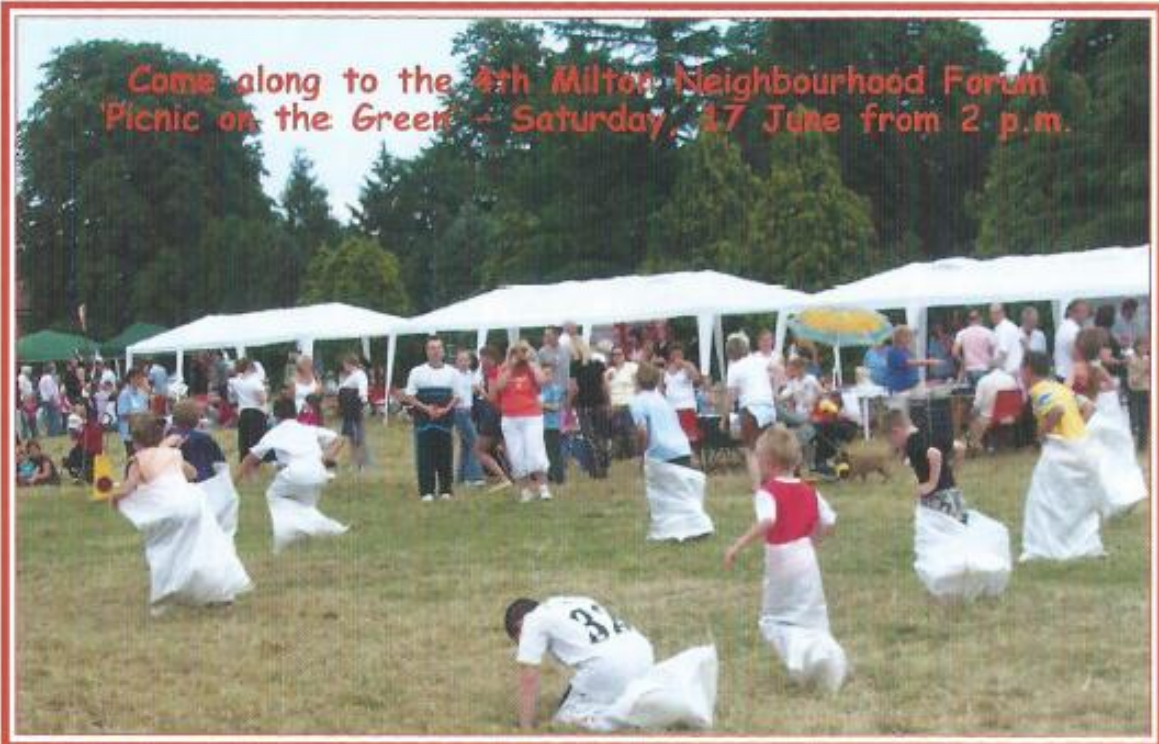


MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 29

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

June 2006



**In this Issue – Make a note of the 'Picnic on the Green'.
Plus – St James Green is ours! New incident phone line.
Local news, articles, reports, information and services.**

NEXT OPEN FORUM – MAKE A NOTE OF THE VENUE

**Wednesday, 28 June 2006 at 7.00 pm
Meon Junior School, Meon Road, Milton**

AGENDA

**What the Community Wardens can do in Milton – Warren Amor
The Future of Milton Village Hall – Bob Barker- Hall
(Development Officer on the Community Association)
Update on other local issues**

ST. JAMES GREEN IS OURS!

It has finally happened! The land on the Eastern side of the St. James Hospital drive has been handed over from the Health Authority to the City Council to manage as public open space. This means of course, that the public has free access to their own green.

On 13 May a Copper Beech and two Oaks were planted to mark the event and dedicated to the people of Milton and their supporters who made such efforts to save this land from development.

Of course, we would all have preferred to keep the whole of the St. James parkland for the purpose it was intended - restorative care for people with mental health problems - but this was beyond our means. It was in desperation at the threat of so many new homes on the site, and the loss of wild life and open space in Milton, that the St. James Memorial Park Trust was formed under the chairmanship of Caroline Scott, long before she became a City Councillor. With the help of the Portsmouth Society, John Saulet who gave his services as a solicitor free of charge, and local witnesses to the public use of the land for the last 20 years, the Trust took the case for this land being a village green to public enquiry. Although the Trust won the first round, the Health Authority appealed and had the decision overturned.

A compromise was reached in 2003 when the existing planning permission for Persimon Homes was about to go ahead. The land was offered in exchange for no further objections being raised to the detailed plans for the new homes.



The City Council will be maintaining the trees and mowing the grass every 2 to 3 weeks through the summer. There are two entrances to the green, one from the St. James driveway and the other from the new homes. Already we have seen youngsters playing cricket on the green and hope that the local schools will use the area for sports days and environmental studies. If you have a group who need this area for sports practice, contact the City Council's Leisure Officers, 023 9284 1102.

'PICNIC ON THE GREEN'

On 'Street Party Day'
Saturday, 17 June 2006
from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

at

ST. JAMES GREEN, LOCKSWAY ROAD

Fun Races and Games

Dog Show

Local Community Stalls

Cake Stall - Tombola

Tree Trail

Bouncy Castle

Face Painting

Music

Refreshments

Ice Cream

Michael O'Leary - Storyteller

Come along with all the family and bring a picnic

Celebrate the Queen's

80th Birthday

Free admission

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

OPEN FORUM MEETING - 15 February 2006

1. UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

The Chair updated the meeting on issues that the committee had been discussing since the last Forum - loss of youth workers at Bransbury Park; tree replacement on Barratts site; Lloyds TSB cashpoint issues; objections to lamp-post advertising; and Milton Village Hall.

2. OPEN FORUM PRESENTATIONS

Air Pollution and the Velder Avenue Junction

Julian Lomas, Portsmouth City Council's Strategic Director of Environment and Transport, whose responsibilities also include Planning, spoke to the Forum on the problems being experienced at the Velder Avenue junction with Rodney Road and Milton Road.

He was explaining why the vacant Linington's site could not be reserved by the City for road improvements, being on the wrong side to alleviate current levels of traffic and also being designated under the City Plan as a site for business use. He told the Forum that it was not a site designated for housing and could understand their concerns that being so close to heavy traffic movements, it would not be suitable.

The residents at the meeting had studied the City's 2003 Report on Air Pollution in Portsmouth. In 2002, Velder Avenue had lower levels of nitrogen dioxide than Elm Grove. However, when the Velder Avenue junction was measured for air quality in 2005 *the average level was above the Government's recommendation*. When pressed to explain the reason for the increase Mr Lomas blamed the high levels of car use and traffic at that point in the City. To answer the concerns of residents that this air pollution 'hotspot' in the city had unacceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide, he stated that no firm medical evidence exists to link traffic fumes with particular health problems.

Residents noticed that it now takes at least 30 minutes more to clear football traffic from Fratton Park than it did before the Kirpal Traffic lights were installed.

Mr Lomas' team are planning to review the layout of lanes leading to the Eastern Road since the traffic lights at Kirpal Road have led to much heavier queues of traffic over the past ten months. However, when the East Shore School site is redeveloped for housing, these lights will also admit traffic from the other side of the Eastern Road turning both left and right.

The Meeting appreciated Mr Lomas giving his time in the evening before facing his journey home to Guildford

Forum Minutes 16 February - continued.

MRSA in our Hospitals

Mary Pilgrim (responsible for Infection Control at Queen Alexandra Hospital) gave information on MRSA and its controlled in Portsmouth Hospitals, which are working hard to achieve Government targets for reducing MRSA. The bug is not only found in hospitals, it can be spread in nursing homes and through district nursing too. She told the audience that the public can help by always using the antibacterial gel at the entrance to every ward, by reminding staff if the gel has run out, and by ensuring that they go into hospital having bathed or showered and by wearing clean clothes. She also encouraged in-patients to challenge staff to ensure the use of hand gel before tending each patient. She explained how the public can help prevent the spread of other infections by not visiting hospitals when they are suffering from stomach upsets, even by cancelling their appointments.

Any other business

Simon Moon confirmed the Locksway Road pedestrian crossing would be installed soon and Cllr. Vernon Jackson reported that granite blocks had been obtained to prevent traveller access to Milton Common.

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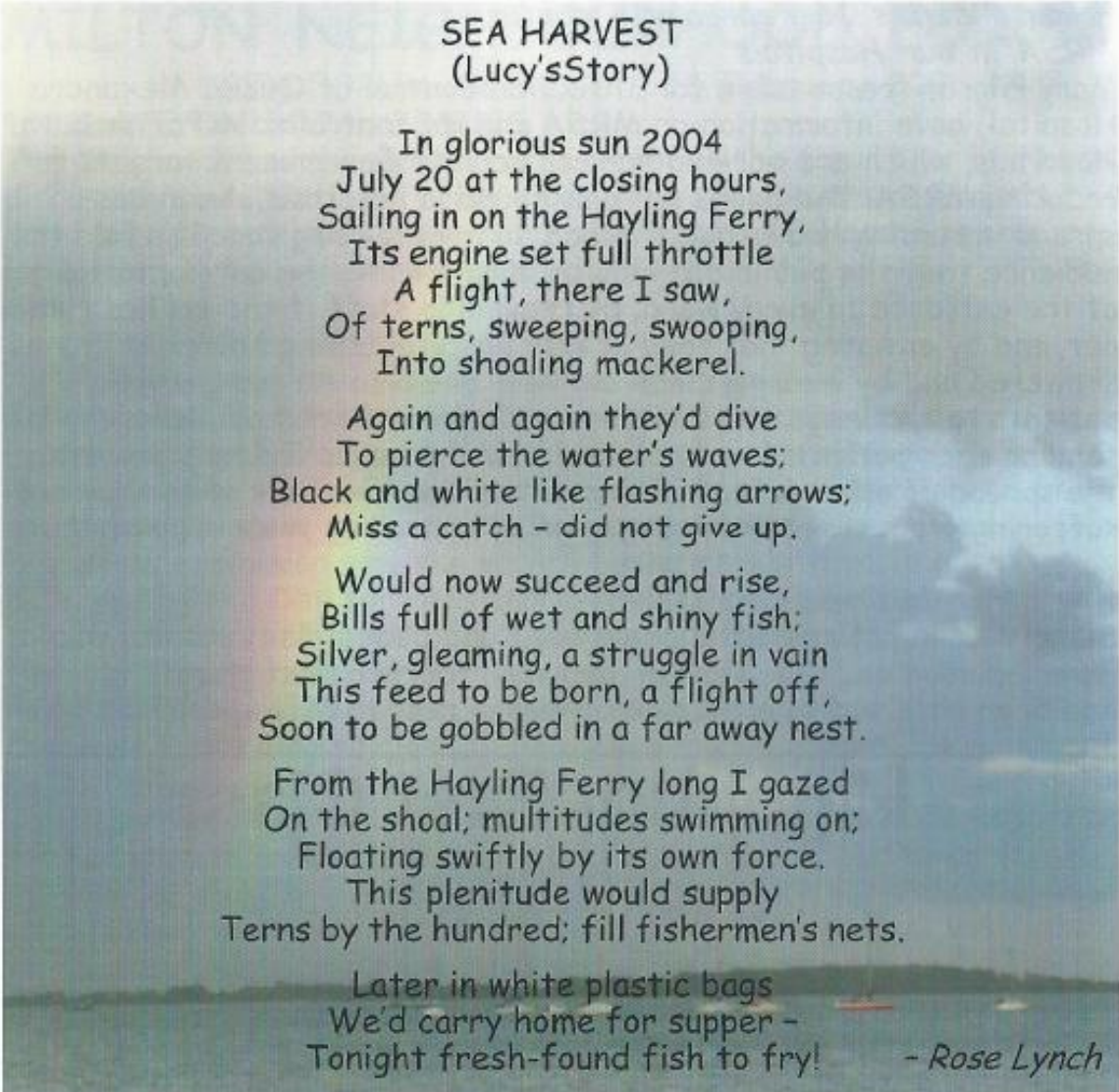
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SEA HARVEST
(Lucy'sStory)

In glorious sun 2004
July 20 at the closing hours,
Sailing in on the Hayling Ferry,
Its engine set full throttle
A flight, there I saw,
Of terns, sweeping, swooping,
Into shoaling mackerel.

Again and again they'd dive
To pierce the water's waves;
Black and white like flashing arrows;
Miss a catch - did not give up.

Would now succeed and rise,
Bills full of wet and shiny fish;
Silver, gleaming, a struggle in vain
This feed to be born, a flight off,
Soon to be gobbled in a far away nest.

From the Hayling Ferry long I gazed
On the shoal; multitudes swimming on;
Floating swiftly by its own force.
This plenitude would supply
Terns by the hundred; fill fishermen's nets.

Later in white plastic bags
We'd carry home for supper -
Tonight fresh-found fish to fry! *- Rose Lynch*



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The new number for reporting incidents where a 999 response is not appropriate is 101. The service covers all Hampshire and will be logging all incidents for a response from Community Wardens and Police.

The Milton Area is experiencing a high level of reported vehicle crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour right now. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit has advised us that it is considering a Dispersal Zone for the whole of Milton .



This does not mean it is a 'no-go' area, but that behaviour will be monitored and action taken if it is unacceptable. Come to the next Forum on 28 June to hear details from the Community Wardens.

Keep in touch with 'Milton Matters'

Readers can now contact 'Milton Matters' by e-mail. If there are any issues that you would like to see raised by the Milton Neighbourhood Forum, or if you have any contributions, articles, photos or suggestions for the 'Milton Matters' newsletter, please send us an e-mail to milton_matters@yahoo.co.uk.

If you would like to be kept advised of any local events in Milton by e-mail, then send us your own e-mail address.

Milton Village Hall

The future of the Hall became a hot political issue in the recent local elections. Alison, the Hall Manager, has had to work hard to tell everyone that the hall IS NOT CLOSING! A drop-in coffee morning was arranged to promote its activities and reassure local people that the hall has a future. The many clubs and events that were advertised in the last 'Milton Matters' are still going strong and there are slots for other activities if anyone would like to promote them in the Hall. Contact Alison 9.30 - 12, Monday to Friday on 023 9287 3788.

Maintenance at the hall has been an issue but the garden has now been cleared, the fence repaired and the heating system is being upgraded so that savings can be made on the enormous gas bills the hall faced when gas prices rose last year.

We all believe that we need our village hall as a local facility. The present hall was built over 100 years ago. It has had some updating but does need money spent on it. To make the future proposals clear to all local people Bob Baker of the Community Association will address the next Forum on Wednesday 28 June at 7 pm at Meon School and explain the options for improving the hall with suitable funding.

If you would like to send in your views on what the Community Centre should offer, please complete the sheet opposite and send it to Neighbourhood Forums, Portsmouth City Council, Freepost(SCE 4514) Portsmouth PO1 2YZ.



'TENT EVENT' - Sunday, 11 June 2006

This event will start with the Sunday Celebration at 11.00am held in the marquee which will be pitched next to the Langstone Church Centre in Shore Avenue. There will be a free barbecue from about 12.30pm onwards and craft activities; presentations for the children using drama and games; free ice creams; live music sessions; babies and toddlers tent, refreshments and bouncy castles.

Come and enjoy yourselves with us.

EVERYTHING IS FREE!

MILTON VILLAGE HALL SURVEY

Do you use the Village Hall now? (Please tick) Yes No

If 'YES' for what activity?

If 'NO' Why not?

Why is the Village Hall important to Milton?

What could be added to the programme of activities?

Any other comments?

Name (optional).....

Address (optional).....

Phone No.(optional).....

Please give us your postcode.....

Please send this form to the Forum Freepost address on page 16 and we will use this in discussions with the Community Association. Alternatively, e-mail your replies to the above questions to: milton_matters@yahoo.co.uk

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Saturday: 9 to 4,
Sunday: By appointment.



Visual impairment - A new group

Are you visually impaired, or do you know someone who is? The very nature of this condition often makes it difficult or impossible for the sufferer to be able to promote awareness of the disease. Macular degeneration mainly affects older people - although it can also affect the young - and the result is partial or total blindness. One of our readers has suggested that there might be interest in starting a local group where people who suffer from this condition (or any other conditions that affect eyesight) can meet to discuss the issues affecting them and pass on information that might help them cope with a loss of vision.

If you or a friend or relative would be interested in being involved with such a group, please contact one of the Forum representatives (see the back page of 'Milton Matters') or e-mail us at milton_matters@yahoo.co.uk.



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Ladies, take time out to relax. Phone your local mobile therapist
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All Portsmouth City Council documents are available in large print and Braille. For further details contact 023 9283 4059.
For Bengali translation: 023 9284 1651. Cantonese: 023 9284 1652.

Sixty years of snips at 'Sids'

The Shop at 11 Locksway Road - and which is now 'Sids Hairdresser' was formerly known as 'Hemmingways'. It was in the early 1930's that Mr. Clifford Hemmingway was given the keys to the shop at No. 11 for his 21st Birthday.

In 1940 the shop was destroyed by enemy action during the early part of one of the many daylight bombing raids. It did not receive a direct hit, but was destroyed by the blast. It was rebuilt in 1950 by a building firm called Porters.



While it was still trading as Hemmingways, Sid did several stints at the shop as a holiday relief, but in 1951 went there as full time Manager. It was on the death of the owner in 1963 that Sid rented the shop, but five years later he bought it and changed the name to 'Sids'. Although we still know it as 'Sids', the business was sold to Mr M King in January 1992. It is the only one of the shops which stood at the beginning of Locksway Road and which has kept its original line of business. The others in the road were:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Greengrocer | 7 Watchmaker |
| 3 Chemist | 9 Sweetshop |
| 5 Paulsgrove Nurseries | 11 Gents Hairdresser |

Days gone by

Do you have any old photographs of Milton tucked away at home or any other interesting information about the area? If so, why not bring them along to the 'Picnic on the Green' and display them on our community pinboard.

Who knows, perhaps this could be the start of a local archive?

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MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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Neighbourhood Forum Representative
please write in to:

Freepost Address,
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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/yourcouncil/103.html

or e-mail:

neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk