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Picnic On The Green, June 14th 1.00-4.30pm

We do hope you can join us / everyone is welcome. Tear out the middle 4 pages of this magazine (that is your programme) and do come. Entry is free so if you want a good day at low cost, just bring a picnic and enjoy the show and if you want to help local businesses you can buy food, drink and much more while you have fun – we have 50 different groups attending.

Oh – dog owners, we have our annual dog show so don't leave your four-legged friend at home (unless he or she is a cat), you could win a prize!

Join us if you can, this is your forum, and it only works if you get involved (and we always need more help if you have time).

Infrastructure and Celebrations

The CIL funding for 2 benches at St James Green has been approved and we plan to dedicate one to Caroline Scott who led the efforts to ensure the Green became a community asset. The 2 new benches in Bransbury Park are already in place – what else would you like to see in Milton?

Next year is Portsmouth's Centenary as a City – what should we do in Milton? New roads or sculptures or artworks or trees or maybe something completely different – you tell us.

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Portsmouth's First 'Chatty Bench' - Bringing Communities Together

In a world where connection is more vital than ever, Portsmouth has taken a meaningful step towards fostering conversation and combating loneliness with the introduction of **'Chatty Benches'**.

These benches, marked with a simple sign inviting passers-by to sit and chat, are designed to encourage spontaneous conversations, and to create a sense of belonging in our



communities. The idea is simple but powerful - anyone sitting on a 'Chatty Bench' is signalling their openness to a friendly chat, whether with a stranger, a neighbour, or a friend they haven't met yet.

The benefits of this initiative cannot be underestimated. 'Chatty Benches' help build kindness and empathy, promote mental well-being, and even play a role in tackling loneliness and bullying - especially in schools. By offering a designated space for conversation, they remind us of the importance of small interactions in shaping a more connected, compassionate society.

Portsmouth's journey with 'Chatty Benches' began with a landmark event in Milton Park, where the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress proudly unveiled the city's first bench. This exciting milestone took place in one of Milton's beautiful parks, with members of the Milton Neighbourhood Forum joining the celebration. As conversations sparked around the bench, the sense of community and purpose behind this initiative became immediately clear.

With three 'Chatty Benches' now installed in Milton's parks, we hope this idea spreads



across Portsmouth, making these benches a familiar and cherished part of public spaces.

Whether you're out for a walk, taking a moment to pause, or simply looking for a friendly exchange, we invite you to experience the joy of a 'Chatty Bench'. Because sometimes, a simple chat can make all the difference.



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Tiny Gardens, Big Change.

Communities around the world are planting tiny gardens around the base of street trees. Portsmouth Friends of the Earth have spotted over 40 of these tiny gardens here in Portsmouth.

Street trees do so much for us - they give us shade on hot days, make the air cleaner to breathe, soak up rain to help prevent flooding, and even make our streets look and feel friendlier.

Life is tough for street trees – the ground is mostly covered in tarmac leaving them with a small amount of soil around their base in which to grow. This small area is known as a tree pit and usually has dry compacted soil, weeds that are sprayed with herbicide, and it may be full of rubbish and dog mess. When trees suffer this affects the whole street.

Creating a tree pit garden: What's In It for You?

A greener, prettier street bringing a smile to people's faces and a chance to meet neighbours.

More shade/ cleaner air /ess storm water runoff so our sewers aren't overloaded and spill sewage into the sea.

A habitat for worms, beetles, bees, butterflies and more.

How to Care for a Tree Pit Garden

Pick Your Pit: anywhere you'll see it often.

Give It a Clean-Up: Pull out rubbish, weeds but be very gentle around the roots.

Fluff the Soil: Loosen the top layer very gently so water can get through. You don't have to dig deep - just a few inches.

Water When It's Dry: Especially during the summer, trees need a big drink - about 5 watering cans or washing up bowls full a week, poured slowly.

Maybe Plant Some Flowers: If you want, you can plant a few flowers around trees that are over 3 years old. Just pick small annuals that are friendly to trees (native plants are best). A small packet of seeds goes a long way and can be shared with friends.

Spread the Word: Maybe add a cheerful sign ("I'm caring for this tree - join me!") to encourage others to pitch in too.



AChoired Taste

We have been invited, as guests, to sing some of the best songs from your favourite musicals including The Lion King, The Greatest Showman, Wicked, The Sound of Music, and many more.... Hope to see you there to help raise much needed funds for the

St James' Church Roof Project.

Baturday 28th June 2025 @ 7:30f

Doors open from 7:00p.m, performance to start at 7:30p.m... with a 20 minute interlude to include hot refreshments and home made goodies.

ST JAMES CHURCH MILTON RD, SOUTHSEA, PO4 8PG

....joined by resident organist, Hugh Darnley-Smith



All Ticket & Raffle sale proceeds to go towards the St James' Church Roof Project.

Tickets to be sold on the door - cash only or contact Valerie on 07762524781 to arrange collection.

First Milton Lord Mayor for Decades

In May this year one of our Milton Councillors became Lord Mayor. Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE has been a Milton Councillor for over 20 years and for 15 years he was Leader of Portsmouth City Council. He is the first Milton councillor to do this for at least 30 years.

Gerald has lived in Lindley Avenue for over 20 years and comes from a family of councillors. Both his mum and grandfather served on Hampshire County Council and his sister is a councillor in Devon.



Gerald is happy to invite groups of local residents to come and visit the Lord Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall and have a tour and a cup of tea. Just drop him an email to geraldvj@gmail.com

St James Church New Roof

The team at St James kicked off their appeal to raise funds for a new roof in May with a dinner (cooked by Cllr.Gerald Vernon Jackson) and an excellent speech about politicians given by Father Hugo – currently vicar of Paulsgrove but formerly of St James and before that, a civil servant in the cabinet office in Downing Street.

Stella Wansborough said, "This project has been in development for a few years now, and hopefully we will be starting in late summer. We have to raise about £1.8M which will cover our main roof, two side roofs, some of the windows which are in quite a dangerous state, a lot of the brickwork which needs repointing, some around the windows and all the window sills in the church. Over the last few years, when we have had rain, it has leaked into the church, running down the walls, so the guttering will also have to be replaced. This will then make it watertight. We will need to have much scaffolding put in place, and this is probably almost the most expensive item!!!

We have started our Fundraising appeal and aim to have lots of events to carry on this work. We hope all of Milton (and beyond) will want to get involved with the project as it is their Church."

In addition to the concert detailed opposite, there is the Summer Fete on Saturday 21st June, 10.30am-1pm and the Open Day on Saturday 19th July, 10 am–4 pm when the Grand Raffle will be drawn at 3.30 pm.

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Saturday June 14th 1pm-4.30pm

Event Schedule

13.00	Grand Opening
13.05	Pompey Pluckers
13.30	Ska Choir
13.30	Punch & Judy
14.00	Children's Races
14.00	Dog Show
14.15	Miltoncross Academy Perform Songs From the Musicals
14.30	Hula Hoop
15.00	Pompey Pluckers
15.00	Punch & Judy
15.15	Children's Races
15.30	DrumNation Tribe
16.00	Miltoncross Academy Perform Songs From the Musicals
16.30	Close



This is your programme, pull these pages out and bring them with you


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Saturday June 14th 1pm–4.30pm

We have over 50 Exhibitors, Performers and Stallholders booked including:

Lip Reading **Bouncy Castles Cinnamon Buns** Lizzie's Lovelies Sweet Occasions. **Coastal Defences Wave** Martina's Bakery Demo Milton Rangers Cream Teas **Cushing Crafts** Pamodzi Creatives - Children's Books **Dog Treats** Portsmouth Beekeepers **Face Painting** Portsmouth Guides Food and Coffee Portsmouth Scouts Friends of the Earth Punch & Judy **Giggling Gaia** Rainbow faces Rainbow neuro Green Ribbon Books HaylinGEMS 1st Aid **Rowans Hospice** SEND Butterflies **Healthy Dogs Healthy Walks** Slush St James Church HIVE Switched on Portsmouth HIWWT Ice Cream The Frosted Sisters Indian street food Tombola Jewellery Tuk-Tuk Library URC / Little Spinnakers **Knitted Toys** Library of Things Wooden Crafts

Locksway Road & Moorings Way Improvements

The Forum has long campaigned for improvements to our roads – two notable examples being the zebra crossing in Locksway Road and the junction by Moorings Way School.

At Locksway Road vehicles parked within the zigzag lines by the crossing block the view of motorists to anyone waiting to use the crossing.

The latest from the Council Traffic team: "The project to improve the safety at the Locksway Road Zebra Crossing is currently in the design phase, where the plans will include extending the footway and kerb line to align with the existing zig-zag road markings. We anticipate that the detailed design will be completed by the end of May.

As part of the design process, we are proposing to include the installation of rain gardens at the crossing. The scheme also supports the priorities set out in the Local Transport Plan (LTP), specifically the goal of making our city cleaner, safer, and greener - by improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to encourage more people to walk and cycle.

Once the design phase concludes, a period of stakeholder communication and review will begin in June. Following this, the scheme will enter the queue for scheduling and implementation. While delivery timelines can vary, it is anticipated that works will be completed by the end of the year."

So that is good news. On Moorings Way, the issue is the parking of cars in Moorings Way opposite its junction with Warren Avenue is a danger to cyclists whether they squeeze inside parked cars in the cycle lane or pass outside into the middle of the carriageway. We will keep pushing for improvements. Where else is an issue for you?

New Homes At St James Hospital

The Forum has long championed green space in Milton and over the years, we have had some wins (St James Green) and some losses (the new build at St James) and will continue to work with all parties to ensure our community is as friendly, inclusive and well-integrated as we can make it. Forum chair Martin Silman and secretary Paddy O'Hara



met with PJ Livesey to talk about the works at St James creating 58 new homes and converting the old hospital building into 151 apartments.

The good news is that all the new development appears to be of a high standard, the restoration of the external brickwork on the hospital buildings brings out its original vibrance, the clock on the tower will be repaired and the large grass circle in front of the building now has a very nice Victorian fountain. YOUR LOCAL FAMILY LAW SOLICITOR



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More Roadworks?

Milton residents may face many months of road works as both the sewage and gas mains on the east of Portsea Island are coming to the end of their lives.

Southern Water are responsible for the sewers. Their main sewer running under the Eastern Road from Drayton has had to be replaced in pieces. The company fits a plastic liner within the piece of the sewer that has blown and then fills this with boiling water that "cooks" the plastic liner and makes it rigid. This stops the company from having to dig up all the road.

The problem has been that replacing the sewer is not on Southern Water's agreed list of replacement works. Every time they repair one section and repressurise it another bit of the pipe blows, and they must then repair that. The good news is that the next section on the Eastern Road is not under the road but is under the verge so fewer lanes will need closing.

The gas mains have been replaced on Eastney Road south of Bransbury Road and in Hilsea near where the News Centre used to be and has been repaired many times in between these sites. Recently there was another leak at the Velder Avenue junction. One person described the gas main as looking like a piece of cheese with holes in.

All this means both Southern Gas and Southern Water are going to have to do lots of work renewing pipes they should have renewed ages ago and this will cause us all grief, but it's better than a gas explosion or sewage everywhere.

Milton Cllr. & Council Leader, Steve Pitt

Walks In Milton

Want to get outside and meet new people? There are 2 walks in Milton for anyone to come along and get outside, have a conversation and chat. One on Tuesdays at 1pm outside Eastney Community Centre, for a short walk over to Milton Park. Ideal for those who would like to build their confidence. Finish the walk at the Milton village café for those who would like to join us for a social chat. Please bring money on the day. We also meet every Sunday outside the Good Companion Pub at 2pm, for a longer 45 minute walk to Milton Foreshore and back to the pub afterwards for a social chat. You can just turn up on the day, there is no need to book, our walk leaders will be there to greet you. Please look out for them - they will be wearing orange hi-viz jackets. For more information, please visit https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/wellbeing-walks, or call Charlie on 02392 841762. We hope to see you there.



Are you a self-employed support or care worker? Or thinking of becoming one?

Our Micro-Provider advice and support service could be for you.

Self-employed Micro-Providers run their own small business (microenterprise) to provide paid for support or care for people in their local community. They help local people with everyday tasks, so that they can stay well, get out and about and live as independently as possible. They make a positive difference supporting local people.

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- And more.

Providing these small, flexible and personalised services means that local people (your clients) have more and better choice over the type of support they receive, when and how they want it and who provides it.

What is the Portsmouth Micro-Enterprise Programme?

Through the Independence & Wellbeing Team at Portsmouth City Council, you can get help and advice to set up your own business, register as a Micro-Provider, find clients and get started.

Become part of a network of Micro-Providers to help local people remain independent, stay in their homes for longer and live the life they want to. Enjoy networking opportunities with others in similar fields, and share experiences.

Are you interested in becoming a Micro-Provider and would like support? Or are you an existing Micro-Provider keen to network with others? Either way, I would love to have a chat with you.

Call Nicky on **07917 828257**

Email micro-enterprise@portsmouthcc.gov.uk



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You?

Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson

39 Lindley Ave., Southsea (07976 949272) <u>geraldvj@gmail.com</u>

Cllr Kimberly Barratt

C/o Members' Services Floor 3 Civic Offices, Guildhall Sq., PO1 2AL (07447904224) cllr.kimberly.barrett@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Cllr. Steve Pitt

C/o Members' Services as above (023 9283 4936/ 07966 763635) <u>Cllr.Steve .Pitt @portsmouthcc.gov.uk</u>

Ward Councillors - Baffins Cllr Leonie Oliver

C/o Members' Services Floor 3, Civic Offices, Guildhall Sq., PO1 2AL (07823 804896) cllr.leonie.oliver@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

ClIr. Darren Sanders Flat 6, 92 Victoria Road North Southsea, PO5 1QE (07740 680612) <u>darrensanders59@gmail.com</u>

Cllr. Abdul Kadir

c/o Members Services as above (07826 534614) <u>Cllr.Abdul.Kadir@portsmouthcc.gov.uk</u>

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