

the Miller's Tale



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RESIDENTS U-TURN ON TRAFFIC CALMING?

The traffic calming issue has once again witnessed a flurry of local reaction both for and against. Just prior to the vote, this time instigated by the council, residents were motivated to put pen to paper to express their feelings on the subject. To try and persuade other residents to reconsider their positions on the subject, copies of the letters were falling onto the doormats of local homes.

The difference between this vote and the previous NMDCA vote was that this time it was not to gauge support for the concept of traffic calming but to see if residents supported the very specific suggestion of speed reducing cushions.

Andy Milner of Eastleigh Borough Council reported back to the NMDCA



the results of the survey as follows:

We had 72 slips returned from those that attended including two duplicates. With those discounted removed the count was –

*Supporting the scheme – 34
Objecting to the scheme – 36*

You may also be interested to know that we received over 90 letters of objection to the 385 letters sent out individually to local residents.

Romsey areas would soon erode any time saving this might produce.

If any residents would like to air their views on the current situation, the Millers Tale is an ideal way of communicating them to the entire estate and the council who also receive copies of the newsletters. Also any other traffic issues can be raised.

My own particular concern is with the Badesley Road entrance into North Millers Dale where people turning right into the estate tend to cut the corner endangering the vehicles turning right out of the estate. On at least two occasions only sharp breaking has prevented the front of my car being hit by incoming vehicles. Once it was the driver of a double-decker bus who I feel should have known better. I think a central reservation at this junction would discourage the corner cutting and have the added side effect of at least lowering the entry speed of vehicles.

One resident has already written to the Millers Tale, and their letter is reproduced on the back page.



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Interestingly the council decided at the end of the Local Area Committee meeting on the evening of 14th January to vote unanimously in favour of implementing the speed cushion proposal

Prior to this the Local Area Committee discussed the narrowing of the Hursley Road entrance into North Millers Dale and the conflict that would cause if a Hursley Road pedestrian refuge were to be provided. This is because the Hursley Road is a designated route for oversized vehicles.

Addressing the 'rat running' issue through Millers Dale the Council proposed a feasibility study into re-phasing the traffic lights in an attempt to reduce the queuing. It was proposed that the Hursley Road be given a phase in each direction to make right turns into Hiltingbury and Badesley Roads easier. Whilst this might alleviate the problem in the short term the massive proposed development in the Valley Park and

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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
- Tue:** *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm
Brownies 6.00pm-7.30pm
- 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:

N.B. new system

Contact via email
iane@yellowdotnursery.co.uk
cc_editor@nmdca.org.uk
 or phone 02380 274775
 between 9am - 10am weekdays

Community Hall Keyholder
 Doreen Lewry
 ☎ 023 80 268562

Newsletter team
Charles Lewry: editor

Contact:
Articles or Advertising:
 023 80268562

E-mail editor@nmdca.org.uk
 Website www.nmdca.org.uk

Or drop articles into:
8 Weavers Place
North Millers Dale



I am sitting in Malta writing this editorial having been despatched by work for a week of warmer but regrettably not drier weather. Still I can't complain as it does shorten the winter for me.

It has been a busy international Autumn for the Lewry household as I was away in Kosovo and Doreen found herself encouraged to take part in a 250 mile charity cycle ride in Cuba in company with Fern Britain and some eighty odd other ladies. Then we were both involved in the North Millers Dale Italian evening. With another trip for me to Ghana I've not had much chance to get to grips with the newsletter.

Fortunately I've been helped out with articles by Liz Stainthorpe, Richard Molon and Nicola Slade so some of the content of the newsletter has just needed to be shuffled into spaces and formatted a bit.

As usual, if anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the Millers Tale newsletter I am always happy to include it. The feedback we get is that on the whole the newsletter is very well received and considered to be a valuable contribution to the community not only by the residents but also by the members of the council who sit on our community association committee.

Useful Numbers

Instead of thumbing through the Telephone Directory or Yellow pages to find that important number, look no further than the Millers Tale. If you have any suggestions for a useful number that is not included please contact us

Editor Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562

Emergencies

Electricity 0345 708600
 Gas (escapes) 0800 111999
 Police (non urgent) 0845 045 4545
 Southern Water 01961 714585

Schools

Hiltingbury Infant School 023 8026 5414
 Hiltingbury Junior School 023 8026 1808
 Knightwood Primary 023 8026 1900
 Merdon County Junior School 023 8026 5255
 Thorneden Secondary School 023 8026 9722
 Toynebee Secondary School 023 8026 9026

Post Office

4 Ashdown Road 023 8025 2791

Local Services

Chandlers Ford Library 023 8026 7393
 Eastleigh Library 023 8061 4646
 Eastleigh Tourist Information 023 8064 1261
 Eastleigh Borough Council 023 8068 8000
 Solent Blue Line Buses 023 8033 6235
 Southampton Int Airport 023 8062 0021
 Red Funnel Ships 023 8033 3042
 Railway Enquiries 0845 748 4950

Medical Services

Park Surgery, Hursley Road 0844 477 8957
 St Francis Surgery, Valley Park 0844 477 8956
 Boyatt Wood Surgery 023 8047 2126
 Fryern Surgery 023 8027 3252
 Eastleigh Health Centre 023 8061 2032
 Brownhill Surgery 023 8025 2188
 Southampton General Hospital 023 8077 7222
 Winchester Hospital 01962 86 3535

Dentists

157 Hursley Road 023 8026 7141
 M Mansourian
 67 Bournemouth Rd 023 8026 7889
 Clover Dental Practice
 Fleming Rd, N Baddesley 023 8073 8787

VININGS COPSE PROGRESS



Things are happening on the Vining's Copse front, but regrettably rather slowly. Andy Milner of the council has handed over a key to the notice board that the more observant amongst you may have noticed has appeared at the Millers Dale entrance to the copse.

Andy also informs us that the gentleman charged with the task of supplying the engraved sign for the NMDCA sponsored tree has left the council and Andy is attempting to source a new person to produce the sign.

Because of the delays the committee feels that the most satisfactory way of launching the site would be to wait until the spring when hopefully the weather will be more suitable for an outdoor event.

The committee thought that weather permitting a grand Bar B Q could be arranged. Dave and Avril Boyes have made a utilisation suggestion (see adjacent letter) If anyone has any other ideas on how to enhance the day we would be interested to hear from you.



INDOOR MEETINGS

Tuesday January 27th 2009
At the Bishopstoke Centre, Sydney Road, Bishopstoke
Climate Change - its Effects on British Wildlife
Richard Hedley

Tuesday February 24th 2009
Sights and Sounds of Nature
John Coombes

Tuesday March 31st 2009
A Taste of Sri Lanka
Nigel Morse

Tuesday April 28th 2009
Annual Meeting followed by:
Social evening with buffet supper

WALKS

Saturday October 25th 2008 2pm - 4:30pm
Suburban Safari, led by Martin Rand
Meet at Hittingbury Recreation Ground Pavilion, SU432221. Teas available afterwards

Saturday November 1st 2008 10am-12 noon
Fleet Pond, led by Barbara Hillier

WORKING PARTIES

3rd Sunday of month
Flexford Reserve, 10am-3pm
Meet at the Scout Hut, Ramalley Lane, SU428215
Leader: Theo Jarman

Except for January, all indoor meetings are held in the large hall at the Chandlers Ford Community Centre, Hursley Road, and all begin at 7:30pm.

Admission £2.00

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the recent interest regarding the utilisation of the area, on the corner of North Millers Dale and Hursley Road (the old Doctors Surgery carpark) and would like to promote the idea of providing an area for the playing of boules (Petanque). Initial contact with the council was favourable; however, before progressing further, Councillor Alan Milner requested we gauge the local interest.

I thought 'the Miller's Tale' the most appropriate way of doing so and wondered if it were possible to include an article in your next Newsletter.

My wife and I would be happy to co-ordinate any feedback and liaise with the Council as necessary.

Our contact details are as follows:-

Dave and Avril Boyes - 23 Ormesby Drive, N. Millers Dale, Chandlers Ford, SO53 1SH

Phone 02380255467

Mobile 07796937102

Email avdav@talktalk.net

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NMDCA ITALIAN THEMED NIGHT

By Liz Stainthorpe

La dolce Vita came to North Miller's Dale one cold and blustery Saturday night at the beginning of November in the form of the Community Association's presentation of an Italian Night. There were a lot of familiar faces with a spattering of new ones in the tastefully decorated hall, all set to enjoy a tried and tested formula. The delicious food was the work of the dynamic duo Bridget and Doreen. We had a heart warming minestrone followed by the best Lasagne I've ever tasted, and that includes the ones I've had in Italy, all washed down with our choice of liquid refreshment. I'm rather partial to a bit of the red vino myself, Italian, of course. To finish everyone was served up an individual Tiramisu.

Our host for the evening was Millers Dale editor, Charles Lewry who compiled some fiendish quizzes about all things Italian introduced by some rather curious video clips. How many people remember the notorious Panorama spoof on the Spaghetti harvest? He even managed to get in "The Italian Job", famous for Minis and Michael Caine's classic line "You were only supposed to blow the b...y doors off." The picture quiz kept us busy between the rounds of questions and a music round. There were a few furrowed brows and chewed pens to be seen. There was also an ice cream



tasting test, which the blindfolded contestants seemed to thoroughly enjoy, some needing a number of mouthfuls before making their final decisions. Hard work but someone had to do it. In addition we were introduced to the rather obscure art of Italian hand gestures before being tested on expressing ourselves in *gesti di mano*

I can honestly say the 43 people who turned up all seemed to



have a great time and enjoyed a glimpse of the Mediterranean in the middle of a soggy English autumn.

THE HOCOMBE MEAD PROJECT



The Hocombe Mead project is a partnership project between the Grasslands Trust, Eastleigh Borough Council and BTCV to provide opportunities for local people to enjoy, learn about and help manage Hocombe Mead's wildlife and heritage.

Would you like to take an active role in celebrating and looking after an area of beautiful 400 year old meadow and ancient woodland in the heart of Chandler's Ford? There's an exciting programme of activities happening over the coming year with something for everyone. Activities include practical work days on the 2nd Thursday of each month and a series of fun weekend events.

To find out more come along to an informal open evening at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd March at Hiltingbury Pavillion off Hiltingbury Road or for more information contact Katy Dudman, BTCV Project Officer, on 02380 769 719, or email K.dudman@btcv.org.uk



Hampshire
County Council

Children's Services Department

**LOOKING AFTER
SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILD**

Private fostering can occur under many different circumstances and many people may not know that they are involved in a private fostering arrangement.

An awareness campaign has been launched in Hampshire to try and increase the number of private fostering arrangements notified to us. Publicity material has been distributed to various public places during January to coincide with the British Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) private fostering awareness week.

Private fostering is when a parent arranges for someone else, who is not a direct relative, to look after their child (who is under 16 or 18 if disabled) for longer than 28 days. The law now states that in any private fostering arrangement the parents and private foster carers **must** notify Hampshire County Council, so that support can be offered to the carers, parents and children and the

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welfare of the children can be safeguarded.

Reasons for private fostering arrangements may include; a teenager staying at a friend's house during a family breakdown, young people studying at a language school in the UK or visiting on an exchange programme and staying at a host family's house, or a child being cared for while their parents work long or unsociable hours.

More information, including an online notification form, is available at www3.hants.gov.uk/private-fostering. You can also notify Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department about a private fostering arrangement by calling 0845 603 5620 (call charges apply, please refer to the website for details).

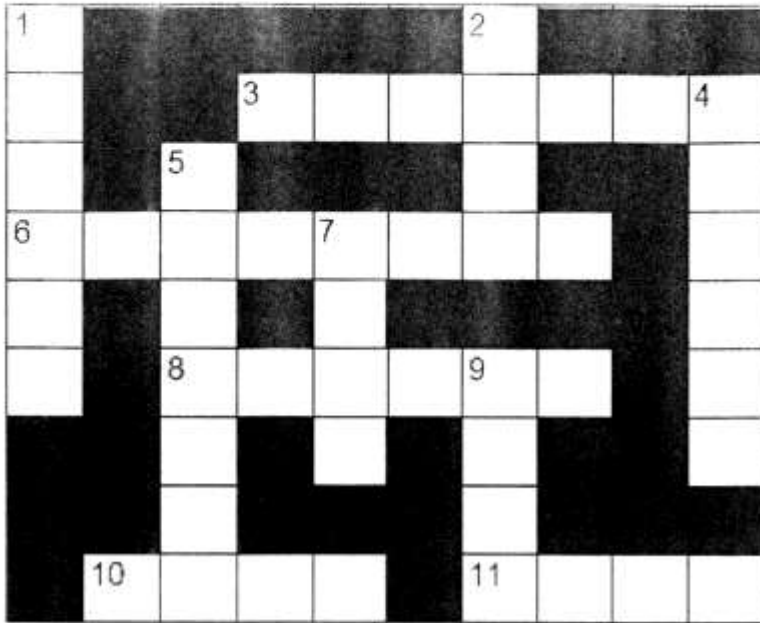
CALLING LOCAL BUILDERS

The North Millers Dale Community Association is planning to build a storage facility onto the outside of the community hall, the money and planning agreement is in place so all that is now required is a builder to quote for and complete the work. The work required is to dig out and lay a concrete base to the side of the hall then erect a suitable wooden building. The storage facility would enable us to find a home for our bar-b-cues, crockery, chairs etc and free up the committees homes. Please contact Richard Mollon on 80265362 if interested

Kids Corner



ITALIAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Clues Down

1 City of canals

2 Tower of ...



4 Italian name for the town of Naples

5 Italian supercar



7 Capital of Italy

9 Who fiddled while Rome burned



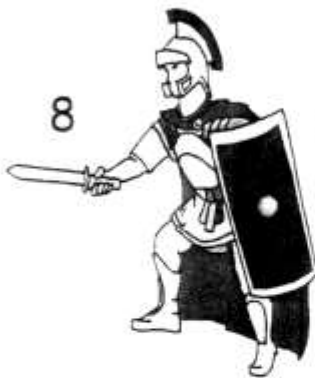
Clues Across

3 Home of the Pope

6 Favourite Italian food



8 Soldiers who conquered most of Europe



10 Not so super Italian car



11 Italian word for 'eight'

LITERARY TALENT OF NORTH MILLER'S DALE

By Richard Mollon

I think it astonishing that North Miller's Dale has such talented residents. There are three "authors" for example. Nicky Slade has published two books that I know of. The latest is a Victorian Murder mystery published this year, called "Murder Most Welcome". She doesn't reveal exactly where her ideas come from. I know, I tried to find out.

Barry Sheridan has written "A Stranger in My Own Land – An Ordinary Englishmen's View". Following an excellent history of the English he finishes with this conclusion because the England he grew up in has largely disappeared.

Gerald Ponting I know of through his work on the local history of Chandler's ford written with Barbara Hillier.

To all three I say thank you because reading their work is all the more interesting when I can say I have met them as well.

NICOLA SLADE

North Millers Dale author, Nicola Slade, says her latest novel, *Murder Most Welcome*, is quite different from her previous book, romantic comedy *Scuba Dancing*.

The new book is a Victorian mystery set in 1858 and the action takes place in the village of Finchbourne, just outside Winchester. Is Finchbourne really Otterbourne? Well, yes and no – Finchbourne is a fictional village but it's sitting right on top of the real one!

Local readers have had fun identifying familiar places, as they did with Nicola's first novel which was set in a fictional version of Romsey.

You can borrow *Murder Most Welcome* from the library or order it from any bookshop or online



bookseller. Besides that, you'll soon be able to listen to it in audio book form as the audio rights have just been sold.

Nicky is happy to talk about her books and writing in general so if you're looking for a speaker please contact her at enquiries@nicolaslade.com

KOSOVO RETURN

By Charles Lewry

In 2007 a busy work schedule prevented me from travelling to Kosovo on our annual aid convoy. However last autumn I returned again with John Desty, another Chandlers Ford resident, with a 7.5ton lorry full of aid donated by generous local people. I went as part of a much bigger convoy of twelve trucks from all over the UK, including two artics.

The 1500-mile journey out to Kosovo was made over five days with the usual delays for border crossings into Serbia and Kosovo and the odd mechanical problem with the trucks.

Con'd on page 8

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LETTERS

Dear Neighbours

NORTH MILLERS DALE TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS

The Local Area Committee snubbed objectors to the proposed Millers Dale Traffic Calming measures at their 14 January 2009 meeting.

Despite a 2:1 majority against the proposals Councillors voted unanimously to proceed with the installation of bumps.

163 residents objected to the bumps, 80 residents supported bumps. Prior to considering the Traffic Calming Proposals, Members waxed lyrical on the virtues of democracy and abiding by the will of the majority when approving proposals for a Parish Council for Chandlers Ford and Hiltlingbury.

When asked after the meeting why he had not supported the majority view Councillor Mike Hughes questioned whether opponents of the measures had objected for the "right" reasons. Chair of Committee, Ms Holden-Brown, denied that she had given assurances to abide by the will of the majority.

I can only conclude that our Local Councillors only support residents' views if they coincide with their own.

The scheme, which will cost in the region of £150,000,

will not proceed immediately. The Council will examine the phasing of the Hursley Road lights and the feasibility of providing a pedestrian refuge on Hursley Road before proceeding with the traffic calming. There is, however, no provision for further political review. Members clearly made their minds up to proceed some time ago.

Eastleigh Highway Engineer, Mr. Dearing, stated that the proposed Millers Dale/Hursley Road junction alteration, which is part of the scheme, would preclude the installation of a pedestrian refuge on Hursley Road. We might reasonably have expected the Council to have addressed that issue before voting for the traffic calming measures.

After the meeting, a number of residents opposing the proposals expressed interest in continuing to fight against the bumps and ensure that Local Councillors do not waste our Council Tax.

There were a significant number of convincing, articulate objections amongst the 160 received by the Council. If you are one of those objectors and wish to continue opposing the proposals please contact me on 0845 055 1135 during office hours. We will assess whether a majority of residents oppose the proposals and convince Councillors to review their decision.

Yours sincerely
Neil Holmes

KOSOVO RETURN *con'd from page 7*

Once there, the aid was distributed to very poor families still suffering hardship several years after the devastating war that saw the parents and sons of many families ethnically cleansed. Despite the recent declaration of independence by Kosovo, little has changed and it will be a long road to travel before external investment will start to address the massive unemployment problem which sees in excess of 70% of the working age population unable to get a job to support their families. Some of the luckier families get some government assistance but many fall through the net and receive nothing.

On these trips I have seen people experiencing colossal hardship, some living in houses made of wood and sheets of plastic or shells of buildings with no glass in the windows and find it hard to believe that this is



part of Europe. Kosovo is quite a high plateau surrounded by mountains and consequently suffers bitterly cold winters. It is hard to imagine how anyone living in these conditions can survive. When collecting aid we try to concentrate on warm clothes and bedding that can really make a difference to these people.

The Mother Theresa Society, which is based in Kosovo, identifies needy families for us and we work closely along side them to ensure our aid gets to the right people. In addition we provide valuable equipment for schools, hospitals and mental institutes as part of our ongoing special projects. We have also taken out three ambulances and a fire engine donated by brigades in the UK.

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