

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 26

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

February 2005



Park Skateboarding Facilities Opened in October

In this Issue - Your Forum Needs You! - See pages 2 & 9
Milton Park Tree Dressing - page 8
Plus - Local news, reports, information and services

NEXT OPEN FORUM – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 1 March 2005 at 7.00 pm

Langstone Church Hall, Shore Avenue (off Salterns Ave)

AGENDA

Renewing Copnor Bridge – Andy Finch

Remembering the Old Canal – Dr John Stedman

Election of Officers and Forum Accounts

Update on local issues

Heads or tails? Come to the meeting and win a £10 voucher!

Your Neighbourhood Forum

At our Annual General Meeting on 1 March 2005 we shall be electing the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Forum Representatives. Would you like to join us?

What do we do?

The Forum's purpose is to keep local issues alive and to act as a means of communication between the residents and the many bodies and authorities responsible for our day-to-day lives. We hope you agree with us that it is important work. When there is a burning issue, people do make a great effort to tell us how they feel and join in meetings.

Would you like to help?

But we want to keep our work going even when we are not under direct threat. We believe that looking after the younger generation, providing play facilities, etc., is valuable work. Why not come along and help us to make a difference? You can phone the Chair, Janice Burkinshaw, on 92 736 153 if you would like to volunteer. We have ten meetings a year, from 7-9pm. The committee meets on Wednesdays (generally the third Wednesday of each month and the Open Forums (which all can attend) are held on Tuesday evenings as notified in *Milton Matters*. We particularly need a Secretary. Can you take minutes? Would you like to learn? We can offer training at a course on Friday, 18 March between 9.30 and 12.30 at Portsmouth Council of Community Service.

Let's hear from other groups

Would you like to be a Forum Representative? Are you already in an organisation like the Allotments Association, a Residents group or an ethnic organisation and can you speak for a local group on our Forum? Please think about it and give me a ring for any information you need.

What about the younger generation?

The Committee would also like to hear from anyone aged 16 to 18 who would like to come along to our meetings. This is a new idea, which came out of our discussion with the City Council on Milton Cross School. There have been many articles in the press about the school and we would like to offer local young people a chance to speak to us about what they are experiencing at work, in school or college, and at play in our area. Tell us what we should be trying to get more funding for. Will anyone take up the challenge?

- Janice Burkinshaw

GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

Neighbourhood Watch

We have been concerned for some time that Neighbourhood Watch schemes locally have lost momentum with organisers giving up their 'watch' and no new faces coming along who are willing to keep an eye out for their local area.

There have also been issues about how responsive the local Police can be when something suspicious is reported.

We held a meeting in June and invited all the Neighbourhood Watch organisers in Milton that we knew, to come along and discuss the way forward. John Beaumont from the Southsea Police station explained that the schemes are now sponsored by the City Council and the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator facilities are in the Guildhall. The Police do provide a weekly newsheet each Friday on crimes that have been recorded and a warning on current trends.

We believe that Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators are still valuable, although the scheme seems to have changed and you need to feel there is satisfaction in doing the job.

In today's streets it is not easy to take on this kind of role. Let us know if you are keen to help and we will progress.

'Alley Gaters'

The Council is publicising the 'Alley Gating Project'. This supports the installation of climb-resistant, locked gates to alleyways to reduce burglaries and fly-tipping.

There is a specialist officer who helps to implement the schemes by:

- getting agreement from all residents affected;
- checking any planning permissions; and
- checking with Fire and Police, refuse collectors, etc.

If you want to know more, write to:

Peter Rann, Crime & Disorder Unit, Alley Gating Project Officer,
Chief Executive's Office, Civic Offices, Portsmouth PO1 2AL.

The Police are asking us to report suspicious incidents to their:

- general number - 0845 045 45 45; or
- Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111.

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM OPEN FORUM MEETING– 19 October 2004

1. Update on local issues

- **Local Trees** – Permission has been given to 'lop and top' poplar trees in Furze Lane and in St. James Hospital. Contractors were warned not to disturb any roosting bats. This carries a £5,000 fine!
The Forum objected to the removal of six trees on the Milton Campus site and permission was refused.
- **Milton Campus** – Permission for four more flats on the site was refused by the Development Control Committee, but we have since heard that this is going to appeal. (*N.B. The appeal has since been withdrawn.*)
- **Traffic calming scheme** – Residents raised concerns at the level and speed of traffic in Shelford Road. A meeting with the Council resulted in speed and volume of traffic in the Milton Scheme being measured again to give comparative figures which should be available in early 2005.
- **Local landscaping** – The Forum continues to complain at the poor standard of maintenance of green spaces.

2. Good Neighbour Scheme

A presentation by the Salvation Army on their 'Good Neighbour Scheme' for the elderly told the meeting that it offers a visit of one to two hours per week to 195 clients in the City. Volunteers do not do housework, but many help with shopping, letter writing, and act as a 'bridge' with authorities such as gas, electricity, opticians, etc. Clients are referred to the scheme by social services, doctors, neighbours and can apply for help personally. There are regular coffee mornings in sheltered accommodation and training is provided for volunteers.

You may phone The Haven, 023 9289 0958 to volunteer or to seek help.

3. Homecheck Scheme

Brian Harris explained the 'Homecheck' scheme, which is aimed at the over 60s in Portsmouth, Havant and Waterlooville. It deals with safety and security in local homes by making a household visit and checking door and window security, electrics, loose cables, letter boxes, door chains, smoke detectors, etc. and fitting replacements free of charge.

The scheme is co-ordinated with the Police who tell 'Homecheck' where the crime figures show that help is needed. 'Homecheck' also supplies personal alarms which can be carried in a handbag to prevent thefts.

To get help from this free service phone the Civic Offices, 023 9282 2251, and ask for 'Homecheck'.

4. New Policing Initiatives

The local police – Inspector Steve Baxter, PC Pete Chaffey and PC Brannigan – came along to tell us about their day to day experiences and the changes being brought into Portsmouth Central, Cosham, Fratton, and Southsea. This is called SECTOR policing and should ensure that the 20 beat areas will have dedicated staff.

5. Safer Portsmouth Partnership

Linda Mortimer from the 'Safer Portsmouth Partnership' explained that crime levels are monitored for the City and that their records showed that racial harassment and domestic violence were increasing, but anti-social behaviour is falling. There has been an increase in first-time young offenders, but the number of repeat offenders is falling. Drugs are a problem in Portsmouth with young people taking drugs earlier and being more likely to move to Class A and B drugs. Alcohol dependency is also a problem with 1 in 20 people in the city suffering. However, all these problems were being addressed and investment is yielding savings.

Portsmouth Savers Credit Union

Readers may not be aware that Portsmouth has a credit union. Because it is a 'not for profit' organisation, you will probably not see expensive advertisements for it, but the union is open to anyone living or working in Portsmouth (in the PO1 to PO6 postcode areas).

Accounts and loans

Subject to proof of identity, etc, the savers credit union can accept money on deposit up to £6,500 and pays gross interest, currently at 4.5% on all credit balances. Loans can also be obtained on which the interest rate is no more than 1% per month (12.68% APR). Christmas savings club accounts can also be opened.

The Credit Union

Savings in the credit union are protected in the same way as accounts with other banks or building societies.

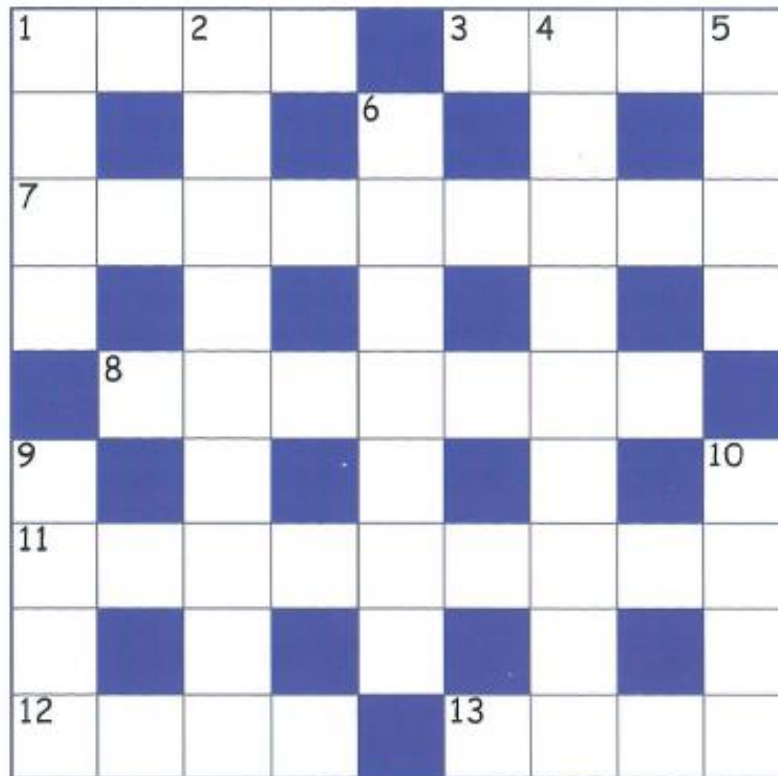
The union is controlled by its members – the account holders – and its 'board of directors' are volunteers who earn nothing from the work that they do for the union.

The Portsmouth Savers Credit Union has an office in Fratton Road and can be contacted by telephone on 023 9282 7980 or via its website at www.portsmouthsavers.co.uk.

T
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Crossword

M
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Compiled by PJF Russell

Crossword clues

Across

1 & 6 Down

- 1 Facility for youngsters to be set up in Milton, without charge (4,7)
- 3 Type of Forum (4)
- 7 Milton Road is one such (5,4)
- 8 Add this to our ward to produce the magazine (7)
- 11 RM in phase becomes a royal duty (colloq.) (4,5)
- 12 Enid comes back to eat (4)
- 13 Came once to find a Milton road (4)

Down

- 1 A summer event at St. James' Hospital (4)
- 2 This can be completed at the University (9)
- 4 A public notice (9)
- 5 University heads turn into signs of assent (4)
- 6 See (1) across
- 9 Consumed (4)
- 10 Material once used for local bridge over canal (4)

ALLENS SOLICITORS

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TEL: (023) 9282 2411

Mr Graham Cooke specialises in Matrimonial, General Litigation and Care for the Elderly, including Enduring Power of Attorney. He is the chairman of the local branch of Alzheimer's Society, and visits Carers Groups on request.



Mr Robert Stone and Miss Iris Durham specialise in advising the elderly and their relatives as to Enduring Powers of Attorney, Rest Homes and safeguarding their assets. Mr Stone also deals with Wills, Tax, Trusts and Estates administration.

Miss Alison Hulmes and Mr David Woodward specialise in the buying and selling of houses and remortgages.



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Mrs Eilis Calvey specialises in Wills, Tax, Trusts and Estates Administration.

THE FAMILY SOLICITORS

Est.1892



Milton Tree Dressing Event

Just before Christmas, the Leisure Services staff of Portsmouth City Council came along to Milton Park and gave children a chance to make their own special decorations to hang in the many mature trees in the Park. Lots of youngsters came along and changed the appearance of the wintry park - bringing splashes of colour to a wintry weekend.

The Forum had a display stand alongside the Friends of the Earth and entertainers came along to tell stories to the children about the spirits of the trees.

We also heard how important trees are to our planet and how their loss is affecting our weather.



Milton Neighbourhood Forum held a competition to guess the number of pinecones in a bag and the young winner of a British nature book - kindly donated by Woolworths in Southsea - was David Netting and the runner up, winning a voucher, was Harry Sheriton.

Whadya want?

- We think that the second 'Party in the Park' was quite a success in July 2004. Would you, your group, club or organisation like to be involved with it this year? Do you have any ideas? Can you help? Would you like to help organise it, run a game, help with the drinks, play some music?

Other events

There was a 'tree dressing day in Milton Park in December 2004. Did you or your kids enjoy it? Should we have any similar events? Would a 'May Day' event be of interest and would anyone like to help organise it? Does anyone know anything about maypole dancing?!

Kids - Whadya want?

Milton Neighbourhood Forum is proud that the skate installations have been so successful. Thanks to the efforts of our chairwoman, Janice Burkinshaw, money was obtained for the ramps, half-pipe, etc. Do you want some more pieces of equipment? Do you want to help raise some money towards it? What else should we be doing? Here's an idea, would you like to be a Forum Representative? If you're between 16 and 18, come to the Open Meeting in March and let us know.

Trees - they don't come for free

You will recall that Milton Forum planted a Golden Oak to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Sadly, our tree has been vandalised and snapped off at the base. Kathy Pitt of Shore Trust Gardening Service in St. James Hospital has taped the tree back together and we will have to see if it survives into the spring.

I was going to have a little rant here about vandalism, but let's think positive, maybe it was someone from outside of our 'Milton Village' community. After all, why would one of us want to spoil the pleasure of many of our own neighbours; instead here is a photo of the planting. Best wishes for the Spring.



The Outing

At 9 am, to sally forth, I am at my front door. Within a few minutes comes Dave or Terry in the van, a German-made Mercedes; the service is called 'Dial-a-Ride' and is subsidised by the local council.

Dave drives to Warren Avenue and via Euston Road, crosses the dense traffic of Velder Avenue and we skirt the cemetery where my late husband lies. We are now on the Eastern Road and I see some pedestrians, but few students; we park in Portsmouth College car park. If Terry is the driver, he goes by Locksway Road into Shelford Road to pass the new Moorings Way estate, at the back of St. James' Hospital. This is the area that we used to call 'The Piggeries', because sows, often heavily pregnant, roamed the field. By 'The Good Companion', the traffic is now safer with complicated traffic lights. In former years, this was the scene of more than one fatal accident. Terry's stop is at Tangier Road gate. For the return journey, the driver will be either Frank or Paul.

Frank drives to Copnor Bridge and we pass St. Mary's Hospital, my old alma mater. Paul uses Stride Avenue and then on to the Eastern Road. Very often, the driver diverts from the college to pick up little Valerie, who does a part-time job in Safeway. So we cover the Anchorage Park area and return to her home in North End. It means that we return home via Stubbington Avenue to the Eastern Road. This road is interesting, for I can glimpse the wild flowers as the seasons go by. For instance, last week it was breezy and somewhat boggy after the rain; there I saw bedraggled sea-gulls on the grassy edges. The leafless trees silhouetted against the sky remind me of lace patterns as, idly, I peer, the habit of a short-sighted person.

- Rose Lynch

Get into Print

Are you a poet, but not sure that you know it?
Perhaps you want to be an author - really think you oughta?
You like to read poems or books, you like 'a bit of a natter'?
Well, why not get into print in *Milton Matters*?

O.K., O.K., so maybe I won't be the next Shakespeare or JK Rowling, but who knows, you might be. If you've written a short story or poem that you'd like to see in print, why not send it in to *Milton Matters*. Send it to the 'freepost address on the back page.

Traffic and Housing News

Copnor Bridge Replacement

Andy Finch is the engineer handling the bridge replacement and he has asked to come along to explain what the traffic implications are going to be when the bridge works start. It will not only affect the Copnor Bridge area, but also the rest of the city, especially in the rush-hour. Work will start in the spring of 2005 and the new bridge will open by April 2006. Come along to the next forum on 1 March at 7pm in the Langstone Church on Shore Avenue to hear the details.

Milton Traffic Calming

It is understood that the Council has recently completed gathering information regarding traffic movement, etc. in the Milton area following the introduction of traffic calming measures. The information is now being analysed and we will advise residents once we receive further information on this subject.

Pedestrian Crossing

A proposal has been made for a pedestrian crossing to be installed close to the shops in Locksway Road. This is in the process of being advertised.

Milton Campus Flats

As mentioned in the minutes of the last open Forum Meeting, Barratts did appeal against the refusal of the Development Control Committee to allow an increase in the number of flats in 'Block C' from 20 to 24. The Forum objected to this and Barratts have since withdrawn their appeal.

Naming the Barratt Flats

Many thanks to all those who entered the competition to name the three blocks of flats and the road on the Milton Campus site! The winners of £75 for the chosen names for the blocks of flats, selected by Barratts and the City Council are:

- Admirals House - Mr & Mrs JW Cook, Gurney Road, Milton.
- Dickens House - Mr Fred Nichols, Gladys Avenue, North End
- Dymond House - Mrs B Griffin, Posbroke Road, Milton
- Gisors Road (named after Jean de Gisors who founded Portsmouth) - Mr David Heard, Redlands Grove, Milton.

Each winner receives a £75 prize from Barratt Homes.



Maternity Services At St. Mary's Hospital

The final consultation on the future of Maternity Services is underway.

Many local people wish to keep the midwife-led Mary Rose Unit at St. Mary's. The Health Authority wishes to move maternity services to QA.

A final consultation meeting is being held on March 3rd at 10 am in the Central Library in Guildhall Square. If you would like to go along, you must phone 9289 4419 and book a place.

THINKING OF MOVING?

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Full page £100. Half page £50. Directory entry £15 – 10% extra for colour.
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- ◆ Large Print.
- ◆ Braille.
- ◆ Translation into Bengali or Chinese.

For further details contact 023 9283 4059.

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&

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(023 9251 4744)

Councillor M Andrews
53 Mafeking Road
Portsmouth
PO4 9BG
(023 9286 1055)

If you would like to be a Neighbourhood Forum Representative please write in to:
Freepost Address, Neighbourhood Forums
Portsmouth City Council, FREEPOST (SCE 4514), PORTSMOUTH, PO1 2YZ

For more information on Neighbourhood Forums go to the Portsmouth City Council Website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk/
Your council/Neighbourhood Forums
or e-mail
neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Please contact any Forum Representative or Ward Councillor for more information or assistance.—