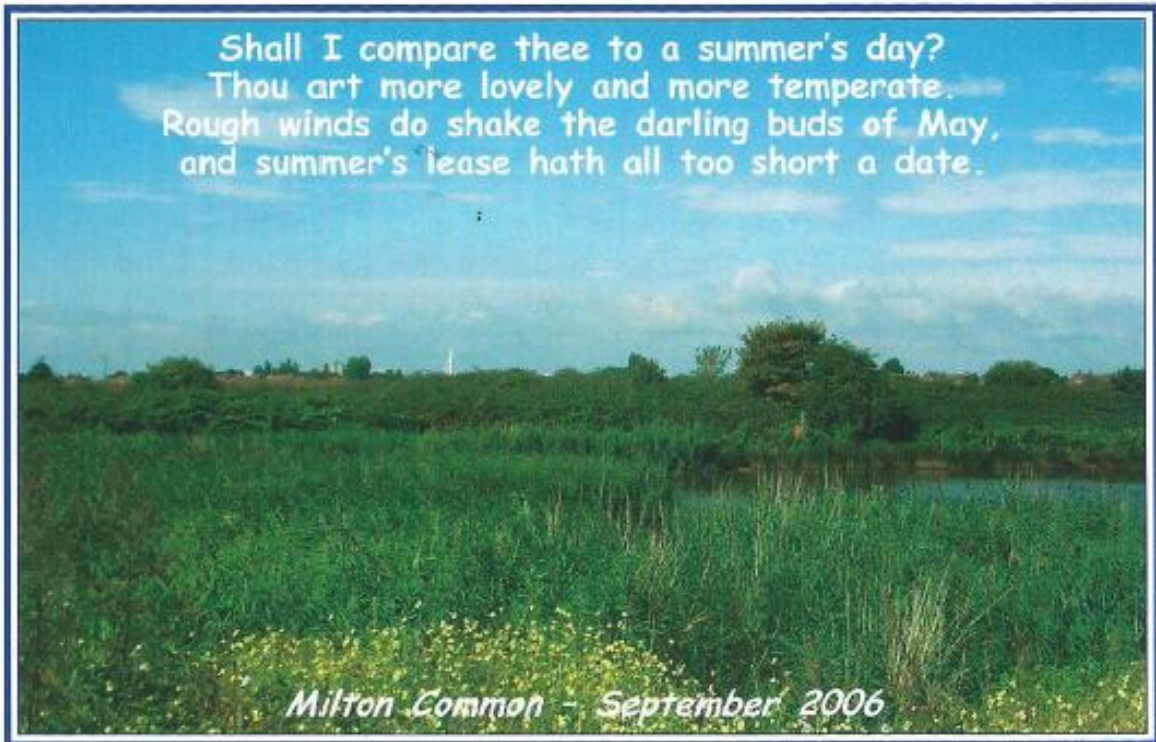


# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 30

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

September 2006



In this Issue - Miltoncross School news, 'Picnic on the Green'  
Local news, articles, reports, information and services.

## **NEXT OPEN FORUM – NOTE THE NEW VENUE**

**Wednesday, 25 October 2006 at 7.00 pm  
Miltoncross School, Milton Road, Milton**

### **AGENDA**

**Performance of Miltoncross School – Niel McLeod, Head Master  
The Future of Shopping – Portsmouth's Commercial Road  
and Market Way  
Meet Youth Outreach Workers &  
News from St James' Hospital**

## Miltoncross School

**T**he Forum has been developing links with Miltoncross School to encourage young people there to take an interest in the community and to help the school develop successfully. We have had two excellent co-opted members, Liz Head-Rapson and Lyn Timms from the school on the committee and the Headmaster, Niel McLeod asked to come along to tell us what has been happening since he joined the school last September and discuss this year's GCSE results.

He emphasised that the school is aiming to raise the level of achievement generally and to track pupil progress through a programme of assessments undertaken three times a year, linked to expected achievement levels.

After considerable staff mobility in the past, staff numbers have stabilised this year. In September 2005, 18 new staff joined the school with Mr McLeod, but this year, only two teachers have had to be replaced. This will greatly help pupils with continuity of tuition and support.

A community ethos is promoted in the school. The five aspects of 'every child matters' are being pursued, and a community improvement partnership between Miltoncross and Priory schools together with all their feeder schools has been developed. The aim is to have activities in place at school for all children between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 each school day by 2010.

Milton Neighbourhood Forum has been supporting the school by awarding a small prize of £100 to be given to pupils who make a contribution to local community work. Last year for the first time the school joined us at our 'Picnic on the Green'. From the money they raised on the cake stall they gave awards to:-

- Megan Couch - highest achieving girl - 5 A\*, 3 A, 3 B and 1 C GCSEs
- Said Al Hague - highest achieving boy - 1 A\*, 5 A, 5 B and 1 D GCSEs
- Greg Wringe - highest attendance at school
- Brandon Sole - special endeavour

The school have supported us again this year by bringing their band to our Picnic on the Green in June. It was wonderful to see so many competent young performers who entertained the audience sitting around the band tent, on the St James Green in the sunshine.

### **More news at the next forum open meeting**

Come along to our next Forum on Wednesday, 25 October to hear from Mr McLeod how school results have turned out in this third year of examinations at the school and his plans for your children's future.

## 'Picnic on the Green'

**T**he fourth Picnic on the Green at St. James field attracted nearly 1,000 people this year. Great entertainment was provided by the pupils of Miltoncross School whose music offered a chance to sit in the sun and listen to a wide variety of talent. All the other local schools offered support by stalls, games, face painting and help - St. James Pre-School - Meon - and Milton Park.



Langstone Church provided a free craft tent for the youngsters and John O'Leary the storyteller entranced young and old alike. Compass arranged tours of St. James Chapel, and we had apple bobbing, tree trails and refreshments. The races proved popular again and the dog show is always a hit and great fun and many thanks must go to Rebecca for her organisational skills and to 'Pets at Home' who very generously supported us with their help and prizes.

A big 'THANK YOU!' is due to all the members of the Forum Committee for their hard work planning the event and preparing it on the day. It is a very demanding challenge for quite a small number of volunteers, so thanks also to Liz, Sue, Lauren and others for their help with games.

Thanks also to Richard & Patsy at 'The Brewer's Arms' for their PA system, Olive Green Motors for power and Enterprise Car Hire for transport.

If your organisation would like to take part in future, please contact [Milton\\_Matters@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Milton_Matters@yahoo.co.uk) and we will be pleased to include you.

This year we were supported by the Community Wardens, Clean City Services, Council Waste Disposal who were delighted at the interest shown. Many local shops in Milton including David Anthony, TanFastic, Gilberts, Fruit & Flower Store, Cut Price, Bransbury Butchers, Olive Green, Scissors Hair studio and Cards R Us as well as the Gunwharf Vue cinema helped out with prizes.

Finally, very many thanks too to Miss Portsmouth, Natalie Lovegrove, and the Lord Mayor who came along to open the show.

# Milton Neighbourhood Forum

OPEN FORUM MEETING - 26 June 2006

## 1. UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

The Chair updated the meeting on issues that the committee had been discussing since the last Open Forum Meeting - the Council refusing to prosecute Barratts for felling trees covered by tree preservation orders, proposals for the Linningtons site for redevelopment by Churchill homes as retirement homes, the new pedestrian crossing in Locksway Road and meeting the new youth team for the area.

## 2. OPEN FORUM PRESENTATIONS

### a) *Milton Village Hall*

Rob Baker, Milton Village Hall Committee Member, set out the background as to why the Village Hall has to develop a business plan to ensure that it has a positive future.

He stated that they are committed to provide social and recreational opportunities without discrimination for friends and neighbours. The village hall has been established since 1985, has currently 800 members and covers 5,000 homes in Milton.

Rob expressed displeasure that the hall had become a political issue in recent local elections. This had resulted in adverse publicity that added a further burden to the Centre Manager and Committee members who then had to deal with unnecessary enquiries.

He emphasised that the VILLAGE HALL IS NOT CLOSED. Support is being received from the Council's Community Service team and a development plan is being considered which could include better use of the site together with the Beddow Library by connecting the two buildings. Funding options such as the Lottery are still being explored. Comments from the floor included the need for the Hall and garden to be smartened up, possibly by using volunteer help. Questions were raised, such as:

- has a TV company been asked to do a makeover? - Yes the suggestion was made but did not get accepted.
- Is the Hall economically viable? - Yes, with the additional space and help to overcome high energy costs of the present heating systems.

The Village Hall Programme is delivered to many homes, but not all. The audience encouraged the Committee to try to link delivery with Milton Matters or through the Council's leaflet system. Copies of the current programme are available at Beddow Library.

*Forum Minutes 26 June - continued.*

***b) Community Wardens in Milton***

- Warren Amor, Senior Community Warden from the City Council, spoke about the role of the community wardens in Milton. There are 36 Wardens covering the City and he manages 8. Wardens have been in parts of the city such as Paulsgrove for five years and their philosophy is to undertake some ownership of problems within the areas they cover to help reduce difficulties for the community. Here in Milton they are tackling under-age drinking and the large number of youths gathering at certain points such as Milton Common. Dispersal orders have been issued to support the work and Portsmouth has the largest number of dispersal orders in force in the UK.

The service is funded by Neighbourhood Renewal cash, the City Council and the Fire Authority. The aim is to make areas cleaner and safer by reducing a wide range of current problems. Based at The Haven in Lake Road, the service operates 10.00 - 22.00 weekdays and 14.00 to 22.00 at weekends, but it is not an emergency service.

Although Wardens have similar beats as Police officers, they are not equipped like the Police. They have to rely on communication skills and rapport to undertake their role, especially when working with young people. They also work with Housing Officers to tackle tenancy breaches and with schools. At present, they are working very positively with Priory and Miltoncross schools. Work is being undertaken via youth forums and the VIBE Youth Bus centred on Milton Park. (see page 9 of this issue). He was confident that Wardens would make a real difference to reducing problems in the Milton area.

The Chair thanked the speakers for such useful presentations.

Cllr. Caroline Scott thanked everyone who worked so hard to make the Picnic on the Green such a success.

Dimitri Papanicolaou reminded the meeting that he is interested in forming a group to promote understanding of visual impairment.

Contact for any of these issues via FREEPOST address on back page or via e-mail to: Milton\_matters@yahoo.co.uk.

**Contact the Community Wardens**

Address: The Haven, Lake Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 4HA

Telephone: 0800 085 3840

Fax: 023 9273 1108

E-mail: [community.wardens@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:community.wardens@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

On-line forms are at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/AtoZ/5677.html](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/AtoZ/5677.html) to report problems relating to graffiti, street cleansing, street lighting, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles.

## Watch those cars!

Over the Bank Holiday, car theft increased in the southern part of the city. Cars are being broken into and glove compartments rifled to see if there is a satellite navigation system or cradle hidden there. Older cars without alarms are being targeted. Police suggest that you warn any visitors to Portsmouth to park in well-lit areas, fit a crooklock and make sure all possessions are removed from sight.

### MOTOR SCOOTER, MOPED AND MOTORBIKE THEFTS

These vehicles are increasingly being targeted. The Police warn that opportunist thieves will take advantage if we let them.

These vehicles are often owned by younger people who may be less security conscious or who do not have enough money for them. They are certainly stolen by a younger thief who looks for a cheap thrill at your or your family's expense. Some bikes which have been stolen were fitted with security - but it was not used! It is worth using it, especially NOW. It is often enough to deter a thief.

It is essential to take these vehicles in off the street to somewhere less accessible. It is a good idea to fix the bike to a ground anchor to prevent it being lifted.

Trading in stolen vehicles or stealing them or their parts is to trade in someone else's misery - maybe yours or your neighbours. You can help deal a blow to thieves by contacting *Crimestoppers* - it is anonymous.

The top ten tips for preventing bike and car theft can be found on the internet at [www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk](http://www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk).

*Alan Edmunds*

*Safer Vehicles Operation Cobra Crime Prevention Coordinator,  
Hampshire Constabulary, Fratton Police Station, Kingston Crescent.*



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e-mail: [simewilliams@fsbdial.co.uk](mailto:simewilliams@fsbdial.co.uk)

## 'Now'

Time can be a thief  
It steals what might have been  
And clouds things now unseen  
Time is also friendly  
Think of it as now  
See each fleeting second grow  
If age is always in the now  
Now is that instant  
Never to be missed  
Now is that moment  
Held when kissed  
Now is so precious  
It can never be retrieved  
If it goes unnoticed  
Will never be believed.  
Now is that fleeting second  
If lost then minutes total days  
So make your three score years and ten  
A sum of NOWS amazed!



*RS Newark, Locksway Road.*

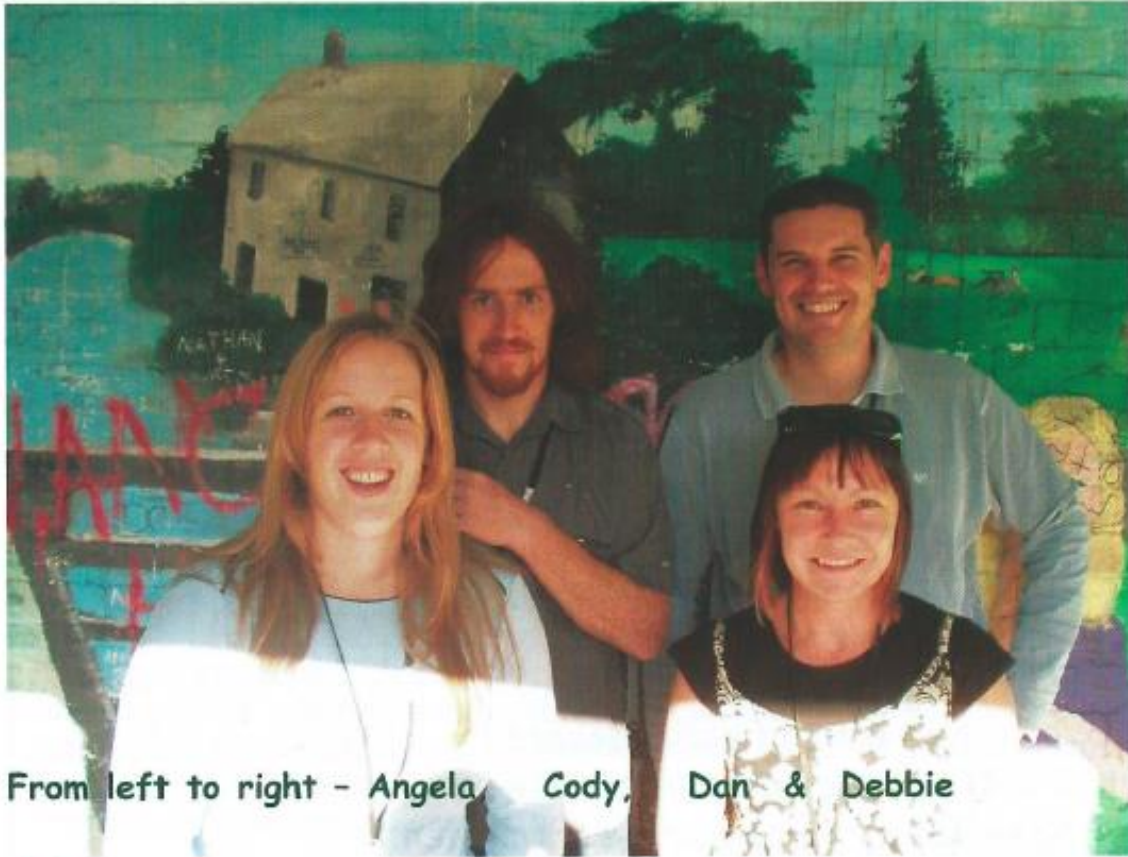
## Local News

**Fire station closure.** Are you concerned about Copnor Fire Station closure? The Baffins Open Forum will be debating this on Wednesday, 18th October at 7pm at Langstone Junior School. All are welcome.

**Local hospitals.** Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is seeking Members who will support its application for foundation status.

If you would like an information pack, phone 023 9228 6284 or visit the website at: [www.porthosp.nhs.uk](http://www.porthosp.nhs.uk).

## Portsmouth's Detached Youth Worker Team



From left to right - Angela, Cody, Dan & Debbie

**P**ortsmouth Youth Service recognise the worth and value of every young person, welcoming diversity and difference, acknowledging their right to be heard, nurtured and offered opportunities to maximise potential.

A team of Detached Youth Workers are now out and about on the streets and in the parks in the south east of the city - encompassing Milton, Bransbury, Eastney, Craneswater and central Southsea from Monday to Fridays between 4pm - 10pm.

The Youth Worker Team can provide confidential, non-judgemental advice and support on issues that affect young people. They can also inform young people of opportunities in their community.

Please say 'hello' when you see one of the team.

Detached Workers wear ID - please ask for it.

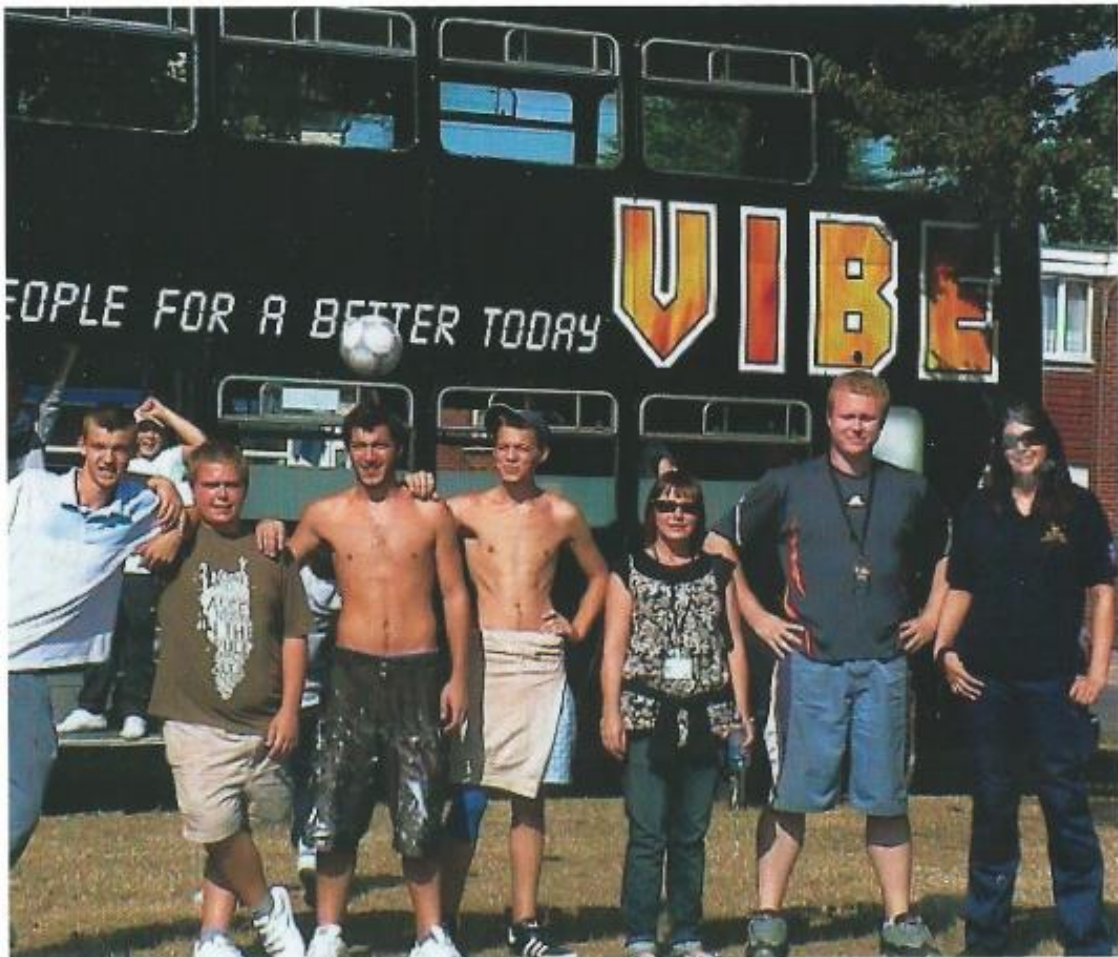
For further information please text or call: 07730 065 620.



## Watch out for the 'Vibe' bus - somewhere near you!

**M**ilton Forum and Councillors were very concerned earlier in the year when the Youth Worker Team left the caravan in Bransbury Park, leaving the area without any support for young people. As reported on page 8, we were delighted to learn from Debbie that a new team of detached youth workers had been recruited and they started to work in our area from July this year.

They have been hard at work this summer holiday promoting activities for young people from the **VIBE BUS** which has been parked in Milton Park each Monday evening from 6 - 9 pm. This will continue into the winter so go along and find out what you can do with the team and your friends.



## Milton Common News

There have been several issues relating to Milton Common in recent weeks and months and Portsmouth City Council have provided the following information to 'Milton Matters'.

### 'Swan Lake'

'Swan Lake on Milton Common had an outbreak of Pymnesium algae which is harmful to aquatic life as it block up gills and therefore killed the fish. This algae is not known to be harmful to mammals therefore dogs and humans should not be affected, however it just seems sensible to keep away from the water. Environment Agency officers have collected the dead fish.

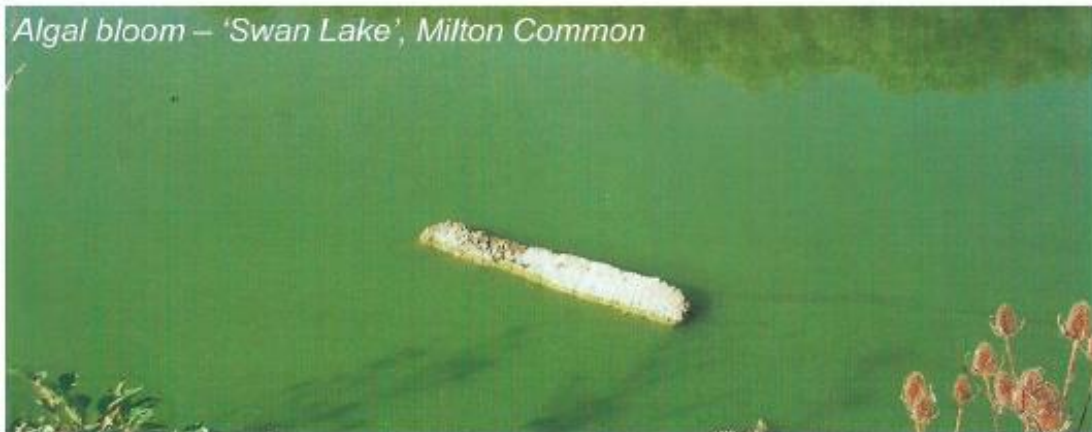
'The algae is the same one that killed the fish at Hilsea Lines, however this was over two years ago so it would not be possible to carry algae spores on fishing tackle from that long ago. It is more likely that the algae will have been introduced on ducks' feet.

'Excessive quantities of ground bait built up over a number of years can add nutrient to lakes and cause conditions suitable for algae, however it is unlikely in this case as fishing had only taken place for a short period of time and the fishing club's lease banned the use of ground bait.

'Pymnesium algae requires a small quantity of salt in water to thrive, so the proximity of the sea would have allowed some salt to enter Swan Lake through the ground water and the hot weather will have caused this to concentrate through evaporation until the correct concentration was reached to trigger a pymnesium algal bloom.'



*Algal bloom – 'Swan Lake', Milton Common*



### Preventing improper use of the common

Visitors to the common, may have noticed that a raised earth ridge or 'bund' has been created along the north side of Moorings Way and we understand that this is to prevent vehicles from gaining access to the common.

The council state that 'regarding the bund around the edge of Milton Common the lowest most vulnerable sections have recently be made steeper. This bund will be seeded later in the year when then ground is sufficiently damp to allow the seed to germinate'.



*Bund building, Milton Common*

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Payroll and accountancy services for small businesses, sole traders,  
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[www.thejohndoylepartnership.com](http://www.thejohndoylepartnership.com)  
E-mail: [info@thejohndoylepartnership.com](mailto:info@thejohndoylepartnership.com)

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**add Stationery, Photocopying/Faxing and Greeting Card**  
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Repairs, spares, new and used bicycles.  
Free collection service in the Milton area  
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Specialists in Performance and Luxury Cars.

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### **ACUPUNCTURE – I Mason LicAc, MBA CC**

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**ADVERTISING – Please contact John Couch (023 9264 3490) for current advertising rates for full page, half page or directory entry advertisements.**

Portsmouth City Council, Community Involvement, Empowerment and Development, CIED Team (Neighbourhood Forums)

contributes towards the cost of printing *Milton Matters*.

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.

## We've got those old Milton Common Blues

**V**isitors to the common will have noticed areas of burnt grass and bushes, with some fire damage to two trees, which hopefully will survive. 'Old Miltonian' has some thoughts to share!

Please don't start a fire on the common  
It's our little piece of country in the town  
There's been a lack of rain and if you light a flame  
The common won't be green, but black and brown.

And please don't leave your litter on the common  
Would you really do it in your own backyard?  
Take it home for the bin, recycle old drink tins  
It ain't rocket science, it's really not that hard.

So please come along and take a walk around the common  
Many paths are gravelled and stay dry after the rain  
There's room to picnic and play games,  
don't stay at home, come on down  
It's our little piece of country in the town.

*Old Miltonian.*



# **Sid's Ladies Salon**



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Hairdressing for all the Family  
Wedding & Prom hair  
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Professional, friendly team

Congratulations to Emma and Leanne,  
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Ladies Salon open 6 days  
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late night on Monday (7pm)

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# MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## Forum Committee members

Janice Burkinshaw – Chair  
Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair  
Richard Curtis – Secretary  
John Couch – Treasurer  
Peter Mills – Forum Representative  
Lyn Mills – Forum Representative  
Phyl Priest – Forum Representative

Demitris Papanicolaou – Forum Rep  
Liz Head-Rapson – Co-opted Member  
Lyn Timms – Co-opted Member  
Larry Nicholas – Link Officer  
Civic Offices, Guildhall Square,  
Portsmouth

## Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr. A Bentley  
35 Stanley Ave., Copnor  
(02392 610285)  
Cllr. C Scott  
15 Locksway Road, Milton  
(02392 291118)  
Cllr. G Vernon-Jackson  
39 Lindley Ave., Eastney  
(02392 834551)

## Ward Councillors – Baffins

Cllr Michael Andrewes  
53 Mafeking Road, Eastney  
(023 9286 1055)  
Cllr. G Goble  
34 Gladys Ave., North End  
(02392 514744)  
Councillor Darron Phillips  
79 Folkestone Road, Copnor  
(023 9264 7337)

## 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](mailto: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.

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/yourcouncil/103.html](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/103.html)  
or e-mail: [neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk).

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