

# the Miller's Tale



## RAT RUN SURVEY

In the last edition of the Millers Tale, we reported concerns raised at the Annual General Meeting about the volume and speed of traffic on North Millers Dale, and the main roads surrounding it.

As a result of views expressed by residents, the NMDCA committee agreed to canvas the opinion of the North Millers Dale residents on the subject of road safety. We set out to see if the views aired at the AGM were widely held, or just representative of a small minority.

On the basis we are only a Residents Association, we felt it inappropriate to ask each household individually to give their view, but the provision of a survey form delivered with the Millers Tale, would give the residents the opportunity of giving their views *if they wished to*. We hoped this method would allow you the opportunity to express your view without being pressured into showing a preference one way or another.

We focussed the survey form on the words of the meeting that suggested that North Millers Dale was becoming "something of a rat run". It was felt that the motorists were trying to beat the lights at Hiltingbury Crossroads by using a quick route through the estate. Comparisons were drawn to other recent traffic calming measures introduced in Hiltingbury Road, Hoccombe Road, Beechwood Crescent and Valley Park. It was therefore appropriate to ask for opinions as to whether there is a need for traffic calming.

In the event we got a far more strident response than we expected. We received over 60 replies which represents approaching 20% of the households on the estate. Some of these replies were provided anonymously, but many gave names and addresses.

Of these replies, about 90% felt there was a problem, and there was a need for traffic calming and 10% were equally positive there was not a traffic problem. These were firmly against the introduction of traffic calming.

Significantly, the majority of the replies received, did not limit themselves to giving a yes or no answer. In many cases, the responses addressed the part of the survey that was of greatest concern to them, and some gave details of incidents witnessed. Others related individual actions taken to remedy their concern with the Council, or



gave suggestions as to how the Residents Association might proceed.

If anyone still wishes to contact us because they mislaid or forgot to deliver their survey form, we are still interested in hearing from you, whether you agree with the view of speeding on the estate or not.

At the AGM, Councillor Lambert listened to the views of the meeting and agreed to take the matter away for consideration by the Borough Council. His view was the application would be better served if it had the weight of the residents of Millers Dale behind it. The NMDCA committee is prepared to explore how to move forward and take the matter further with Eastleigh Borough Council, knowing we

Significantly, the majority of the replies received, did not limit themselves only to giving a yes or no answer

do not have the full weight of opinion in North Millers Dale behind the survey and there is not a consensus of opinion. In this issue, we have reproduced some of the letters received on the subject, and have tried to give a balanced view of the replies (for and against).

The Editors and Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of those residents who have replied for taking the time and trouble to do so, and particularly for elaborating and giving proposals on how we can proceed. Some of the replies wished us luck in our efforts to reduce speeding. We feel it is not our place to act as a pressure group to act on individual crusades, but in this case, we have reported a question that appears to be of concern. We believe that we have raised an expectation for some residents, and therefore have a duty make these concerns known to the Council.

It is not the business of the North Millers

Dale Community Association to act as a pressure group or to make recommendations to Eastleigh Borough Council as though we are an elected body on behalf of the residents of North Millers Dale. We will however be writing to the Council for advice and will establish what can be done to alleviate speeding on our roads.

We will report back in future issues any progress made

### Miller's Tale is 'Internet Ready'

The electronic version of the Miller's Tale is now on the World Wide Web! This has one or two advantages over the printed version. Where possible photographs will not only be reproduced in colour but also in some cases larger better quality images will be available by double clicking the photos. Ex-neighbours who have moved away from North Millers Dale may be interested in keeping up to date with the news and they can access their own copy of the newsletter.

The address of the site is [www.nmdca.swinternet.co.uk](http://www.nmdca.swinternet.co.uk). The layout is broadly similar to the printed version but with hyperlinks to the various pages and subjects. Apart from updating the newsletters we intend to run a virtual notice board that will carry current events information and any important news

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*the Information board*

**what's on at the community hall?**

- Mon: *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm  
*Rainbows* 4.30pm-5.30pm  
*Aerobics* 8.00pm-9.00pm
- Tue: *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm
- Wed: *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm  
*Brownies* 6.00pm-7.30pm
- Thu: *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm  
*Yoga* 7.00pm-8.30pm
- Fri: *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm

**HALL BOOKINGS:**

Contact: Mrs Linda Mandley  
 C/o Eastleigh Baptist Church  
 Wells Place, Eastleigh, SO5 5LJ  
 ☎ 023 80 613210  
 between 9.30am-4.30pm week-days,  
 answer-phone at all other times.

**Community Hall Keyholder**

Doreen Lewry  
 ☎ 023 80 268562

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Or drop articles into:

8 Weavers Place or  
 10 Ashbridge Rise  
 North Millers Dale

[www.nmdca.swinternet.co.uk](http://www.nmdca.swinternet.co.uk)



This year has been another successful one for the North Miller's Dale Community Association. We have run a number of popular events, have plans for many new ones, and because the weather held off for us at the barbecue, our main occasion of the year, we have still money in the piggy bank to run events for 2002.

We have not restricted ourselves to only running social events. We received a much greater response than expected to the Rat Run survey, and following Brian Sparks letter published in the last Miller's Tale concerning the deteriorating state of the estate, we also received many letters of support on that subject.

So much so, we have brought forward the normal publication date of the Miller's Tale so that we can maintain the momentum of the issues which have been recently highlighted.

It has always been our aim this should be a community newsletter, and in this edition, we have published part or full copies of letters received on these issues. Apologies to those of you have written and whose letters were not published but there were simply too many of them this time!!

Providing ideas and correspondence are constructive, we will publish whenever possible. If there are issues that you agree or disagree with, we will be pleased to hear from you. The newsletter is delivered to every household on the estate, and is now published on the World Wide Web to reach a potentially wider audience.

Please look at the forthcoming events and support us if you can. If anyone has a table tennis table we could use, that would be really good too.

The North Miller's Dale Community Association exists to provide you with good quality events on your doorstep and endeavours to foster a good spirit of

community. If anyone wants to join the Committee, or has a good idea to host an event, we will be pleased to hear from you.

**Results of the Survey**

*The purpose of the survey was to establish whether the residents considered North Miller's Dale was being used a Rat Run to avoid the lights at Hiltingbury and if excessive speed was likely to result in an accident.*

*What came out of the survey was a recognition that traffic had significantly increased with the development of Valley Park but this was not necessarily the main cause of speeding on the estate. Some residents think the problem is closer to home!*

*A number of "hotspots" have been identified on the estate that are particularly dangerous junctions:*

- Entrance into Baddesley Road to and from North Miller's Dale
- Entrance into Hursley Road to and from North Miller's Dale
- Entrance to Charlecote Drive from North Miller's Dale on a nearly blind bend
- Junction of Lauriston Drive and North Miller's Dale
- Junction of Vanburgh Way and Lauriston Drive
- Junction of Ashbridge Rise and North Miller's Dale
- Junction of the Woodlands into North Miller's Dale
- Junction of Avonborne Way into North Miller's Dale

*Within the survey, we had a number of replies concerning the speed of cars on North Miller's Dale when passing Charlecote Drive, Avonborne Way and The Woodlands. All of the comments mention excessive speed, most of them mention speed is a particular problem in the "rush hour", and others consider the problem is not North Miller's Dale being used as rat run, but it is local residents driving too fast!!*

*Without doubt, the majority of the replies to the survey agree there is a problem with traffic speed within our local residential area. A majority, particularly those with children are concerned that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident, but opinion is divided as to how best to solve the problem.*

*We have selected a number of replies to illustrate the type of replies received. Apologies to those who made suggestions that have not been published in this edition. We have tried to accurately reflect the opinions and comments received, and publish some of the suggestions that have been received as measures to combat the danger of speed on our roads*



**Just some of the many letters**

1) As the new owners of a house in Charlecote Drive, we have a front seat view of the traffic speeding down the hill and around the bend.

We are expecting to find a car embedded in our dining room before too long

We often watch children from the area on skateboards, scooters and bikes on the hill in front of the house, surely they shouldn't be subjected to the crazy speeds people are driving along North Millers Dale. Something must be done before someone is badly hurt or killed.

Name and address supplied

2) We often see examples of poor driving as our kitchen overlooks the road at the junction of Lauriston Drive and North Millers Dale. People enter Lauriston Drive at speed on the wrong side. This worries us because very young children live on either side on the entrance to Lauriston Drive. I think the potential of a serious accident is there. The rumble strip has no effect at all.

The speed limit is exceeded virtually all the time-buses are as bad as cars and lorries. I value your questionnaire - someone needs to do something before there is a fatal accident.

Some suggestions:

1. Reduce the speed limit on NMD to 25mph
2. Reduce the speed on side roads to 15mph
3. Exhibit notices asking traffic to slow down
4. Exhibit notices saying "Beware of Children"
5. Install traffic calming measures (effective ones)
6. Block NMD half way along to make into virtual cul de sacs (e.g between Charlecote Drive and Avonborne Way or Cranford Gardens and Avonborne Way)

3) Traffic turning right into NMD or right into Hursley Road cannot possibly gain any time instead of driving to the traffic lights. So I cannot believe this is a rat run. Maybe turning left into NMD or left into Baddesley would save a certain amount of time.

Most of the traffic in my opinion is mums and dads who insist on driving their children to school clogging up Chandlers Ford. When the holidays are on the roads are clear and driveable.

4) I believe that the exit/ entrance to/from Baddesley Road is the problem area.

- Traffic going towards N Baddesley needs to be slowed down as it accelerates down the hill past the exit/ entrance.
- The greenery / foliage in both directions needs to be trimmed more regularly to improve visibility.
- Proper drains need to be installed to prevent water and resultant debris littering the exit/ entrance.
- A proper bus stop/ standing place needs to be provided for children awaiting their bus in the mornings, so they do not obscure fast traffic coming down the hill approaching from the traffic lights.

5) We could take action ourselves:

- Check out rat-run.
- "Obstruct" through traffic by parking on the road at busy times.
- Borrow speed trap cameras
- Raise awareness of speed to all residents and ask them to take more care.

6) I contacted the council some time ago re NMD and the speed of vehicles.

After some time they wrote back stating there was a speeding problem and the police were enforcing the limit.

NMD is a very difficult road to enforce by police and requires the council to look at this matter more seriously.

I left a message on Councillor Smith's phone 4 days ago and as yet he has not contacted me (so much for being interested).

Name and address supplied.

7) Why oh why, can't we have a pedestrian phase on the lights at the junction of Baddesley/ Hiltingbury and Hursley Roads. More people, especially children would walk to and from school if there was a safe crossing. You take your life in your hands every time you try to cross the road. The gaps between the lights changing are short and drivers frequently turn without indicating (I have even seen a school bus doing that) and jumping the lights.

I would be willing to collect signatures from residents if there was a chance of getting something done.

Name and address supplied.

8) If we could have a publicity drive to persuade all residents to drive at 30, this would slow all traffic down and might persuade a few drivers who are avoiding the lights its not worth it as the 30 limit is being observed. I suggest you do as I do driving at 30 to see how many residents push you to go faster.

So get the residents on side and a lot of the problems may be solved without costly road calming. Perhaps residents could also be persuaded to try 20 in the side roads. Two of our neighbours had a race out of our close last week. This is a close where young children are often playing in two feeder roads and two bends are also present. Until we get rid of this behaviour it's hard to see any improvement for NMD.

9) We live in the Woodlands and our entrance is directly onto North Millers Dale. It is extremely dangerous when pulling out of the drive as the cars come round the corner so fast you simply cannot see them in time. Our children are also unable to cross the road without adult supervision because of the speed of the cars. It is only a matter of time before an accident occurs and someone is injured.

**Graham Parrick**  
CARPET FITTER

**Free Quotations**

Telephone:

C/Ford: (02380) 254030  
Twyford: (01962) 714110  
Mobile: (0831) 850615



# Table Tennis Tournament



When planning for future events it has become clear to the NMDCA committee that an important group has been omitted from our plans. That is the 8 or 9 year olds through to early teens. An idea that has been put forward is either a table tennis or pool tournament, or maybe both. Depending on interest, we would be prepared to run this as a single event or more regularly.

There is one major problem. We do not have either a table tennis table or pool table. We do have a table football table (although it is a bit rickety).

Is there anyone out there who knows where we can find a borrow for an evening, can they please contact Phil on 80265407.

table tennis table to buy, or preferably

Kids, if this suggestion is not a good one, and you have an idea which you think could be run at the North Millers Dale Centre, please get in touch with Phil on 023 8026 5407, or e-mail me at - phil.heller@thales-cs.com.

## MORE SURVEY QUOTES

*Do you think NMD is being used as a rat run to avoid the traffic lights?*

"I know that NMD is a rat run. I walk round it every morning. At peak times the traffic is extremely heavy in both directions. The traffic entering from Baddesley Road has children in almost every car coming from Valley Park and going to Hiltingbury or Thornden."

"Possibly. However when dog walking I have found drivers most courteous as I cross the road."

"No NMD is a standard urban bus route. It has more traffic 7-9 am and 4-7 pm as you would expect."

"Yes, it is human nature and a sign of our times that most drivers become frustrated with traffic jams. Chandlers Ford is no exception. The greatest frustration occurs at peak times such as 8.15 to 9.00 in other words school run time. The solution is of course to avoid excessive use of cars and/or to increase efficiency by encouraging as many people as possible to car share. With most children heading along towards Hiltingbury Road for the three schools, we should encourage ourselves to reduce the amount of traffic we generate that causes other drivers to seek a short cut. Parents should consider walking,

car sharing, the walking bus and any other traffic-reducing scheme. We can help ourselves."

*Do you think there is potential for an accident by speeding on the estate?*

"This has worried us for some time, our house faces NMD and is about 100m from Hursley Road. It is surprising at the speed they are travelling that cars are able to stop at the junction. The speed on side roads is alarming. We often see cars entering Lauriston Drive on the wrong side of the road at well over 30 mph."

"We live on the corner, and regularly hear and see speeding motorists. Crossing the road with 2 children is a challenge. It's only a matter of time before a serious accident happens."

"Definitely. I turn left into NMD from Hursley Road and immediately right into Lauriston Drive. There have been several occasions when a car has come flying down just as I have started to turn."

"My husband and daughter wait for a bus each day and have a bet to guess the speed of one BMW driver as she reaches the bus stop having just come from a Close visible from the bus stop. My husband says it's a great advert for the cars acceleration powers."

*Do you think there is a need for traffic calming on the estate?*

"We surely have enough. Please consider the vibrations on the cars. It is the inconsiderate driver, not the road"

"No, there are already pinch points on the estate-excessive speed on NMD is a problem."

"Would be in favour of speed bumps. But what about buses. They need to be encouraged."

"Not by asking the local council to get involved, but by trying to get residents

to drive at or below speed regulations and drive more carefully and considerably."

"Yes but not by humps as these have been proved to increase level of pollution."

"Yes it's not so much a pedestrian danger, but a danger to other road users. People drive down NMD at 50/60 mph frequently."

"Yes. I have already asked canvassers who come round during local elections for this"



Every Monday, 9.30pm Glen's Music Quiz  
Every Thursday, 9.00pm Bob's mental challenge general knowledge quiz

CASH PRIZES!!!

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Staff, including chefs/cooks employed locally

Food bought from local suppliers

Guest Ale from local brewery, Ringwood

£2000+ raised each year for local charities

Plus a chance to meet our local resident ghost!!!

Telephone: 023 8026 9974

## Christmas Survival Guide 2001

Relax in the comfort of your home with your friends and family while one of our trained consultants demonstrates a selection of products from THE BODY SHOP range.

Please contact:  
023 80 906480  
and speak to Jane.



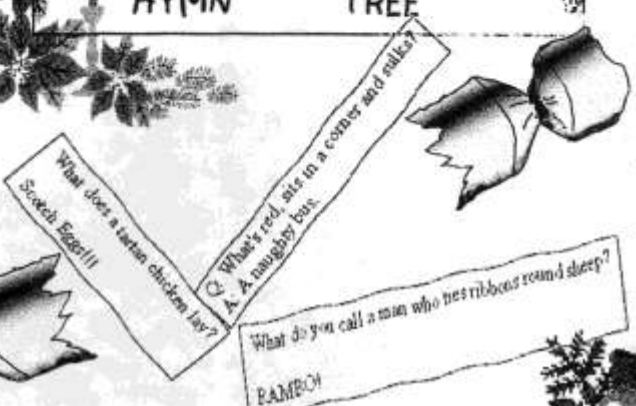
# Kids Corner



## Christmas Word Search

ALBUM  
BELLS  
CANDLE  
CARD  
CHRISTMAS  
CRIB  
HARK  
HOLLY  
HYMN  
KINGS  
MISTLETOE  
NOEL  
PRESENTS  
SANTA  
SHEPHERDS  
SING  
SNOW  
TREE

S	I	N	G	Y	D	R	A	C
D	X	A	L	B	U	M	A	A
R	W	L	E	E	I	N	R	T
E	O	O	O	L	D	R	R	N
H	Y	M	N	L	G	I	C	A
P	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S
E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M
H	H	A	R	K	I	N	G	S
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C



## Children's Halloween Disco

*The children's Halloween disco this year attracted a large number of witches, wizards and a pumpkin! The costumes were brilliant. Thank you to Don (Kosovo aid trip) Wiggins for providing the disco music and lights. The afternoon was a fun mixture of dancing, games and refreshments.*



How well do you know the roads on the estate? They are all mixed up in these anagrams.

1. Any Absurd Verge
2. Head Tyrants
3. We Scrape Veal
4. His Bird Agrees
5. Alley Cup Bra
6. Silver Duration
7. Uneasy over acme
8. Embryo Divers
9. Buy Grandeur Vase
10. Needy Earth
11. Nice hold strangling
12. Dry Mud Woman
13. No brand emerges
14. Colonel Speeds
15. Coldest Germ Tanks
16. Hub vary gnaw
17. Red Chic elevator
18. Son Bet Colony
19. Fond Cards Ranger
20. Cobra Folders

Note: within this list there is one road in Hittingbury that is not in North Millers Dale.  
(Beware of the other trick)

Answers in next issue.

BRIAN AND SUZETTE  
MATTHEWS  
Welcome you to

**THE PRECINCT  
GIFT CENTRE**

Visit Chandlers Ford's  
"Aladdin's Cave" of gifts and  
cards for all occasions  
Coffee and Tea Lounge

9 THE CENTRAL PRECINCT  
CHANDLERS FORD  
023 80 254205



The aid team including Don, Sue and Bernie (centre)

### Report back from the Aid Trip to Kosovo

By Bernie Sullivan

The Winter Lifeline Convoy to Kosovo has safely returned after driving 3400 miles and having survived overheated brakes, 10 border crossings, collapsed truck suspension, deep river crossings, a narrow escape from a tumbling tractor, not to mention bureaucratic delays and a close encounter with live overhead power cables! The team consisted of 15 volunteers of whom 9 drove and 6 flew. Three came from Chandlers Ford bringing a heavily overloaded 7.5 tonner thanks to the generous support of many local people.

All the aid was delivered to very grateful people from all ethnic groups, Albanians and Romas, plus Serbian enclaves under 24-hr KFOR protection.

The first priority was to clear customs, then attend UN security and land mine awareness briefing, before unloading all trucks into Dubrava prison warehouse. Next, we had to reload on a daily basis for distribution. We had help each day from ICMC volunteers and interpreters, along with support from UN, KFOR and the Kosovo prison service.

We visited kindergartens, refugee centres, extreme vulnerable individuals (EVIs), a women's refuge, schools, and families struggling to rebuild shattered homes. Our aid consisted of food, clothing, bedding, toys, writing and drawing materials, baby and hygiene items, plus tools of all kinds.

Kosova is a beautiful country surrounded by mountains. The people are warm, friendly and very welcoming. Everyone was so grateful for the aid we were able to give them. It was very emotive seeing the conditions the Kosovars live under - shelled and burnt out houses, families living in tents or making habitable one room of a house being rebuilt, seeing roadside shrines where massacres had occurred and hearing first hand from the people their personal stories. So many of the people we worked closely with had suffered terribly. We admired them for the courage they had shown, for the resilience and fortitude they now show, by pulling their lives together, helping others rebuilding their homes and lives. They set an example to all of us.



Into the unknown with a river crossing



Happy children at Kindergarten play with donated toys



Making up food distribution packs



Kosovo families receiving aid packages

For further information and more pictures, visit the Hope and Aid Direct website. <http://www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/> We also have a presentation available on CD.

We plan to make further trips next year, to Belarus and Kosovo. We would like to set up a local section with volunteers and some storage facilities. Can anyone help?

### Knitting for Oxfam

In these cold evenings do you fancy doing a bit of knitting for fun? Oxfam can supply you with a pattern to knit simple tops for children in third world countries or you might just like to knit a few squares. The squares should be 6 inches square and made from double knitting wool. I use size 8 needles, cast on 24 stitches and then knit 23 rows. These squares are just a little bit

smaller than 6 inches but I then crochet round them with one colour. This makes the blanket look smarter and makes it easier to sew the squares together.

I get a lot of pleasure from using up my old wools in colourful patterns in these squares and thought there might be some of you who like knitting but don't fancy making a whole blanket. If anyone would like to just knit a few squares, I'll be happy to incorporate

them into my blankets. I'll even sew off the loose ends for you if you like!

Squares or double knitting wool to: Mary, 17, Rosemoor Grove. Thanks.



**Quiz Night Roundup**

One of the regular features of the NMDCA social event calendar are the quiz evenings. Last autumn we experimented by running a quiz league in the North Millers Dale hall with quiz nights during September, October and November. The league was a success as the regular participants got to know each other well. As prizes were awarded for general knowledge, musical knowledge and manual dexterity, each teams strengths and weaknesses became apparent over the period of the league.

This year, we recognised this regular commitment put too much pressure both on the organisers and participants and we reverted back to a single quiz evening. This was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October and the night attracted some of our "regulars" and also some new teams.

The usual format of general knowledge, music and picture questions were supplemented by a round of anagrams based on the road names in North Millers Dale.

The Music round was perhaps the hardest with some of the more modern songs not being familiar to some of the participants. The "Allied Carpets" team were not deterred and 'phoned home' to their son for one of the answers. Clearly, asking the audience was not going to help, and the 50/50 option was not available so phoning a friend was all that was left. (and yes the answer was correct -well done Harry)

Winners of the quiz were the Adjestdo team (derived by combining their Christian names) who scored strongly in all aspects of the quiz and just kept ahead of the rivals at the end.

Thanks to everyone for coming, and there will be more quiz nights in the spring.

**North Millers Dale Environmental Issues-  
Update 25/11/01 by Brian Sparks**

My letter in the last issue of Millers Tale seems to have opened the debate on the current state of pavements and walkways in North Millers Dale to a much wider forum. Having continued my meetings and discussions since the survey conducted by Councillor Smith, Nigel Moppett and myself on 11<sup>th</sup> September, I have hopefully got assurance from Councillor Smith that we will soon see a major clean up of the estate and that issues of street lighting and traffic problems will be addressed.

A number of meetings and discussions have taken place over the last 2 months with Councillor Smith and he has now promised action points to happen in a letter to me dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2001. The following is a transcript of the letter in question.

Dear Mr Sparks  
**Re North Millers Dale**  
Just to confirm that the following programme has been agreed: -

- 1) Overhanging bushes, trees, shrubs on pathways to be cut back
- 2) Grass on all open spaces to be cut
- 3) Lights will be checked and branches cut back if necessary
- 4) Residents have been written to requesting that they remove branches etc that overhang the footways.

Items 1) 2) 3) will be addressed in November or early December

I have met Mr. Phil Lomax and Mr. Roberto Tambini. The former is Head of Leisure/Countryside and the latter Deputy Chief Executive Eastleigh Borough Council on sites looking at the wooded areas entering North Millers Dale (both sides of the road) Options to improve these areas will be put to an open meeting of residents early in the New Year. It is obvious that these and other areas have been neglected over the past few years but I believe that with the support and help of local residents working with Eastleigh Borough Council the whole environment of North Millers Dale can be greatly enhanced.  
Yours sincerely  
Grahame Smith.

There have also been a number of discussions concerning the other problems on the estate regarding congestion and speeding. Councillor Smith has promised that the following actions will happen soon.

- 1) SLOW signs are to be painted onto the road at the bottom of North Millers Dale adjoining The Woodlands. In addition there are to be warning SLOW signs fixed onto posts in the same area.
- 2) There is to be a major study on speeding through the estate by the police. Apparently the last survey carried out by the police was measured at an average speed of 41 mph of

traffic using North Millers Dale. This was not considered to be a serious enough problem by the police at the time to carry out any further action.

- 3) There is a committee currently in session looking at the problems of speeding traffic in Hursley Road. There are already plans soon to be implemented on the section of road between the traffic lights on the Hittingbury Road and Hursley Road junction down to Cuckoo Bushes Lane- as most of you will by now know this is to become a 30 mph instead of the current 40 mph. The other problem of traffic light phasing on the north/south direction is also to be studied to see if changes are necessary.
- 4) He also promised that the survey conducted by Committee Members of the North Millers Dale Community Association will be carefully studied by interested parties at Eastleigh Borough Council

All of the above are direct quotes and responses put to Councillor Smith and he has promised to stick to every word. Obviously his actions as well as Eastleigh Borough Council are now going to be very carefully monitored.

There have been some surprising comments by Councillor Smith concerning the problems in the area.

- 1) Eastleigh Borough Council has never had accurate records of the public spaces and woodlands on the estate. They have since discovered many areas on the estate that they own and never realized it! These include the Doctors Car Park area, the wooded area to the right of the Hursley Road entrance to North Millers Dale and the wooded area adjoining North Baddesley Road. What an incredible state of affairs!
- 2) Councillor Smith has admitted that North Millers Dale has been neglected by the council for many years
- 3) Mr. Moppett and other members of Eastleigh Borough Council do not seem to communicate with each other. When I contacted Mr. Moppett 2 weeks ago, he had no plans to carry out any works on the estate until next spring. Apparently he did not know that Councillor Smith had approved a budget for extra expenditure to carry out the work. Only until my intervention was the problem brought to Councillor Smith's attention and he then got approval for the promised work to commence.
- 4) Despite the changes in the weather patterns, the council does not seem to have any plans to conduct more grass cuttings throughout the year. We are only entitled to 6 cuts a year. How many times do you cut your lawns in a year?

They now need to go back to the companies tendering for the contract to add more cuts into the schedule.

We deserve better treatment and we will get it. Why should we put up with scruffy hedgerows, uncut grass, litter and graffiti when our near neighbours in Valley Park enjoy a much more pleasant local environment supplied by Test Valley Borough Council. And to add injury to insult, every single estate road apart from the main arterial road, all have effective speed bumps that do not damage your vehicle if approached at the legal speed limit. The recent measures in Beechwood Crescent have certainly worked very well, but unfortunately too well, as more traffic is now coming through North Millers Dale to avoid the speed bumps there. We should press for similar measures on this estate. I can only assume that the objectors are in the most part the culprits and should be ignored. What is better, damaged suspension or a dead child?

Only by continuing the pressure on Councillor Smith and Eastleigh Borough Council will we get results, and rest assured I will be in regular contact with him until all the promised action has been completed to the satisfaction of all the residents here. That is what local democracy is all about.

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# Wine Tasting Evening in the Millers Dale Hall



Wine tasting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2001

were courtesy of local wine connoisseurs Gill and Gary but a difficult quiz did not defeat two more connoisseurs Lynette and Derek. For example I do not know the country where Errazuriz is a wine producer but I did better with which part of France Claret comes from.

After the haze subsided next morning, I realise I have taken two real advantages from the evening

- I can now recognise many local residents including some from last year. So all in all I reckon that a wine tasting is a popular choice for Millers Dale adults.
- As a result of the evening, and taking home the excellent notes about the wines, I can choose some new bottles of wine and buy at sensible prices. I now know which grape varieties I liked, which I would never have chosen on my own

In fact, I already have. No Chateau Battery Acid with the pretty label for me this year

During Tudor times, according to local historian Barbara Hillier, Chandlers Ford was famous for its Merrie Feasts. I wonder if she would approve of the Millers Dale community holding a wine tasting like Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>? It included a super finger buffet. You needed big fingers to hold it all. The wine bit was based on a taste and description of 6 wines and a mystery wine following an introductory glass of sparkling wine.

The evening appealed to 50 adults, who kept up a steady conversation from 7-30 p.m. to nearly midnight. Wine selections

Many thanks to Gill and Gary, Bridget and Doreen for both wine expertise and magical food.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Following the success of last Years Burns Night, NMDCA have decided to repeat our

# Burns Night Celebration

Hosted by Robbie and Janet Henderson

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Contact Doreen on 80268562

Tickets limited to 40,

so first come first served.



## QUIZ NIGHT

WITH PHIL HELLER

SAT 23<sup>rd</sup> FEB 2002

8PM

£10 FOR A TEAM OF 4

TICKETS FROM DOREEN

80268562



### Magnificent Performance

For those past members of the Thornden Wind Band, or for those of you who enjoyed the playing of the Wind Band at our Summer Barbecue, you will be interested to know they played a joint concert at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church with 25 members of the Band of the Grenadier Guards on Saturday 17 November.

No less than seven children from the estate played in the concert (Katie and Sarah on flutes, Sarah on oboe, Andrew on trombone, Jake on drums and Christopher and Simon on trumpet). Conducting the concert was Lt Colonel PE Hills who only the week before conducted the music played by the Grenadier Guards at the Cenotaph in London. This was to be his last public appearance before he retired.

During the performance, the two bands played separate pieces, and a number together including a brilliant version of Mission Impossible. Although

the Wind Band has a high percentage of young players, they did not find the concert a mission impossible, and many were inspired by the encouragement given them by their more illustrious playing partners before and during the concert.

The concert was played in front of local MPs David Chidgey and Sandra Gidley, as well as a number of prominent members of the local Council. It was one of those nights where it was a real joy to be present, and with a promise that it may be repeated in the future as a partnership with the Grenadier Guards. If you hear about a repeat performance, make sure you get a ticket, you will not be disappointed.

Well done to all of those from North Millers Dale who performed on the night, it was really good.



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