

REBUILDING THE HENGE

By Charles Lewry

After recalling a conversation where it was suggested that the crane that was used to reassemble Stonehenge was sourced from the Hatley's yard, where the new retirement village is being



built. I thought I would use the power of the internet to investigate this.

Whilst it neither confirmed nor denied the claim, what it did reveal, however, was fascinating. The Stonehenge monument that we have grown used to on Salisbury Plain, is actually the result of a recent reconstruction with most of the work being carried out in the 1950s and 60s. Several of the stones had fallen and the henge was quite different from what we see today.

The project to reposition lintel stones on top of the upright stones, required the sourcing of the largest crane available at the time, which was built to be able to lift the Cold War bombers, stationed at nearby RAF Boscombe Down. Crane operator David Healy carried out the delicate task of replacing the stones. The combined weight of the stone and the cradle was 60 tons and was right on the limit of the

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crane's capacity. Other work was carried out stabilising the foundations of some of the stones that were no longer upright, and returning them to their vertical orientation.

Cecil and Mary Chubb had bought the Stonehenge site at auction for £6600 in 1915, but offered it to the nation three years later. It initially was given to the Office of Works, that later became English Heritage. At that stage, stones were propped up with wooden poles, and many were at risk of collapse. Considerable damage had been done by 19th century visitors who had chipped off souvenir rocks and scratched their names in the stones. Some of the restoration was carried out by the Office of Works starting in 1919 till 1926, to make the site safe.

The 1950's heavy lifting didn't commence until a team of three archaeologists had investigated the site. There was a debate as to whether restoration should be carried out, changing its ruined appearance. Eventually the reconstruction started in 1958. The work in the 1960's was as a result of stones collapsing during a storm in 1963. Further safety work was carried out to make the site safe, as at that time the public could freely walk amongst the stones. For more information visit the English Heritage website.



www.nmdca.org.uk

the Miller's Tale



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RESERVE FOOTPATH RESILIENCE?

By Charles Lewry

The work on the footpaths in the Flexford Nature Reserve was done back in October. Some concerns had been expressed about the durability of the paths, after I had posted some photos of the reserve that I had taken at the time. Stuart, a North Miller's Dale resident, wrote on Facebook:

I walked there the other day and it started to rain. Within less than 5 minutes puddles started to form on the footpath in certain places. The work done in a few areas appears to be of poor quality and some of the edges have even started to break down. This was only the day after the path was reopened. As I walked there I met a few people trying the footpath out. All commented how unimpressed they were, especially considering how much had been spent on it. It's as though nobody official from the council has examined the work to sign it off. There are sections that need to be redone again but properly. Most people felt the path was not going to last long.



Knowing that a considerable sum of money had been spent on the work by the Eastleigh Borough Council, I thought it might be worthwhile, after a pretty wet Autumn, to go and observe how the paths had survived, three months on.

Despite the previously voiced misgivings, the path seemed to be in pretty good condition. There was a bit of erosion at some of the edges, but overall the path was much dryer than before the work, with no muddy sections. The worst part of the path was by the kissing gate at the bottom of Weavers Place, where it appeared that no hardcore had been laid. The route into the field by the railway line, however, would be impassable without wellington boots.

The section through the woods at the entrance to North Miller's Dale was covered in leaves, but still dry underfoot. This is a path I would previously never have used in the winter.

So overall, I would say that the work has been a success in allowing all year round access to the nature reserve. Further photos can be viewed on the NMDCA website.

Inside this Issue

<i>Flexford Footpaths</i>	1
Information Board	2
<i>Local Focus</i>	2
Useful Numbers	2
<i>Bus Future</i>	3
Warm Rooms	3
<i>Guide Dogs</i>	4
Jubilee Tree	5
<i>Kids</i>	6
Flower Facts	7
<i>Walking in Winter</i>	7
Set in Stone	8

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the Information board



To hire the North Millers Dale Community Hall

Contact via Phone to:-

Matt on
02380 274775
weekdays 09:00 - 16:00
or email
hoot@littledelwood.com

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North Millers Dale Community Association

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8 Weavers Place
North Millers Dale



By the Editor

Thankfully, so far, the winter has been remarkably mild although very wet. This has meant we haven't had to run our heating at full blast and bills, whilst high, are not as bad as they might be. Several venues have set up warm rooms in Chandler's Ford, to enable struggling local residents to access warmth and companionship nearby. Details of places offering this service are across on the adjacent page with times and available days.

Getting about in the winter may become more difficult, as the future of the bus service through North Miller's Dale is uncertain. An amenity that some elderly people may be unaware of, is the Chandler's Ford Good Neighbours driving scheme. This service is run by local volunteers who will pick up recipients, take them to doctor's or hospital appointments and return them home afterwards. There is a small charge to cover costs. See the panel right for contact details. This may be something that you might like to consider volunteering for, as a driver, coordinator or befriender. You would be required to have a DBS check to participate. As a volunteer driver myself, I can vouch for how satisfying it is to be able to put something back into the community.

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer locally. In the centre page is an article about guide dog fostering. Lions and Rotary are always keen to recruit new members. Your Neighbourhood Watch could be supported. Guides and Scouts can use new Leaders. Some NMD residents helped at vaccination clinics, and of course the North Miller's Dale Community Association would love to include anyone who could help us.

Useful Numbers

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

Editors Millers Tale Charles 023 8026 8562
Gillian 07917 858 752

Emergencies

Electricity (Power Cuts) 0800 072 7282
Gas (escapes) 0800 111999
Police (non urgent) 101
Southern Water 0330 303 0368

Schools

Hiltingbury Infant School 023 8026 5414
Hiltingbury Junior School 023 8026 1808
Knightwood Primary 023 8026 1900
Merton County Junior School 023 8026 5255
Thornden Secondary School 023 8026 9722
Toynbee Secondary School 023 8026 9026

Post Office

4 Ashdown Road 0345 722 3344

Local Services

Chandlers Ford Library 0300 555 1387
Eastleigh Tourist Information 023 8026 5500
Eastleigh Borough Council 023 8068 8000
Blue Star Buses 01202 338 421
Southampton Int Airport 0844 481 7777
Red Funnel Ships 023 8001 9192
Railway Enquiries 0871 244 1545

Medical Services

Park Surgery, Hursley Road 023 8025 2131
St Francis Surgery, Valley Park 023 8025 2131
Boyatt Wood Surgery 023 8061 2051
Fryern Surgery 023 8027 3252
Eastleigh Health Centre 023 8061 2032
Southampton General Hospital 023 8077 7222
Winchester Hospital 01962 86 3535

Dentists

Hursley Road Dental Practice
157 Hursley Road 023 8026 7141
Vital Dental Care
67 Bournemouth Rd 023 8026 7889

Assistance

Chandler's Ford Help 023 8254 1100
CF Good Neighbours 07914 757 380
One Community 023 8090 2450

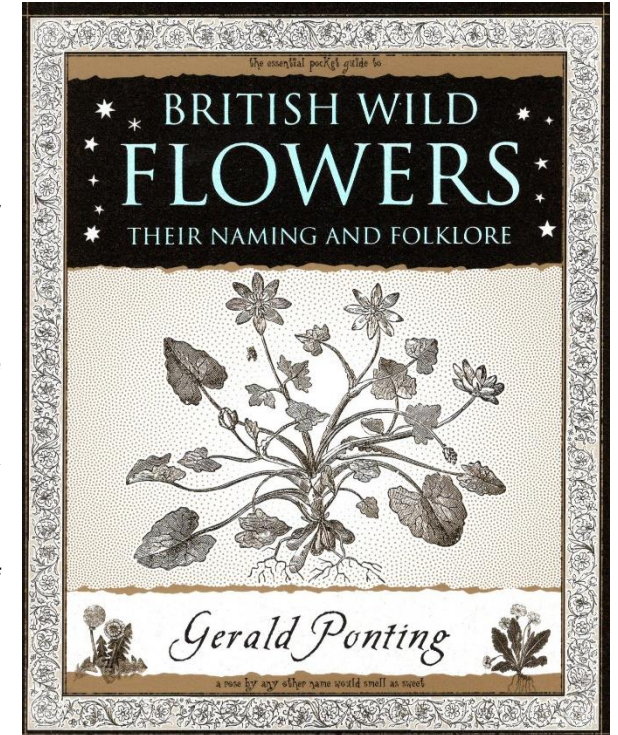
WELL, I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

One of our local authors from North Miller's Dale, Gerald Ponting, has just written a new book to add to his collection. Gerald has produced a delightful little volume on British wild flowers.

Many of you may have childhood memories, learning the names of many of the flowers and plants we grew up with. Those familiar names often have a charming and interesting origin, which Gerald has painstakingly researched. Gerald describes how the visual appearance of some plants was used by early herbalists, as indicators of their potential healing properties. Some records of these uses date back to Greek and Roman times, and the writings of encyclopaedists such as Pliny the Elder.

The book is helpfully divided into subject chapters, which pick particular aspects of the plants habitats and uses. The flowers are illustrated by a selection of charming engravings, some sourced from as far back as the 1400s. Within, are intriguing facts about, for example, the origins of 'Velcro', the longevity of poppy seeds, and the source of natural 'Aspirin'.

Gerald has also published some photographically illustrated books about Chandler's Ford, in association with local historian Barbara Hillier, and others concerning local and not so local history. Gerald's books are all available from Amazon and also directly from Gerald. gponting@clara.net



WINTER WALKING TONIC



days when being out in nature can be a joy.

The visibility seems to be enhanced by the low temperature and the angle of the sun produces very distinct shadows that cast everything into high relief. Unlike summer, walking is easier when overheating is not an issue. Obviously, being well wrapped up against the cold is important, and multiple layers makes it easier to regulate body temperature. Looser fitting clothes that trap air will keep you warmer and make it easier to move.

Late December is a time for family, food and festivities, so January always seems a bit flat in comparison. The shortest day is over and from now on, there is spring to look forward to. It is a time for New Year's resolutions, and maybe burning off some of those excess calories consumed over Christmas, would be high on the list.

As a keen winter walker, I can attest to the fact that sometimes, the winter can produce some stunning crisp bright

To enjoy the winter countryside, you don't have to head for the mountains, as local areas can be just as rewarding on a good day, and require less skill to remain safe. So instead of putting on another box set, get off the sofa, and put on some warm clothes and get out there.

New Year New You

Come and join the North Miller's Dale Walking Group
First Tuesday of the Month
Meet 10:30 by the Farmhouse
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Kids Corner

If the weather is rotten, it can be boring stuck inside, but it doesn't need to be! You don't have to watch a screen to pass the time there are lots of other fun ideas.



Here are some ideas!

- Scavenger Hunt word search.
- Paint a kindness rock
- Write thank you letters
- Make a sock puppet
- Make a Christmas Card Collage
- Write a book review
- Learn a magic trick
- Try some yoga poses

WHY DON'T YOU OR A PARENT MAKE A BOREDOM JAR AND FILL IT WITH PIECES OF PAPER WITH THINGS TO DO.



SCAVENGER HUNT / WORDSEARCH

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- ENVELOPE
- SLIPPER
- POSTCARD
- BATTERY
- TORCH
- CAKE
- NOTEBOOK
- STAMP
- BUTTON
- RULER
- PADLOCK
- PENCIL
- CUSHION
- GLOVE
- BRUSH
- BROCHURE



Public Transport BUSTed?

By Councillor James Duguid



The collapse of the bus service for virtually all Hiltingbury (impacting NMD and Scantabout particularly) was precipitated by HCC announcing funding support reductions and operators pulling out.

In late November we got very close to a new 3 way fund support service, with the Parish Council stepping in for the first time.

The small, disabled friendly, bus would have done a figure of 8 with Fryern being the crossover point, connecting with South Millers Dale and Bodycoates as well the areas mentioned above. It would link with the railway station and the x4 route to Eastleigh. (as well as having 4 connection points with the No 1 route) Senior Citizen bus passes could be used and on weekdays there would be an hourly service.

For subsidies to be applied, the proposed new service had to be competitively tendered. Most regrettably, the one organisation that bid was 60% more expensive than the 3 way funding allowed for. We are working hard with the 3 authorities to cut back to a service that is affordable.

SO WHAT can you do to help? Write to me to express your support for such a proposition, even if adds £1-£2 per annum to your Council tax. Decision makers are much influenced by a groundswell of local opinion. AND if we get a service up and running USE It. If you don't need it right now, your neighbour might, and in years to come you might too. More people using public transport will also help green our environment and reduce congestion,

Warm Rooms

In Chandler's Ford

Come and keep Warm

With good company, tea, coffee, cake and games at our participating community venues in January, February & March. FREE WIFI

	Warm Mondays St Martin in the Wood Centre 9.30am until 1.30pm.	Starts 2nd January CALL 023 8026 5977
	Warm Tuesdays The Dovetail Centre 12.00 noon until 4.00pm Also café service weekdays from 9.30am to 12.00 noon.	Starts 3rd January CALL 023 8026 0128
	Warm Wednesdays The Hilt 12.00 noon until 4.00pm Also 'Friendly Fridays' runs fortnightly in the afternoon.	Starts 21st December CALL 023 8027 1609
	Warm Thurs/Fridays The Fryern Pavilion, Thursday 12.00 noon until 4.00pm Also Friday AMS from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.	Starts 5th January CALL 023 8026 6612

And remember the wonderful library at Fryern is there during its normal working hours and is registered as a Warm Room space. It has great facilities as a resource centre, as well as lending library, although please note it does not have toilet facilities.

www.facebook.com/Lionsclubeastleigh www.eastleighlions.org.uk

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COULD YOU FOSTER A GUIDE DOG?



By Yasmin Mascarenhas

Having always wanted a dog, but not having the time to commit to a full time pet, we decided there was nothing to lose by fostering a guide dog. You have the benefit of having a dog and there being support always at hand. There is no financial commitment as 'Guide Dogs' provide the essentials like their food and cover any vet bills. There is also the added benefit of being able to take the guide dog in training out with you to shops and restaurants, and if you go on holiday they arrange alternative fosterers to look after it whilst you are away.

A guide dog in training goes to school Monday to Friday - drop off between 8-10am and collection between 4-6pm, but this is flexible and can be agreed with the trainer. Whilst at home you reinforce their training, but most importantly, you are there to play with them and give love and attention.

In 2021 we fostered our first guide dog Riley a German Shepherd (there are a variety of different breeds). Many people think that they cannot do this,



but my husband and myself work full time and I was pregnant at the time, yet this was not an issue nor is having other pets. Admittedly it was heart-breaking saying goodbye to him, but knowing he has gone on to help make a difference to someone's life, makes it worth it. Fortunately Riley's owner keeps in touch with us, and it's lovely to see what a difference he has made to the owners family life, and how it's given him his independence back.

We found the experience so rewarding and my little one adores being around our current guide dog in training. They have brilliant temperaments and have so much love to give.

There are currently many volunteering opportunities available please take a look and reach out to them if you have any queries: www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-for-guide-dogs/

If you have time and can give a safe loving home to a dog we would recommend it.

It changed our life!

JUBILEE TREE

By Doreen Lewry

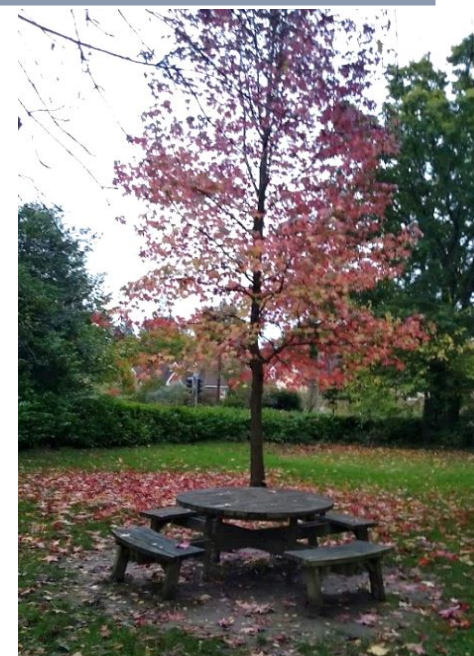
During our Platinum Jubilee celebrations on North Millers Dale in June, 2023, we were asked how we would use any profits made at our very successful event. We replied that we would like to plant a tree in tribute to our now late Queen. I spoke to Jamie Marsh from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT). He suggested a common oak (quercus robur) would be an appropriate tree to plant in the Upper Flexford Reserve.

Eastleigh Borough Council Local Area Manager Ross McClean suggested that Steve Ross in their direct services team should be able to help source the right tree and arrange planting and the Borough Council are happy to support us. In 2022, the Council allocated monies and repaired the footpaths for better access for us all.

We are now waiting for advice about how we can go about sourcing, planting the common oak tree, and to find an appropriate location for it. Watch this space!

Some of you might remember some years ago, we funded a Tulip tree, which was planted at Vining's Copse, on the corner of North Miller's Dale and the Hursley Road. Over the years we have watched it grow, and last year in particular, it was rather splendid with wonderful red Autumnal colours.

We hope our common oak, that can live up to an age of 1000 years, will grow well in the Flexford Reserve and be a part of improving our local environment for us and the wildlife in the area for many years to come.





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Hi Neighbours.

A very happy New Year to you all. Thank you to everyone who came to the pub over the Christmas period! We certainly had a lot of fun.

The launch of our Supper Club menu has launched, where you can get 2 courses for £19.95, and £10 off a bottle of wine, Monday-Thursday. Perfect for a date night! Booking your table is recommended as we are still expecting to be busy this January.

More events at the Farmhouse are expected this year. We are now running a monthly pub quiz, which



will usually be on the last Sunday evening of each month. Keep your eyes peeled on our social media sites for more upcoming events. Fingers crossed we can run a wine & cheese evening!

We say goodbye to Assistant Manager Nick, (myself) as I will be jetting off to Australia for the foreseeable. So, say your goodbyes when you're next in.

We always look forward to seeing local faces and friends coming in.

Kind regards,
THF Team





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Thursday: 9:30am - 2:30pm | Friday: 9:30am - 2:30pm | Saturday: 9:30am - 3pm | Sunday: CLOSED

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07459 072150 thespinney53.co.uk