.

Alan was thanked by the Chair for his entertaining presentation and he encouraged residents to get in touch about issues and to become involved with the PPA in its social activities and its campaigning endeavours. They meet on the first Monday every month in Guildhall Council Chamber at 2pm.

Membership is only £3. Phone Margaret 07765 168122 for information.

FORUM MINUTES 15 Oct cont

POLICING IN MILTON

PC Erica Leigh and PCSO Sophie

Iles were welcomed to the meeting explaining local police issues in Milton. Recent occurrences include:-

- ❖ a crack house closure in September 2008;
- ❖ action to reduce anti-social behaviour along the tow path (achieved via extra patrols and response to residents' calls);
- ❖ action taken against shopkeepers who sell cigarettes and alcohol to youngsters;
- ❖ a zig zag operation at schools, to prevent parking on the lines;
- ❖ action to reduce cycle theft

Statistically, is falling in the three months June to September 2008:-

- ❖ crimes reported reduced from 600 last year to 482 this year;
- ❖ anti-social behaviour incidents down from 360 to 325.

At previous forum meetings, residents have agreed with the police that the two main priorities for action are:-

- ❖ reducing anti-social behaviour, especially by young persons;
- ❖ a crackdown on cycling on pavements.

In connection with anti-social behaviour aspects, it was confirmed that there was no need to invoke the dispersal order for young people this summer, and there is only one person on an ASBO from the area.

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Cycling proficiency is still undertaken by city council road safety teams and by police in schools to ensure that young people are safe on the roads and have regard and respect for pedestrians. On a general point about cycling, it is adults who cycle at speed on pavements with little or no regard for pedestrians who need to be targeted for police action, and it was agreed that this could be a third priority for police in Milton.

Residents raised the issue of potential anti-social actions by young people on Halloween. The police representatives handed out posters for display by residents who do not want to be disturbed on Halloween.

Link Officer thanked the Police officers as they had come on their rest days to support the residents of Milton. **(Milton PCSOs can be contacted via 023 9289 2146).**

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bank balance stands at £2,223.45 with £336.50 due.

AOB Linnington's Site: Now being cleared and all buildings demolished, even if building work by Churchill Homes delayed. This should minimize any problems of vandalism or annoyance locally.

FORUM MINUTES 15 Oct - cont

PICNIC ON THE GREEN: A request has been made to the city council to initiate action requiring dog walkers to act responsibly and keep animals under control, at St. James Field and for the green not to be used as a dog toilet area. Next year's event will be on 27 June. Local organisations can contact Chair on 02392 736153 to join in.

"Grot Spot": the land at the junction of Eastney Road and Essex Road (former police station) has been tidied as a result of action requested by the forum committee, hoping a use for the land could be found, eg for cycle parking.

20 MPH speed limits: it was confirmed that Locksway Road is a 20 mph road and that the police can enforce limits. Offenders can face a fine and three points being placed on their driving licences. Residents feel that the main offenders for speeding are taxi drivers (who seem to tailgate other drivers) and bus drivers.

Pavements in Milton: action has been taken to follow up on some poor pavement areas at St James Church and by Moorings Way school undertaken by COLAS (contrasted with the excellent repaving work in Mayles Road).

An Apology for the error in "Milton Matters", in which Cllrs Sarah Dineage and Jim Fleming are not listed. This will be rectified in the next edition.

NEW PAVING FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS



Following the article in the lastt Milton Matters ,Cllr. Vernon-Jackson asked Colas to deal with the un-even paving on this corner and it has now been completely re-laid with a level surface. We are grateful but do still have concerns about other areas in Milton and in Portsmouth generally but understand that the Council is entering into discussions with

Colas about standards of workmanship We hope that we shall see further improvements to Broom Square where weeds have grown through and on the uneven surfaces around St. James' Church.

Next Forum Issues - Wed. 18 March at 6.30 for 7 pm

Come along and give your views on these topics

- ❖ Amy Forster will help you with consumer rights in Portsmouth
- ❖ Extend double-yellow lines in entrance of Moorings Way
- ❖ Yellow lines on corners around Meon/Locksway/Warren Ave
- ❖ No Right Turn out of Churchill Homes site (now car park)
- ❖ Bringing back 2-way traffic southwards on Eastern Road
- ❖ No Right Turn out of Rodney Road

- ❖ Thursday Police Beat Surgeries at Bransbury Park have been cancelled due to lack of interest from the public. Instead, the Police will hear your concerns at Forums. **PLEASE COME ALONG ON 18 MARCH AND TELL THEM ABOUT ANY ISSUES.**

- ❖ Pathfinder Playschemes will be investing in St. James Field with new equipment. Come along to hear their plans and give your views.

- ❖ Portsmouth Football Club have plans to develop the large car park in Fratton Way not as flats, but for retail use. This could be a major supermarket and if we have more news on this proposal, will bring it to the forum on 18 March as it will



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Help make a difference to a child in 2009

If you like children and have a few hours to spare, Read for Life Community Interest Company needs volunteers to help children with reading in primary schools around the City. We provide training as well as full support and resources, so if you are interested just call us on **02392 660083** for more details and an application form.

THE BIG BONFIRE ISSUE

When Milton Allotments Association were refused permission to hold their annual bonfire on the allotments on 5 November, many local people were shocked and surprised that this event, had been stopped. Various reasons were given for the change in policy and specific regulations which prohibit the burning of rubbish on the allotments have been quoted to the allotment holders, reminding them that burning could end their tenancy.

Members of the Association had not been aware of any issues in the past when they held a communal bonfire and the Fire Brigade had indicated that this year would not be a problem. As a result of the cancellation of the event, a huge pile of rubbish was left on the allotment car park with no action taken to remove it until the matter was pursued. It finally went on 13 January at a cost to the Council taxpayers and to allotment holders suffering the cost of repairing punctures when accessing the site.

Local people believe that Bonfire Night is a British tradition which should be retained and that so long as reasonable safety precautions are put in



place, responsible adults should be able to mark the occasion by holding bonfire gatherings. We have put this view to the Council and are waiting a sympathetic response to allow the Milton Allotments Association Bonfire to proceed

in 2009 so that allotment holders can burn diseased plants and surplus waste wood on this one occasion each year.

Portsmouth City Council Community Involvement, Empowerment and Development (CIED) team (Neighbourhood Forums) contributes towards the cost of printing and delivering Milton Matters. The Editorial Content is designed and produced by your Neighbourhood Forum Committee

The City Council will assist in producing this document in large print and Braille. For further details contact 02392 834059. For Bengali translation: 02392 841651.

Cantonese 02392 841652

A worm must have his turn

Hi, I am a little worm, 9 to 18 centimetres long to be precise,
My favourite place inside your dog, is cosy, warm and nice.
When worm meets worm, like birds and bees, future plans are made
Before you know it that's how little toxocara canis eggs get laid.

Soon just like your kids, we're by your feet - just look down,
We're residing in your park, in something warm and brown.
To you it looks like dog poo, but it's our shelter from the rain,
Then disaster strikes, our home trod on and walked away again!

Now I'm so unhappy and my family scattered far and wide,
Trodden round all over this park, from here to the swings and slide.
So my little toxocara eggs must find somewhere else to stay,
Perhaps they'll get rehomed by some young children while they play.

Now you humans can pick us up if you fall and touch your mouth,
And once inside your body we hatch and burrow north and south.
And we're sorry if we occasionally burrow right into your eye,
'Ocular larva migrans' simply means it's your bad luck to go blind.

Then again it might not be so bad; it could just be a loss of vision,
Or 'visceral larva migrans' if we find your central nervous system.
Then it's probably fever, coughing, asthma, pneumonia and the like,
Your doc will tell you that it's difficult to get us to 'take a hike'.

So a final word of thanks from toxocara canis worms I'll say,
For saving St James's field so your doggies can mess there everyday.
With medical help you'll find you soon get used to living in the dark,
While we toxocara canis worms are having fun here in the park!

T. canis.

**PLEASE PICK IT UP AND USE THE BINS!!
DON'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO WHAT YOUR DOG DOES!!**

Update On RESPECT Youth Programme



On Thursday 11th December the Respect Programme held its' annual awards evening. All young people who achieved a form of accreditation for undertaking qualifications or training courses or who have shown dedication to volunteering were awarded their certificates in front of their friends and family. The presentations were made by John Utaka of Portsmouth Football Club's

first team and the evening was hosted by a local radio DJ, Sparky. 135 individual young people received a minimum of one award each with some receiving up to six, including the Kickz and V volunteering awards. In total, 400 people attended, filling the marquee where the evening was held. There were performances from the dance and yoga groups who spent weeks rehearsing.



Based at Eastney Community Centre in Bransbury Park, **Respect Programme** now covers the work of Up-Front, Positive **Futures**, & Kikz and aims to improve young people's health, self esteem, develop their full potential, increase social and community awareness and create training, accreditation, volunteering and employment choices. We are so lucky to have the programme working here in Milton and Eastney. Phone **92752900** to join. *Term-time timetable up to 1 May 2009 on page 9*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Activity	Basketball	Girls Football	Boys Football	Junior Cricket	Boys Football
Time?	4.30-6pm	4-5pm	4-5pm	4-5pm	7-9pm
Where?	Milton Cross School Sports Hall	Bransbury Park Astroturf	Bransbury Park Astroturf	Bransbury Park Hard Court	Furze Lane Astroturf
Age	10-16yrs	10-16yrs	10-13yrs	10-13yrs	16-19yrs
Activity	Fencing	Boys Boxercise	Youth Forum	Senior Cricket	
Time?	7-9pm	4.15-5pm	4.30-5.30	5-6pm	
Where?	Call the office for info 9275 2900	Eastney.Com.Ctr Large Hall	Eastney Comm.Ctr Accreditation Room	Bransbury Park Hard Court	
Age		10-14yrs	13-19yrs	14-16yrs	
Activity		Girls Boxercise	Boys Football	Yoga	
Time?		5-5.45pm	5-7pm	4.30-5.30	
Where?		Eastney.Com.Ctr Large Hall	Bransbury Park Astroturf	Eastney.Com.Ctr Studio	
Age		10-16yrs	12-15yrs	13-18yrs	
Activity		Boys Football		Street Dance	
Time?		5.15-6.30		4.30-5.15	
Where?		Bransbury Park Astroturf		Mary Rose School Main Hall	
Age		12-15yrs		10-16yrs	
Activity				Cheerleading	
Time?				5.15-6pm	
Where?				Mary Rose School Main Hall	
Age				10-16yrs	

*In addition to all the sporting activities and training there is a Health Drop in Service for young people at Eastney Community Centre Bransbury Park **Tuesdays 4-5 30pm and Wednesday 4-5.30pm***

"CALLING PLANET EARTH"



We have known for a while that we would lose the great Willow Tree on the Avocet House Green when the new flats for disabled people were built. It still came as a shock to lose this landmark tree which had survived the Great Storm, having fallen and then re-grown from the base. So that the willow wood from the tree would not be wasted, the Forum contacted Butser Ancient Farm near

Petersfield as they hold an annual festival of Beltain each spring and build a statue of a man in wicker which is burned as part of the

festival.



They were delighted to accept the offer of the wood but had no transport. Mansells, the contractor at the site, offered to arrange delivery and the wood was taken to Butser Farm where it will be stored until it is time to build the Wicker-Man.

This year's festival of Beltain will be held at 6pm on Sunday 3

May. Tickets are available from the Ancient Farm (phone 02392 598838) or www.butserancientfarm.co.uk.



Photo courtesy of Butser Ancient Farm Local Resident's photo from The News

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St James Pre-School - For children aged 2-5, activities include yogabugs,
dancing and local trips. Open day, St. James Church Hall on Fri 20th March
9.30-11.30 am to find out more and meet the team. Phone **07772 241662**

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e-mail your ward councillor at portsmouthcc.gov.uk

preceded by name e.g.

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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
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