

# the Miller's Tale



## A HAPPY 1998 TO ALL OUR READERS!

### A new year brings a new voice for the community!

A formal Community Association for North Millers Dale moved a step nearer before Christmas and as the new year rolls on, further work is carried out by the newly elected steering group to ensure that the needs of the North Millers Dale area cannot be ignored.

In order for North Millers Dale Community Association (NMDCA) to obtain the full rights associated with being recognised by the Charity Commission, the steering committee is carrying out a range of activities and tasks.

#### Residents survey

One such initiative by the group is the carrying out of a resident survey, which has been carried out throughout December and January. It is important that the organisation taking shape understands fully the needs of the local community and over the last month or so you may have had people knocking on doors and asking simple survey questions.

#### Newsletter and events

Along with the last two newsletters which aim to act as a community focus, you may also have seen leaflets for local events for the area. These are all organised by the NMDCA Steering Group.

#### Public meeting

Back on November 6th last year a meeting was held of some thirty people in the Community Hall to develop the embryonic organisation and elect members of the Steering Group. The meeting was chaired by local Councillor Grahame Smith with

the support of Councillors' Davidovitz and Mike Lambert.

#### Role of Community Association

Martin Coulson, Area Co-ordinator from Eastleigh Borough Council, outlined the role of a Community Association. He stated that these roles were:

1. to represent the area
2. to promote community spirit
3. to develop cultural, social, educational and recreational activities
4. to manage a community centre.

At the meeting it was acknowledged that the North Millers Dale Centre was managed by a Letting Committee organised by the Baptist Church. However it was anticipated that the Steering Committee would have representatives on the Letting Committee.

It was decided by a majority vote to form a Steering Committee which would be involved in the planning of a Community Association. A future public meeting will be required to formally adopt a Community Association, which is likely to be in May this year. The steering group will provide further publicity nearer the event.

#### Committee elected

The following people were elected to the Committee:

- Malcom Stainthorpe - Chair**
- Bridget Wilde - Secretary**
- Jan Beldon - Treasurer**

Other local residents were elected on to the Steering Group and a number of subcommittees were organised, including an activities group and newsletter team.

#### Why not get involved?

The committee is intended to represent your views and this can only be achieved with your help and support. Anyone can get involved and to any degree, whether it's by being a full committee member or just by providing occasional help during organised events.

- If you wish to offer your help
- please contact **Malcom**
- **Stainthorpe on 265662**, as the
- group would be pleased to wel-
- come **new members!**

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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* 5.30pm-7.00pm  
*Aerobics* 8.00pm-9.00pm

**Thur:** *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm

**Fri:** *Yellow Dot* 8.10am-5.30pm

**BOOKINGS:**

Contact: **Mrs Linda Mandley**  
on 01703 613210

*between 10am-12noon week-days, answerphone all other times or at*

**Eastleigh Baptist Church,**  
Wells Place, Eastleigh. SO5 5LJ.

**Newsletter team**

**Peter Frankum:** editorial & design

**Anne O'Shea:** advertising

**Vic Piedo:** editorial and articles

**Contacts:**

**Advertising:** 01703 270825

**Articles:** 01703 907374 or above no.

# Local focus

Welcome to the second issue of *the Miller's Tale* and from what we have been hearing during the conducting of the resident's survey, most of you liked *issue one*. Also a *big thank you* to all of you who have either contributed articles or advertised in this issue.

One criticism we have had referred to spelling mistakes and poor English! We are indeed in need of a good proof reader and perhaps some one who can type! My excuse is that I do not like to *over edit* other peoples's articles. Remember, this is put together by people with other full time jobs. *Anyone out there wishing to help us out and perhaps has more leisure time available, please, please get in touch with me!!*

### Local survey

One of the most important things that the Steering Group is presently undertaking is the survey of the residents of North Millers Dale. The aim of this survey is to discover some of the burning issues of the estate and to find any other problems or needs that can be tackled on your behalf by the, soon to be created, Community Association. So far most people have been supportive of what we are trying to do, in fact only two people had doors slammed in their faces! *Please remember we are only trying to help!*

### Local issues

To date the type of issues raised range from dogs to speeding cars, shops to play areas, all of which will be raised at future meetings and taken to the appropriate authorities. If you have concerns of your own and have been missed by the survey group, then get in touch with the

newsletter team, either by phone or writing in. If you like we will even publish your letter upon request!

### Much a "do-do" about dogs

The issue of dogs: Some residents have raised a stink over dogs' do-dos, with paths and greens being messed up, even people's front lawns! Even my own dog Mutley would agree. Something needs to be done regarding dog poo and the Council have completely missed the point with their pathetic *scoop the poop* posters! Don't they know dogs can't read? Let's see some dog bins and on that note some litter bins! You only have to take a walk to Valley Park to see what Test Valley provides. **Catch up and clean up Eastleigh!**

### Car trouble

Other residents want to see some traffic calming in the area, especially on North Millers Dale road and in and around the pub and community hall.

### Bridging the community

On a positive note the survey is also beginning to highlight the need for community spirit and public participation. A number of people have asked whether or not a local *bridge circle* can be developed. Armed with such information the steering group can act as a catalyst to get such activities off the ground. *You will see from our new activities slot a number of activities are already planned!*

*Good bye for now and I hope you have a pleasant and interesting read! Remember if you have something to say about North Millers Dale then write in and say it!!*

Ed.

# Kids Corner

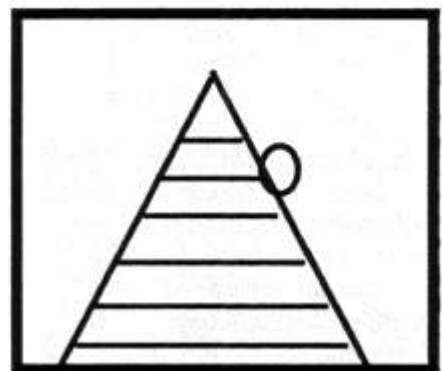
Here we are again with another fun-packed page of jokes and groans as well as some useful info!

Again we have Bobby Spurrier to blame.. I mean THANK for all of this issue's jokes and quizzes. If you would like to add any of your own drop them into 9 The Deanery!

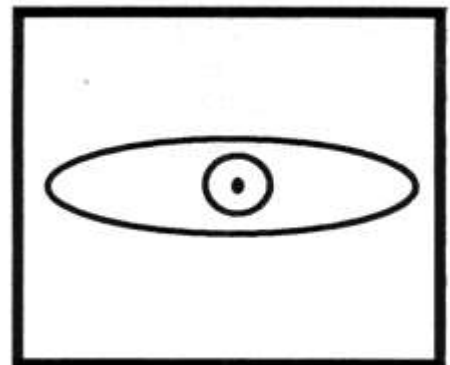


**rainy day teasers**

**What's this?**



**and this??**



**answers at the bottom of the page!**

**What did King Kong say when his sister had a baby? Well I'll be a Monkey's Uncle!**

What's this? answers:  
-An egg climbing a pyramid and a Mexican in a canoe!

## Teddy bear operation manual

1. If Teddy feels hard and smooth you haven't taken him out of the box. REMOVE AT ONCE.
2. DO NOT plug Teddy into nearest plug socket, what are you, some kind of lunatic?
3. Give Teddy a test hug. If on first squeeze bear still feels hard and smooth you are hugging the box. CAN'T YOU GET RID OF THAT BOX??
4. Give Teddy another hug. If it squeals and licks your face, you have picked up the dog.

© copyright ACME Teddy Bear handling systems

*I used to be a werewolf, but I'm alright NOWWWWWW!!*

**What weather do archers dread?  
MIST!!**



## Flexford Nature Reserve - *the suburban oasis*

Most residents of North Millers Dale will be familiar with the Flexford Reserve - in fact its proximity may have been one influence on the purchase of a house on the estate. Local resident **Gerald Ponting** and historian **Barbera Hillier** explain how there came to be a nature reserve in a suburban area in the first place.

Before building started in this area, the land now occupied by the reserve - and the land on which our houses are built - were all part of Hiltonbury Farm. Cattle were raised, some fields being used for grazing, others for arable crops. 'The Farmhouse' was just that, the home of farmer John Vining. He was related to the Beattie family who had farmed here since late in the 19th century. The original part of the farmhouse building goes back to the 16th century, though it was gradually extended over time.

### *Hampshire Wildlife Trust*

When the farmland was taken over for development, it was clear that the lower land near the Monks Brook would be too wet for housing. An agreement was reached between Cranbury Estates, Eastleigh Borough Council and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, by which the land forming the reserve became council property, but was to be managed by the Trust. ('Lower Flexford', on the other side of the railway line, had a similar origin when Valley Park began to be developed.)

### *Management Plan*

Clearly, any management plan had to take into account the use of the land by the public as well as the conservation of the flora and fauna found in the area. The paths, wooden bridges and gateways, as originally laid out, were designed to be wheelchair-friendly. Local schools have been encouraged to use the area for field-work, there are regular guided walks to inform the public about the wildlife interest, as well as working



parties to maintain the area.

### *The importance of grazing*

Some residents have misunderstood the function of the working parties and the reasons for grazing cattle and sometimes ponies on the reserve. The wet meadow-land which forms large parts of the reserve is a valuable and rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat. The Flexford meadows were always grazed when they were part of the farm, so continuing the grazing is a natural and effective way to keep the natural balance for the wetland plants and insects which have thrived here for centuries. The felling of some trees and clearance

of undergrowth by working parties are also carefully planned to maintain the desired habitat.

The alder carr woodland is also much less common than it once was. Characteristic plants of the meadows and stream banks are marsh marigolds, the strongly scented wild garlic (or Ramsons) and meadowsweet. Two lesser known, and less obvious, species found on the reserve are wood club rush and wood horsetail, both now quite rare plants. The plants provide food for many insects; the casual visitor may often see various dragonflies and butterflies - up to 15 species of the latter are recorded each year. An entomological survey showed that the reserve also has a number of obscure rarities from the insect world.

### *Local wildlife*

Most visitors will have seen grey squirrels and perhaps rabbits on the reserve. Wood mice and shrews are also common, with moles active in the drier areas. Foxes visit the reserve fairly regularly and there is a small population of roe deer - though an early morning visit before the dog-walkers arrive may be needed to spot them.

Up to fifty species of birds may be recorded on the reserve in any one year. Resident breeding birds include tits, finches, thrushes, nuthatch, treecreeper, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker and grey wagtail. Summer visitors include the chiff-chaff, the willow warbler and the blackcap, while winter visitors include the siskin, the redpoll and the redwing.

### *Why not get involved?*

The Hampshire Wildlife Trust (Romsey Road, Eastleigh; phone 613636) always welcomes new members; as well as the guided walks, the local group holds regular illustrated talks in the Chandler's

Ford Community Centre. Details of these will be listed in this publication. Members also receive a detailed diary of many events occurring throughout the county.

Article contributed by Barbara Hillier (Honorary Warden of Flexford, Chairman of the Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford Group of the Trust and author of two books on the history of Chandler's Ford) and Gerald Ponting (N.M.D. resident and Publicity Officer for the ECF Group of HWT).



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## Ghosts and spirits down at the Farmhouse

Most residents of North Millers Dale will be familiar with the Farmhouse as being their local pub. But it is more than that, a nationally recognised historic building and the focal point of the estate.

The Hiltonbury Farmhouse is historically the heart of the North Millers Dale development. Long before the development of today's housing estate, the brick and tile farmhouse stood in its large grounds, overlooking the valley below, with its winding brook, woodland and marshland.

### Oliver Cromwell

The Farmhouse was built in the Sixteenth Century in the Hursley Estate style with tall ornamental chimney stacks as a main architectural feature. The building was apparently owned by Oliver



Cromwell's son Richard.

### Listed building

The building is recognised as being of architectural and historic interest, with the Department of the Environment

classifying it as a grade two Listed Building.

Hiltonbury Farm was built as a cottage at the end of the sixteenth century and extended in the nineteenth century. An earlier cottage existed on the same site and, as **Barbara Hillier** discovered in her local history research, this is shown on the 1588 map of the Manor of Merdon (once located in Hursley). Barbara

Hillier explains in her book "*The story of Chandlers Ford*", it was probably inhabited by the Hickman family, who appear in the early seventeenth century parish registers and are recorded as living at Hiltingbury.

### A hidden room

In the 1930's, a room was found, the existence of which had not been suspected for it had been locked up for many years. The last farmer at Hiltonbury, Mr John Vining, was a descendant of the Beattie family who had farmed there for more than eighty



# Happy New Year!

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years. Mr Vining and his family had the name changed to Hiltonbury (the historic spelling for the area) rather than Hiltingbury, in order to change postal districts from Winchester to Bishopstoke so that his mail would be delivered rather than having to be collected from Hursley.

**From farm to pub**

The farm was then sold to the Cranbury Park Estate and now stands in the middle of the housing estate as one of its few "community facilities"; commonly known as the Hiltonbury Farmhouse public house. If you go along to the pub these days you will find Lynne and Mike Sinker and family as your hosts, who have run the pub ever since it opened back in the early 1980's.

**"Spirits"**

Lynne will sell you a glass of beer and tell you of local spirits, not the ones served in glasses but the type that go

bump in the night! She swears that there is a ghost in the cellar, whom a number of staff have seen and whom others do not want to see, which I can fully understand! Lynne explains; "About four years ago a member of staff saw a shadowy figure by the fireplace in the older part of the building, and my three dogs, for some strange reason, will not venture down into the cellar! We have even had beer tankards crashing onto the bar, again for no obvious reason!"

*Well I hope the only spirits I see down at the farmhouse are the ones served from bottles!*

*Peter Frankum with assistance and photo from Barbara Hillier. Further information about Chandlers Ford can be found in her two books "Chandler's Ford - a pictorial history" and "The story of Chandler's Ford".*

**NMDCA  
Activities**

*Just a taster of what's happening near you!*

**WATCH OUT FOR  
SOME SUMMER  
FUN!!**

**Summer  
Barbecue:**

*Date and venue to be  
announced*



**2 7 0 8 2 5**

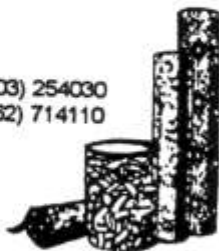
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## Who can be a Brownie & what do they do?

Liz Jones, Brown Owl of the 11th Chandler's Ford Brownie Pack, explains all you need to know about being a Brownie.

**Any girl aged over 7 years can join the Guide Association (GA) as a Brownie Guide, whatever her race or faith, provided she is able to understand and is willing to make the Brownie Guide Promise. After that, she will be entitled to wear the Brownie Promise Badge and from then on be trusted to keep the Brownie Guide Law.**

### *Activity programme*

Brownie Guides follow a planned programme of activities which aims to be both enjoyable and constructive. Activities are based on the 8-Point Programme followed by all Guides in the UK, but are adapted to suit a girl's age and ability.

Girls will be able to learn new skills, from keeping a scrapbook to sewing on a button, from making useful gadgets to singing. They will be encouraged to enjoy nature and the out-of-doors, and

will learn to mix with other children. She may also take part in a range of sports and games. Mums are no doubt pleased to know that girls are expected to help at home by doing simple jobs, such as making their own beds!

### *"Lend a hand"*

The Brownie Motto, "Lend a Hand", means Brownies are often active fundraisers for good causes such as RNLI, the Children's Society, helping local members to participate in international events, as well as towards a new *Division Standard*. Money raised by some form of work of effort - jumble sales, concerts, stalls at fetes, filling Smartie tubes with coins (after eating the sweets!), sponsored silence (Guiders favourite) and so on.

To give focus to this wide range of activities, Brownies have challenges to

do which lead to the awarding of badges. They are encouraged to do their best rather than meet a fixed standard.

### *Pack holiday*

Our Pack has met in the area on a Wednesday evening during term time since 1983. We are always full with a waiting list and at present have three adult leaders, but are always keen to welcome any adult who would like to train to help us. We also have special outings and events at weekends and during the holidays. The highlight of the year is Pack Holiday, when the pack goes away together, sleeping in indoor accommodation, rather than under canvas!

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