

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 2

Milton Neighbourhood Forum Feb 1996



*Aerial View of Milton Lake Reclamation - 1969*

Dear Forum Member,

We hope you will enjoy reading the 2nd Edition bringing you up to date on Forum Matters. The main reason for the Forum is for you to voice opinions on local issues and hopefully stimulate action for our common wellbeing, either by attending the Forum or by writing to Milton Matters.

Janice Burkinshaw  
(Vice Chair)

## NEXT FORUM

7th February 1996 at 7.00 p.m. at Milton Campus Lecture Hall

AGENDA	*	REPORTS BACK FROM COMMITTEE
	*	FORUM CONSTITUTION
	*	ELECTION OF OFFICERS
	*	WHAT UNITARY STATUS MEANS TO YOU
	*	CYCLEWAY STRATEGY FOR MILTON & PORTSMOUTH

## **Another Story! Another Victim! "DISSILLUSIONED"**

Born in 1926, he lived through the depression that preceded the War. "We the children did not go hungry" and with a voice sinking with emotion added " ... but our mum did!

At the age of sixteen, he joined the Merchant Navy, trooping the Eighth Army to Suez, the invasion of North Africa and to complete the War Service on a rescue ship on North Atlantic and Russian Convoys.

His first and second wife died after long illnesses. Both suffering from cancer. By then, he acquired the status of a "single parent" without today's benefits and privileges. All through his working life, his guiding principle was non other than "self discipline". By adopting the balance of housekeeping, he was able to meet his financial obligations at all times.

Since retirement, his lifestyle has hardly been changed, mainly due to his involvement in the Community in a variety of ways. He used the knowledge gained from his life long hobby of "Stamp collecting" for the benefit of the children, by setting up regular philatelic sessions all over Portsmouth and Hayling Island Schools.

He saw his role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator and Committee Member of the local Residents Association as an extension to his involvement in serving and caring for the Community.

It was during a period of such Community involvement that his house was broken into! "That is not new", one might say "it is happening all the time" The material loss is insignificant compared to the knowledge of an "intrusion into ones privacy", but above all it was the feeling of "A LET DOWN" by his fellow men of the Community he served and cared for.

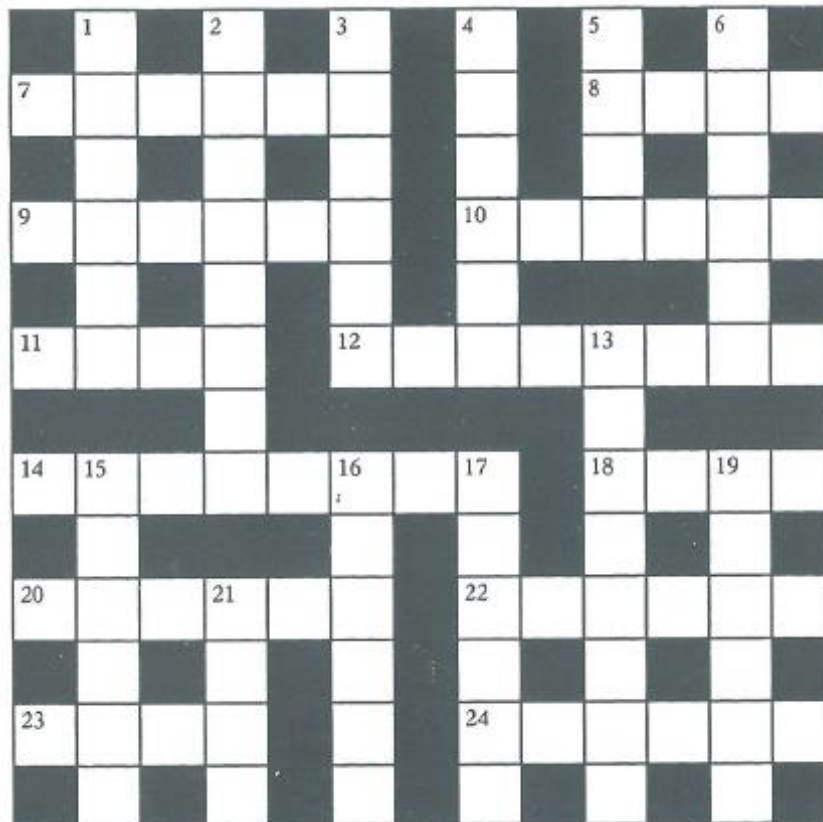
Disillusioned, he opted for withdrawal from any community involvement. That is how his story ended. He pointed to the broken window at the back of the house still bearing the window sticker depicting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme!

This story is true, so is the the person concerned being a resident of Milton. It follows the true stories which appeared in the first edition of "Milton Matters" under the heading "What is it all About?"

### **EPILOGUE:**

One wonders how many residents in our neighbourhood have opted for the choice of "Seclusion" for the same or similar reasons.

**Demetris Papanicolaou**



### ACROSS

7. Pompey's crowd too often this.
8. Fratton Goods yard looks like this
9. Pompey's premier days are sadly this.
10. Fratton Park now anticipates this future.
11. Miss Turner is confused and opposed to change.
12. From premier to Sunday League and back.
14. The road to footballing success.
18. King of Old Trafford.
20. NW Coordinators try to do this.
22. This shop has re-opened at the Milton end.
23. Pompey's colour.
24. Can referee lacking direction be wearing it?

### DOWN

1. Does the manager have one on a new signing.
2. One is at the Winter Rd/Goldsmith Ave Junction.
3. Watch out when he is about.
4. A fantastic keeper.
5. A former Pompey captain.
6. If there's no arm in it put a record on it.
13. Hooligans are firmly this from the ground.
15. In 1945 much of Pompey was Flintstone's Pal
16. Birth place of Hans Anderson.
17. What we want when Pompey score.
19. Reeled awkwardly with a smirk.
21. If you have a good one, send it to the editor.

**Chas Newman - Alverstone Road**



## *Milton Neighbourhood Forum - Portsmouth University*

### *A Diary of Events*

#### **FEBRUARY 1995**

Dr Bateman addressed the Milton Neighbourhood Forum on the University's plans for 808 more students on QEQM site, Furze Lane with demolition of the Barnard Tower.

#### **APRIL 1995**

The Planning Committee refused the University's plan after hearing objections from the RSPB, Langstone Harbour Board, local residents and the Forum who suggested a City Centre Site, Ravelin Park, would be better for students as it would remove the need for students to have cars in Portsmouth.

#### **SEPTEMBER 1995**

The University asked the Planning Committee to agree its Master Plan for Ravelin Park excluding any large-scale student accommodation. This plan was objected to by the Old Portsmouth Neighbourhood Forum and residents of the area who believed the plan would involve closure of Cambridge Road just as the Light Rapid Transport Routes and the Millennium scheme were being agreed to draw more tourists into the Old Portsmouth area. Milton Forum also objected as a potential student hostel site would be lost.

Planning referred the matter to full Council who passed the plan after much debate.

#### **OCTOBER 1995**

The Milton Neighbourhood Forum Committee learned of the University's fresh Planning application for 680 student's flats and the retention of the Barnard Tower at QEQM site. With 577 students already in residence at the end of Furze Lane they met to discuss their submission to Planning Committee bearing in mind the feelings which had been expressed already at the earlier Forum.

This time the RSPB agreed not to object to the plan because their Mr Burges believed it was the "least damaging option" for the site and also that the University would keep its playing fields next to the QEQM site undeveloped and managed for geese to graze upon. However, the University still has Planning Approval granted in 1991 to build an all-weather pitch there with eight 16m high floodlights and intends to continue with this plan.

Residents wrote in 55 letters of objection and 1 petition.

Mr M Harkness (Longshore Way) Mr J Bishop (Locksway Road) Mrs J Burkinshaw (Forum Vice-chair) and Ward Councillors addressed the Planning Committee in opposition to the scheme.

The Forum stated residents concerns at:-

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IN LOCKSWAY ROAD  
NOISE AND DISTURBANCE  
OVERLOAD OF BUS SERVICES  
LOSS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

and stated that the 577 students already on site were enough for the location.  
Dr. Bateman spoke in support.

The plans were rejected by the Committee on a proposal from Cllr. Brian Read who felt the application was essentially the same as the one Planning Committee had rejected in April.

An amendment to defer Planning Approval and to negotiate with the University to reduce the number of student flats to be built was discussed.

The University could appeal against the decision taken at the Planning Committee or may revise and re-submit their plans.

### **What's on in Milton ?**

We would all like to know.

Clubs and Societies, will you write to the Freepost Address and tell us about your group, when and where you meet so we can publish a regular feature on our local societies.

Tell us too what successes you have had and anything outstanding you have achieved.



# Your

Dear Editor

I write to thank you for the booklet MILTON MATTERS received today much to my delight. It is very informative, interesting and touching. Personally, I am 64, out of work, widowed, evicted through no fault of my own in 1993, suffered from angina until a triple-bypass operation in August 1994, and still suffering Angina symptoms, had nearly all my teeth out in 1987, and gave up smoking in 1991 after 40 years. I am very fortunate to be living in Milton and have a view of Bransbury Park from my first floor flat even if it is used for noisy football on Sunday's. I was born in Southsea in 1931!

Thank you once again and I look forward to Issue No.2.

Sincerely yours

David Baldry

Dear Sir and Committee

I was pleased to receive one of your Milton Matter Book, from one of my daughters living in Godiva Lawn and I have a granddaughter living in, Kingsley Road.

My late husband was born in Kingsley Road and then his mother and father moved to 'Sweet Briar, bungalow, Milton Creek' and the sea came right up to the back of their bungalow. I am going back to about 1914 and my husband William Davis, their son was born there, he had two brothers and one sister who all lived there. They lived there till my husband married me and we lived in Milton Park Avenue. My husband from the age of 14 years to 65 years old, worked for Mr Kendall (single dredger) except for the wars. He served in the Royal Navy as an officer and his boat was H.M.S. Warspite that went down on the rocks and my husband was on 'This is your Life' (Eamon Andrews time). We lived at the bungalow at times and it was left to any of the family that wanted to live there. It was the most beautiful part of Portsmouth, at that time.

I do not know what happened to the bungalow and did not know it was gone, till a few weeks ago and I was so surprised to see houses there. My husband's brother, mother and father are all resting in Milton Cemetery. They were a most lovely family. All the boathouses are all gone, I used to get a chair out of the bungalow when I lived there at times and stand on it and talk to the inmates walking round the inside grounds with their nurses. That to me will always be my memories of those lovely years and thank you all for the lovely memory book.

Yours truly

Mrs T Davis

Please excuse the writing as I am partly blind.



# Letters



Dear Sir

I have just received my copy of the Milton Neighbourhood Forum's newsletter and there is no mention of the Rehabilitation Hostel for Alcoholics and Drug Addicts that is shortly to be built opposite the old Oyster House in Locksway Road. Is this a local issue or perhaps you feel if its swept under the carpet the situation will go away. Well it won't, contracts were exchanged on Wednesday 20 September 1995 perhaps you also don't realise that a Hostel is being closed in Southampton and these people will be transferred to this area, don't you think Portsmouth has enough of them to cope with?

We have had no help, what so ever from the Milton Forum in this matter and after all this end of Locksway Road is a part of the Community and not the other side of the world and I strongly disagree with Mr Tony Knott that we have a listening City Council. If they had listened this hostel would never have been passed, I must also say that Councillor Mrs Spurgeon, R Cole and Alex Bentley have been most supportive in this matter, you can forget about the rest of them.

Mrs M C Howard

Reply:

*The Forum is responsible for raising awareness of local issues at the Open Forum and as such brought the 'St Petroc's' planning application to the notice of residents in the first place.*

*The Forum felt that the local group which formed to object to the planning application was campaigning very effectively with the support of Ward Councillors.*

*The Forum will be discussing modifications to its existing constitution at its next meeting on Feb 7th and residents views on voting at the Forum on such issues in future will be welcome*

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*If you have any interesting facts about Milton, any poem or article, of human interest or any comments on the Neighbourhood Forum, please send them to*  
The EDITOR, Milton Matters, Milton Neighbourhood Forums, FREEPOST,  
Portsmouth, PO1 2XY

## SUMMARY OF THE MILTON FORUM MEETING OF THE 27 SEPTEMBER 1995

In her opening address Vice Chairperson Janice Burkinshaw announced the "Milton Matters" magazine will be used to alert residents of future forum dates. Chair welcomed guest speakers Mr P King, City Engineer dealing with outstanding local traffic issues and Mr I Parkinson - Planning, Mr S Meyer, Mr P Lucas both of Leisure Services to speak on Open Space and Play Areas.

### **1. Play Space in Moorings Way Area/Rear of Godwit Road**

Lack of progress has concerned residents for a long time. Mr Parkinson illustrated the council five year plan for open space and play areas. Planning permission required developers of the St James Field site to provide 1.2 acres of play area at the rear of Godwit Road.

Mr S Meyer spoke of the £1.5 m "Play 2000" scheme for city wide play areas which a majority of residents favoured. He said the Milton area is already comparatively well provided but an application has been included for the St James Field Site. The timetable depended on the developers but he promised the play space would be of a high standard with full maintenance.

In answering questions Mr Meyer defended the council policy of improvements and confirmed its view that Milton was comparatively well off. Residents disputed this on the grounds of distances from Moorings Way area. Chair closed the discussion by assuring the Forum that their committee will continue to pursue the issue.

### **2. Traffic Measures**

#### **a) Traffic Calming between Locksway Road/Warren Avenue**

Mr King illustrated the final draft of one way systems linking Locksway Road to Warren Avenue via Meon Road together with proposed road humps in Euston Road/Mariners Walk. The scheme will be extensively advertised and if a majority are in favour it will finally be decided by the Traffic and Transportation committee. If they approve it finance will be sought for implementation.

#### **b) Eastern Road Traffic Lights**

##### **i) Eastern Avenue**

Mr King explained his proposal to close Eastern Avenue at its junction with Eastern Road met widespread opposition and was rejected. When questioned about the speed of traffic through Eastern Avenue Mr King suggested the subject might be raised by the Forum in future.



ii) Right Turn into Moorings Way

Mr King stated experience highlighted the need to remodel the Moorings Way/Eastern Road junction when finance permits. This will allow two lanes to exit Velder Avenue northbound while providing a small protected area for vehicles waiting to turn right. This will also overcome technical problems with the traffic light sensors and prevent unnecessary switching. The result will be smoother traffic flows.

Mr King warned it may take sometime to bring this about

c) Priory Crescent - adjacent roads survey

Mr King summarised results of a residents survey which favoured closures of Vernon Avenue and Claydon Avenue at their junctions with Priory Crescent and a closure in Alverstone Road.

Mr King answered all residents questions with his usual hallmark of pleasant humour.

St James Hospital Site

Mr Parkinson gave details of a proposal by the Health Authority for a long stay residential unit consisting of two storeys and fourteen beds.

Thanks to Retiring Chairman

Vice Chairman made a presentation to Mr Peter Mills to mark his retirement from the chair and then thanked the Council Officers for their attendance. She finally reminded members of the Freepost system for expression of views and opinion

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How will the City encourage more people to use cycles safely?

Will pedestrians have to share pavements with bikes?

Will Rapid Light Transport fit onto our cramped roads?

Where will the Cycleways in Milton be?

Will there be a City-wide network?

To find the answers and express your views, come to the next Forum meeting on 7th February, "on yer bike".

## *"The Biggest Aspidistra in ..... " Portsmouth!*

For those residents who care a great deal about the natural environment of our city, and Milton in particular, the 13th April 1995 is very important, as it is the date when a Tree Preservation Order was made by our City Council to protect the majority of the trees in the grounds of the St. James' Hospital.

The City of Portsmouth is second only to London in its housing density, and yet we have this unique area of outstanding parkland which is a precious part of our City's heritage in the form of mature trees, shrubs and hedges, most of which were planted just after the turn of this century, to line the driveways, creating pleasant avenues, and around the outlying villas for privacy.

Impending development of the site for new hospital buildings and houses made it important that the Order should specify the exact location and species of individual trees, rather than a "blanket" Order. This was a colossal undertaking, necessitating a complete survey of the whole site, monitoring every tree for condition, measuring height and spread on site, and then preparing plans to plot those trees to be included in the Preservation Order. Hundreds of trees were involved, and the time needed was very considerable.

Meanwhile, as outline planning applications were being received by the Council from the Health Authority who are the owners, anxious members of the public wrote in and petitioned the Council, urging that the trees be given the high priority they deserved when planning applications for development of the site were being considered.

After a period of six months the work was at last completed, and the Tree Preservation Order was made which covers 1,649 trees, consisting of well over 50 different species of tree.

This is the largest Tree Preservation Order that the Portsmouth City Council has undertaken, and is ever likely to undertake in the future! They are to be congratulated for taking the protection of the trees on the St. James' Hospital site seriously, and it is hoped that efficient monitoring in the future will ensure that any development does not jeopardise any protected trees.

On 29th September this year a further Tree Preservation Order was made by the Council to protect those trees and various shrubs in the St James' Playing Field which are in a healthy enough condition to be included, and which have lined this boundary of the hospital grounds for the last century.

**Myrtle Stübbs**

**Voluntary Tree Warden**

## FILLING THE EMPTIES

Is there a dilapidated house in your street?

Are you the owner of an empty house or flat?

Perhaps you have inherited a property and can't sell it; or you are in a Rest Home or hospital and don't want your property to be left empty; you may be a local shopkeeper and don't know what to do with the flat above your shop.....

If so, the Empty Property Campaign will try to help. The Campaign was set up in April 1994 by the City Council's Housing Service to try to bring some of the 3,500 empty properties in Portsmouth back into use.

There are currently 3,600 people on the Housing Register, waiting to move to a new home and Portsmouth City Council is responsible for housing 600 homeless households each year. We are keen to know about your empty property which could increase the amount of available dwellings in the City.

We can put you in touch with Housing Associations who can manage your property and take all the hassle out of letting out your home. We can advise you about the grants available to make your property habitable or to convert it into flats. There are schemes for Housing Associations to buy houses that are run-down or for converting rooms above shops into flats.

We would like to hear from you if you know of a house or flat in your area that is standing empty. We may be able to trace the owner and find a way to get the property occupied.

If you would like to know more or would like an information pack about the Empty Property Campaign, contact Judy Knapp, Acting Empty Property Officer, on 834154



# MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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Vacant

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PLEASE CONTACT  
ANY STREET REP  
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INFORMATION OR  
ASSISTANCE