

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 3

**Milton Neighbourhood Forum**

Sep 1996



## **Where And When?**

Can you tell us where this is and when it was taken ?  
Write to the FreePost address by 20th September marking the envelope  
"Milton Matters Competition".

**3 Prizes for admission to Leisure Activities in Portsmouth.**

## **NEXT FORUM**

25th September 1996 at 7.00 pm - Milton Campus Lecture Hall

- AGENDA**
- \* Social Services - Unitary Policy
  - \* Filling The Empties
  - \* Road Traffic - an Update
  - \* Election of Secretary and Forum Representatives
  - \* Open Forum

## **Retirement!**

"Depressing, agonising, tantalising or a cheerful thought".  
Take your Pick !

This is how a Milton resident, a retired schoolteacher from Mayles Road described retirement, but let us follow the path of her own memory Lane.

All these retirement feelings came and are forgotten, all but one.

A rather painful memory still remains with me, just as if it happened a few weeks or months ago.

The thought that I would no longer have the responsibility and challenge of contributing in shaping the character of our society's future citizens.

The last day of my official working day ended with the usual retirement party, the hugs; the handshakes and the all too familiar "See you soon, meet again, keep in touch ....."

Correspondence with colleagues and exchange of Xmas cards became infrequent as the years went by.

Fifteen years on and I cannot work out how time has passed me by.

Did I set myself a retirement programme of activities?, or perhaps some kind of cultural achievements? I do not recall setting up such targets.

All I know is that I have no time to do all the things I plan to do today, tomorrow and the remaining days of the week. My retirement routine is targeted round to Community involvement.

Do you recall any incidence or thought that brings to you happy or otherwise memories?

Only one, reminiscence of my childhood! dated many years ago in India where we grew up and later left when India gained Independence. When we returned to England for employment reasons, our family split up.

We wondered if we would re-unite again at some stage of our lives. Till one day, some years later, a lady passed me by. Instinctively, we both stopped, gazed at each other momentarily. It took only a few minutes to find ourselves in each others arms. That lady was my older sister living just a few roads away from where I lived!

**Demetris Papanicolau**

## What Does Your Committee Do ?

Your Forum Representatives attend regular monthly Committee meetings to which Milton councillors are invited, to discuss issues which have been brought to their notice by residents or the Council. They also keep a watch on local planning issues and do their best to notify residents of major schemes occurring between Forum Public meeting dates. Since the last Forum they have:

Arranged 2 open evenings on works to Milton Common

Sent a summary of the February Forum's views on the Council Cycle Strategy to the City Engineer expressing particular continued concern about cycling on pedestrian areas.

Made representation to Planning Committee on the QEQM site Sports Hall complex achieving earlier closing of the all-weather netball facility (9pm), no music on sports field, saving mature poplar trees and hedging on Furze Lane. The Planning Committee also required the University to enter into a section 278 Highway Agreement to make a contribution to Traffic Calming in Locksway Road.

Made a successful bid for Community Initiatives Funding to allow Milton Matters to continue.

Investigated traffic related problems in Hester Road.

Investigated use of Industrial premises in Rodney road.

Attended the Portsmouth South Police Community Liaison Committee.

Monitored developments on the land to the north of St James Hospital including the provision of Play Facilities.

Chased for progress on resolving the Milton Area and Fratton Park Traffic management Orders.

Residents may wish to note that BOTH these schemes are due to be heard by the Transportation Committee - 17th September 4pm - Room D Civic Offices.

Your Forum Committee wants to ensure that you have an opportunity to voice your concerns and that these can be addressed at the Public meeting. If you would like to raise a topic, please send the enclosed leaflet to the Freepost address on P7. Every effort will be made to answer at the next Forum those questions received by Sept 20th. Those received after will go into the "Open Forum" section of the next public meeting

I stood impatiently at the front door clutching my new bucket and spade. The shaft of the spade was coloured bright yellow, but the important part for digging, was made of metal painted shiny red and would last much longer than my old wooden one. They had to, because they cost six pence each at Woolworth's, nearly three months pocket money at a penny a week.

We were off to Hayling Island for the day. The picnic basket was packed and I was eager to be off, but the family were messing about at this and that. My brother with his home made wireless set trying to get good reception, as he called it. Lots of little batteries wired in parallel whatever that means, lined the widow cill. This was prior to accumulators, grid biases, larger dry batteries and the arrival of mains electricity. My sister had just had her 15th birthday and unfortunately had been given a manicure set. There she sat shaping, quicking, polishing, filing, anything but shake her feathers and get to the bus stop so the days outing could really start.

We eventually got away. A five minute walk to Copnor Bridge to catch the bus to Bransbury Park. I ran most of the way to the bridge just in time to see a bus departing. At least I was first in the queue. Well, I was until the family arrived. So I had to join them at the back of the queue and thought, there goes my opportunity of being first on the bus and able to sit behind the driver watching him drive. It was a blessed nuisance. But I wasn't allowed to say 'blessed' so only thought it. The queue was quite long by the time the bus arrived, and then the mad unruly surge forward to be first aboard. I had to stand clutching my bucket and spade because the seats were full, but I was at the front and able to see the driver at work with gear changing and steering. The conductor rang the bell and the bus, being so full, struggled slowly over the bridge and then accelerated down the other side into Milton Road, leaning over so much it frightened me, I thought we were going right over on our side. The bus recovered itself as it straightened its course, then everything in the cab seemed to rattle and vibrate, we were going so fast, the speedometer needle wobbled over the twenty mark. Because the bus was so full, we didn't stop until reaching Bransbury Park. The journey had been so quick that the conductor hadn't had time to collect all the fares on the journey, so he stood on the platform collecting them as we got off. Since nearly everyone was getting off....another 'blessed' delay, I thought.

Just around the corner in Bransbury Road stood a line of horse and traps to transport us to the ferry boat. I loved that ride. The open air. The horsey smell. The clip clop of the horse's hooves. The swishing tail. The driver in his bowler hat, whip in one hand the reins in the other. There were two steps that unfolded out of the little back door to the trap, to assist passengers entering. There was just enough room for the family of six and the driver. It was almost over before it began, and soon we were trotting between the sand dunes on the approach to the little jetty where we were to board the ferry.

I was fascinated by the collection of houseboats secured on stilts so they couldn't float away at high tides. The people who lived in them seemed very poor. But they looked happy even if they were untidy and not too clean. I thought it was wonderful to be able to live in a boat right on the edge of the shore, with the sea at your doorstep.

## *A Vision of Year 2000*

Set in landscaped gardens and surrounded by sportsfields, a group of luxurious villas cluster round the swimming pool and social centre - of St James Hospital, Milton.

This is a vision of Portsmouth's psychiatric hospital in the year 2000, described in an article in the St James Journal, the hospital's magazine. The writer believes that only one type of mental illness will still need psychiatric hospital treatment in the 21st Century - neurosis.

But the stresses of life will have increased, and mental illness will still be a feature of society.

"Much work will be done in the community to prevent neurosis, and prevent recurrence. Much can be done by rehousing, changing occupation, and pointing out the possible causes for the breakdown", says the writer.

Life in the hospital - if it is still called a hospital - will be a positive encouragement to return to full health. A much improved ratio of staff to patients will "lead the residents through a web of neurosis, and probably continue to help when the resident returns to the community.

"This will all be possible as physical disease is reduced and the problem of mental illness becomes apparent.

It will be interesting to hear the comments of the 21st Century therapists on our early efforts, and to look with them into the future.

### **Filling The Empties - The Reply**

Dear Anon

As you quite rightly say the concerns you express in your letter are shared by many owners, which is one of the reasons why there are so many empty properties both local and nationally.

There has always been an element of risk with the letting of properties; fears about not being able to regain possession, worries about damage and nuisance etc.

There are two points I would like to make in response to your letter.

Firstly, the 1988 Housing Act made it much easier for owners to let property with a guaranteed right to repossession. By creating an Assured Shorthold tenancy for a minimum of six months at a time a landlord can ensure that he/she can regain possession of the property in a reasonably short time if unhappy with the tenant after an initial six months tenancy.

Secondly, inevitably there are going to be some people who do not look after their rented accommodation. There are no guarantees with anyone, whether they are claiming benefits or not! However, to alleviate this worry housing associations now offer a leasing scheme where they take on the responsibility of ensuring the property is taken care of if the tenant causes any damage at no cost to the owner. In addition, the housing association will deal with any management difficulties including nuisance or noise problems. If these problems cannot be resolved the housing association will take action to evict the tenant if necessary and will do this at their own expense - all the while continuing to pay rent to the owner!

Leaving property empty for whatever reason not only cost owners money but is also a huge risk, with the possibility of attracting squatters and vandalism. This is also one of the reasons why it is so expensive to keep an empty property insured.

I am sure you will agree the housing association leasing scheme is a positive way of bringing empties back into use while providing total security for worried owners like yourself.

If you require any further information about the Empty Property Campaign, please contact me on (01705) 834154

Amanda Scott (Empty Property Officer)



# *Your*

Dear Mrs Burkinshaw

I find 'Milton Matters' of great interest and I hope that all your endeavours will bear fruition eventually.

Milton area is (was ?) a wonderful area in which to live. Unhappily, the development in the form of more houses in an already cramped space is destroying so much.

Where is Common Sense, Consideration and Compassion and Compromise?

The destruction of the beautiful grounds in St. James Hospital is a disgrace. Wild life which used to occupy the area have lost their habitat.

I am an O.A.P. and in poor health so cannot become involved but just get angry at man's destructive nature. The real predators of what was a truly wonderful world.

The young must understand the meaning of the 4 C's apart from the important 3 R's.

I enclose an original copy from the Evening News (around late 60's or early 70's) for your interest.

The writer (whoever he/she was) did not get the facts right unfortunately.

Schizophrenia has not yet been found a cure or prevention. It is scandalous that so many distraught souls are wandering the streets. They had such care in St James Hospital which was the best in the south. A great teaching hospital for psychiatric nurses much needed today.

I hope this will be of interest. (I am wakened often by cries during the night of ? foxes.

What a tragedy to lose their habitat. We are the vermin, not them).

Dear Sir,

I received through the door Issue 2 of Milton Matters. I read this with interest and noticed that you welcomed opinion on local issues.

I live in Apsley Road and have grown increasingly concerned with the emissions from the factories that back onto the footpath behind Fratton Park Football Ground.

I use this path often and have noticed an intoxicating smell. I also experience this unpleasant odour when in the garden and can often detect this smell in the clothes that I hang out to dry.

On the same day that I read your pamphlet I passed the factories again late at night and the smell was particularly strong. When I got home my hair and clothes reeked from it.

## **Editorial Response**

**We have tried to investigate this matter and would like to speak to the writer direct. If he/she would like to contact a forum representative, he/she will do their best to pinpoint the problem.**

# Letters



Dear Sir

Re Filling Empties - Issue No 2 (Feb 96)

I read this article with interest and wondered what response you might get.

People fear the possibility of having referrals from the City Council, even through Housing Associations, as most are perceived as having large unruly families living off State Benefits, in addition to working on the side.

It is also an alternative to let to the University and find before long the property is overflowing with students blasting the neighbourhood with music.

I feel sure I express the concerns of most people with property which they prefer to leave void rather than have it taken to pieces brick by brick by others who have no respect for other peoples belongings.

I would like to see this letter included in the next issue if you dare.

P.S.

I note the editor is based in the Civic Offices.  
Therefore you cannot bite your own hand, can you?

Milton Resident - 35 years

## **Editorial Response**

**Milton Matters has no 'Editor' the team shares responsibility .**

**The Editorial Team have responded to your concerns and invited a speaker to the next Forum to explain in detail the principles and operation of the scheme. Amanda Scott, the Empty Properties has also written a response to your concerns which we have included on Page 5 of this edition.**

The Committee welcomes all letters, calls etc controversial or otherwise - however please give your name, address and phone no. so that we may contact you if necessary.

Milton Matters will not print anonymous letters in future

**Anonymity will however always be given where requested.**

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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 Forum, FREEPOST,  
Portsmouth, PO1 2XY**

## **Summary Of Forum Meeting 7th February 1996**

Opening the meeting Vice Chairperson Janice Burkinshaw welcomed members and guest speakers Mr C Stunnell - City Engineers, Mr C Monk - Portsmouth University and P.C. Walker - Hampshire Constabulary.

### **1. Progress Report from last Forum**

Despite efforts Chair regretted no progress with the provision of play space in the Moorings Way area. The matter has been referred to the relevant councillors and council officers.

Traffic issues were updated and are being addressed by the City Engineer. New safety barriers have been installed at exits to Bransbury Park.

The proposed expansion of student accommodation at the Milton (QEQM) site has occupied much committee time and effort which was reported in Issue 2 of Milton Matters.

Proposals by Portsmouth City Council for the installation and management of CCTV cameras in sensitive areas was explained.

### **2. Changes to Forum Constitution**

Mr David Pointon - Lead Officer explained the history of the Constitution and the periodic amendments needed for "fine Tuning". It requires care to ensure broad representation on the Forum but the committee must be able to respond rapidly to threatening situations before reporting back to the Forum.

It is vital that the Forum remains non political and this equally applies to correspondence in Milton Matters.

Members were taken line by line through the revised constitution and invited to comment.

Key points include:

- 2.1 Committee members - minimum 10, maximum 20
- 2.2 Quorum - 6 committee members and fully minuted
- 2.3 Term 'Street Representative' changed to 'Forum Representative'
- 2.4 Revised rules for attendance at meetings by committee members
- 2.5 Guidelines for Forum members wishing to raise agenda items

The revised Constitution was accepted unanimously.

### **3. Election of Officers**

3.1 Chairperson - Janice Burkinshaw was nominated and voted in unanimously.

3.2 Vice Chairperson - Ken Rowlands and John Couch were nominated.  
Ken Rowlands was elected.

3.3 Forum Representatives - a block nomination was presented and voted in unanimously.



#### **4. Portsmouth City Council Cycle Strategy**

Mr Stunnell began his presentation by referring back to the proposed traffic calming measures for Milton North.

The Traffic and Transportation Committee have approved the installation of road humps in Euston Road and Mariners Walk.

The Order No 36 of 1995 would be held in abeyance pending further public consultation on Item 3c.

The main concern was whether Mayles Road would be split into opposing one way systems or remain two way with calming humps.

There followed a brief mention of the proposed Tramway System.

Cycles - Portsmouth City Council wishes to encourage the use of cycles at the expense of Motor vehicles. Reduction of the latter would also help to reduce pollution. surveys showed the majority in favour of reduced car usage (50% of journeys less than 2 miles) but cycle usage in Portsmouth was low at 4% compared with other cities at 17 - 20%.

A draft (city wide) cycle network plan was displayed. Some progress has been made but provision of safe routes for cyclists are expensive to produce and slowed progress of the plan. One answer was for some sharing of pavements with pedestrians but this caused much concern and required careful consideration.

Referring to the Milton Area, the new traffic lights at the White House are integral with the Canal tow path part of the plan while a route across Bransbury Park to Eastney is in the proposal. A question from the floor suggested that road calming humps were a particular hazard for cyclists and asked if the construction of the humps could provide a path for cyclists.

#### **5. University Of Portsmouth**

Mr Colin Monk said that the Langstone Campus needed development to help provide a Hall of residence for every 1st year student to make Portsmouth University competitive. Numbers of students in Halls of Residence will increase from 1200 to 2500.

Lack of funding for repair or demolition of Barnard Tower means it will remain closed.

Mr Monk went on to explain plans for refurbishment of the campus sports facilities and hopes to be able to share them with local schools.

In answering questions he did not anticipate excessive traffic generation and stressed the plans were mainly to refurbish existing sites rather than develop new ones. Subject to University approval usage by the local community and schools would be as wide as possible. Spectator participation would come later and involve no more than 55-70 people.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

Some residents had written to the Ombudsman objecting to the Stage 3 hostel (St Petroc's) at the end of Locksway Rd. Cllr Mavis Southwell said that the Ombudsman supported the City Planning Committee in their deliberations.

## WHAT'S ON IN MILTON

Dear Sir

Regarding your request for local entertainment etc.



May I bring to your attention that my wife and I hold beginners Ballroom and Latin American Dance classes every Friday evening at St James Hospital entertainment hall 8:30 to 10:30 pm (ages from 16 to 90)

Mr & Mrs H W Fowler

### Folk Club - Old House at Home

For more than 20 years now the 'Broadside Folk Club' has been making a noise in the lounge bar every Wednesday night. So if you sing or play an instrument or just want to relax in friendly surroundings with music and a log fire, why not come along?

Although we call ourselves a Folk Club, really 'anything goes' and performers of all abilities are very welcome.

We usually kick off at 9:00 pm but come early for a good seat.

Tom Sneade 27 Warren Avenue



### Jack & Jill (Milton) Pre-School

The Jack & Jill Pre-School is for children aged 2yrs 9mths to 4yrs inclusive. It is a registered charity and follows the Pre-School Learning Alliance guidelines.

All the while the children 'learn through play', with the use of activities such as role-play, construction, physical play, messy play and much, much more.

The Pre-School is backed by a committee of parents who volunteer their time and energy to keeping the group running efficiently and fundraising for new equipment and staff training. The group strives to keep up to date with the latest proposals put forward by the Alliance and have been accepted as one of 50 groups (from 1500 applications) to go onto the Accreditation Scheme. Accreditation being similar to being awarded a Kitemark of Excellence, which may prove necessary as more and more parents are wanting proof of the standards of care and education that their child is receiving.

Mrs H Neale

Jack & Jill (Milton) Pre-School  
Meon Road Community Centre, Shelford Rd.



## Why do I Like Living in Milton?

I like living in Milton because there is a park. The park is big and good for playing in. I like playing football in the park.

I like living in Milton because of Milton Common and the different types of shops. I like living in Milton because of Fratton Park and its near to the seafront.

I like Milton Common because there is space for walking and cycling and because there is lots of kinds of wildlife. I like the ponds, I like the Duck Lake best because you can go right down to the bank.

I like to live near the shops because it doesn't take too long to walk there.

I like living near the seafront because I like going to the beach and swimming and going to the Canoe lake. I like playing , going on the boats and putting there.

I like the seafront because there is a pier to play games. There are also museums. I like to walk along the seafront.

I like Fratton Park because I support Pompey and I can go to their games,

I can walk there with no problems.

There is no other place in Portsmouth I would like to live.

Louis (age 10)

Meon Middle School



### ***Save St Andrew's Church***

*The ex - marine church in Henderson Road is to open for one day on Oct 19th 10am - 4pm for a sale and tour of the inside.*

*Admission is 20p to help towards the fund to save this historical church.*

*For further information -*

*Tel Vernon Bye (828068)*

# MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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Please Contact  
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for More  
Information or Assistance