

# the Miller's Tale



## REIGN-FREE RIGHT ROYAL REVELRY

It was quite a weekend, and North Miller's Dale wanted to be part of it. After enjoying the splendour and pageantry of the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday, the street parties on the Sunday, we moved on to the Party on the Green on Monday.

the patriotism of the event. Not only did visitors enjoy listening to Kim, but many took to the grass to dance.

We had plenty of stalls to keep guests entertained, with several other local organisations providing input to what was a great community occasion. In addition to the sideshows, Jackie's raffle showcased a plethora of local businesses, who had generously donated prizes to us. The list is shown in the box below.



The weather forecast looked dreadful for Monday, all day. But after a long time in the planning, we were determined to go ahead with the event. Lots of gazebos were erected on the grass to provide some cover from the predicted deluge, but would people come along to enjoy the day? Well, miraculously the rain held off, and whilst the green wasn't covered in picnic blankets, like last year, we had a steady flow of attendees to support us. Once again, Kim Garner provided us with very professional musical entertainment, and her Union Flag coat added to



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The event was planned in co-operation with John the manager of the Hiltingbury Farmhouse, and we would like to thank John's staff for keeping everyone fed and watered during the day. John wasn't there, as he was in Dublin to see Bruce Springsteen! But he can rest assured that his crew worked tirelessly on a very busy day.

Whilst our event wasn't anything like the scale of the Fryern Funtasia, held on the previous Monday, we were delighted with the support we got from local residents on the day. A testament to the British spirit of determination to enjoy ourselves, whatever the weather!

- THANK YOU**
- Bellisima
  - Bay Leaves
  - Spinney 53
  - Studio 23
  - Drapers Tools
  - Hiltingbury Farmhouse
  - Lakewood Beauty
  - Bridge Beauty
  - Spirit Health Club
  - His 'n' Kids
  - Brambridge Garden Centre
  - March Hair
  - West One Hairdressing
  - Wessex Bike Hub
  - The Munch Box
  - Waffles & Cream
  - Dave's Fish Bar
  - Sally Goodden Animal Artist
  - Pradeepa LimewoodArt

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*the Information board*



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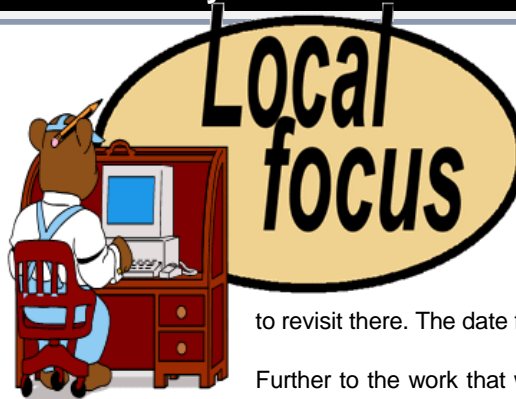
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 North Miller's Dale Community Association

**Or drop articles into:  
8 Weavers Place  
North Millers Dale**



*From the Editor*

We have had quite a busy summer so far this year, with highlights being the Bletchley Coach Trip and the Coronation Party on the Green, both of which were extremely well supported. On the subject of coach trips, we are planning a return to the Bath Christmas Market, as several people on the Bletchley visit told us they would like to revisit there. The date for your diaries is the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Further to the work that was carried out on the paths in the Flexford reserve, we noticed, in the minutes of the Local Area Committee, that £455 has been allocated by Eastleigh Borough Council to install a dual waste bin in the reserve. This will be very welcome as it is a popular route for dog walkers.

The college bus service to Peter Symonds (Numbers 46/461 by Stage Coach) continues around NMD/Flexford Road. This goes to Winchester via Hursley and to Lord's Hill shopping centre.

As mentioned in a previous issue, the Xelabus route from North Millers Dale to central Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh was stopped. We have been assured that the Council have been working hard to get some sort of bus service in NMD resumed. It is going to be a minibus which is due to start on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The route as yet, has not been published, so we don't know how close it will come to NMD.

A recent update on Facebook said:- "We are still anticipating that the new service will start on 17th July. We can't confirm the timetable yet, because it is with the Traffic Commissioner for approval".

We would love to see as many of you as possible at our AGM. As usual we will be offering a seasonal drink of Pimms to all attendees!

**North Millers Dale Community Association**



**AGM**

Registered Charity  
No: 1070832

**Wednesday 19th July 2023  
At 8pm in The Millers Dale Hall**

**All North Millers Dale residents are welcome to come along and have a say in your local association.**

**We plan to have a Guest Speaker**

**This is your opportunity to talk to committee members and fellow residents with a seasonal drink.**

**We would love to have more volunteers join the committee or help at events and with newsletter distribution.**



**For more information, e-mail  
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# INTERESTING DAY OUT TO CODEBREAKERS' FACTORY

Thirty Five passengers travelled to Milton Keynes to visit the Bletchley Park House and exhibition, to learn about the codebreaking work that, almost certainly, significantly shortened the Second World War. The feedback we had seemed to suggest that everybody had a really good time and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

There are more photographs on the NMDCA website. <https://nmdca.wordpress.com/bletchley-park-enigmatic-visit/>



One of the letters we received said: *'Just sending a very big THANK YOU to you and your team for organising such an enjoyable day out today. It was a pleasure to stroll around Bletchley's grounds and look at parts of the WW2 code-breaking, something which we knew of, but very little about, and the icing on the cake was the fact that we had a very professional coach driver.'*

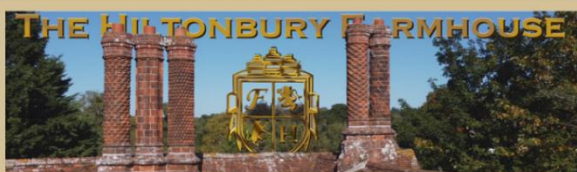


Possibly in the pipeline are coach trips to RHS Wisley, Highgrove House and Gardens and definitely a return to Bath for the Christmas Market. For anyone who went on that, believe it or not, it was four years ago, in 2019.



And another: *'I just wanted to say a big thank you for organising such a great trip to Bletchley Park on Saturday. My mum and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and really appreciate you taking the time to organise the event.'*

I have to say, I enjoyed my day too and found the exhibitions, spread amongst the house and the huts, fascinating and very well presented. Some of them being brought to life by moving people projected onto the walls behind desks. An hours free guided tour was an option we took advantage of. The gentleman who took us around was very knowledgeable and entertaining. The five hours we spent exploring the exhibits just disappeared.



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THE HILTONBURY  
FARMHOUSE



Greetings!  
We're now well into the swing of glorious summer weather; and we have plans afoot to celebrate all that is summer! We're going to be holding several outdoor events over the next few months including live music, DJ — soul, ska & Motown — and even a BBQ! Check for details as they emerge on our Facebook page & pub boards.

To compliment the sunshine, we are introducing some exciting summer salad dishes, as well as other seasonal specials, alongside all our regular favourites — so don't miss out!  
Our bi-weekly quiz, with Quiz Master Pete Allen continues to go down a storm, with teams competing for that 'huge' cash prize - don't forget to book & come along (next is 23rd July)

As we get busier, we are looking to expand our friendly team — if you know of anyone 18+ with experience, send them our way!  
As always, we look forward to seeing new and old faces!

John and the Team.





# WE SAVED A PARKING SPACE FOR THE ICE CREAM VAN AT OUR STREET PARTY

In contrast to the days on either side, the weather on the Coronation Sunday was perfect for street BBQs and parties. Several streets put up bunting and invited their neighbours, friends and families to enjoy each other's company and to toast King Charles.

It felt like the end of an era as the **Benmore Gardens** neighbours gathered to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III back in May. The last 12 years has seen a golden coach load of opportunities to get together for street parties, barbeques and fun. It all started back in 2011 with the wedding of Wills and Kate, which turned out pretty well. In May 2012, we celebrated the Queen's Diamond-encrusted Jubilee - who can forget the Queen standing on a barge in the Thames in the pouring rain for an eternity. We then had Harry and Meghan tying the knot

in 2018, which was a breath of fresh air / a total disaster (delete as applicable) for the Royal Family. Finally, we enjoyed what turned out to be the Queen's final, Platinum-plated Jubilee (and Paddington's finest hour) last year.

Fast forward to 2023 and as usual, we all gathered in the turning circle at the end of the close, where King John and Queen Jackie presided over the festivities. To make a change we went for a more traditional picnic - coronation chicken (yum), coronation quiche (jury's out), cheese and pineapple on sticks (classic), a variety of homemade sandwiches (not an M&S wrapper to be seen) and Maureen's classic Victoria sandwich cakes (no soggy bottom's here). We all turned up suitably attired in the national colours, with Alison's doggy friend Whisky sporting a particularly fetching (geddit?) Union Jack neckerchief.

One thing that has been a consistent feature of our street parties across the last 12 years is the weather. Amazingly for the United Kingdom, it's always been fantastic, apart from an end of show downpour as we were packing up last year. This year was no different. The weather was glorious - dry, sunny and warmer than a Queen Camilla smile.

By my estimate, we are now facing at least 10 barren years of no more street parties before the next Coronation. But is it really the end of an era? We know that our neighbourly friendships, forged through the good times of Royal celebrations and the bad times of Covid lockdowns, will endure.



## Zero waste shopping has come to Chandler's Ford at The Spinney 53!

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A street BBQ is an annual event in **Weaver's Place**, (Covid permitting) and whilst this was earlier in the year than usual, the weather didn't disappoint. We set up two BBQs, one for meat and one for vegetarians and, as is normal, the men gathered around to cook/cremate food for the rest of the family.

Being a cul-de-sac lends itself to our yearly gathering, and the parking bay at the top is ideal for dining, whilst the adjacent green is great for the kids. A couple of gazebos were erected to keep off the sun/rain and long trestle tables to eat at. Everybody brought their own meat and supplied salads and puddings to share.

A couple of very young entrepreneurs decided to ply everybody with toasted marshmallows after the main cooking had finished, and felt that it was a fledgling business opportunity waiting to be exploited! Some neighbours have lived in Weaver's Place since the houses were built, but others had more recently moved in, so it was a good opportunity to get to know them. As well as celebrating the Coronation, the day also corresponded with a birthday for which a cake was duly produced.



**(WE HAD TO CONE OFF THE WHOLE AREA!)**



*Drew Craddock*

The coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on May 6th was a historic occasion that was marked by a weekend of festivities across the UK and beyond. One of the highlights of the celebration was the Coronation Big Lunch, which saw thousands of street parties and community events take place on May 7th and 8th.

The west wing of **Rosemoor Grove**, with the exception of the Covid years, has held street parties since the early 1980s. So C & C didn't need to Coronate to provide an excuse!

With a loyal nod to their Majesties, the royal bunting came out for May 7th. Perhaps more important, the sun came out too, in what

was, meteorologically speaking, an otherwise disappointing week. Everyone shared in providing food, drink, outdoor furniture and helping out generally.

The patriotic zeal didn't stop there. On May 5th, Sally hosted a fun art session dedicated to producing red, white and blue pictures of lions. Under her guidance five self-confessed novice artists from Rosemoor Grove, sat down and used acrylic paints to produce some amazing pictures of lions.

As one lion roared to another, "There's a pride in those paintings".







# Kids Corner

## SECRET CODE MAKER



This is how to create a code maker to send secret messages to your friends.

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Chose a number and write it at the beginning of your message. That is the key which defines your unique code. Line the number up with the window then read off which letters corresponds to the letters in your words.

Try this to see if you can read my message using '7' as the key!

7. ZNOY OY G IUJK ZKYZ.

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IGT XKGJ OZ.

**Clue.**

Set your number window to 7. The outer Z will convert to a 'T' on the inner ring.



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## LIFE CHANGING DOGS



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Guide Dogs will also cover all food, veterinary and pet insurance costs associated with the dog in training, meaning you get all the benefits of a dog without the added cost implications.

If you work full-time, this opportunity could be ideal for you, as our dog staff are ready to receive the dogs between 08:00 and 09:00 every morning, where they spend their day with us until home-time, between 16:00 and 18:00.

Mark, one of our volunteers, describes his new role:

*"I recently became a Volunteer Fosterer for [Guide Dogs South West](#), and this little beauty is Tilley!"*

*My working day now includes dropping her off in the morning and picking her up later in the day from 'school', the Guide Dogs centre here in Chandlers Ford. It's so nice having Tilley in*



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*our lives and to be doing something so worthwhile.*

*Due to my career change starting [Mark's Your Man](#), we haven't been able to have a dog since losing our beloved Jack over 3 years ago. So, this is a wonderful compromise, with the added bonus that Guide Dogs cover all costs and provide respite with other volunteers for holidays."*

Claire Rossall, Volunteering Coordinator at Guide Dogs Southampton, said: *"Being a Fosterer is such a rewarding role, and you really will be making a huge impact in getting our dogs well on their way to becoming life-changers. Even from your first day, you will never be alone. We have dedicated volunteer managers who will support you throughout your volunteering journey. They are always on hand to answer any questions that you might have, and offer training right from the start.*

*We also have a massive community of volunteers, so you are really joining the Guide Dogs family when you become a volunteer. It gives you the opportunity to socialise and meet fellow Fosterers in your area."*

A UK-wide charity with a community team based in Chandlers Ford, Southampton, Guide Dogs helps people with sight loss to live the life they choose, and to step out into the world with confidence.

Start your volunteering journey at: [www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-for-guide-dogs](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-for-guide-dogs)

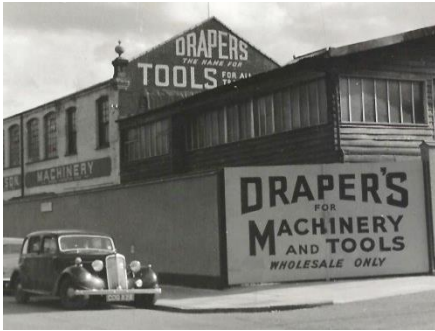


# DRAPERS TO RENEW THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTHAMPTON FC

Did you know Chandler's Ford-based tool firm Draper Tools is over 100 years old? Established in 1919 by Bert Draper, the business is still family owned and run today by the third and fourth generation of the Draper family. With over a century of history behind it, the company isn't slowing down and remains as committed to growth and innovation as ever.

## History & heritage

- Draper Tools started life in 1919 with founder Bert Draper selling at markets in the Kingston Upon Thames area.
- The company moved to its current head office site in Chandler's Ford in 1963, so celebrates 60 years on the site.
- Prior to becoming home to Draper Tools, the Chandler's Ford site was a royal navy victualling depot. It was used as the central stores for the shadow factories producing spitfires during World War 2. The shadow factories were small manufacturing units producing aircraft parts dotted all around the Southampton area in an attempt to escape the axis bombing raids.



- When Bert Draper passed away in 1963, control of the Company passed to his son Norman, who grew the business together with his wife Joan, who produced, almost single-handedly, the company's first type-written catalogue.

## People, partnerships & the future

- Today the company, overseen by Norman's son, John and his grandsons, Tom and Joe.
- Many local people will remember Draper Tools as proud sponsors of Southampton FC in the 80s and 90s. As of June 2023, Draper Tools is back as an official partner to the club, with a logo featuring on the Men's First Team Back-of-Shirt, as well as the Southampton FC Women's Back-of-Shorts.
- Draper also has partnerships in place with Santa Pod Raceway, and the successful British Touring Car Championship team, EXCELR8 Motorsport.



## Growth & looking to the future

- In 2006 Draper Tools purchased an additional site in North Baddesley to continue its plans for growth, initial building work was completed in 2009.
- 2018 saw significant international expansion for Draper with Holland's Delta International becoming part of the Draper family.
- In 2019 the company marked its centenary year with a huge family fun day for current and former staff. It was a day of celebration to thank everyone



involved in the success of the business as well as a day of giving back, with a special donation made to the charity 'Care for Veterans'.

- In 2021 Draper Tools released its first annual [sustainability & ethics update](#) – detailing the company's environmental journey covering everything from recycling to reducing plastics.
- The company currently employs over 300 people both locally, around the UK and overseas.
- Rapid growth and expansion plans have seen a recruitment drive with a number of exciting new roles created across the office and warehouse – for details visit [www.draperools.com/careers](http://www.draperools.com/careers).

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