

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 4

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Feb 1997



Where And When?

Do you recognise this local street corner ?

NEXT FORUM

12th February 1997 at 7.00 pm - Milton Campus Lecture Hall

- AGENDA**
- * **EDUCATION - Unitary Responsibility**
 - * **FILLING THE EMPTIES**
 - * **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**
 - * **ROAD TRAFFIC - Terms of Reference**
 - * **OPEN FORUM**

The Snowdrop Field

-

John Cabell

Icy puddles crunched by crisply moving feet
the morning mist hangs heavy where sky and hedge top meet
past cottage, copse and farmyard, fences green with mould
hands thrust deep in pockets, guard against the cold.

Past schoolhouse hushed and peaceful, its hand bell by the door
the lines of desks quite empty, a book lies on the floor.

Follow the grey flint wall 'till the old church tower appears
that hides behind the evergreens, unchanging through the years
the old cast gate hangs crooked, weathered green
in keeping with the headstones, this way and that they lean.

But just as nature's work declines
to dust all wither back in time
on re-creation she is bent,
to bring to each and every eye, a masterpiece that's heaven sent.

For past the beeches standing bare
entwined amid the mist-damped air
my eyes behold a wondrous sight,
a table laid in purest white.

On gently rolling meadow, wherein the chestnut stands
in offering of this wonderment it proudly spreads its hands
and though its crown will not be worn 'til warmer days abound
this winter's morn has gladly spread its jewels on the ground.

For gathered in their thousands by hedge and tree and bank
spring snowdrop upon snowdrop, in rank on rank
each delicate head hangs shyly, each holds a droplet clear
to spill upon the frost greyed grass, each orbe a falling tear.

And over all there hangs a hush
a quite, a peace, no sound, no rush
the trials of life, they cease to be
there's just Snowdrop, sky and earth and me.

What Does Your Committee Do ?

Since the last Forum, the Committee has been involved in the major planning applications which have come forward

ASDA Development - A letter of objection was prepared and sent to the Planning Officer with copies to Planning Committee members and Ward Councillors. A Forum Deputation was prepared to speak at Committee but the Councillors had no need to hear the 14 objectors to the scheme. After the University's Dr Bateman and ASDA's representative had spoken, the Planning Committee overwhelmingly rejected the application. However, this is only the first of 2 similar applications submitted to the City Council and residents should be aware that ASDA could not only pursue the second application through Committee but also appeal against the decision reached on the first.

ST JAMES HOSPITAL Development of 74 homes by Bovis on the north playing field was approved. Your Committee had written in concerned about homes being too close to the trees which have Tree Preservation Orders but were assured at the Committee that Bovis will be providing root barriers - special protection for the tree roots - so that in years to come we do not expect to have requests from occupiers to have any trees removed because of threat to foundations or drains! Bob Colley is the officer at Portsmouth City Council to whom any queries on the removal, treatment of trees, etc., during building works should be addressed. His phone number is 01705 834310. The Planning Committee confirmed that the Bovis Phase 2 development must provide a completed play space of .55 hectares within the housing scheme as a condition of building the 74 homes.

At the last Forum you asked the Committee to object to the development of 200 houses and flats on remaining land in St James Hospital grounds. This was done but the case was lost. However, at the Planning Committee, the Portsmouth Society announced that it would like to pursue the possibility of making a bid for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the hope of buying the site and providing a new urban park for the City. We shall keep a watch on how this ambitious scheme progresses. It would of course, need a share of the costs to be raised. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how this could be achieved, do share them with us, using the FREEPOST address.

Over 80 forms were completed by the residents who visited the display in the Beddow Library on St James and ASDA developments were forwarded to the Planning Department.

Neighbourhood notification was raised at the last Forum and the Committee wrote to the Planning Officer expressing your concerns that more people close to planning application sites should be notified. In the case of St. James proposals, the Planning Department wrote to 110 homes as well as putting up site notices in Godwit Road, Warren Ave. and Locksway Road. The Forum has offered to hand deliver more letters in future to ensure that wider notification could be achieved.

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 write to the Milton Neighbourhood Forum at the Freepost address on P12. Every effort will be made to answer at the next Forum those questions received by Feb 10th. Those received after will go into the "Open Forum" section of the next public meeting

ORIGINS OF FOSTER HALL

Milton House was the home of Rear Admiral Philip Henderson-Durham. His land and part of Middle Farm with its house was brought by the Portsmouth Corporation to use for the College Hostel. Milton Farm, Middle and Lower Farms were owned by members of the Goldsmith Family. James Goldsmith died in 1911, and most of the land through a legacy became Milton Park including the original large elm trees and the thatched barn. Locksway Road at that time was called Asylum Road.

Foster Hall was built on the site of the original house. It was named after Alderman F G Foster JP, Chairman of the Education Committee for 45 years. The college walled garden had espalier fruit trees up the walls. With wartime regulations part of Milton Park was dug up for allotments and so was the walled garden. Dig for victory was encouraged so people grew vegetables for themselves.

Miss G Barber, the Biology Lecturer had three bee hives in the walled garden.

The biology students helped with the maintenance of the hives and extracting the honey.

There was a large old mulberry tree outside the wall opposite the office window.

Some of the leaves were used for feeding silkworms. Students took silkworms to some of the local schools for lessons with the children. When the mulberries were ripe the ground was covered in the squashy fruits.

In front of Foster Hall there was a pond to provide specimens for nature study of frogs, newts, dragon flies and other insect larvae.

The beautiful avenue of red and white horsechestnut trees led from the Milton Road gate to the front door. Local small boys used to run in and throw sticks and stones to knock down the conkers which they collected.

There were tennis courts and a hockey pitch behind the houses of Locksway Road.

At a later date after the War the college buildings were extended with some single storey rooms for craft and music on the side by the railings of the Old Canal footpath. A large building of many storeys was built on the site of the tennis courts and hockey pitch. That had many lecture rooms and another library. A drama studio was added at the walled garden end.

Foster Hall was completed at the southern end to match the original block. Student numbers increased and men joined the college for the first time. The course was increased to three years when the Bachelor of Education Degree was introduced. A refectory was built on the front lawn. Some years later the refectory was enlarged and was known as the aquarium or goldfish bowl as the walls were almost entirely glass.

Portsmouth Training College for Women Teachers had changed completely and it then became the Faculty of Education as a part of the Portsmouth Polytechnic. A great contrast to the small college of the Wartime Years.

Winifred J Beer

NOTE

In Pre-War Days all the teachers in the Infants and Girls' Schools were Women. Junior Schools had separate floors or department for Boys with Male Teachers, and Girls with Female Teachers. The Secondary Schools were single sex.

When a lady teacher married she had to give up her work. In a few cases the War Widows returned to teaching.

During the War, the schools reopened, as evacuees returned to the City and some did not go away at all. Children went to the nearest school to their homes so in many cases all ages from 5-14 years were in the same building, often with a 2 year age range in the class with numbers from 30-50 in it. Many of the buildings were bombed or used for other purposes.

OVER TO YOU MILTON

Traffic Calming proposals which have been discussed in Milton for the past 2-3 years have met resistance at each formal decision stage.

The Traffic & Transportation Committee have requested that the **MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM** take the lead role in arriving at a consensus view from residents, local businesses, bus companies, schools etc.

We have to prepare proposals for how this can be tackled and will present these at the next Forum meeting on 12th February.

Anna Lawson - City Education Officer

Our speaker at the next Forum is a former University lecturer who left the Education service in Birmingham to join Portsmouth and run its Education service from April this year.

Her particular interest is in early years education. She has stated she wishes to improve school quality - proving the brilliant work already being done and improving areas where there are deficiencies.

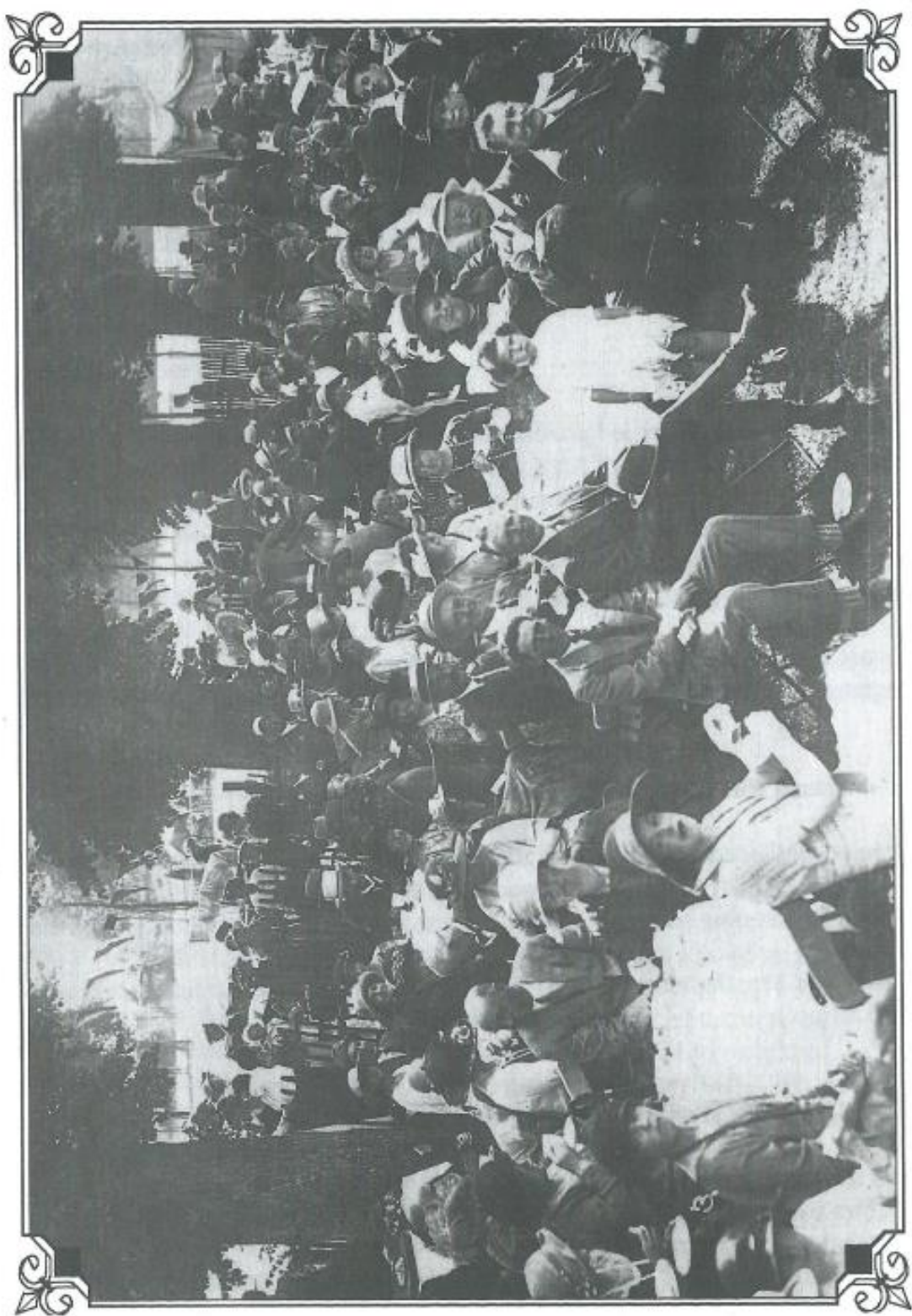
Ms Lawson hopes to involve community groups, the volunteer sector and other organisations in education provision.

OPENING MILTON PARK

*The photo opposite was taken on 11th July 1923 at the Opening of Milton Park.
Please let us know if you recognise yourself or anyone in the photograph.*

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 25th September 1996

Opening the meeting Vice Chairperson Janice Burkinshaw welcomed members councillors and the guest speakers Mr Rob Hutchinson - Social Services, Ian Parkinson and Chris Murray - PCC Planning Officers.

Chairwoman's Report

Mrs Burkinshaw gave an update of Forum activities including Milton Common works, Portsmouth City Council cycle strategy and QEQM playing field policies. The Forum magazine competition winners were announced.

1. Social Services

Mr Hutchinson gave a detailed presentation of the role of Social Services within the new Portsmouth Unitary status from April 1997. He explained the range of facilities available and the efforts being made by his department to keep abreast of social problems. He gave an account of local children in care and the procedures for dealing with them.

Mr Hutchinson said he welcomed suggestions for improving services and concluded by answering members questions.

The chairwoman said an approach to Mr Hutchinson had led to the formation of a Management - Residents committee to discuss specific problems at Lightfoot Lawn.

2. Forum Elections - Mr D. Pointon

Mr Pointon explained that the constitution required the post of secretary to be re-elected and thanked Mr Tony Knott for his three years of service. In the absence of new nominees the outgoing secretary offered his services for a new term and was re-elected unanimously.

Mrs Ilsley and Mrs Baxter were nominated as new Forum Representatives and voted in unanimously.

3. Update on Traffic Issues - Chairwoman

A letter from the City Engineer (Mr Peter King) was read to the meeting.

The Forum would have to tackle outstanding issues and volunteers were requested to work with the committee.

Residents who complained of the ineffectiveness of recently installed road humps were advised to write to the city Engineer.

Bus routes in Milton were fully discussed and it was agreed the Forum would take this up with the appropriate authorities.

4. **St James Hospital Site - Ian Parkinson**

Mr Parkinson retraced the history of the site development before presenting the latest application by Bovis Homes and the possible traffic impact. He presented the outline plans including cycle routes and general traffic patterns. An impact study commissioned by the Health Authority would not necessarily be acceptable to Portsmouth City Council. During questions by residents became evident that neighbourhood notification of the scheme was insufficient. The chairwoman was asked to write to PCC requesting wider publicity of Planning Proposals.

5. **Tree Preservation**

Enquiries should be addressed to Mr Colley at PCC (01705) 822251

6. **ASDA - Chris Murray**

Mr Murray explained the City Council position regarding various plans submitted and the legal process they have to follow.

The ASDA proposals include a 60,000 sq. ft. store area, parking for 600 cars and road changes designed by their traffic consultants. In explaining the impact on the area the points raised included:-

Closure of existing footpaths and towpaths.

Noise and light pollution to neighbouring residences.

The effect on local shops and businesses as well as the city as a whole.

The additional traffic load on an already congested area for 24 hrs a day (including loading etc.).

The residential nature of Milton was not suited for such a large retail complex.

Letters of protest are already pouring in. Mr Murray was aware of the unrest and assured the meeting that every aspect of the plan would be carefully considered.

He said it was the duty of the Council to seek opinions from everyone. To this end details of the plan and petition forms would be displayed in Milton Public Library throughout the following week.

All present were opposed to the proposals and it was unanimously agreed to request the Milton Forum Committee to present the views of its members at the forthcoming Planning application meeting.

Councillors Bye, Charlton, Sizer and Spurgeon promised their support to the residents of their respective wards.



Calling All you Street Wise Kids

Why not try and win £25 of Book Tokens for your School.

Using your local knowledge - of the Streets in the Milton area can you find the following?

1. 5 Well known writers
2. 5 Scottish Towns or Cities
3. 5 Male first names
4. 10 Birds
5. 10 Street names associated with water.

Entries to be submitted to the EDITOR by the 11th February
Don't forget to include the name of your school.

The winner will be drawn from the correct solutions at the Forum Meeting.

PRIZE WINNERS



Congratulations to our winners who correctly judged that the photograph in the last issue of 'Milton Matters' had been taken in Carisbrooke Road in 1920's.

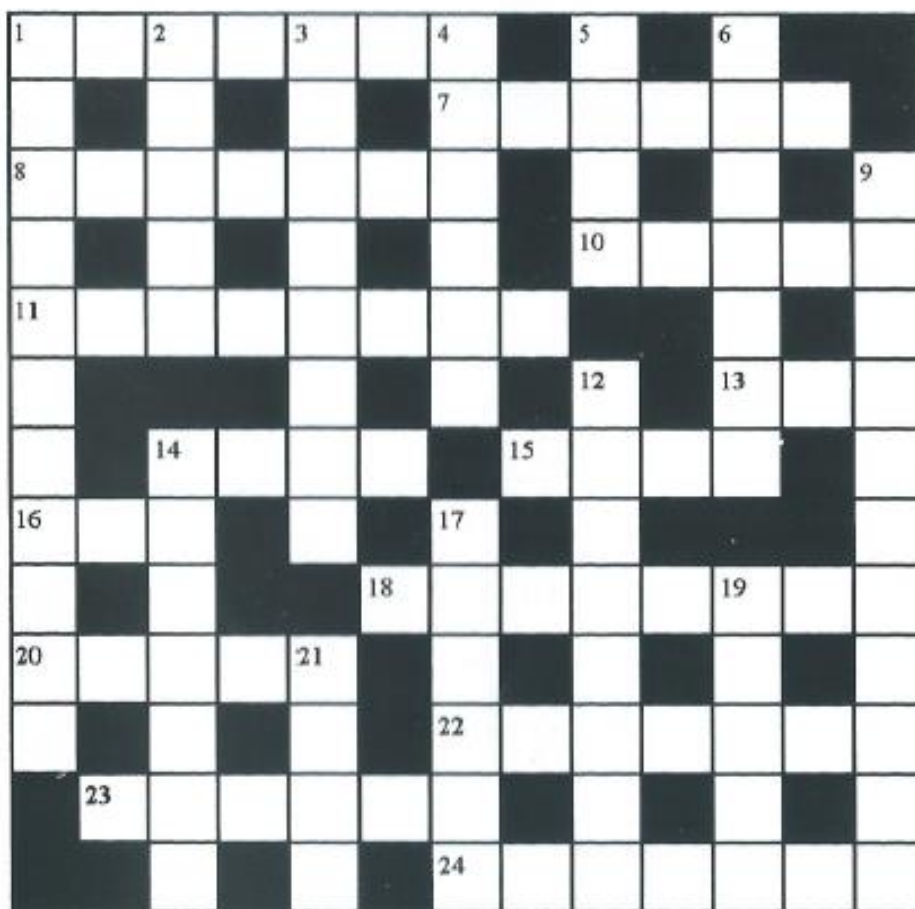
The names and prizes are:-

Mrs C Elliott, Carisbrooke Rd - free entry to Portsmouth Museums
Mrs S Lewis, Ruskin Rd - free family ticket to the Mountbatten Centre
Stephanie O'Leary, Priory Cres. - Family entry to the Pyramids

Where and When ?

Did you recognise the Picture on the Front Page ?

It was the taken at the junction of Milton Road & Priory Crescent - 1903



ACROSS

1. One way off Priory Crescent
7. Road off 1Down
8. Regenerated
10. Joan's old partner
11. Community Hall in this Road
13. Listener
14. China's great one
15. Road between Frensham and winter
16. Oriental sash
18. Festive meal
20. Nearest theatre
22. Show of boldness
23. Industrial one in Rodney Road
24. Attired

DOWN

1. Road with royal castle
2. A musical lady
3. A collapse
4. Opposite Zeniths
5. Employed
6. Black ones grow in Milton Lane
9. Rode by early (anag) 7,4
12. Oust
14. Observe
17. Davy Jones's locker
19. Thoroughfares
21. Sit on this car

Chas Newman - Alverstone Road

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**Please Contact
Any Forum Rep or Ward Cllr
for More
Information or Assistance**

