

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 5

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Jun 1997

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 25 June 1997 at 7pm

at the Milton Campus Lecture Hall

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT NOISY NEIGHBOURS?

Dave Collins will tell you what can be done

KEEPING THE PEACE IN MILTON WHAT THE POLICE ARE DOING ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION YOUTH CRIME COMMUNITY POLICEWORK

Superintendent Martin Powell will take your questions

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS - July 12th

Geoff Lawton - the Games Director will describe
what will be happening in the City during that week.

PARADISE LOST PARADISE RETAINED

Many of us crave a quiet life. Our understanding of quiet depends on where we find ourselves. In the kitchen it may mean that mum would like the children to behave. Watching TV it would probably mean " go outside and play while I watch Match of the Day". Milton portrays some of the ideals of a quiet life. Our opposition to the planned supermarket clearly demonstrated this in the arguments forwarded.

More decidedly in tune with a traditional idea of the quiet life is the action group established to find a suitable use for part of St. James' Hospital. Our fear of paradise lost is justified when we win our various battles on the planning front and believe that paradise has been retained. The maintaining of our community is a primary goal.

The definite sense of community is to be found in most streets. The weekly convergence on Milton Market shows a loyalty to the local shopkeepers that would be the envy of many a High Street. Both the corner shop and the local hostelry are firm realities. This apparent look of peace and tranquility, so characteristic of English village life can be misleading.

It is behind the doors that the revolution is taking place, unseen, possibly unheard, but definitely observable. The tranquility of Milton Park is often disturbed by tearaways as late as 10.00 p.m. Despite locked gates there seems to be disregard for authority. Our elderly and young children often feel threatened by the behaviour of the unruly elements of our neighbourhood as they whiz uncaringly close to the vulnerable. Abuse and cheek are not unknown and there is a careless irresponsibility demonstrated by the few to the detriment of the many.

Community and society, despite what a politician or two might have said, do exist and require action on the home and family front. If this is not done then all our triumphs over the planners will count as nothing for our paradise will be lost.

Reverend H. O. Alby
Vicar of St James Church

ASDA

- My shock and horror at discovering the well kept secret of the proposed ASDA development on the Milton site were only surpassed by utter disbelief that this development could become a reality in the heart of Milton village. Armed with photocopies of the proposed site, I traipsed the streets of Milton to try and relay the impact of what might come to be.

Fortunately there were others, like minded people we coagulated into what became known as the Milton Residents Action Committee. We were a small group of determined residents who believed that, armed with reason and factual research we could match the arguments of the ASDA consulting engineers.

As a small cog within a much larger wheel, we formed links with so many other groups and individuals working towards a single aim to stop this monstrous development and wholesale demolition of the educational site - a gift to the people of Milton.

Naturally a small minority of people liked the idea of a supermarket 'around the corner' but at what expense? In November, our day of action, Milton residents took to their cars and the streets to remind the members of the planning committee what chaos would ensue if you mixed supermarket shopping with a popular football match at nearby Fratton Park.

To this time, I never knew who actually won that football match, but Milton residents won their day when the Portsmouth Planning Committee took note and gave the ultimate thumbs down to the ASDA development.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who gave their time and energy in order to preserve a local community's soul and atmosphere.

Apologies for the delay in getting this to you.

Caroline Scott

PORTSMOUTH TRAINING COLLEGE IN WARTIME

The Principal of the Training College for Women Teachers was Miss Dorothy Dymond.

In 1939 she was very delighted to move into her new building in Locksway Road, which she had helped in its planning. The 200 students could then have most of their lectures in their own building at Milton. There was a fine of oak panelled hall which was also equipped as a gymnasium, a stage, lecture theatre, art studio, craft room, music room and other subject lecture rooms. Miss Dymond had also designed special chairs which had a tray fixed to the arms for notebooks which meant that rooms could be arranged for group discussions or in rows.

Previously the students had shared some rooms with the Municipal College and Library behind the Guildhall when that opened in 1908.

In September 1939 the Second World War started and school children were evacuated to safer country areas. The Training College went to Homerton College in Cambridge for a year. Then they returned to Portsmouth and the residential students went back to Foster Hall. That hostel had been opened in about 1920 period.

After the fall of France in 1940, the Germans began to bomb English towns. In April 1941 a landmine fell and wrecked about a third of the Foster Hall building during the night. The resident students were unharmed in the cellars and Miss Dymond was on fire watch duty at the other end. The blast broke the windows etc. The resident students packed up and were taken to Chichester where they shared with Bishop Otter College (until the end of the War). The local day students continued to attend the Milton College. The lecturers gave each lesson in both buildings and spent their time in the trains from Fratton to Chichester. Some brought houses in Emsworth, Havant and other villages between, to be near stations.

The Dockyard apprentices had their school bombed, so they moved into part of Foster Hall, ground floor, when the windows were replaced. The Royal Hospital was bombed and the patients were moved to part of St James Hospital. The nurses hostel had been bombed too, so they moved into the study bedrooms of half of Foster Hall.

I went to Portsmouth Training College as a student from September 1941-1943. It was only the day students who could attend here and some came from Gosport, Winchester, Southampton and all parts of the town. With all the others at Chichester we were a very small group of 19 second years and 13 first years, and have very small classes according to our chosen subjects. The advanced level English, History and Physical Training students went by train to Chichester once a week to join with the others there.

We visited the local schools to observe and to teach lessons for experience with different age groups of children.

One stands out as typical of life in wartime. The Music Specialist Miss P Weaver, had to give a lesson to infants at Milton School. We all had to go and watch. It was the day after a night air-raid when the school hall windows had been blown out. There were workmen hammering plywood over the window frames and the children had many distractions, but they learnt the song "I hear thunder" to the tune of Frere Jacques. The class was small as some parents had kept children home to continue sleeping after a disturbed night. Others had left their damaged homes to go somewhere else.

The students had a course in fire fighting for several weeks. We used the damaged end of Foster Hall to climb through broken windows to roll out the hoses and couple them up with the hydrants. StIRRUP pump drill for putting out fires from incendiary bombs was a necessity. We also learnt the special knots in ropes to lower people from upper floors to the ground. Nowadays they go abSAILING for pleasure.

With out reduced numbers we only just had 2 teams for hockey and other games. The others were umpires or the coaches as that was part of the training.

There were no dining room facilities. Bread, butter and many other foods were rationed. Mrs Miles, the College Housekeeper used to make hot oxo for us to warmed up pie, otherwise we had sandwiches from home. There was a British Restaurant in the Thatched Barn in Milton Park. The plain food did not need coupons.

There was a bakery on the corner of Locksway Road and they may very nice doughnuts which did not need coupons either, so they were a welcome addition to our diet.

In those days we had a £20 grant for each of the two years, paid in three instalments. The annual tuition fee was £10 and then there were text books and stationery to buy.

We were in college from 9 am until 5 pm then hurried home in the blackout to do study and essay-work in the cellar if there was an air-raid. We also went to college on Saturday mornings for a Current Affairs lecture by Miss Dymond and for Choir Practice.

Once a term we had a social evening and dance and the boys from the Dockyard School and other friends came too.

At the back of Foster Hall there was a large walled garden which had belonged to the original house on the site.

Winifred J Beer



Your

First of all I would like to say how much my husband and myself enjoy MILTON MATTERS. I thought you would like to hear my story of the War.

My mother, father and five sisters were bombed out in River Street off of Somers Road. One of my father's mates let us have his Boat House on Milton Locks. It was not all that big - there were eight of us to share bunks to sleep. We were very grateful for what we could get at that time.

My father wanted to see what was going on outside the next morning. It was still quite dark and he was up to his waist in water! The tide was up! We all had such a good laugh even with being bombed out. My father was in the ARP. He was blown up against the stairs in River Street with the blast from a bomb. He hurt his back very badly. You had to laugh or cry.

I now live with my husband in Broom Square, Milton. We often walk round the Locks in summer. I never thought I would end up living in Milton. This all took place in 1937. Some of our friends were killed in the War including some from River Street. My father saw them under the rubble. There was nothing he could do for them.

Mrs M Ross

Portsmouth University Mediator

If you have any problems with students, particularly noise and disruption, do phone her on 843269 Fax 843430 or write to Student Services, Gun House, Ravelin Park, Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth.

Letters



St James Hospital - A park for Portsmouth?

As reported at the last Forum and recently in the 'News' there is still a chance that an area of St. James Hospital could be saved from development through National Heritage Memorial Funds from Lottery sources and turned into a Park.

A Charitable Trust has been formed to tackle this ambitious scheme which will involve a bid for up to £4m for the site and associated match funding. We do need more practical support from people in the area who are able to offer real help. Do you have the skills to help us plan the site? Our thinking at the moment is that it would be an excellent site for a Sculpture Park - something we do not have in the City. Are you a Teacher in a local school who can tell us what children need from a park? Are you a land valuer able to help us assess the land areas and costs? Can you help by undertaking Historical Research at the local Records Office? Do you have ideas for fund raising and are able to help put them into action?

Our first job is to submit the preliminary outline to the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Can you help now? If this were successful we could then progress to a full launch of the bid with extensive publicity and promotion. Please phone Janice Burkinshaw (736153) if you can spare some time and expertise to this task.

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

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Summary Of Forum Meeting 12th February 1997

Opening the meeting Vice Chairperson Janice Burkinshaw welcomed members, ward councillors and the guest speakers Anna Lawson - Chief Education Officer PCC. Amanda Scott - Social Services.

She then updated the Forum on the following matters.

1. ASDA

Since the last Forum meeting ASDA lodged an appeal against PCC Planning decision. (This appeal has subsequently been withdrawn).

2. University Accommodation

A recent appeal took place in the Guildhall for additional accommodation. The Inspector heard opposition to the proposal from PCC Planning as well as from local residents during the three days taken for this appeal.

3. St James' Hospital

Planning application (Bovis Homes) was successful and work has now commenced on this site. Assurances have been given that the tree roots will be protected and that adequate provision has now been made to forestall any future encroachment to the trees. The Portsmouth Society and Milton Forum have objected to any future development of St James site and have suggested alternative plans to use it as a Parkland site if funds etc. can be acquired from the National Lottery for that purpose. A small committee has now been formed to pursue that bid.

4. Education

Anna Lawson (PCC Education) outlined Council policies for education when it assumes Unitary Status, and described some of the various changes made since PCC last controlled education in the City. Also outlined was a general description of primary education nationally wherein traditional industrial skills were now disappearing into the third world countries and the need to educate children towards future technology vastly different from these traditional skills. This new technology will demand its own standards of literacy

and numeracy and great stress was given on the need to provide for some pre school learning to children before they enter the formal education system. The current system of allocating school places was now explained and one of the stumbling blocks was the fact that a number of parents register preference for particular schools which are then recorded as "Bookings" thus giving the false impression that there are insufficient places to go around when in actual fact there is adequate room within the city for all pupils.

5. Empty Properties

Amanda Scott went into full detail of the Council's policies regarding empty properties giving full details of the latest efforts for PCC to rent / lease these properties in order to house those in need. Members were assured that at the end of any rental period the properties would be returned and any damage would be made good and that money is available for maintenance etc.

The longer the lease the more money payable in the form of rent. All aspects were covered, including insurances, "difficult" tenants and damage all carefully governed by regular monitoring. Grants are available for upgrading properties offered for letting.

6. Traffic

The Chair outlined events and difficulties produced by the last traffic survey in the Mayles Road areas and also added the issues of traffic in the Glasgow - Kingsley - Dunbar Rd. sections plus the mainstream of Locksway Rd. In view of the difficulties experienced with the Mayles Rd. census it has to be accepted that the entire Milton area has to be looked at as a whole and not piecemeal as in the past. It has been suggested that an action committee be formed from residents wherein the whole problem can be discussed covering Milton and not just a given Road or Street. The City Engineer has expressed willingness to listen to any proposals provided such proposals are generally agreed by residents.

In view of the foregoing, an invitation to residents to form this committee is now presented and the first meeting (Chaired by John Couch) was scheduled for Wednesday February 19th - Milton Village Hall (7:00pm).

Some discussion followed on the introduction and use of cycleways within the area and it is hoped to have more detailed information available at a later meeting.

THE STREET WISE KID



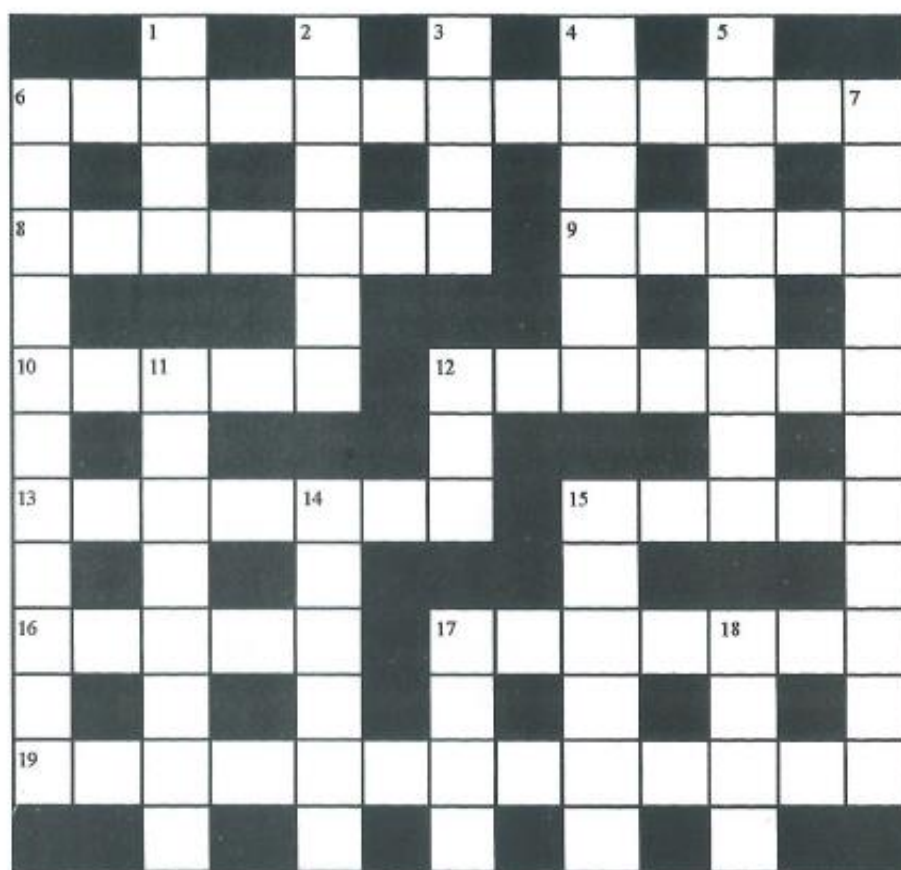
Jasmine Dawes was the winner in last issue's competition. Here she receives a £25 voucher for books for her class at Meon Road Junior School, from the Chairperson. The Voucher was kindly donated by Mr Paul Wood of WH Smiths, Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

SITUATION VACANT - SECRETARY TO THE FORUM

Tony Knott who has been Secretary since the forum started, has unfortunately had to give up this role owing to ill health. Tony has coped with Forum business since its earliest days. Remember the campaign with T&G Shellfish? All those public meetings!

During Tony's service there have been many approaches to the Forum which he has steered through the Committee and solved and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for his work. We all send Tony our very best wishes for his operation and a speedy recovery with our sincere thanks for all his support and dedication.

Would you like to join the Forum as an Area Representative or the Secretary? Do contact Janice Burkinshaw if you would like to discuss this and learn more about the duties. Tel. 736153.



ACROSS

- 6. Feel Personally (4,2,2,4)
- 8. Web Weave When We Deceive
- 9. Consumed
- 10. Receded
- 12. Worthy Of Reward
- 13. Run Away Together
- 15. Bewitch
- 16. Its Tail Points Away From The Sun
- 17. Break Suddenly
- 19. Bestowal Of Favour (6,2,5)

DOWN

- 1. Like
- 2. Topped Up
- 3. Place For Breeding Horses
- 4. Ropes On A Boat
- 5. Microscopic Unicellular Organisms
- 6. What Heroes Go To (2,3,6)
- 7. Compassion
- 11. Keeps Your Place In Literature
- 12. Mans Best Friend
- 14. Resolved
- 15. Cold and Moist
- 17. Indicate
- 18. The Queen Of hearts Could Make One

Chas Newman - Alverstone Road

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