



Milton Village View

Est. 1991. Issue No. 112 – April 2014

www.milton.org.uk/mvv

Postino Coffee at Milton Post Office

As of the start of February, many of you will have seen some new faces and a lot of changes at your local Post Office and newsagents.

My Name is Natalie and I am now managing the newsagents under the name of Postino Coffee. I am very excited about working in Milton and starting to meet everyone - Milton already seems a very happy and welcoming place to be!

Firstly I would like to assure you that the Post Office is not closing down and as before Anil is here to help

you! Also that we will continue to sell newspapers, magazines, a smaller selection of cards and milk for your convenience.

We have already started the refurbishments and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and patience whilst all the changes are happening.

By the end of March we will be serving freshly ground barista coffee just as you like it, freshly made sandwiches, paninis, piadinas, a delicious range of

cakes, cookies, muffins and tasty treats!

Postino is Italian for Postman so next time you come to post your special deliveries treat yourself!

We look forward to seeing you soon and please look out for our coffee opening date, and news of our menu!

With Kind Regards

*Natalie and everyone at
Postino Coffee and
Milton Post Office*



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 20th April, 2pm: The Friends of Milton Country Park Easter Trail, £2.50 per child.

We've hidden local organisations around the park, and children must find their stalls to claim their treasure. A mixture of demonstrations and activities, plus eggs for you to collect. Last entry 3.30pm.

Liz Cook



Milton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 14th April at 7pm

Milton Community Centre Annexe

Speakers from the following groups will be attending and giving updates:

**Anglian Water
Sewage Works**

Cambridgeshire County Council
New Railway Station (between Milton & Cambridge)

Bellway Homes

North Lodge Park development
(New houses and sports facilities in the village)

All residents are encouraged to attend to find out the latest on issues which affect our village and make their views known.

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In This Issue...

- Summer Fayre Stall Form
- GP Appointment Changes
- Aurora Photo

And much more!

Contact Us

Send us your news and photos:
vv@miltonvillage.org.uk
 1 Knights Way, Milton, CB24 6DE

Deadlines for articles are:

12th January
12th March
12th May
1st September
1st November

Issues will be published approx.
 2 weeks after the dates above.

Online Archive

Find back copies of Village View
 (back to April 2011) on our website:

milton.org.uk/mvv

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Events

Milton Hospice Gala Day

Hospice Gala Day is here again
On Saturday 10th May (11.00-3.30)
So grab some pennies, there's
Plenty to do
Ice cream, burgers
Cakes too
Entrance £2 Children free

Games, bottle tombola
And plants to buy
Lots of prizes
And a Grand Raffle to try

Dancers and Dog Show
A magician to see
Yours to enjoy with all the family.

Where: Grounds of Milton Hall (Pi Innovo), on Ely Road.



Photos: Mary-Ann Johnson

Milton Community Cafe

Now that spring is in the air, it's time to think of pleasanter outings. What could be a better way to break a short walk in Milton than to drop by at our new **Milton Community Café** on 29 April for some tea or coffee and perhaps even a piece of cake! For those wanting something more active than relaxed conversation, there is also a table tennis table and an air hockey table.

We hope to open once a month, starting with Tuesday, 29 April. Doors open from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. We are located in the Youth Building on the Sycamores recreation ground, next door to the sports pavilion. All welcome for our very first event!

Entry includes drinks, £1 per person

This is a community activity run by Milton volunteers. Entry fees go towards costs. April's sponsor of the hall hire is Milton Contact Ltd.

An idea from the Milton Surgery Patient Participation Group

For more information call either Sue Nunn on 861747 or Chris Thomas on 440024.



Parklife at the Country Park

Parklife, the popular free sports event at Milton Country Park, featuring a large range of sports activities for all the family to try, will be on Saturday 28th June this year. For details of events and times please check the Park website nearer the day:

www.miltoncountrypark.org

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 Cambridge, CB5 8PX



DIARY DATES

See p.9 for more events at the pubs.

April

- Sat 5th** Cygnets **Easter Fayre**, 2-4pm, Community Centre (See below for details)
Sat 5th MOBC **Jumble Sale**, 11am, Bowls Pavillion, Coles Road
Sun 13th Come and Sing **Stainer's Crucifixion**: 4pm rehearsal, 6.30pm performance, Waterbeach parish church
Thurs 17th Maundy Thursday **Holy Communion**, 8pm, All Saints'
Fri 18th **Messy Easter**, 10am, All Saints' (Crafty, creative messy church, with the NEW Tech Zone...)
Fri 18th **Hour at the Cross**, 2pm, All Saints'
Sun 20th **Easter Dawn Service**: 7am, Milton Country Park, meet at the Vistor Centre
Sun 20th **Easter Day**: 8am Communion / 10.30am Celebration / 4pm Songs of Praise, All Saints'
Sun 20th **Easter Egg Hunt**, 2-4pm, Milton Country Park (See p.1 for details)
Sun 27th MOBC **Open Day**, Bowls Pavillion, Coles Road (See below for details)
Mon 28th **Diabetes Support Group** Launch Evening, Milton Surgery, Coles Road (See below for details)
Tues 29th **Community Café**, Sycamores Rec. Youth Building, 2.30-4pm (See p.2 for details)

May

- Sat 10th** EACH **Gala Day** (See p.2 for details)

June

- Sat 28th** **Parklife**, free sports event at Milton Country Park (See p.2 for details)

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



On Sunday 27th April, MOBC are holding an Open Day for members of the public to try their hand at flat green bowls, from 2-4pm.



Wear casual clothing (flat shoes or trainers). Bowls will be provided. Tea and biscuits afterwards.



Easter Fayre

- Games and prizes
 Raffle and tombola
 Cake stall
 paddling pool sweet hunt
 Kiddies play area
 Easter egg hunt
 Photographer
 Nail and tattoo bar
 Face painting
 Refreshments
 and lots lots more!!
- Sat 5th April**
2-4pm
Adults 50p/
Children free
- Community Centre,
 Coles Road

Let's Take a Closer Look at



The Patient Participation Group (PPG) are starting a new Diabetes Support Group in Milton.

The group will launch with an evening event at 7pm on Monday 28th April at Milton Surgery on Coles Road.

Please join us to find out more!

Lynne Hall



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Pilates Classes Milton & Landbeach

Mon 9.30am - Mixed Ability Mat Class (MCC)
 Mon 10.30am - Mixed Ability Mat Class (MCC)
 Tues 6.20pm - Intermediate Mat Class (Sch)
 Tues 8.15pm - Mixed Ability Mat Class (Sch)
 Fri 10.30am - Mixed Ability Mat Class (LVH)

Contact Liz on 07768 155278
 or liz.dolman@lovepilates.co.uk
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For further info, visit www.lovepilates.co.uk

Parking Charges at Milton Park & Ride

Last September Cambridgeshire County Council proposed new parking charges at all park & ride sites, including ours in Butt Lane on the other side of the A10.

There were obvious concerns that this was likely to increase parking on Butt Lane, Coulson Close and other roads in that area and also about increased traffic in Butt Lane from people in their cars hurrying to get the bus to work at a time when children are heading for Milton Primary School. According to *Cambridge News*, nearly 200 objections were submitted.

As a result some changes are now being proposed by the council. Firstly, charges are as follows:

- Up to 1 hour - free
- Between 1 hour and 18 hours - £1
- Between 18 hours and 24 hours - £10

Photo: Neil Hobbs



Secondly, they intend to put double yellow lines on Butt Lane, but according to a post on milton-chat by our county councillor Maurice Leeke this will be on the other side of the A10, not in Milton:

"The county council's Cabinet has also said that it will undertake a survey of the level of parking in Butt Lane, Coulson Close and Humphries Way before and after the introduction of the parking charge, to see what effect if any the parking charge has on parking there. There is not a commitment to introduce any particular scheme as a result.

I think the way forward is to see what the effect is first, before deciding what needs to be done about it. The solution does not need to be double lines down the whole length of Butt Lane with residents' parking bays, for instance - there are other options. But let's see the symptoms before prescribing the medicine."

Your parish council is also aware of the issue and will be monitoring the situation.

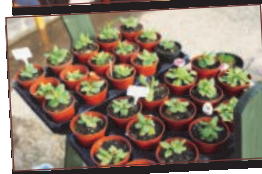
Paul Oldham

Changes to Green Bin Collection

During the winter months, green bin waste will be collected monthly. That change is part of South Cambridgeshire District Council's new budget needed to create savings equivalent to £20 for every band D home. They say that these will have minimal impact on residents as during the winter most people are not cutting their grass and the amount of garden waste being collected halves.

Based on the original proposal, a survey of Milton residents was set up and completed by 147 people in 3 days. The survey, in which 60% of respondents supported the proposal (www.milton.org.uk/opus2696) was presented at the subsequent SCDC cabinet meeting.

New Year, New Products



Pay us a visit and see our new selection of wooden wildlife goods for 2014. Large selection of bird nesting boxes, dormouse boxes, bird feeders, nut feeders, butterfly feeders, bug houses, bird tables and many more.

Our popular wooden pots hangers still available in a variety of colours for 2 or 4 pots plus all our regular range of Picnic tables, benches and fold away seats.

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Village Fayre Booking Form

A standard pitch is 4 metres wide, and you are allocated one table per pitch. Please state your requirements and we will try to accommodate you. The price for a pitch is as follows:

Local Charity Stalls: £7
Village Non-Charitable Stalls: £15
Commercial Vans: £30

Should you wish to stay late with your stall please indicate on the booking form.

To assist us in clearing up after the Fayre please:

- Return any tables (cleaned) to the side double doors of the Main Hall.
- Using the bin bag provided, place any rubbish in the skip by the garage.
- Please note, all stalls to be set up by 12:30pm.
- For health & safety reasons, no vehicles to be moved from the arena between 1pm and 6pm.

Please return this booking form no later than Friday 4th July to Milton Community Centre, Coles Road, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6BL.

Cheques payable to **MILTON VILLAGE FAYRE**.

(Please note that we cannot refund stalls that do not turn up on the day, or cancel their pitch.)

Name of Group/or other (Caps):

No. of pitches required:

Type of stall/activity:

Do you require a table (Chairs not provided)? Yes/No

Staying Late? Yes/No

Address:

E-mail address:

Telephone No:

Signature:

Summer Fayre, Saturday 12th July 2014

Coles Road Recreation Ground, 1:30-6pm, then Live Music until 10pm

The Summer Fayre promises to be a great afternoon and evening with a host of stalls, food and entertainment. All profits made on the day by committee-run attractions such as the spiders web, promobile inflatables, Toni's Ices plus sale of raffle tickets and programmes will be donated to East Anglian Children's Hospices, so not only will you be supporting the event but also this important local charity. We have great music from the ever-popular *Stiff*, and local young bands, *Stormdreamer*, *The Sound of Pop Art*, *De Wolf* and *The Rowans*. All we need now to make the perfect day is the sunshine and your company!

If you would like a stall at this year's Fayre, please fill in the Booking Form printed above and return to Milton Community Centre. Additional booking forms are also available at the Community Centre. If you could spare us half an hour of your time we would love some help on the day setting up, clearing away or selling raffle tickets and programmes.

Just a reminder that this is the last year that the current committee will be organising this popular village event and therefore if you are interested in keeping it running please contact us on miltonfayre@yahoo.co.uk or contact Lynda on 01223 862093.

Milton Summer Fayre Committee

Volunteers Needed to Join 'Hospice Family'



With a recently refurbished reception, EACH are now looking for a new team of volunteer receptionists. EACH hopes to recruit volunteers ready to start in April and will operate a rota where regular volunteers will help for a morning or afternoon per week.

Clare Bates, HR and Volunteer Co-ordinator, said: "Ideally we're looking for local people who are able to commit to a regular weekly shift which is either 9:30am - 1pm or 1pm - 4:30pm Monday to Friday. Being a volunteer where you'll be supporting EACH and their work with local life-threatened children, young people and their families is really rewarding."

As well as new receptionist opportunities, EACH also looking for a hospice education department and library volunteer for one morning or afternoon a week. Volunteers are also needed to help with housekeeping, in the kitchens and gardens.

To find out more and to apply, please visit www.each.org.uk/volunteering call (01223) 205190 or email volunteer@each.org.uk

Please note these roles are subject to a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check prior to appointment.

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Lost Shoe – Stephen Bennett



A14 from Jane Coston Bridge – Richard Morgan

Town Bumps – Duncan Winterborn



Milton Photographic Club

The January meeting of the Milton Photographic Club featured a show and tell evening on the subject of Milton and the surrounding area. Members presented over 30 images of the village with photographs of the country park featuring heavily. Other subjects included the flora and fauna of the village and the River Cam, as well as a number of night time views. A selection of the images is shown here.

One of the aims of the club is to maintain a photographic history of the village. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:45 p.m. in the church hall. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to attend. Topics for forthcoming meetings are:

April: Show and tell – open theme
 May: Photography in the 21st century
 June: Show and tell & preparation for exhibition
 July: Outdoor photography (practical)

The club will hold its annual exhibition at the village fayre in July. More details of the club can be found at:

www.miltonphotographicclub.org.uk

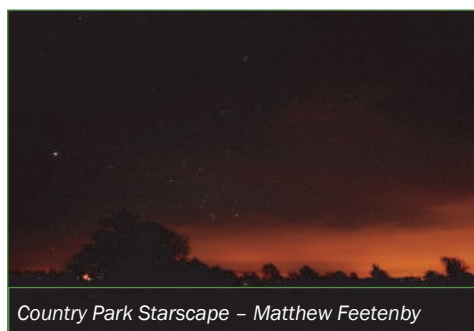
Duncan Winterborn



Spider – Richard Morgan



Steam Regatta – Peter Higdon



Country Park Starscape – Matthew Feetenby

Super Litter Pick

We held another Village Litter Pick on 22 February and were delighted that 18 (!) volunteers turned up to help, including our very own Superman (see photo).

We collected 33 bags of rubbish in all, which just goes to show what you do with help from Superman. The next litter pick will be next half term.

Names left to right are: Karen with Erin and (Superman) Kenny Aym, Lee and Adrian Brand, Anne and David Stirrups, Graham and Maggie Gemmell Judith Lemon, Paddy Doyle, Anna Bradnam, Sam Blackford, Robin Adams, Jo Snaith, Elaine Proctor, Hazel Smith. Peter Harris also helped and kindly took the photograph.

Anna Bradman



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School Council visits Parish Council

Ian Tyes, a Milton Parish Councillor, visited Milton School and asked for the children's views on how to improve the village for children. The school council representatives led an assembly and began to gather improvement ideas. Following this they reduced the gathered ideas down to 5 short and 5 long term ideas. This activity culminated in a polling day where all the children in school voted in the hall for their favourite long and short term idea.

On the evening of Monday 3rd March the Year 6 school council reps Jodie, Noah, Megan and Joe presented their ideas to the Parish Council. They spoke with enthusiasm and energy, and answered questions from the Parish Council with confidence. They were a real credit to the school. Mr Tyes has said he will try to ensure that at least one of the ideas will be used and developed.

Miss Mordue and Miss Phillips organised this excellent project and gave the school council experience of the democratic process of decision making. We are hoping to enter The Speaker's School council Award using this piece of work as evidence. Wish us luck!

**ALL Saints
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Sunday services

8am Holy Communion

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10.30am Morning Worship with Children's Groups

The 10:30am service is designed to cater for the whole church, from ages 0-100+. Refreshments served.

Evening Services

Monthly programme—see website.

Midweek groups & events

Little Rainbows Toddler Group,
Parents & Under 1s, Lunch Club,
Mothers' Union, Stitchers' Club,
Reading Group ...

For full details of all these and more
please visit

www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk

Mothers' Union

In January we held a membership service, led by Revd Chamberlin, where five new members were welcomed to our branch. In February we had a talk by Jackie Metcalfe on the evolving reality of Mary Sumner's vision for the MU and then an account by Sam Aldridge of her time at Ekisa in Uganda. March saw the start of the Lent lunches each Tuesday in the church hall: these continue until 15th April and people can join us for prayer, light lunch and a talk given by an invited speaker. Upcoming events include a meditative service for Holy Week on 16th April, a talk by Dr Angela Steele about Health and Spirituality on 6th May and a visit by Susan Baker, the diocesan MU president, on 3rd June: we are looking forward to hearing about her trip to Rwanda.

For information about these events or the MU please contact Jackie Metcalfe:
jacques0701@gmail.com

Anne Newman

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Landbeach and Milton Baptist Church

Sunday Services

10.30am Family Service
6pm Evening Worship

Midweek Home groups

- Tues 7.30pm, Landbeach
- Thurs 10.30am, 143 Waterbeach Rd.

All are welcome to our small but friendly fellowship. Further details from Maureen Clark, tel 01954 250118

Milton WI

What an interesting meeting we had in February: Jeff Harrison talked to us about his garden in Longstanton which he had designed with an abundance of trees, shrubs, flowing water and flowers, and then nurtured to encourage birds and wildlife. He showed us the most wonderful photographs taken throughout the year depicting amongst other things some wonderful birds.

Our meeting in March will be our AGM; in April, Hilary Richie will talk about the history of Addenbrooke's Hospital; in May, Katy Salmon will give us a talk and demonstration about Tudor food. July will be Bob Harding-Jones on 'Laughter in the Village'.

Our Munchers Club also have a monthly lunch/tea outings and we hope to resurrect outings to the cinema. Our summer outing this year will be to Hythe and Romney Marsh. Non-WI members will be welcome to fill spare seats.

Plans are well in hand for Milton's turn to host the annual Group Meeting which includes the WIs of Landbeach, Horningsea, Waterbeach and Chesterton.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome and anyone can come along for a taster meeting before deciding whether to join. Our President Gill Offley (01223 293231) or Secretary Bridget Crow (01223 441755) will be very pleased to hear from you.

White Horse

Tel: 01223 860327

Thank you for all your support at our mini winter/spring beer festival. It was a great success with nothing left by Sunday evening! Alan continues to keep some lovely ales in mint condition, including our regular Doombar plus some stunning guest ales.

Events over the next few months:

Friday 16th May A Sound of Pop Art (band)

Easter Bank Holiday weekend Children eat for £1 (with a full paying adult) from Friday until Monday. Easter egg hunt on Sunday at 3pm, all children very welcome.

May Bank Holiday weekend Karaoke on Friday; Monday – children eat for £1.

World Cup – we will be showing all the games throughout the tournament; including staying open for England late kick offs.

Friday 20th June Jack (band)

We look forward to seeing you all throughout the spring.

Alan, Ava and all the team

Lion and Lamb

Tel: 01223 860202

On **Friday 11th April** find us at Milton Community Centre for live music from local bands the *Indietones*, *Friday 13th* and *The Varsity*. Tickets must be pre-purchased and are available from us at just £5 each! On **Saturday 26th April** there will be a Charity Race Night, raising money for CamSAR (Cambridge Search & Rescue). If any local businesses would like to sponsor a race, please call Sally. From **22nd to 26th May** we will be holding our 3rd Annual Beer Festival with 30+ real ales and ciders.

Other events at the Lion and Lamb include:

Tuesday 8th April Ladies Dinner Club with talk and demonstrations from Jenny, www.pan-jam.co.uk

Wednesday 16th April Psychic Supper

Tuesday 6th May Ladies Dinner Club with talk from Bev Briggs, personal shopper, www.b-yourself.co.uk

Friday 9th May Soul Night with Andy Stearn and Star Radio's Chris Brown

Further ahead, Prom Night is on **Friday 4th July** and **Thursday 10th July** is the day of the pub outing to Newmarket Ladies Day.

We have just purchased a Hog Roasting Machine and now offer this service. So if you have a forthcoming event that you would like a Hog Roast for, please get in touch. Discounts for Milton Residents!

Lawrence & Sally, www.lion-lamb.co.uk

Jolly Brewers

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We're pleased to have been independently checked and awarded cask marque accreditation, giving our customers the assurance all our ales reach you in tip top condition.

Forthcoming Events and Themed Restaurant Evenings include:

Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday Lunch (2 x sittings)

Wednesday 30th April Grilled Meat and Fish

Wednesday 21st May Contemporary Fish and Shell Fish

Wednesday 25th June Mediterranean Cuisine

Friday 30th May Jolly Brewers 2nd Birthday Bash, featuring music from Stiff, To celebrate and thank all of you and our amazing staff for making it another fantastic year – see you there!!

Our 4 'Hotel Style' rooms have been newly refurbished with a modern contemporary twist, we're pleased to have recently been awarded 8.9 out of 10 from booking.com.

www.jollybrewersmilton.co.uk



Photos: Neil Hobbs

Milton Surgery Appointment System Changes

In response to patient comments and requests we are trialling a new appointment system from April 1st. You will no longer have to queue outside to get an appointment for that day.

The new system allows you to book next day routine GP appointment slots online, by phone or in person from 3pm on the previous working day. If you feel that your problem cannot wait till the next day please phone the surgery and the receptionist will help you.

The surgery will open its doors and phone lines at 8am. If you come to the surgery on the day or queue outside to get a morning appointment these may have gone. However, any available appointments 9:40-11am will be offered to you.

We welcome your feedback to the trial via our suggestion box or by emailing admin.miltonsurgery@nhs.net If you are interested in finding out more about the surgery or the Patient Participation Group which highlighted the problems associated with the booking system, please visit www.miltonsurgery.co.uk

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From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman



I'm happy to report that your parish council has voted to keep the village precept at the current level for 2014-15. Since our tax base has increased over the past year, this actually represents a decrease of 0.36% for a band D property in Milton. This is the third year in a row that the precept has remain unchanged and we trust that this will help residents and families in the current economic climate.

Pupils from Milton Primary School gave a presentation to the parish council at the March meeting. Jodie, Megan, Noah and Joe spoke very eloquently and presented the school's survey results on ways to improve Milton for children. Short and long term ideas were offered, including a water fountain at the Country Park, a swimming pool and a chocolate factory! A sub-committee was set up last Autumn to recommend future open space/community facility projects, and the pupils' suggestions will be part of their deliberations.



The East of England Ambulance NHS Trust has supplied the village with an automated external defibrillator as part of their Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) project. Thompson Electrical very kindly agreed to install the apparatus for us free of charge as a service to the village. The defibrillator cabinet has been mounted on the wall of our Bowls Pavilion (opposite the surgery). The CPAD was launched on 26th February and is now ready for use. This is a terrific resource for our village. Many thanks to the East of England Ambulance NHS Trust and Thompson Electrical!

Our parish clerk, Sue Humphreys, has stepped down. I would like to thank Sue for all her hard work whilst clerk. And I would like to welcome our new parish clerk, Gemma Faulkner. Gemma has already started on the job and we wish her all the best in her new appointment.

Finally, I would like to ask everyone to respect the cycle lanes throughout the village, especially outside the chiropractor's, and refrain from parking in these areas.

Below please find an updated list of your councillor contact details (for email addresses: please visit the website at miltonvillage.org.uk and click on 'Meet Your Parish Councillors'):

Parish Councillors

Richard Summerfield <i>Chairman</i>	860715
Ian May <i>Vice Chairman</i>	521294
Anna Bradnam	862364
David Chamberlin	861511
Jane Coston (c/o Parish Office,	861447)
Rob Farrington	860160
Gary Heaney	690317
Jim Mowatt	861024
Michael Perkins	07769 665836
Ian Tyes	574394
Gemma Faulkner <i>Clerk</i>	861447

Parish & District Councillors

Mark Hersom	07852 997771
Hazel Smith	860752

County Councillor

Maurice Leeke	441562
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Richard Summerfield, Chairman Milton Parish Council

Your Parish Council Needs You!

Are you interested in what happens in Milton and would like to make it an even better place to live? Consider becoming a parish councillor: just a few hours a month is all that is required to make a significant contribution to village life. For more information please go to www.miltonvillage.org.uk/opus211.html. Or come along to a parish council meeting (dates are on the parish notice boards and website) or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job

Local Highways Improvement Initiative

The County Council makes a budget available to provide funds towards improvements for the local highways. The Parish Council needs your help to identify possible highway improvements in our village. Send your ideas to clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk or drop a note into the parish office. A bid made in 2013 for a zebra crossing over to Fen Road was unsuccessful; ideas for alternative projects are being sought. It may help to look at *Guide to Improving the Highway* (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/localism/highway-improvements.htm) which gives ideas for projects and estimates for various highway improvements.

Accessing Adult Social Care Services

Social Care helps people live their lives by supporting their independence and dignity, ensuring they have control of the support they receive.

Adult social care customer services are the initial contact for all social care enquiries: trained staff know about the services available. Call 0345 0455202 or find out more at www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk

If you think you may need help with mental health issues you should contact your GP in the first instance.

Amanda Davies

Matthew Harney

General Building Work
Painting & Decorating

matthew.harney@btinternet.com
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Wildlife Notes

Although this Winter has been mild, I feel so relieved to have seen something of the sun recently. In January and February I was commuting in wellies as it was either raining, had been raining, or was about to chuck it down. The blackthorn on Cowley Road, the riverbank and in the Country Park knows it has been mild as it is about two weeks earlier than last year. I wonder if we will have a cold snap and it will stall like it did last year, when it was in flower for about a month.

I've been hearing occasional drumming of great spotted woodpeckers in various places since mid-January. They have now been joined by a chiff-chaff in the Country Park, possibly one that overwintered around here, rather than a very early arrival. The yellowhammer on Fen Road has started singing again: so far, I haven't heard an answer to his song. The great crested grebes in the Country Park are in full "Spring dress" and have been since mid-February. There are a pair of them at the northern end of Todd's, and the pair of swans are back in their normal place: a little island in the reed bed, out of the incredibly high water.

The second Sunday of March hit the News for being warm: the brimstone butterflies thought so as well, and came out. We have had birds "inspecting" our nest boxes and I've seen other behaviour indicating birds are starting to nest: collection of non-food items from our garden such as twigs and feathers. Also a grey squirrel collecting dead crocosmia leaves! All good reasons for not being too tidy in the garden, as well as hoping we might get a hedgehog coming and looking for food under the leaf and plant litter.

Heather Coleman

Sewage Treatment Centre Report

Hazel Smith and Anna Bradnam were given a guided tour of the Cambridge Sewage Treatment Centre in December 2013. Here is Anna's report.

The Centre was first established in 1895 and is currently run by Anglian Water. It receives all the sewage from Cambridge City and outlying villages. The treatment process is continuous and monitored from a control centre in Lincoln: day-to-day a team of just 2-3 people look after the site locally.



A series of mechanical and biological processes eliminate waste in the form of paper, plastic, grit, stones, organic material, particulate matter, fatty deposits and phosphates, before it is released to the river, just south of the A14 river bridge.

Fresh sewage is about 90% water and odour free whilst it is aerated and moving. Normally the system processes around 1,276 litres per second. During rainstorms, the plant may have to handle 4,000 litres per second. In this case sewage is pumped into overflow tanks and once the organic matter has settled out, the liquid is pumped into the 15 million litre storm lagoon to await treatment. Southerly winds can carry the odour from this lagoon across Milton.

What to do if you smell sewage: All odour incidents should be reported quickly to the Lincoln Control Centre on 0800 145145 or 01522 341000. Refer to the "CambST" (Cambridge Sewage Treatment Centre) and say "Advice is required", so they will report back to you about the problem. Anglian Water will be able to check the plant data remotely and will liaise directly with the staff at Cowley Road. This means that all complaints are logged and they can take action to improve the situation. Staff from Anglian Water will attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April to explain what they do to avoid odour.

Improving Home Energy Efficiency

A consortium of Cambridgeshire councils have secured almost £5.7m by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to help residents install insulation improvements to older and non-standard homes. Funding will provide grants to householders to reduce the cost of insulating solid wall and steel framed properties.

Residents will be required to make a contribution but by using Green Deal Finance there are no up-front costs. Green Deal Finance provides the householder with a loan to cover their contribution which is repaid through savings generated from having the insulation. There are more details on the SCDC web site at <http://tinyurl.com/MVV-EfficientHomes>

The next step is to identify households that could benefit. If you think this is you or a neighbour then you can pre-register your interest in the funding by contacting Action on Energy at www.actiononenergy.net or calling 0800 0933303. Further details on the scheme will be announced soon.

Hazel Smith

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Milton Tennis Club

The first club night of 2014 will be on Wednesday 2nd April from 6pm. Application form, details of tournaments, matches and social events are available online at:

www.milontennisclub.co.uk.

Milton Tennis Club is now registered with the LTA; all current members of MTC can register as British Tennis Members free with the LTA (www.lta.org.uk) and have a chance of Wimbledon tickets in our ballot which will take place at the end of April.

Sue Griffin, Secretary

Stepping Stone



Contact us to find out more

Email: steppingstone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01223 301756



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New Classes at the Community Centre

Three new classes have started recently at the Community Centre:

Hung Kuen Shaolin Kung Fu is coming to Milton. Get strong, fit, flexible and learn how to protect yourself. The style is based around five animals: tiger, leopard, snake, crane and dragon. Tiger and leopard are 'hard' styles, crane and snake are 'soft' and dragon is a balance of both hard and soft. Each has different focusses of speed, strength and power, and techniques that have taken inspiration from the fighting techniques of each animal.

If you would like to know more then email hungkuencambridge@gmail.com.

A new 26-move Tai Chi Beginners' Class started in February and runs from 7.40-9.10pm at Milton Community Centre.

Learn traditional **Yang-style Tai Ji**. Apparently Tai Ji (or Tai Chi) is like swimming in the air and is suitable for people of all ages for improving and maintaining health and reducing stress.

For more information call Harmony on 845069 or visit www.yizhongtaiji.co.uk or www.facebook.com/yizhongtaiji

Let the mess begin! On Wednesday mornings there will be messy mayhem at the community centre. Everyone knows the young children enjoy making a mess and being creative, at the same time learning about the world around them and enjoying new experiences.

Little Squigglers provide a chance for preschool

children to do just this without the mess being in your home. Come along and join us at 10.00 on Wednesday mornings in the Community Centre and let your little ones create their own mini masterpieces to take home.



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