



Milton Village View

Est. 1991. Issue No. 97 - April 2011

www.mvv.org.uk

Result for Milton over bus cuts Stagecoach trump Council over subsidised services

Written by the Editor

After a public meeting on 17th March 2001, attended by an estimated 130 Milton residents, some proposed cancellations to bus services have been reconsidered.

The Council had withdrawn the subsidy for evening services to Milton on the Number 9 bus, and Stagecoach had decided to terminate the Citi 2 service to Milton at the Science Park. There were fears that one of the many consequences of this would be that people walking home from the Science Park would be put in harm's way.

Andy Campbell, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, attended the meeting, and wrote to Richard Summerfield, chairman of Milton Parish Council, the next day to say "following last night's meeting we have looked at the option of operating the 23.03 Citi 2 from the City centre to Milton. We have asked for a letter of support from the county council so we can register it" (see Chairman's update page 4).

There is a feeling among local residents that this concession would not have come about had they not been able to make their feelings known.

Pressed by members of the audience about the effect of the cuts on the many disabled and elderly people in Milton, and the students at the Agricultural college, Glenn Edge, Head of Passenger Transport Services, Cambridgeshire County Council, responded that other areas had 'more essential social needs' but admitted that his timetable for cuts had not allowed him to "negotiate alternatives or compromises". As

stated in the official Minutes (see mvv.org.uk/organisations), Mr Campbell commented that "the Council subsidised certain services (like the No 9's Sunday and evening services) because it had deemed them socially necessary. By cutting these services, the Council appears to be reversing that decision and claiming that these services are no longer socially necessary".

Local residents had been vociferous in their opposition to the changes.

Heather Coleman, who lives in Pearson Court in the North East of the village, is aware how far it is for the elderly or those with less mobility to walk from the Science Park or to the Park & Ride site. Writing on *Milton Chat*, Dr Coleman said "since the Park & Ride stops at 9pm, this is no use for anyone wishing to go to the theatre or a concert or out to eat. It is also no use for a person under the age of 17 who wishes to meet their friends in town to go to the pictures of an evening".

Local resident Paul Oldham, who runs *Milton Chat*, commented "it's the County who are cutting the funding leaving Stagecoach with a serious loss of income and less services to run [sic]".

On the proposal to terminate the Citi 2 at the Science Park, local resident Barry Moore was quoted in the *Cambridge News* as saying "walking to the Science Park can take a good 15 or 20 minutes from Milton village, where there are [currently] about five stops in total." *Continued on page 2*



Concern over A10 bridge

Written by the Editor

With the new cycle path shortly to be opened, the Citi 2 bus service cancelled, and the school bus also threatened, local residents have expressed concern about the safety of the bridge over the A10.

Some have commented that if students are compelled to use this bridge, should the school bus service end, they may be tempted to ignore the sign and ride over it, increasing the danger of somebody falling over the side.

Michael Williamson, County Councillor responsible for roads and buses, commented on the MVV website "I am very aware of the concerns that the new path might cause free bus travel to be withdrawn for Milton students attending IVC".



The new cycle path might, ironically, save the school bus service.

Cllr Williamson's information was that "at this width [1.5m] and in accordance with the current policy guidance, school bus travel would not be withdrawn".

Cllr Williamson later confirmed to MVV that "I have been told by a Council officer that the nature of the cycleway actually being constructed should mean that it will not be of a sufficient standard for it to be regarded as providing a safe route. If that is the case, then in many ways we get the best of both worlds - a safer route for those cycling between Milton and Impington and the retention of free school transport."

Read the full article at www.mvv.org.uk/news



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Welcome to the April 2011 issue

It's been a busy month for Milton residents, what with all the shenanigans on the buses (see cover story). The saga continues, and Cllr Smith is asking volunteers to help with the ongoing campaign (see boxout, page 6). But at present it seems like a small early victory for the village, and well done to Andy Campbell of Stagecoach for pulling his proverbial rabbit out of the hat. It's just a shame we've heard nothing more from Mr Edge at the County Council, who initiated the cuts.

Don't forget you can read the full versions of all our stories on the website at www.mvv.org.uk

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Advertising: info@mvv.org.uk
General enquiries Tel: 07868 741280

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NEWS

Localgiving scheme

Written by David Geasor

Localgiving.com was set up in 2008 to enable philanthropic giving to small local charities and community groups in the UK.

Residents can read about the Milton scheme and make a donation if they wish to at:
www.LocalGiving.com/MiltonCommunityCareScheme



Picture: courtesy James Fraser

Work starts on the new school allotment



BBC want characters from the village

Written by Charlie Lewis

The BBC are working on the second series of John Bishop's Britain – a Saturday night entertainment show for BBC1.

They're currently contacting parishes, village councils and groups all over Britain in the hope of finding unique characters to be interviewed on the show, from local sports groups to farmers, talking about food, hobbies/DIY, music/fashion/shopping, friends, regional Britain and Christmas.

Anyone interested in taking part should email takepart@objectiveproductions.com

For the full details, go to
www.mvv.org.uk/announcements

Continued from Page 1

Background to the bus cuts

Milton Village View had previously been informed by Glenn Edge on 22 Feb 2011 that the Council had "voted to phase out funding for subsidised bus services". Mr Edge supplied details of the discontinuation by Stagecoach of the No. 9 evening service through Milton due to the lack of Council

financial support.

This coincided with the cancellation by Stagecoach of the Citi 2 to Milton, and MVV asked Mr Edge whether Milton residents would be satisfied with the explanation that the bus cuts were chiefly down to Stagecoach rather than the result of the Council's actions. Mr Edge told MVV "at no time have I hid behind the 'it's nothing to

do with us' line" and continued "Stagecoach may be taking some commercial decisions based on reduced local authority funding".

Councillor Hazel Smith's petition against the cuts had gained nearly 300 signatures.

In the Chairman's update (see page 4) Richard Summerfield says "Despite this bit of good news, the cuts in village bus services will still affect a wide range of Milton residents – students, working professionals, the elderly and infirm".

Read the full article with complete meeting Minutes at www.mvv.org.uk/organisations



Picture: courtesy Paul Oldham

Over 130 Milton residents attended the meeting about the bus cuts

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EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

Compiled by Mary-Ann Johnson

Send your events details to
ed@mrv.org.uk



April

Sat 2nd Cygnets Pre-School Easter Fayre, 3-5pm, Community Centre
Face-painting, card making, tombola, splat the rat and loads more!

Fri 8th Blood Donation, 1-3.5pm, 4.30-7pm, Community Centre
Book an appointment on 0300 123 23 23 or just turn up.

Sat 30th Singer/Songwriter Rob Halligan, 7.30pm, All Saints, £5/£3
"Captivating – Deserving of a nationwide audience" Musician Magazine

May

Sun 1st Milton Outdoor Bowls Club Open Day, 2-4pm, Coles Road Recreation Ground
Try the game of bowls in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. Bring a flat pair of shoes; bowls provided.

Sat 14th Milton Football Club Disco & Hog Roast, 7.30pm, Community Centre
£12.50, including food. Contact Andy Gray at Milton Community Centre, 862763

Sun 15th Oxfam Walk from Wimpole Hall. See <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/walk> for details.

June

Sun 5th Hearing Dogs event, 10am-4pm, Country Park
Sponsored jog & walk, giant tombola, Hearing Dogs merchandise, puppies in training, etc.

See www.milton.org.uk/diary.html for more event details.

Easter at All Saints

Thurs 21st Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, 8pm
Fri 22nd Good Friday Messy Praise, 10am
Fri 22nd Hour at the Cross, 3pm
Sun 24th Holy Communion 8am
Sun 24th Holy Communion All Together, 10.30am
Sun 24th Evensong with King's Voices, 7pm

Whist Drive

Fourth Tuesday, Community Centre, £1.50

Scrabble

Second Friday, Church Hall, 7:30-10pm

Denny Abbey

Family events are held throughout the year at Denny Abbey — arts and craft workshops, afternoon tea for Mothering Sunday, and lots over the Easter weekend! See www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk for details.

Book now for Summer Fayre

Would your group or club like to have a display stand or stall, or organise a game or activity to raise funds? Following feedback from previous years, we would also like to see a few more family games.

The Summer Fayre will be on 9th July, 1.30-6pm.

Contact the Community Centre on 01223 862763 for more information, or email MiltonFayre@yahoo.co.uk

Fen Edge Archaeology Group



This year we are beginning to investigate a Roman site on the Twenty Pence Road.

Workshop: Saturday 2nd April, 2pm. We will explore what is known about the history of the site and discuss how the investigation might develop over the coming months and years.

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2011 CLASS TIMETABLE



Milton Community Centre—Monday Morning

9:30am Mat/Ring Class-Mixed Ability
10:30am Mat/Ring Class-Mixed Ability

Milton School—Tuesday Evening (from 8/2/11)

6:30pm Ball Class-Mixed Ability
7:25pm Zumba Beginners Class
8:15pm Mat Class-Mixed Ability

Landbeach Village Hall—Friday Morning

10:30am Mat/Ring Class-Mixed Ability
New members welcome

Contact Liz Dolman on (01353) 749611 or (07768) 155278. Both men & women welcome
Email: liz.dolan@lovepilates.co.uk Or visit www.lovepilates.co.uk
For other class details

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman

April 2011

The proposed changes to both the Citi2 and No 9 bus services are of major concern for the village. At the public meeting on Thursday 17th March hosted by the parish council, representatives from Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire County Council were on hand to explain the rationale behind these cuts and listen to villagers' concerns. I feel it was a productive meeting and was glad to see such a large number of residents in attendance. One proposal, suggested by villager Anna Bradnam, was for Stagecoach to run at least one late night bus service. I'm happy to report that Andy Campbell, the Managing Director of Stagecoach East, has agreed to this proposal and will operate a 23.03 Citi2 bus from the City centre to Milton.

Despite this bit of good news, the cuts in village bus services will still affect a wide range of Milton residents – students, working professionals, the elderly and infirm. At the public meeting, we heard from parents, young people and older residents as well as individuals from Edmund House, all of whom rely on these bus services. The cuts are particularly galling as the government is repeatedly calling for people to move to public transport. How can we do this when our bus service is being withdrawn!

In other issues, a few residents have recently brought up safety concerns in the village: cars parking near the junction of The Rowans and Cambridge Road; cars parking by the One Stop shop obscuring vision at the zebra crossing; and the zebra crossing at Tesco. I would like to remind everyone to take extra care when crossing at these points and to keep safety in mind at all times. The Clerk has spoken with the community beat officer PC Shulver, who emphasized that pedestrian crossings should be used as a give-way, i.e. stop, look and make sure all vehicles have stopped before you cross.

There have also been numerous complaints from both cyclists and motorists about the floodlights illuminating a new sign at the

Milton Golf Course. The District Council's Planning Enforcement Team is taking this matter up with the owner.

On a more positive note, the opening ceremony for the newly refurbished Community Centre was held on the 10th of February. Congratulations to all those involved for a job well done! We have also set up a page on the Local Giving website to generate donations for our Mobile Warden Scheme in the village: www.localgiving.com/MiltonCommunityCareScheme Finally, just a reminder, if anyone has had any thoughts or ideas about Christmas lights for next year, please let the Clerk know.

Richard Summerfield **Chairman Milton Parish Council**

Opening Hours for the Parish Office:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10am-12noon

If you wish to come outside these hours, please contact us and we would be happy to make an appointment time convenient for you.

Address:
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Jane Coston: 563539

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Rob Farrington: 860160

Mark Herson: 440525

Sue Humphreys: 512330

Barry Humphreys: 862804

Ian May: 521294

Hazel Smith: 860752

Bob Waters: 860620

Report from PCSO Mason

Written by PCSO John Mason

PCSO John Mason works from Histon Police Station and deals with police related community issues and concerns.

We summarise his most recent report here:

Myself and PC Phil Shulver have been dealing with many issues in the neighbourhood ranging from neighbourhood disputes and anti-social behaviour to sudden deaths and burglaries. Recently we have had an increase in the number of cycles stolen in the area. Please ensure that you secure your cycles and if possible do not store them in the open, particularly at the front of your property. I understand that this is not always possible but even cycles that are secured have been removed by determined thieves so please try not to leave cycles on display.

We often receive useful calls advising us of suspicious activity and vehicles etc. Although normally it turns out that everything is in order, it is not always the case. A recent call from a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator was responded to by officers who discovered a parked vehicle at the location being used by the occupants to take drugs. A search was carried out but no drugs were found. However all details were taken and local officers are now aware of this vehicle and can keep an eye out should it return to the area.

Myself and PC Phil Shulver do patrol the village as often as possible, but local residents are more aware of what is normal for their area and what is out of place. You can always contact us via the 0345 4564564 number or if you prefer via email, or ecops at www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood

For the full article, go to
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Read more at
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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Did you know there is a Youth Centre next to the Recreation Ground on The Sycamores?

Written by Andrea Cramp

Milton Youth Club offers a wide range of activities including table tennis, pool, air hockey, internet access, Wii, cooking, arts and crafts and accreditation projects too.

Young people attending have recently completed their Basic First Aid training and hope to take part in the Basic Food Hygiene course soon. Our Junior group are currently working towards their Bronze Arts Award.

Meetings are on a Tuesday evening. The Junior Club (for years 7 and 8) meet from 6.30 - 7.15pm and the Senior Club (for years 9, 10 and 11) meet from 8 - 9.15pm.

Help needed

Are you, or the company at which you work, able to sponsor an additional night of Youth Work - or contribute towards it? Would you or someone you know be interested in volunteering to work alongside us and support young people in a Youth Club setting? Training can be offered, if necessary.

If you have a skill that you would be willing to share with young people (perhaps photography/ graffiti art/web design/dance/costume making/music) then we would love to hear from you. Contact me at a.cramp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 0789 990 4959.

For more information, go to www.mvv.org.uk/organisations



Help the Beavers

Written by Rob Farrington

Do You want to work with the youngest members of the scouting community (6-8 year olds)? Rob Farrington explains how to get involved.

Myself, Fiona and the boys of the 50th Milton beavers are on the look out for an adult (young or old) to help us to have a fun time each week and gain the many badges that are available.

In the past we've had a 16 yr old doing their Duke of Edinburgh award. Maybe you'd like to do your DoE by 'helping a community organisation'.

We meet every Monday (term time only) evening 6.15-7.30pm, at Milton community Centre Annexe.

If you prefer to work with older children then there are the cub scouts (8-10 1/2), Scouts (10 1/2-14) or Explorer Scouts (14-18).

If you feel you can help then please contact Rob Farrington 01223 860160
<http://www.50thcambridgescouts.org/>
gsl@50thcambridgescouts.org



Air Cadet Awards

Written by Chris Goddard

Group Captain Gerry Bunn CBE awards local Air Cadets at presentation evening

The awards were presented to 10 Cadets in commendation for their individual achievements during 2010.

Flying Officer David Williams (Squadron Officer in Command) said "I am very proud of the Cadets - they have worked hard to achieve their awards and are very well deserved. They set an example to the others and to all of our Community's young people."

Details of the recipients of the awards can be found at mvv.org.uk/reports

"Slimming is child's play for yummy mummies"

Written by Jill Shaw

Super slimmers from Milton celebrate being 'yummy mummies', says Jill Shaw...

Last year the women who attended the Milton Slimming World group were unhappy with their weight and felt their size was getting in the way of every aspect of their lives - including looking after their children. Since joining the Milton group, which is run at The Community Centre, they've lost an amazing combined weight of ninety two stone and eight pounds - that's the equivalent of eighteen of their children.

A mum-of-two from Milton has lost two stone seven pounds. She says: "Since losing the weight I'm happier, more confident, and much more active, which all make me feel like a better mum. I don't sit on the sidelines watching my children have fun anymore, I'm in the middle of it all playing with them - and I promise you it's a better workout than any gym! I can even go down the slides at the park now too!"

For more information call Jill on 01223 860010 or visit www.slimmingworld.com

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LEISURE

Milton WI - Wildlife, pearls and oysters

Written by Jan Chessum

Colin Kirtland was our speaker in January, which was all about our gardens and the wildlife that lives in them. We were quite surprised at the variety of birds, animals and insects etc. that we get in our gardens. He also showed us some spectacular slides of all the birds etc he has photographed in his garden.

Then in February we had Jason Middleton from Cellini's. We were told the long history of pearls going back thousands of years and how they grow in mussels and oysters. We were astounded at the range of colours pearls can be in. We were able to handle the most beautiful pure pearl necklaces and bracelets. Jason also showed lots of slides of the most historic and famous pearls. A really fantastic evening.

Milton WI now have two darts teams who

meet each Tuesday at the Waggon and Horses to practice except on our meeting night or if they are playing an away match. Come along and join them - you are most welcome.

Events being arranged by County include embroidery and flower arranging day schools, lunches with speakers and various outings. These are open to non-members please contact Jan Chessum on 560813 if you are interested.

Carol Jones organises our monthly lunches and walks and information about these and about our W.I are on our website, thewimilton.blogspot.com.

Any ladies out there who would like to know more about us you are welcome to come as a visitor and hopefully you will like what you see and join us. There is a lot more to this organisation than the local W.I. We have our own residential college in Oxfordshire, which runs hundreds of courses on a wide variety of subjects. It is open to non-members at an extra cost than to members.

We meet in the Church Hall, on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7.30p.m. (except December when it is the 2nd Tuesday).

You are very welcome to come and join us.

Please contact Bridget Crow on 01223 441755

Volunteers needed urgently for bus monitoring

Written by Anna Bradnam

Councillor Hazel Smith and Anna Bradnam are asking for volunteers to record passenger numbers in an effort to stop the cancellation of the Citi 2.

This must be done as soon as possible before the new timetables come into effect.

Contact Anna Bradnam
Tel: 01223 862364
anna.bradnam@btinternet.com



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LETTERS

Satisfied Customer

Dear Editor

I am very pleased with the clarity and coverage of the Village View. I look forward to the next one.

Brian Wilkin

Bridge over A10

Dear Editor

Regarding the inadequate condition of the bridge over the A10: one would have thought that such a low fenced bridge clearly stands out as being a health and safety deficit, not meeting current conditions (cf. the Jane Coston bridge) and would therefore be a contravention of modern requirements (what probably 'excuses' this, is the fact that the bridge was constructed over 30 years ago). But I do not think we should accept this! By the way, as both a cyclist and a walker to the Park & Ride, it is obvious, apart from the narrowness of the bridge and steep slopes at each end, and the low fence, that the bridge is not suitable for cycling over. Also pedestrians have the added danger of being hit by a cyclist. That is why there are notices advising cyclists to dismount - but many young cyclists do not. I abide by this advice because I am well retired and not tempted to take on the steep slopes on the bridge! Another aspect about the cycle path between Milton and Impington, is my recommendation of reducing the nominal speed limit along the adjacent road from 60 mph to 40 mph - this should be done on most roads connecting the 'necklace' of villages around the city of Cambridge, particularly where footpath/cyclepaths are concerned. But do the authorities get the sense of this - I have seen little action yet?

I sincerely hope my comments will be of use to you in your task of being a great service to the community of Milton as the new editory of the MVV.

Derek Booth

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO ed@mvv.org.uk

The Editor responds to the above letter and previous correspondence from Mr Booth:

Dear Derek

Thank you for your most constructive remarks recently concerning the magazine. I would be delighted to make some clarifications, as you request, and publish them for the benefit of others also:

We are adhering to the tradition in the magazine of reproducing the Chairman's article verbatim. We do not proof it or make corrections. Therefore if readers take issue with anything in the Chairman's article, this should be addressed to his office.

Regarding the A10 bridge, I agree that there is an issue here. This was built some time ago, and is dangerous to cycle over, as it is comparatively narrow and the side railings are low. In my view, cycling in general should be encouraged (for all sorts of very good reasons), but if students are compelled to use the bridge in the event of the school bus being cancelled, and are tempted to ride over it, then the danger of somebody falling over the side and going under a car on the bypass beneath increases dramatically. In any event, there seems to be a strong case for making representations about the need for this bridge to be upgraded, or a Pelican crossing to be put in - although these can generate their own problems (if anyone has more information or an opinion on this we would very much like to hear it).

On the issue you raise about publishing the names of the team: I would mention firstly that all articles should show a byline under the headline in the traditional way, so that readers know the contributors' names. Regarding the rest of the team, all our volunteers have been happy to remain anonymous, and the new Editorial Board decided there was no need for their own names to take up valuable space in the magazine. However, this seems like an excellent opportunity for me to thank the Mary Ann Johnson, Rob Howe, and also all our delivery people, for their continued support.

Thank you again for your kind comments.

Tim Hall, Editor

WEB DIRECTORY

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SPORT & LEISURE

Milton kids do TV *Written by James Fraser*

On a recent residential trip to Burwell House, Year 5 children from Milton Primary had great fun recording a news programme in the TV studio.

Other activities included creating natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy, exploring the grounds and learning how to use a compass. Here's what one of the children had to say about the TV studio:

"Wow! I look around me, look at these cameras, and look at all these controls. I see the weather map I'd be using. I could just picture myself standing there saying my lines. A huge smile grew on my face as I thought about it. I just knew this was going to be amazing!" (Kiera)



Picture: courtesy James Fraser
Youngsters in the TV studio at Burwell House



Picture: courtesy Robert Waters

Milton Bowls Club - see page 3 event listings

Milton Tennis Club

Written by Sue Griffin

The Milton Tennis Club season officially starts on 1st April and runs through until 30th September.

Nets are however, kept on court during the winter months.

For 2011 application forms, current subscriptions and information on coaching, matches, tournaments etc ring Sue Griffin on 01223 562878 or go to:
www.miltontennisclub.co.uk

Young cricketers needed

Written by Stephen Dye

Milton CC are running an U10's team in the CYCA U10's league 2011 and the club is looking for players to add to the players that already registered.

School years 3,4 and 5 are the age group we are requiring. We are having Indoor Nets at Impington Sports Centre.

For more information call Stephen Dye 01223 240928 / 07753661544 or Email stephen-dye@sky.com

Virgin London Marathon

Written by Terrie Drummond

Chris Drummond has again taken up the challenge of running the Virgin London Marathon to raise money for the local charity, Alzheimer's Research UK.

Over 6,000 people in Cambridgeshire alone suffer from Alzheimer's Disease.

Chris has supported this cause after his mother, Dot, suffered with Alzheimer's Disease.

If you would like to support Chris on his 26.2 mile run, you can donate online at:

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ChrisDrummond

College Riding Volunteers *Written by Lulu Boscawen*

Cambs College Riding For The Disabled are looking for volunteers to join their group based at Milton College.

If you would like to help and are free on Thursday afternoons between 4.00 – 6.00pm, please contact Lulu Boscawen on 01954 789 628 for further details.



Picture: courtesy S.Bennett

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