



Milton Village View

Est. 1991. Issue No. 100 - November 2011

www.mvv.org.uk



Successful Cake Sale For A Great Cause

On Friday the 14th of October 2011 at Milton Primary School a baking competition and sale, organised by a group of school Mums, was held. This event was to raise money for expensive treatment in the USA for a brave 6 year old girl who is a pupil at the school and was diagnosed with a rare terminal brain tumour earlier this year (please see blog address below for more details).

There were 85 entries into this competition and many parents, grandparents and school staff donated cakes and biscuits. Once the cake sale was finished at the school the leftover cakes and biscuits were sold at Kids R Us and the Milton Post office.

The generosity of the village has been astounding; we are so lucky to live in such a caring place. We would like to thank Milton Primary School for their support and all of those who contributed their time, money and effort into this very successful event. A total of £887.10 was raised - to quote one of the Mums, "that is a lot of money for cakes," but if you have met this special little girl you will realise it is about so much more than cakes.

Our group of volunteers are continuing to plan a variety of fundraising events. We hope that these will give the



whole community something to enjoy, whilst still raising money for such a lovely little girl.


Christmas Shopping Evening, Thursday 24th Nov, 7:30pm-9:30pm, Milton Primary School. A wide variety of stalls provide the perfect opportunity to do your Christmas shopping. Refreshments available.

Santa's Grotto, The Wild Place, Milton Country Park, Saturday 3rd Dec, 9:30am-4pm. We've had a word with 'the man' himself and he has

kindly agreed to take some time out of his very busy schedule and come along to meet the local children. You can book a timed slot to visit Santa (so no waiting around in long queues): keep a look out for posters with more details soon!

*Karen Midgley and Michelle Peters
(on behalf of Supatra Adler's family
and the group of volunteers)*

<http://supatrascancerfight.blogspot.com/>



Celebrating Issue 100 & 20 Years!

Do you remember Issue 1?

Turn to Page 6 for a reminder!

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Want More?

Try the website at www.mvv.org.uk

Next Issue

due out beginning of
February
Items for inclusion
should be with the
Editor by
12th January

Village View Dates**February Issue**

Due out beginning of February
Closing date for articles - **12th January**

April Issue

Due out beginning of April
Closing date for articles - **12th March**

June Issue

Due out beginning of June
Closing date for articles - **12th May**

September Issue

Due out middle of September
Closing date for articles - **1st September**

November Issue

Due out middle of November
Closing date for articles - **1st November**

Send us your news

Please help us to keep the village informed by sending us your photographs and news. The best way to contact us is via email: vv@miltonvillage.org.uk. Otherwise, send your articles to Mary-Ann Johnson, 1 Knights Way, Milton CB24 6DE.

Email version available

For an email copy email us and ask to be added to the mailing list: vv@miltonvillage.org.uk

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B.J. LEONARD

Impington Village College: Academy Plans Perspectives

Academies were developed under the previous government as a means of giving schools that had failed a fresh start. They can set own pay and conditions for staff, have freedoms over the delivery of the curriculum and can change the lengths of terms and school days.

When the Coalition took power, the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, wanted this model to spread across the whole sector. In 'The Importance of Teaching', the White Paper from November 2010, he states: *"It is our ambition that Academy status should be the norm for all state schools... collaboration in the future will be driven by school leaders and teachers – not bureaucrats."*

The Governing Body decided to open up a consultation on the matter. The Governors felt that becoming an Academy represented the best move for the College given the changing landscape affecting schools. As an Academy, there will be certain freedoms from curriculum choice to increased independence as well as an initial increase in funding.

When a school converts, it has to adhere to its 'Articles of Association'. The DfE has published a set of 'Model Articles' which it expects schools to adopt. IVC has submitted amendments to these Articles. They will crucially ensure that the educational services will be provided to students of all abilities so that no selection of students can ever take place.

These are uncertain times. Should the College convert (next February), the Governors are optimistic that it will enable IVC to continue to embody Henry Morris's vision for village colleges for another 70 years.

Robert Campbell (Principal, IVC)

A lively discussion took place at the public meeting at IVC on 18th October, called by the Governors following the submission of a 500+ signature petition. Rob Campbell (Principal) gave a detailed presentation on recent progress and the next steps. After this there was a Q&A session, which included the following issues:

IVC has a grade 1 listed building that will need care and maintenance. As an Academy, can the Governors be sure that they will be able to maintain the school buildings to the standard needed?

There were concerns that IVC may not be able to survive in the longer term as a 'stand alone' school. No matter how much the governors wish to preserve the IVC ethos, budget cuts may force them to federate or join one of the growing academy 'super-chains' (e.g. E-Act or Ark) in order to survive.

The government formula for Academy funding recently changed and there is likely to be a reduction to the figure given by Governors last June. Government 'top slicing' from Local Authority budgets has a damaging knock on effect on Cambridgeshire children's services and reduces money available for other schools and services in Cambridgeshire.

The Governors have said there will be more updates and another public meeting before the final step is taken. Surely the least we can do, whether we are for or against, is participate in the debate?

*Hooda Abdullah
(Parish Councillor, ex IVC parent)*

*Mauro Ciccio, Jane Green
(IVC parents)*

*Christine Pettengell
(ex IVC parent)*

Longer versions of these articles can be read at mvv.org.uk

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WHAT'S ON

November

- Thurs 24th** Christmas Shopping Evening, 7.30-9.30pm, Milton Primary School
Sat 26th Outdoor Bowls Pre-Christmas Concert, with Waterbeach Brass
26th/27th Arts & Crafts Pre-Christmas Show (See below for details)
Sun 27th Messy Christingle, 3.30pm, All Saints
Mon 28th Create for Christmas, 7.30-9.45pm, Church Hall (See below for details)



December

- Sat 3rd** Santa's grotto, The Wild Place, 9.30am-4pm, Milton Country Park (See p.1 for details)
Sat 10th A Dickensian Christmas at Denny Abbey (See below for details)
Fri 16th Carol singing at St. Edmund's House at 6.30pm, followed by carols round the pubs
Sat 17th Messy Christmas, 3.30-5.30pm, All Saints
Sun 18th Carols by Candlelight, 7pm, All Saints
Sat 24th Crib Service 3pm, Midnight Holy Communion 11.30pm, All Saints
Sun 25th Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10.30am, All Saints

January

- Sat 14th** A Choral Selection by the Wren Choir, at All Saints, 7.30pm
 Conducted by Simon Brown, admission free, retiring collection for Ekisa orphanage in Uganda

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

Create for Christmas

Monday 28th November
 7.30-9.45pm
 at All Saints Church Hall

Come & enjoy mulled wine, warm mince pies
 & creating your own Christmas crafts.
 Children age 11+ welcome –
 must be accompanied.

Cost: £4 (to cover the cost of the crafts)

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 at : www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk



**The Saints
MILTON**

Arts and Crafts Pre-Christmas Show

November 26th & 27th 2011
 10am to 5pm

On the weekend of November 26th & 27th a group of artists are showing their work in a variety of locations – all within walking distance of each other across Cambridge.

At one of the main locations, The Cambridge Museum of Technology (CB5 8LD) you can enjoy the collected works of:

Mark Palmer (Glass Artist), Richard Heeps (Photographer), Hannah Collins (Jeweller), Katy Bailey (Painter), Diana Kazemi (Potter)

There will also be a Children's Art Workshop running at The Pumping Station throughout the weekend.

Refreshments are available from the Museum shop. You can also collect a leaflet there that details all the other sites open that weekend.



A Dickensian Christmas at

The Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey
Saturday 10 December 2011, 12-5pm
Carols 4pm-4.30pm

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LOVE PILATES 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

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A Special Visitor

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Ely to school recently. Bishop Stephen led a special Key Stage 2 assembly as part of 'A year of celebration' within the Diocese of Ely.

The school was also presented with a plate to celebrate 200 years of church schools. After the assembly the Bishop visited Key Stage One classes and was given a tour of our school allotment.



our customer question times and the local parish community.

Whilst we remain open as usual throughout the duration, the store will officially re-launch on Monday 5th December, just in time for that all important Christmas shop.

- The external environment of the store will be completely renewed and will be more reflective of the high standards we expect in our local community.
- We have already installed new fast pumps as part of the overhaul of the petrol station – this will dramatically speed up your refuelling!
- There will be renewed focus on fresh food areas – so you can expect to see a bigger, better fruit and veg department with an investment in an enhanced range.
- Brand new toilet facilities.

Real Time Bus Information

Now that we only get one bus every half hour into Cambridge it's good to know if one really is coming and if you've got a mobile phone with a web browser you can find out. To do so, visit

<http://m.milton.org.uk/livebus>

on the village web site. Then select your bus stop from the list and you will see the time the next bus is going to arrive. These will normally be live bus times, not timetable times, just like the electronic boards on the stops in Cambridge. That way you'll know how long you've really got to wait.

Paul Oldham

Milton Classified Ads

The village web site www.milton.org.uk now has a sister site, Milton Classified Ads, which is available for you to post items you want to sell or give away, post details of items you want, and also post job adverts. It's all free for non-commercial use so please feel free to jump in and post there. The address of the site is

<http://ads.milton.org.uk>

It's already proving popular with steady trickle of items being posted on there, and to save you having to keep coming back to see what's being posted then, if you are registered on the village web site, you can also subscribe to the ads site. There's a new option at the bottom of your details which lets you choose between being mailed the moment a new ad is posted, being mailed hourly with a summary, and being mailed daily with a summary.

Paul Oldham

Milton Superstore Gets a Makeover

At Tesco Milton, we are in the midst of a £2million development programme aiming to provide you with a hugely improved local store. We have listened to feedback from both



Matthew Brown

- For your convenience the snacking areas will be moved to a location at the front of the store.
- We will have new and improved recycling facilities and extra parking spaces – with the addition of motorcycle/moped spaces.
- New lighting, new shelving, freezers and a complete top to bottom cleaning regime will make the store a far more welcome environment for us all to enjoy.

Matthew Brown, your store manager, and the team at Tesco Milton

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Milton Wildlife Watch

Well, it's the last morning before the clocks change, and I've just been woken up by some lovely birdsong. You don't normally think of the dawn chorus as being particularly of interest in late October, but it is still there, just less florid.

There are wildlife observations that all of us in Milton can make, either near our houses or in the general area. Most are unexceptional, but life enriching, if you take the few minutes to open your eyes and ears. There is also the occasional more unusual observation you may be able to make while on a walk or cycle ride only maybe a mile or two from Milton.

Back in February, on Milton Fen, I heard the yellowhammers which appear to reside below the level crossing. Sometimes, before the leaves have appeared, I can get a good view of them, and have seen both a male and female. Hopefully they are a pair and bred last summer, as this lovely little farmland bird is on the Red List in conservation terms. They were a joy every time I heard them over the summer, and they appear to be frequent songsters.

A real sound of spring, however, is when I hear my first whitethroat, somewhere in the bushes and trees that are along the Fen Road leading down to the river. This year, I'm sure I heard one in late April. Easter Sunday was when I heard, for the only time last spring, a cuckoo! Other years, we've heard them and tried to follow them at dawn in the Country Park. Further up the Fen Road above the level crossing, I frequently hear green woodpeckers and long tailed tits. And I've now twice seen a roe deer quite clearly near the level crossing.

Migratory birds that we do get a lot of in Milton are housemartins. The houses in the Humphries Way area seem to be particularly popular to them, and it's a joy to see them whenever I'm over in that area of the village.

Back in my garden, one of the most interesting moments of the summer was seeing a dragonfly swoop on a butterfly that was on next door's buddleia and then sit there chewing it. I'm at the north east end of the village, and get a variety of birds to the garden, especially when it's cold and our bird feeders seem rather popular. A well placed and maintained bird feeder should attract the common species of birds to most gardens, especially in winter when natural food is hard to come by.

As we're near the Country Park, we are also lucky enough to get the rather less common great spotted woodpeckers, both male and female. We have been lucky enough to see young too. They nest in holes in old and dead trees, so mature trees that have some dead wood are a very valuable resource. I've seen them flying near the mature trees on Fen Road.

Sadly, we've now not seen a hedgehog since early spring. This is a worry, as they were frequent visitors at our feeding station last autumn. Another species we no longer see are house sparrows. They seem to have retreated from the Fen Road area. There was a last bastion in the shrubs and trees near the Post Office but I've not heard them there recently. I've not been round to Froment Way recently but certainly, earlier in the year, there was a healthy population round there. If you live round there, value them and don't over-trim the bushes and shrubs that they appear to like, as you will miss them once they're gone.

Heather Coleman

Richmond Fellowship and Phoenix Trust

Richmond Fellowship, which is a national charity that works with people recovering from a range of mental health problems, now has a specialist group, made up of volunteers and clients, located with Phoenix Trust on the Milton Trading Estate.

This group runs a maintenance service called ReFresh, which undertakes a whole range of gardening work and garden projects for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable customers to improve their environment.

Barry Jefferson, Chair of Trustees at Phoenix Trust, said, "When the Richmond group needed a new base it seemed logical to offer them support, as they are a like-minded charity with very similar aims to ourselves."

The ReFresh group does gardening work and as Phoenix makes a whole range of garden products, there is a lot of scope for many co-operative ventures in the future. A large greenhouse will soon be erected on site so a range of plants will be available next year for sale to the public together with a range of planters manufactured on site by Phoenix clients.

Further details about Richmond and Phoenix will be available in the next issue of MVV including a launch date for a new range of wooden products, including picnic tables, garden benches and many other items, together with details of an Open Day to be held for both organisations probably towards the end of March, early April next year.

If you want gardening work done or would like to volunteer on the project the Richmond ReFresh Group can be contacted on 07733 315135 (Tim Fear).

Barry Jefferson

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December 1991

New

quarterly village
news sheet
delivered free
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Issue 1

Four Legged Walk



Milton people turn out to see last steam train through village

Most of us would not look forward to a thirteen mile walk, even less if our legs were tied to fellow walkers, but that is just what Daryl Kitching, Lynda Molloy and Julia Agg were sponsored to do. On September the 7th they walked from Ely to Milton, a walk which took them six hours arriving at Coles road recreation ground at 3pm with sore feet and aching limbs raising £657.66 for Milton Play Group. The walk started at 9am with Daryl in the middle. Daryl, are you still walking bow legged?

Steaming through Milton

On the 20th. October at 9.30 pm. The Flying Scotsman no. 4472 probably hauled the last steam passenger train through Milton. Although it was dark the sound and smell of the powerful engine, the sight of sparks and glow of the fire from the fire made it an unforgettable experience.

During this weekend a number of special excursions ran between Kings Lynn and Cambridge. The trains were hauled by a combination of three steam engines Taw Valley, Flying Scotsman and Britannia. Britannia is the only one of the engines to have been used on this line before, that was in 1952 to convey the body of King George VI from Kings Lynn to Kings Cross.

The line from Kings Lynn to Ely opened in 1847 at a cost of under £3,000 a high cost for those days due to the number of bridges built. When the line has been fully electrified from Cambridge to Kings Lynn the cost will be in excess of £11,000,000. The journey time will be cut from 2 hrs. 20 mins. in the days of steam to 100 mins. for the 99 miles from Kings Lynn to London.

According to BR. steam can seriously damage the overheads, so no more steam trains through Milton. Next summer Network Southeast are planning an "all electric gala day" with special electric locomotives not normally seen in this area to celebrate the new Electric service, but alas no steam!

Cambridge
Evening News
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Now we are neighbours
we're delighted to
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Highlights from Issue 1

The front page featured a story about what was expected to be the last steam passenger train through Milton. Thankfully, steam trains are now allowed to run under electric wires, so we have been treated to many more "steam specials" since!

There were also a number of other interesting stories in the eight pages of the first issue.

The report about the Milton Play Group on page 3 referred to the move "to the new annex of the Community Centre", whilst page 6 included a report from Malcolm Busby informing Village View readers that the Country Park "should be completed by the spring of 1993...some two years sooner than originally planned".

We are pleased that there are some companies who have advertised with Milton Village View since the first issue, including Benet Garage and MJ Potts.

Indeed, with the inclusion of the Whist and Scrabble reports and the information from the Football club and the Women's Institute, it's easy to forget that twenty years separate issue 1 and today's issue 100!

Paul Milligan

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Litter Picked! (but better never littered)

On Sunday 30 October a group of just five villagers grasped our litter picking sticks, our dustbin bags (some of us even donned our hi-viz tabards) and tackled one of the most seriously-littered areas in village - the base of the footbridge over the A10 and the footpath along the wooded bund.

You can see how much litter there was and indeed two whole sacks of domestic rubbish appeared to have been unceremoniously dumped off the footbridge here.

While Clarke Brunt and Hazel Smith cleared this, Jo Snaith sallied forth and did sterling work clearing the bund northwards to the junction with Landbeach Road.



Meantime Ellie Crane and Anna Bradnam, joined by Clarke, worked their way southwards towards the Sycamores recreation ground, collecting not only several bags of rubbish but also a Tesco trolley, which came in handy to wheel it all to Hazel's waiting trailer. We collected about a dozen bags of rubbish in a couple of hours.

So why do we do it, this sometimes downright dirty job? We do it because we hate litter and we want to see the village looking clean and tidy. It's also friendly and has some hilarious moments.

Litter picks are usually held at half-term and we'd very much appreciate more help, from adults and accompanied children. Sturdy gloves, litter picking sticks and collecting bags are provided. Contact Hazel Smith (01223 860752) to find out when the next litter pick will be held.

...and of course...

Please Take Your Litter Home!

Tortoise reunited with his owners

Tootsie the tortoise was reunited with his owner Margo after disappearing for nearly three weeks.

Tootsie, a tortoise of more than 30 years old, was found hiding under dried grasses in a garden in Gunnell Close by resident Sharon Tracey.

An email to the Milton Chat email list (milton-chat@the-hug.net) saw Milton residents giving contact details from a flyer they had received advertising for information on a lost tortoise.

Within the hour Tootsie was collected from his hiding place by Margo and Robin Rose of Fox's Close.

"I've never seen a tortoise look so pleased to see someone," said Liz Cook.

Tootsie is now safe at home in Fox's Close but was unavailable for comment.



Community Grants up for Grabs

A new Community Chest, which offers cash grants for community projects, has been launched by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). Grants of up to £1000 are available to community or voluntary groups for projects that will benefit South Cambridgeshire residents and relate to one of SCDC's priorities.

So if your group benefits SCDC residents, e.g. Milton villagers, then you may be eligible. Applications can be made at any time in the year and can be for up to 100% of the project's costs. More information on how to apply is on their web site:

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

or contact the Partnerships Officer on 01954 713290.

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From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman — November 2011

We have had a good response from residents about the Emergency Plan for the village. A working party from the parish council is coordinating the effort to formulate a plan to identify local risk assessments, skills and resources, contact points and emergency centres in the event of an emergency.

I am disappointed to report that negotiations have broken down with the College of West Anglia to purchase land adjacent to Ely Road opposite the college campus. Your parish council has been working for over two years on this deal, however the college has decided that it is no longer in their interests to pursue it. I have done my best to re-start talks but to no avail. As you know, the village is in need of additional recreation space and we will continue to look at other options.

To that end, we continue to liaise with Urban Renaissance Villages (URV), the developer which has been granted outline permission for general housing on the former EDF site on Ely Road. We are currently negotiating the S106 Agreement, which covers details about the recreation space which will be

provided to the village as part of the new development. (You may recall we had already negotiated an S106 Agreement for URV's proposed retirement village on this site, but we had to re-visit the agreement in light of the change to general housing.)

Finally, I would like to call your attention to an advert in this issue for a new parish clerk. Jim Daniels will be retiring next spring after more than 30 years of service to the village. We are starting the process of looking for Jim's replacement. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming parish clerk, please have them contact Jim on 861447 or email

clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

for more information.

Richard Summerfield
Chairman, Milton Parish Council

RIP Julie Grey

Milton recently lost someone who touched the lives of many people in the village.

Julie and Mick moved to Milton in 1970. In the mid-1970s, Julie, along with some of her friends, set up Milton Netball Club, which still prospers today. Julie continued to play until she was 57, alongside Charlotte her daughter, in the Premier Division.

In 1998 she became administrator of Milton Community Centre, where she worked until her retirement, working and organizing dances, social events and children's activities for the village. Julie and Mick set up a roller skating club for the children of the village which ran for many years.

Later, with some very special friends, she went on to start up the village Summer Fayre and it continued to be run by Julie until she decided to hand over to the younger generation.

Sadly in July 2009 Julie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She was such a strong person and a fighter and she battled the disease for the next two and a half years but she finally passed away, at home, on 22nd October aged only 64. Cambridge Crematorium was packed for her funeral.

Paul Oldham

Allotments are Available

Please contact the clerk on 861447 or email clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

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Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the parish council so you might like to think about standing. The parish council web site has a page telling you a bit about what the post entails:

<http://www.miltonvillage.org.uk/opus211.html>

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk's Office on 861447 or email clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

VACANCY Milton Parish Council Clerk to the Council

Hours negotiable, approximately 20 per week. Duties include:

- producing agendas, minutes, following up on correspondence
- delivering information to expedite effective decision making
- attending meetings where necessary
- administering finances, producing financial records, managing Council's resources

Salary scale to be agreed – depending on experience and qualifications

Interview to be held in January 2012

For application form and further details contact Jim Daniels, Clerk to the Council.

Tel: 01223 861447

Email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Closing date for applications:
December 15th 2011

Preferred starting date April 1st 2012

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Cambridge campus offers something different in education

The College of West Anglia (CWA) Cambridge campus is a land-based facility offering a range of full-time and part-time courses in agriculture, horticulture, equine studies, animal management and veterinary nursing. This year the campus has enhanced its curriculum further, with the launch of its new sports, uniform services and nursing/paramedic academies and higher education provision, including a foundation degree in animal behaviour and vet nursing to follow in 2012. The campus now delivers a full range of academic qualifications with a vocational focus, from entry level right through to degree, offering a real alternative to A levels.



This May saw the opening of the newly re-furnished 'Endeavour' building with a combined investment from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) and CWA of circa £400,000. The 'Endeavour' building will be used for the joint delivery of animal-related higher education courses with ARU as well as supporting general animal management further education courses.

The new-look building now provides vocational training facilities with state-of-the-art industry-standard equipment, boasting a new veterinary nursing skills rehearsal suite and a new animal behaviour facility, including a viewing area that allows observers to watch, unseen by the animals.

For more information on courses available at the Cambridge campus, contact the Cambridge campus on 01223 860701 or visit our website www.cwa.ac.uk

Christmas tips from PCSO John Mason

Christmas is a busy time for most of us and it is easy to get carried away with all the excitement. Thieves also get excited around Christmas time because we sometimes forget about securing our vehicles and protecting our property. Whilst you are out doing your Christmas shopping they are out doing theirs, looking into your car to see what you have left on show for them to steal. Don't let them get away with your presents and belongings.

After Christmas it is a good idea to **register your property with www.immobilise.com**. Register free online any valuables that have a unique serial number, such as mobile phone, iPods, laptops, bicycles and cameras.

Please **remember elderly and vulnerable neighbours** this winter. If you have not seen them for a day or two, give them a knock and check they are OK. If you are worried please call us on the new non-emergency number 101, or the old number of 0345 4564564, which is still running.

Have a very safe and Merry Christmas, *PCSO John Mason 7146*

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Milton W.I.



We do not meet during the month of **August** but that does not mean that we are not involved in any activities. Carol Jones sees to that, organising lunches out at various venues. These are always a-buzz with all the chatter that goes on; anyone would think none of us had seen one another for a year. To balance our intake of calories, Carol also organises regular walks. The latest exercise was a very successful bicycle ride along the towpath of the River Cam to The Bridge at

Clayhithe for coffee and then back again to The Green Dragon at Chesterton in time for lunch, then home. This was very successful and highly recommended. Carol also organises theatre and film outings, which are very popular. Very many thanks Carol for all of the very hard work you put in to making sure that there is never a dull moment.

Our **September** meeting took us on a virtual trip around many of our well-known seaside resorts, showing us how crowded the beaches used to be and how deserted they are now. People still go to our seaside resorts but do not seem to spend so much time on the beaches. The speaker, Ann Miles, also gave us a lot of interesting facts about these places and some very amusing stories. In **October** we were travelling again, this time to Tonga. Geoff Hales spent two years there teaching English and had some amusing stories to tell us, and how the Tongan people loved to party and sing and dance and the wonderful feasts they would prepare. They are a lovely friendly people.

November will see us again being 'Ladies who lunch' and also going Ten Pin Bowling in Ely. We are having a return visit of Barbara Redman for our November meeting, who will endeavour to help us all make a Christmas gift box. Barbara is a very talented tutor.



In **December** we will have a Christmas lunch on the 7th followed the next day with a walk; we have to keep a happy balance. We shall have a Christmas celebration at our December meeting with the help of Pauline Dolan and her own very witty poetry. It should be a laugh and of course it will be rounded off with Christmas cake etc. **January** we shall be transported into the world of entertainment with Peter Cresswell. There are also many events being organised by our County Federation, some of which are open to non-members.

Any ladies who would like to know more about us please come along to any of our meetings as a visitor. We meet at the Church Hall on the third Tuesday in the month at 7:30pm (except the months of July and December when it is the second Tuesday). You are all very welcome. Please contact our President Gill Offley on 293231 or our Secretary Bridget Crow on 441755.

Jan Chessum

Community Centre
News

We have a number of groups that have recently started sessions at the Community Centre, as follows:

- ♦ Strike Fit Exercise,
Fridays 1-2pm
- ♦ Guitar lessons,
Tuesdays 4:30-6:30pm
- ♦ Pregnancy and birthing classes,
Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm
- ♦ Revive your French,
Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am

As some of you will have noticed, a new climbing net has been installed on Coles Road Recreation Ground, which is proving to be very popular with all the local children. This was funded by a grant from The Big Lottery Fund and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Two other items of play equipment have recently been removed, as they were damaged: the roller barrel on Coles Road Rec and the 'wobbler' on The Sycamores Rec. Any comments, suggestions or ideas that anyone may have for suitable replacement equipment would be appreciated.

Details of all our regular groups and classes can be found at www.miltonvillage.org.uk and for further information about hiring the facilities, including the Annexe, Youth Building and the Courts, ring Andy on 862763 or email mcc@miltonvillage.org.uk

*Andy Gray, Community Centre
Manager*



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Member number 2100

Milton Good Companions

Formerly Milton Day Centre: why the change of name?

Last winter, for various reasons, mainly health and age related, our membership was reduced. Despite our best efforts to recruit new members, some of those approached seemed to be put off by the idea of attending a Day Centre for the elderly.

At our AGM in May, ideas for a change of name were discussed and the name "Milton Good Companions" was proposed and agreed by the meeting. Our purpose and aims remain unchanged – that is, to provide a day out for the elderly of the village who enjoy meeting up with their contemporaries on a Friday in the Day room at Barnabas Court.

Transport is provided where required, and we start off with morning coffee and biscuits and a chance to chat with other members or read the morning papers. A tasty lunch is provided by our two cooks, Lorna and Jenny, followed by an afternoon activity or entertainment and finishing off with a cup of tea before the transport arrives. Milton Good Companions meet every Friday during school term, and the cost is £4 per Friday, collected on the day.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our successful coffee morning/bring and buy in October. We raised funds to provide a Christmas lunch for members and helpers before our break for Christmas and New Year. The next term will begin on Friday 6th January 2012.

We are very grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers, both men and ladies, who work so hard on a rota basis to try and give everyone an enjoyable day out. Without their help we would not be able to keep running.

We would particularly like to hear of anyone who could help pick up members by car, on a rota system which would involve one Friday a month. If you think you could help please contact Colin Nunn on 860829.

If you would like to come and try us out for a day, either as a member or as a volunteer, without obligation, please contact either Margaret Nunn (Chairman) on 860829 or Pauline Waters (Secretary) on 860620 for further information.

Pauline Waters, Secretary

Whist

The Christmas whist drive will be the third Tuesday in December. Hopefully there will be a prize for everybody or even four for some players. It is a very friendly and happy evening, and for £1.50 it is well worth the money. This whist drive will soon be in its thirty-third year of monthly whist drives.

Mary Daniels

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End of Season Presentation & Fundraising Evening
(Disco/Buffer/Grand Raffle)

Saturday 12th May 2012 at Milton Community Centre
Tickets: £10; info out early in the New Year.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE CLUB
www.miltonfc.org.uk

Scrabble

In our November evening, we will find out who has the highest average score; also, it is our annual Scrabble evening for charity. So far, twenty-two charities have benefitted from this; not big amounts, but as they say "Every little helps". The charity will be the winner's choice on that evening.

One big excuse for some people is either "I can't spell" or "I don't like two letter words". There are loads of them without using the silly ones, and they help you out of a muddle sometimes. Come and give it a try.

(RAY DREAMS GOING IN ALE)

Celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Cambridgeshire County Council has funding available to help local groups and organisations create activities and events that will celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the local community.

Your celebration must be inspired by London 2012, but it does not have to be a new event or activity.

They would like you to devise celebrations in your community that "welcome the world" or involve and inspire young people and create a lasting and positive legacy in the community. Grants will be up to a maximum of £500 and additional funding or support in kind will be expected.

For more information and a guideline and application form visit their web site:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/olympics2012/Small+Grants+2012.htm>

You Can Bike Too



Hazel Smith testing out one of the specially adapted tricycles in the Country Park

I went to the You Can Bike Too event at the Country Park in September. This is a group which would like to buy some specially-adapted tricycles for use in the Park, so that anyone, regardless of their needs could borrow a tricycle and ride around the Park.

We had a great time trying out the bikes (see pictures) and heard about what is being done in other areas of the country. Some places have clubs for older people who can cycle round a running track for exercise - I think I'd much prefer the Country Park, as there's so much more to see!

If anyone is interested in the scheme either for themselves or for a friend, do get let me know, and I can keep you informed as the scheme develops.

Hazel Smith 860752

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