

the Miller's Tale



POLICE RESPONSE TO AREA CRIME

By Richard Mollon (Chairman NMDCA)

With regard to the ongoing situation of anti-social behaviour I have been updated by calls from PC Boyd. I am very grateful for this but also I suspect many of you will have been reading updates in the local press as well. To recap:

The police are telling us there is a scheme whereby various community groups take a role in the longer-term outcome. For example the Police have a role identifying the youngsters, the Council have a role providing facilities and so on. But they say this will not work for NMD because the main gathering is in Knightwood. NMD is a thoroughfare and the youngsters do not hang around here. (Not necessarily so, see letter on page 3. Ed.)

For the future months - opening up of Hiltingbury Rec may divert attention away from NMD to Hiltingbury. The capture last October of some anti social youngsters has had some effect after names were taken and letters written to the parents. It is important to keep the police informed of further bad behaviour if there is any.

Other news - there was a spate of minor car damage in January such as door mirrors being damaged and manufacturers badges being removed. Into February there were a number of burglaries in NMD and elsewhere in Chandlers Ford. These followed a pattern seen about 2 years previously where a back window or door was forced. There were 8 cases in all and probably all linked.

An Eastleigh Police press statement continues this story. By Alan Smith

Two years ago over 80 homes were raided in the area whilst just two months ago a further 22 were reported, raising



concerns of the police and residents alike. This led them to believe that raiders had returned to the area to carry out a similar run of burglaries.

With an average of just one burglary per day across the entire Eastleigh Borough Council area, the raids were so unusual that alarm bells immediately began to ring at the Leigh Road Police Station.

Early into this latest bout, Eastleigh police launched a high profile, high visibility operation, saturating the area with plain clothes and uniformed officers under the codename 'Operation Morrell'.

'Operation Morrell' was launched with the specific aim of bringing an early end to the raids which bore all the hallmarks of the previous series when thieves took only valuable jewellery or cash, leaving behind other high value items like home entertainments systems.

The swift and immediate response of the Burglary Investigation Team, supported by other officers drafted in to the squad, appears to have paid dividends. Although no arrests have yet been made, intelligence gathering has provided detectives with an indicator of who may have been responsible.

Chief Inspector Jill Baldry said: "We do not want to tempt fate, but we are reasonably satisfied that we have managed to quell this latest bout of burglaries. We do ask homeowners to continue be our 'eyes and ears' and notify us immediately if they become suspicious.

"We also ask them to keep an eye open for each other when they know a neighbouring property may be unoccupied and to treat any unexpected callers to their homes with suspicion until they prove their identity.

Chief Inspector Baldry added: "We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and will retain a high police presence in the area. By working closely with the residents, we hope that our combined efforts will prevent further criminal activity. Residents may also consider joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or think about setting one up if there is not one in their neighbourhood already.

For information on joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please contact Crime Reduction Officer Barbara White Tel: 0845 045 45 45.

Anyone who wishes to report any unusual or suspicious activity in their neighbourhood should contact Eastleigh police station immediately by telephoning: 0845 045 45 45.

Inside this Issue

<i>Anti-social behaviour</i>	1
Information Board	2
<i>Local Focus</i>	2
Useful Numbers	2
<i>Letters</i>	3
Irish Night	4
<i>Quiz Night</i>	5
Walk In The Woods	5
<i>Hamble Valley Food & Drink</i>	6
Kids Corner	6
<i>Easter Convoy</i>	7
Traffic Lights	8
<i>Tennis Club</i>	8

the Information board



what's on at the community hall?

- Mon:** *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm
Rainbows 4.30pm-5.30pm
Ballet 6.00pm-7.00pm
Aerobics 8.00pm-9.00pm
- 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:

Contact: **Mrs Linda Mandley**
 Clo Eastleigh Baptist Church
 Wells Place, Eastleigh, SO5 5LJ
 ☎ 023 80 613210
 between 9.30am-4.30pm weekdays,
 answer-phone at all other times.

Community Hall Keyholder
Doreen Lewry
 ☎ 023 80 268562

Newsletter team

Phil Heller
 Charles Lewry: editors

Contacts:

Articles: 023 80265407
 Advertising: 023 80268562

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

Or drop articles into:

8 Weavers Place or
 10 Ashbridge Rise
 North Millers Dale



Welcome to the May Issue of the Millers Tale. Since the last edition I have been doing a bit of globe trotting. In March my wife and I visited our daughter Karen in Japan where she is now working as a teacher. Regulars to the Farmhouse will remember her working behind the bar during her Uni holidays. During our visit to the island of Shikoku where Karen lives we were introduced to the fascinating culture and customs of this unique society.

Over Easter I exchanged the sophisticated and wealthy Japanese culture for the primitive and poverty-stricken society of Kosovo. There is a report of my involvement in the aid convoy later in this issue.

Irish fun replaced Scottish tradition this year with a very successful Irish Night held in the community hall. Unfortunately the black and white photos cannot do justice to the spectacularly coloured dresses of the guest Irish dancers. A trip to our web site is necessary should you wish to see the outfits in full colour.

Many of you joined in our family walk in the woods led by Barbara Hillier on Bank Holiday Monday. What an ideal opportunity it was to learn so much right on our own doorstep.

On a more serious note residents are still expressing concern over the anti-social behaviour occurring on our estate. The NMDCA chairman has been keeping in contact with the police to monitor the progress of this issue.

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 Phil 023 8026 5407
 Editor Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562

Emergencies

Electricity 0345 708600
 Gas (escapes) 0800 111999
 Police (non urgent) 0845 045 45 45
 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
 Thornden Secondary School 023 8026 9722
 Toynbee 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

Millers Dale Surgery 023 8026 2488
 Park Surgery, Hursley Road 023 8026 7355
 Boyatt Wood Surgery 023 8047 2126
 Fryern Surgery 023 8027 3252
 Eastleigh Heath Centre 023 8061 2032
 Brownhill Surgery 023 8025 2188
 Southampton General Hospital 023 8077 7222
 Winchester Hospital 01962 863535

Dentists

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

LETTERS

This is a copy of a letter that was also sent to the council and the police

Dear Sirs

Nuisance in North Millers Dale.

Along with the arrival of warmer days and nights inevitably comes the disturbance from gangs of youngsters, particularly on Friday nights. They seem to gather on a small patch of open ground adjoining Draper's back fence through which passes a footpath. This area is regularly used by youngsters who arrive after the pubs close and spend much of the night noisily drinking. They leave behind litter consisting of glass, plastic bottles, cans and carrier bags.

I would be reluctant to get up in the middle of the night to confront a gang of drunken youths for obvious reasons. The litter is another matter, not only is it unsightly but injury could be caused to children who play on the grass or dogs which people walk there. (The glass bottles are often broken.) The enclosed picture shows a "haul" on the morning of Saturday 24 April. The One-Stop bag gives a clue as to where this stuff could be coming from. Judging by the voices, some of these youngsters are merely children and are almost certainly not old enough to buy liquor let alone consume it. What their parents think they are up to I can't imagine.

I understand resources are stretched and I have no doubt this is not the only place such nuisance occurs, but I don't see why we should have to put up with it. It occurs so predictably that it must surely be possible to anticipate a gathering and warn them off, perhaps take them home to their parents. And perhaps the most obvious sources of the liquor could be cut off.

I attended a residents' meeting last year at which a woman officer addressed this subject so I know the police are aware of the problem and are concerned about it. I have telephoned the police on several occasions and also the council when the litter got beyond me. If something isn't done, I am concerned what could follow. There have already been incidents of vandalism in the area and graffiti sprayed on fences and I would not like to see that increasing.

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor

I feel it important to bring to the attention of the residents the consequences of allowing the Yellow Dot Kindergarten to erect a permanent fence around a proportion of the public open space to the front of the Centre. At a Local Council Area Committee meeting in November 1997 Yellow Dot was given permission to erect a wooden picket fence on a daily basis only but she was refused permission to fence in the area on a permanent basis.

However, a permanent fence suddenly appeared one day without consultation and without even notifying the Hall Lettings Committee of her intention. My major concern is the protection of the nature of the public open space surrounding the hall. If the fence is allowed to remain as a permanent fixture it sets a precedent and should Yellow Dot then decide to fence any of the area to the rear of the building, she can then use the permanent fencing to the front to argue her case.

To deny children of local residents the opportunity to use this space as a play area in favour of allowing a business to erect this fence is clearly in conflict with the provision of this public open space. I urge all residents who endorse these concerns to write directly to the Council as soon as possible and make sure they do their best to protect the provision of this space for their children and grandchildren. There is precious little open land on this estate and we, as residents should make every effort to protect what little there is. If we don't act now we can't bemoan the loss later!

Advertising Feature

PRO-FILE Nailcare

By Andrea Bushell

SPRING TREATS FOR HANDS

What better way to shrug off the dark winter months than with eye catching nails? Nail treatments are becoming increasingly popular whether as a natural nail manicure, pedicure or nail extensions. These can be kept very natural looking or long and glamorous for those special occasions. So often our hands and feet are neglected through wear and tear from housework, gardening and a whole host of detergents that dehydrate and damage the skin. Attending regular treatments will help maintain good condition by keeping the cuticles soft thus preventing cracking and infection, and will also keep the nail plate smooth by reducing unsightly ridges through buffing. Buffed nails not only give a healthy and well groomed appearance by increasing the flow of blood to the nail bed, they help to rid the body of toxins and promote nail growth. Massaging using enriched hand lotions, will keep the skin soft and smooth. Stimulating the skin and muscles in this way has been shown to reduce puffiness around the joints, (which can often occur in warmer weather) and improves skin tone. For a luxury manicure or those with sensitive skin, look for natural ingredients such as marigold, chamomile flowers, cocoa butter and vitamin E, which are particularly good for eczema and psoriasis.

A common misconception about applying nail extensions is that 'they damage your nails' however the professional nail industry has developed products and processes over recent years. The new methods do no harm to the nail plate and the results can be amazing. Your nails continue to grow underneath the extension, which can be easily removed without causing trauma or damage, ideal for nail biters!

For the fashion conscious the 'must have' colour this season is green — in all varieties! Vibrant colours are also big news with fuchsia pink a favourite, while the classic French manicure in a range of pretty pastels still remains popular. To complete the look nail gems add sparkle to catch the sun on those summer days.

Tips for strong lovely nails — attend regular nail care treatments, protect hands with gloves when cleaning or gardening, use hand lotion to replace lost moisture and above all ensure a regular intake of vitamin B, iron and calcium.



PRO-FILE Nailcare

ACRYLIC NAIL EXTENSIONS

MANICURES

PEDICURES

NAIL GROWTH PROGRAM

SPECIAL OCCASIONS weddings - express tips - nail art



Tel: Andrea 023 80 262796 10% off any treatment with this advert

NMDCA Irish night

By Richard Mollon



Colourful Traditional Irish Dancers performed for our entertainment

A new social event to replace an established favourite like the Burns evening sounds like a dangerous move, unless you have the luck of the Irish. But this really was the case when it was decided to change the formula, and the "NMDCA" held an Irish evening instead. But why change a good formula anyway? The answer I will offer was that it seemed sensible to keep ringing the changes. On the night there were 45 people who backed the idea and turned up to enjoy a memorable evening. And North Millers Dale does have a few Irish folk, even if like me, the connection is vague to say the least.

To recap the event for those who missed it, there was Irish food. This included sparkling wine, Irish stew with added Guinness, soda



Dancing with more enthusiasm than skill rounded off the evening

bread, apple tart and cream. There was coffee and Irish whiskey to finish off. To add to the general atmosphere of the night most people also brought along their own liquid refreshment.

Irish dancers arrived in traditional dress to give a wonderful performance. Following that professional routine there was barn dancing in the North Millers Dale style. Those who took part know what I mean.

The centre was decked out with Irish banners and Celtic music gave an authentic backdrop. Many people entered into the spirit with green in their outfits or Irish rugby shirts and some people were sporting rather oversized Guinness hats.

There was an Irish quiz to test the rapidly decaying braincells in the break between courses and a raffle at the end of the evening.

I must not forget to give my grateful thanks to our team who worked with their usual skill to make it happen, Bridget, Charlie, Doreen and Jane.

And yes it has already been asked, when will we be doing a St. Georges day celebration?



A fine Irish meal was laid on by Bridget and Doreen



NMDCA Quiz Night

The quiz night on Saturday 13th March was well attended as usual by many of the regulars and a good selection of newcomers. Inquizitor Phil Heller, ably assisted by wife Bernice and son Andrew, gave us a head scratching evening.

The first prize on the night went to the Shikoku (a Japanese Island?) team of Jane, Pam, John and Charlie.

Quizzes are a regular feature of the year; so if you would like to put a team up for the next one, keep an eye out for details in the Millers Tale, flyers, the Hall notice board and the web site.

All types of
fencing supplied
and erected



All types of
flooring supplied
and laid

FLOORING & FENCING LTD

Common Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants

Telephone: (02380) 253524/253184

Fax: (02380) 270359

AGM

Come along to the North Millers Dale Community Association AGM in the community hall.

Tuesday 29th June at 8.00 pm

Have your say, meet the committee, offer your services, ideas, and suggestions or just come and enjoy a Pimms. See you there!

BARBARA HILLIER BRINGS THE SUN!

By Mary Peterson

A rainy May Bank Holiday morning did not bode well for our walk with Barbara Hillier but by 2 o'clock the rain had stopped and we had a lovely walk through our local nature reserves – Flexford and Ramalley. Barbara showed us where some nuthatches had made a nest in a hole in a tree, using mud to make the entrance just the right size. The banks of Monks Brook were covered with wild garlic and the woods with bluebells and anemones. In the Ramalley Woods Barbara pointed out blossoming wild cherry trees that were reminders of the 'Merrie Feasts' held here up until the early years of the nineteenth century. Everything looked so fresh and green and we felt lucky that we have these woods on our doorstep. Lovely too, to end our walk with cream teas in the community hall.

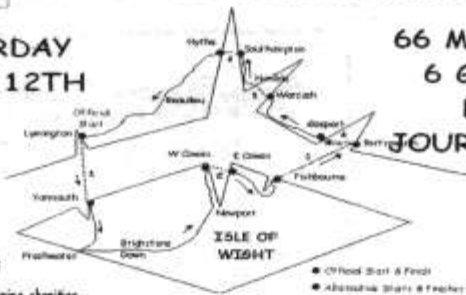


Barbara Hillier points out a concealed nuthatch nest in a tree

THE SOLENT COASTS SPONSORED CYCLING CHALLENGE

Bike Week
1-20 June 2004

SATURDAY JUNE 12TH 2004
66 MILES, 6 GREAT FERRY JOURNEYS



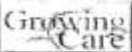
in aid of the following charities



"HOPE & AID DIRECT"



"HEALING HANDS NETWORK"



"GROWING CARE"

For full details tel: 023 80262825
e-mail info@solent-challenge.org.uk
website www.solent-challenge.org.uk



Cornucopia

Curtain and soft furnishing agency

Wide range of quality used curtains and soft furnishings for sale – all at very reasonable prices

Free parking

All major credit cards accepted

Open Tuesday-Friday 10.00-4.30

and Saturday 10.00-1.00

Cornucopia

18 The Central Precinct, Chandlers Ford

Tel: 023 8026 7777

www.cornucopiacurtains.co.uk

Sunday 11th July



12 noon to 5 pm

A true community pub

JAZZ on the Green

in aid of Macmillan Nurses

with

New Gateway Jazz Band

Thornden Wind Orchestra

Merdon Junior Choir

Farmhouse Follies

BBQ with locally made sausages

- 25 varieties

Raffle donations from ASDA and other local companies

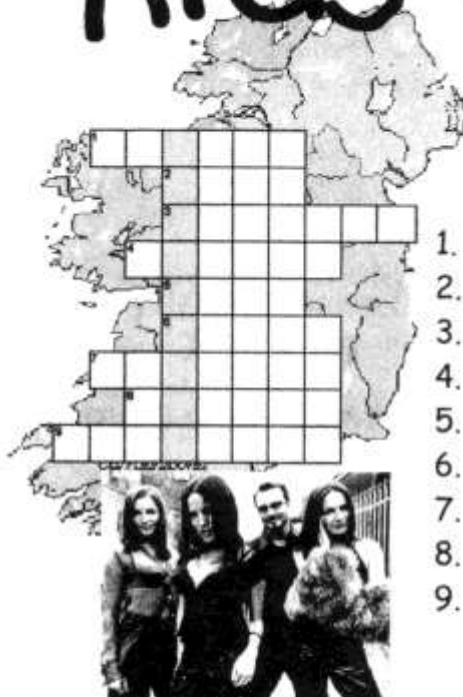
EURO 2004 TV Football Matches



Telephone: 023 8026 9974

www.tlykepubs.co.uk/farmhouse

Kids Corner



Following the Irish theme, here is an Irish Puzzle. Complete the clues to spell an Irish Character on the dark line down.

1. Town on west coast of Ireland famous for it's bay
2. Southern Irelands name
3. Saint of Ireland
4. The Irish flag is, white and green
5. Currency of Southern Ireland
6. Irish group with three girls and a boy
7. What stone do the Irish kiss?
8. Capital of Southern Ireland
9. Black drink with white top

Over 55 delicious events on the menu during Hamble Valley Food and Drink

Take part in a fortnight of over 55 events during Hamble Valley Food and Drink Festival, 26th June-11th July, with celebrity cookery writers Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall and Rose Elliot, markets, barbecues, children's cookery workshops, free tastings, cookery demonstrations, behind the scenes tours and loads more, not forgetting the healthy angle with guided walks, an 'Eating for Health' talk, golf and leisure day, and a cycling 'have a go' BikeFeast! The festival focus is on Hampshire produce with plenty of opportunities to try samples, including beer, wine, cheese, fruit desserts, ice-cream, cakes and sausages to name a few! The festival also has an international angle - try Indian food and dancing, Spanish tapas, French markets and a join the chocolate frenzy! Alternatively, step back in time with 'Medieval Meals and More' and a Jane Austen theme dinner based on menus from her era. Events take place across the Hamble Valley (Borough of Eastleigh), there is loads for children and adults alike, and many

events and entertainment are free!

Food and drink festival events in the Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury area include;

'Sausage FEastleigh' barbecue extravaganza with tastings, jazz, music and jive on the Green at Hiltonbury Farmhouse pub in North Millers Dale

'Food on the Move' children's cookery workshops at the Dovetail Centre

Food themed story telling, baby bounce and rhymes plus children's competition at Chandler's Ford Library

Behind the Scenes guided tour at Waitrose superstore

'A Merrie Feast in Chandler's Ford' free guided walk

For details and dates of these and all the other events across Hamble Valley call 0906 68 22 001 (average cost of call 11p) to request a free festival

Graham Parrick CARPET FITTER

Free Quotations

Telephone:
C/Ford (02380) 254030
Twyford (01962) 714110
Mobile (07831) 858615



programme to be posted to you, or email hamblevalley@eastleigh.gov.uk. Details are also online at www.hamblevalley.com. Hamble Valley Food and Drink Festival is part of the countywide Hampshire Food Festival running at the same time.

Trudie.E.Timby M.S.S.Ch., M.B.Ch.A.

Qualified Visiting Chiropodist By Appointment

20 Velmore Road
Chandlers Ford
SO53 3HE

02380 261558



EASTER HOPE FOR PEOPLE OF KOSOVO

By Charles Lewry



At just after midnight, on a lonely potholed mountain road, twelve heavily laden lorries came to a standstill at a border checkpoint. As had been the case on previous borders the drivers were wearily expecting some hours delay before they could be on their way again. Unlike the preceding borders however this one was different, only a few wooden huts marked its location and it was manned by armed KFOR soldiers with a tank. This and the usual mass of paperwork was all that lay between us and our goal of Pristina in Kosovo and some well earned sleep.

We had reached the final obstacle to the 1500 mile, five day dash across Europe with humanitarian aid for vulnerable Balkan families. Our mission was made all the more relevant by the violent upheaval that had occurred just over two weeks prior to our arrival. The outcome of this disturbance had seen several people dead, many injured and over 4000 made homeless after having their houses burnt down.

About 5½ hours after arriving at the Kosovo border we were on the move again and drove about an hour to the outskirts of Pristina. We parked up the lorries at a secure warehouse, generously loaned to us for the week by a local contractor. By 8 o'clock in the morning most of the crew were asleep but under instructions to return to the warehouse by midday to start to unload the 85 tonnes of aid we had brought.

Any of you who have followed the work of Hope and Aid Direct in the pages of previous issues will be aware that the organisation pledges to deliver aid **directly** to the needy families and this is what we set out to achieve over the next six days. Aid packages were made up and reloaded into the ten smaller lorries so that they could ferry food and essentials to families all over the country. The details of recipients were well organised in advance by our partner organisations permanently based in Kosovo. This made the allocation of aid very orderly as the number of families was known before we set out to a village, town or camp. The family lists gave us size and makeup of families so that children, old people or single people could be specifically catered for.

As can be imagined, the following few days were a kaleidoscope of mixed emotions. Seeing the pleasure on a small boys face who has just found a pencil and notebook in a banana aid box or a mother who has got shampoo and face cream and can at last put shoes on her children's feet. But on top of this is the sadness of a villager's testament to the local wholesale massacre of virtually every male over 13 years of age, only four years previously. Or the countless stories of fathers, sons and husbands who had disappeared and the poignant recollection of a young woman whose family had been burnt out of their home for a second time in five years.

With our thinly spread help going to a total of 2,230 families, over 10,000 people, we couldn't hope to do anymore than scratch the surface of the problem, but the intention was more to give them hope and a realisation that people care and that they have not been forgotten.

Although I have been helping in the background with this charity for about five years this is the first convoy I have been on. Despite costing me considerable time and effort I feel privileged to have been able to see and take part in the work at first hand and experience the dedication and hard work of the regular convoyers.

Hope and Aid Direct aims to set up convoys at least twice a year. Its next trip is planned for September this year. I am taking a backseat this time but my wife Doreen is planning to go instead. For her this is probably an even greater adventure as her lorry driving experience to date is nil.




If you would like to help we will be collecting banana boxes filled with food and toiletries again, these proved to be ideal for distribution and stacking in the lorries.

To find out more about Hope and Aid try looking at our local website www.hopeandaidsouth.org.uk. On the site you will also find details of the fund raising Solent Challenge cycle ride that should prove to be a great weekend event in June.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the people who helped fill up our trucks with either aid, banana boxes or gave financial donations. We could not have done without you. From my point of view this is one Easter that I won't forget in a hurry, privileged Chandlers Ford will not seem the same again.





BRIAN & SUZETTE MATTHEWS

Welcome you to
THE PRECINCT GIFT CENTRE
 Visit Chandler's Ford 'Aladdin's Cave'
 Of gifts for all occasions
 Coffee and Tea Lounge
 9 THE CENTRAL PRECINCT
 CHANDLER'S FORD
 023 8025 4205

Stockists for:-

- Lilliput Lane - Winnie the Pooh -
- Cubist Cats - Comic Cats - Flower Fairies -
- Yankee Candles - Woods of Windsor -
- Crazy Clocks - Byzantium Crystals -
- Melamine Table Mats - Belgian Chocolates -
- etc, etc, etc
- Gifts for Men - Pewter Tankards & Flasks

HILTINGBURY TENNIS CLUB



Do you fancy getting out in the fresh air now that the long summer evenings have arrived? Did you once play tennis and would like to take it up again? Then come along to Hiltingbury Tennis Club. We are a small social club who are currently seeking new members. We play on Monday to Thursday evenings from 6 pm until dusk from April to September on the upper two tennis courts at Hiltingbury Recreation Ground. Although we do not provide coaching facilities, we would welcome anyone who has played tennis before or who is learning to play of whatever age from 12 years old upwards. Membership costs £30 per person, £50 per couple or £10 for those still in full-time education.

We also hold social events which include a summer barbecue, quiz night and an annual dinner in January. We do not play in the league but we do have friendly competitions between members of the club.

If you think you might like to give us a try, then you would be welcome to come along and see if it suits you. Give Pam a ring on 023 80260380 or just turn up on a club evening. We hope to see you there.

Traffic Lights approach final phase

After many years in the planning the finishing touches are finally being made to the pedestrian phase of the lights at the Hiltingbury / Hursley Road junction. The traffic chaos caused by the temporary lights hopefully will subside once the new lights are in operation, although the new lights will be set up to a four phase sequence rather than the original three phases in order to make turning right off Hursley Road safer and easier. With the addition of a pedestrian phase during the pre-school rush we may see an increase in the number of 'rat runners'. Certainly as a result of the temporary lights the number of cars using the Millers Dale road and also the Pine Road routes around the lights has increased and these people may well continue this habit.

However, I should not be too negative about what hopefully will be a huge safety bonus for Millers Dale pedestrians. It should encourage more parents to walk to school with their children now that it will be easier to get across Hursley Road. Maybe the cars queuing at the lights may also be reduced as a result.

Following on from the provision of a pedestrian phase for the traffic lights another issue which has been in the melting pot for many years is the plans for a cycle way from Valley Park. An agreement made with the first developers of Valley Park was that they would finance the pedestrian phase and the widening or addition to the Flexford Bridge. In April 2000 there were consultations that identified £3 million to be paid by the developers of the 1500 new houses in the Knightwood area 'to

reduce peoples' reliance on the motor car by giving them better travel choices such as access to public transport and safe cycling routes.'

There were plans to complete a pedestrian bridge before the start of the passenger service on the railway line but this never happened. I also received an email from Colin Davidovitz in April last year in which he said that the HCC 'had high hopes that they will be able to install the new bridge for pedestrians and cycles within this calendar year before Xmas and complete April / May ish 2004.'

Anyone who, as a pedestrian, has attempted the blind crossing at the railway bridge into Valley Park will be well aware of how dangerous this is. The width of the bridge is barely adequate for two cars to pass, so for cyclists using this bridge it is quite a hazardous pursuit. The money should be available, so Hampshire County Council why not get on and do it?



Rainbow Guides

Help urgently required for two Rainbow Units, (5 - 7 year old girls). The meetings are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4.30 - 5.30 pm at The Guide Headquarters, Ramalley Lane, Chandler's Ford. If you feel you are able to help, or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact me as soon as possible. Full training and support will be given. Gloria Brown, Ramalley District Commissioner, 023 8026 7678 or email bjcbrown@btinternet.com

Silver Foil Appeal

Does anyone out there know of any persons or organisations that collect silver foil for charity? We've got a whole load of it at home and no one to give it to. If you want it contact Doreen on 80268562.

How many Audi engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

What routine jobs would you normally expect to do on your car? Check the oil, tyre pressure, water level, change a headlamp bulb. Well if you own a recent Audi think again, those clever Germans have designed the headlamps so well that now you need to take the car to an Audi dealership to get a new bulb fitted. What's more they will suggest that you pay them £26 for this two-minute job! That works out at a rate of roughly £780 per hour. I can only assume you must get a whole team of highly trained engineers for that price.

Using the Chandlers Ford railway station

I can recommend the new railway service from Chandlers Ford. I have used it a number of times recently on trips to London and the whole experience is superior to what I recall 10 years ago of six months daily commuting to Woking from Southampton Parkway. For starters there is no need to rush in a car and stop at Parkway in the expensive car park. The car park at Chandlers Ford has not been full on the days that I used the train. The experience was very nice in the new carriages and the journey to Parkway and Eastleigh very quick. Connections to London Waterloo were exactly right and it was possible to get seats both in the rush hour and outside peak hours on a fast train. For example the 8-35am from Chandlers Ford arrived in Waterloo just after 10am. Not bad I thought.

M.R. TIMBY ELECTRICAL SERVICES

National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
CENTRAL HEATING WIRING



APPROVED CONTRACTOR

PLUMBING & GENERAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
Tel: 02380 261558
Mob: 07890492122

20 Velmore Road Chandlers Ford Southampton SO53 3HE