



MILL ROAD NEWS

Nº13 SPRING 2016

Mill Road Gardens Open & hidden



The narrow plots running in front of Mill Road's terraced houses tend to fall into one of two possible categories; paved parking spaces for bicycles and bins, or tiny patches of thorny uncompromising hedges, which screen residents from fumes and pedestrians. It will probably surprise passers-by and shoppers alike that just a few of yards from Mill Road's taxis, HGVs and busy pavements are back gardens which have a totally different feel, a feeling of tranquillity.

Original Victorian garden walls survive, providing back gardens with privacy which many residents have enhanced by erecting trellises to heighten their walls and increase the seclusion of their gardens. Ivy is a popular creeper to grow on such trellises as it provides greenery in winter and the ivy berries provide food for baby thrushes. Ivy however is one of nature's thugs; its tendrils can penetrate into crevices and bricks which will then have to be repointed. A good trick, which I first spotted at the Alhambra Palace in Grenada, is to cultivate strong upward stems making sure they remain detached from the wall by sliding a trowel behind them frequently and removing all horizontal shoots. Once the stems have reached the trellis work above they can be allowed

to retain their leaves. Climbing roses, honeysuckle and clematis thrive in summer and do not attack bricks and mortar. Mid-terrace gardens, as opposed to corner sites, get sufficient sun to sustain cottage gardens, lawns and sunbathers. Mill Road's walled gardens are a valuable resource, particularly to households with small children who benefit from a secure area to play, but they are also valuable to students who wish to party, birds who may wish to feast and worms who may wish to streak underground.

– Charlotte de Blois, Mill Road



Tuesday 3 May 10:30 - 11:30

Coffee and Mill Road Meetup, all welcome

Pitch your new idea, show us your creations, tell us what you're up to. Join the Meetup group online if you like, we're up to over 180 members. But we'd like to meet you in person so take a break and come out for coffee!

meetup.com/Mill-Road-Meetup

Relevant Records 260 Mill Road CB1 3NF

Between 7 May and 22 May

Eat Mill Road (part of Eat Cambridge)

See page 2 for details

Saturday 7 May 19:30 - 21:30

Music in the Pavilion

Lebenslust – A Brahms evening of lovesongs and gypsy music. Liebeslieder Waltzes Op.52 Peter Britton and Alex Reid (piano duet)

Free admission, please book via

brahmsathugheshall.eventbrite.co.uk

Pavilion Room, Hughes Hall CB1 2EW

Tuesday 10 May 18:00 - 19:00

Margaret Wileman Concert Series

A programme of music composed by three leading French composers, Francis Poulenc, Maurice Duruflé, and Olivier Messiaen

Hughes Hall Senior Member pianist Ian de Massini and singer Jennifer Bastable. Free admission, please book via

massiniandbastable.eventbrite.co.uk

Pavilion Room, Hughes Hall CB1 2EW

Friday 20 May 20:00 - 21:30

Open Mic Poetry Evening

Entry is free. Bring some of your poetry.

Downstairs at Relevant Records

260 Mill Road CB1 3NF

bradevans1971@gmail.com



Sunday 6 June 11:00 - 16:00

Mill Road Feast

Street food, organic food, all sorts of food...
Gwydir Street Car Park

Saturday 2 July 17:00 - 22:00

Mill Road Midsummer

Market and fair, outdoors and in many venues along Mill Road. Games, contests, music, dancing, street food, vintage sales, stalls and much more!

Donkey Common to Coleridge Road

FROM MILL ROAD BRIDGES



Mill Road Bridges is a constituted community group with a steering committee of local people who either live or work on, or near to, Mill Road. Our aims are to promote the interests and rich cultural diversity of Mill Road and its surroundings, and to engage with local resi-

dents, community groups, and traders in Petersfield and Romsey. We share information and help build community spirit through Mill Road News, mill-road.com, Mill Road Meetup and other activities.

Contact us at info@mill-road.com.



Eat Cambridge is now an annual festival, in its 4th year, celebrating all of the delicious things to eat in drink in and around Cambridge. A headline event on Saturday 7 May is followed by two weeks of fringe events all over the city. It's a great opportunity to try new things, or to take advantage of special events at your favourite places.

Mill Road will be represented at the banner event at the Guildhall, with Culinaris Fine Food and Spices and Hot Numbers both making appearances.

Between 7 May and 22 May, there will be events at Culinaris, Hot Numbers, Garden Kitchen, and Limoncello. You can find the full Eat Cambridge event schedule at their website (eat-cambridge.co.uk), or take a look below to find out more about what's going on along Mill Road.

7 May: Coffee and Chocolate at Hot Numbers, 5/6 Dale's Brewery, Gwydir St. at 19:00 (tickets at hotnumberscoffee.co.uk or in cafe)

8 May: Garden Kitchen in Bloom! – a special all-day event at Garden Kitchen, 82 Mill Road, celebrating the best seasonal snacks and treats. Its the first of a series of pop-ups at Garden Kitchen over the course of festival, so keep checking back.

14 May: Eat Mill Road Walking Tour with Caroline Biggs and Alan Brigham from 14:00-15:30 (book on eventbrite.co.uk)
Cupping & Coffee appreciation at Hot Numbers at 19:00

19 May: Cheese, Beer, Bread & Butter at Culinaris, 88 Mill Road, from 19:00 - 21:00. Email sales@culinaris.co.uk or stop into the shop

21 May: Coffee Cocktails at Hot Numbers, 19:00.

Throughout the Festival: Limoncello tasting at Limoncello, 212 Mill Road – a great deal at £5 (vs. the usual £15)! Stop in anytime during the Festival to try a range of limoncello varieties.

It's worth taking in as much of the Festival as possible, and Mill Road is an amazing place to start.

Mill Road Coordinator



First of all, thanks to everyone who came to the Mill Road Feast on Mother's Day, 6 March (and thanks especially to David Wesson, who did great work as a volunteer). We were lucky with the weather and had about a thousand people there over the course of the day. With spring finally here, we are already thinking about the next **Mill Road Feast**, on Sunday, 5 June – put it in your diary! We will have the usual mix of savoury and sweet, meat and veggie, food and drink.

After the Feast the next big event is the **Mill Road Midsummer Event** on 2 July (sponsored by Prana Indian Restaurant). Building on last year's Mill Road Night Market, the event will include special offers and events up and down Mill Road, with food, drinks and entertainment. New this year is a dedicated family-friendly creative area at Ditchburn Place, which will feature a collaborative sculpture project, a Children's Live Lounge performance space, a fancy-dress photo booth and an interactive sculpture from Cambridge Art Salon. There will be a Mill Road Feast in Gwydir Street Car Park and a vintage/craft market in Bharat Bhavan (the old Mill Road Public Library). We have had so much interest – both from the community and from potential volunteers – that we are looking to add venues and programming. If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch!

We are especially grateful to **Prana Indian Restaurant** (97 Mill Road), the core sponsors of the Midsummer Event,

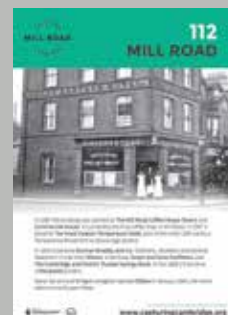


and are so excited to see this year's event building on last year's.

While I have been focused on the Midsummer Event in the last few weeks, Mill Road has been busy: we said goodbye to Cavendish Classics Footwear and will be losing Cambridge Resale at the end of April. But we are welcoming new businesses to the road as well: a new hair salon where the shoe shop used to be; a new restaurant in the Royal Indian Takeaway, a Lebanese deli where Jaffa Net was, a Chinese restaurant in place of the Tulip... there will lots of new places to try.

Frannie Ritchie, Mill Road Coordinator
millroadcoordinator@gmail.com
Facebook: Mill Road Coordinator
Twitter: @MillRoadCo
Instagram @millroadcoordinator

MILL ROAD GREEN



Have you spotted Mill Road History's signs in some shop windows showing images of that shop from the past? Please get in touch if you have more old photographs to share with us. millroadhistory@gmail.com

Community gardens tucked away in plain sight

Romsey Community Garden (at right)

A medium-sized garden planted with flowers and edibles, with a community shed. The gate can be closed to stop children running out into the road.

How to find it: On the junction of Madras Road and Marmora Road, off Mill Road (CB1 3PY).

transitioncambridge.org

Romsey Recreation Community Garden (below right)

One of Romsey Garden Club's maintained gardens and spaces. Planted four years ago with mainly drought-tolerant herbaceous perennials (rosemary, stachys, day lilies, geraniums, ceratostigma, cotton lavender, irises, etc). Good plants for bees and insects.

How to find it: Raised beds near Ross Street entrance (and play area). Half way down Ross Street, between St Philip's Road and Fairfax Road, not far from Ross St Community centre CB1 0JH.

sites.google.com/site/romseygardenclub



Mill Road Community Garden

One of Romsey Garden Club's maintained gardens and spaces. A mixture of trees (Himalayan birch, pussy willow), shrubs (buddleia, viburnum, dogwood), roses, herbaceous perennials and self-sown flowers (red campion, ox eye daisies, etc).

How to find it: by the bus shelter opposite Madras Road (near Spar shop, 301 to 303 Mill Road, CB1 3DF). In front of the site for the new mosque.

sites.google.com/site/romseygardenclub



Watch Vinery Road gardens grow on Mill Road TV

Mill Road TV presents the Vinery Road Allotment with Colin Wiles, allotment holder, local resident and Romsey Action campaigner. There is also a brief introduction video from Patrick Joyce, another fellow Vinery allotment holder. Regular monthly video updates will appear now that the growing season has started, so be sure to follow, subscribe and comment on our social media sites. (Ever thought of keeping chickens?)

We are very pleased to announce that in April Mill Road TV received some funding from the Susie Oakes Trust which has enabled us to add to our small range of equipment and get some publicity material printed. So please check out Mill Road TV - a YouTube channel - and connect to the Mill Road scene. We'd love to hear from you.

millroadtv.co.uk



may also submit an event for consideration. **Mill Road Bridges** is open to anyone with an interest in the Mill Road neighborhood.

MILL ROAD GREEN



Tending Mill Road's largest public "garden"

One of Cambridge's most unusual garden sites is the Mill Road Cemetery. It is owned by a collection of parishes and remains consecrated ground. As the gravesites were "closed", meaning no new burials were permitted, site maintenance devolved to the care of the City Council with community input from Friends of Mill Road Cemetery.

The Cemetery is special in many ways, one of these is that it is designated as a City Wildlife Site for its neutral grassland and chalky soil grassland. The important contribution such sites play in conserving biodiversity has been recognised by national government and our City Council. The Maintenance Plan for the cemetery specifies that trees and shrubs should be carefully managed to retain the existing character of the Cemetery without shading out the rare grassland habitat.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit and enjoy this delightful and unique space. If you see improvements in the maintenance and management of the Cemetery, please contact: Streets & Open Spaces, Mill Road Depot, Mill Road CB1 2AZ or parks@cambridge.gov.uk 01223 457000

Candlelight ceremony in Mill Road Cemetery to commemorate the Battle of the Somme, July 1916

Come to the Mill Road entrance to the Cemetery at dusk, 20:45, on Saturday 2 July 2016 (the evening of the Mill Road Midsummer Fair) and then join others in the centre where we will display some of the giant poppies we used in our 1914 events.



Light a candle and help us recite the names of WW1 local soldiers commemorated in the cemetery.

This event is organized by the Friends of Mill Road Cemetery. All events in the cemetery take place with permission from the Parishes Committee and City Council. millroadcemetery.org.uk/friends



Mill Road Cemetery, early April / Alison Marlow



Mill Road entry, before and after maintenance

Help us restore vandalised graves

April 2016 – Alas, there has been another spate of sickening, mindless vandalism in the Cemetery. Please help us raise funds to restore as many newly-damaged graves as possible by bringing your coins to the Friends Stall which will be at the Mill Road entrance from 18:00 on Saturday 2 July (the evening of the Mill Road Midsummer Fair) and let's make as long a trail of coins as possible. All money raised will be earmarked for restoration.

We need to send a message that we care to those who abuse this special place.

– Caro Wilson, FOMRC

Recent damage to graves, documented by vigilant dogwalkers Joanna Dean and Ella Astor





Roy Stamp (centre) delivers letters with other residents

Our gardens under threat

'It would set a fearsome precedent' in the words of one of the many people objecting to the plans by Robinson College to build at the rear of terraced houses they own in Romsey Terrace. All eleven of the mature and semi-mature trees would be felled, and the whole garden filled with a dense back-to-back development. Local people have been fighting proposals to build on this site for 2 years now – a process described by one resident as attrition.

'It just seems like speculative development of the worst kind,' says Roy Stamp, the chair of the local residents group. He described the latest scheme as looking 'as if it belongs on an industrial estate rather than adjacent to a Victorian Conservation area,' and says it is totally at odds with policies against 'garden-grabbing' in the Cambridge Local Plan.

There is a need for family homes with small gardens here and we have written to Robinson pointing out that they could sell their existing houses tomorrow at a huge profit without causing this harm to the local environment, but they are just greedy,' said Roy, who personally delivered letters on behalf of residents to Fellows at the College.

Unhappy at Robinson's refusal to discuss the plans, local people then called for a meeting at a Development Control Forum. It was planned for the beginning of March, but at the last minute the College backed out and went to Appeal instead, so the decision will now be taken outside our area.

We have to hope the Planning Inspector will visit Romsey, and will realise the importance for us of these 'green corridors' behind our busy streets. Approval for this scheme could otherwise mean the loss of what little green space we have left here.

Can you, or anyone you know, help residents fight this appeal?

Help is needed with:

- Legal advice
- A professional challenge to the Sunlight,
- Daylight and Overshadowing reports

- Surveying/architectural help
- CAD – to show 3D images of the houses on the site

Please contact Roy Stamp at royjohnstamp@gmail.com

Please trim your front hedges!

Spring has sprung and hedges start growing again. Sometimes they grow into the verge along roadways, causing an obstruction that might precipitate an accident. For example, mum and child are walking hand in hand down Mill Road; Mum steps around an overgrown hedge forcing child into the bikeway. Bam, child and bike collide.

Whose fault? Possibly everyone's, but most easily prevented by having hedges



trimmed to prevent obstructing the verge. Let's keep an eye on our hedges on and around Mill Road and keep all of us safe. If the hedge is yours, give it a trim. The

County Council can enforce pruning or cutting back of vegetation that obstructs the highway under several clauses of the 1980 Highway Act powers. They would be able to contact land owners or their agents to request reasonable / timely works.

The best way to contact them is to use the link below to 'Report a pothole or other highways fault' then the Problem as 'Roads and pavement surfaces'. Then you identify the exact area and issue for them to follow up. The process is not straightforward as the selection of faults you can report does not appear to cover obstructions on the verge. However work around this and in a few minutes the job is done.

Enjoy a safe Spring.
cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults

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When you're ready to make a move why not give our team a call, or pop in to Mill Road and see us?

Giving us the green light could be the best move you'll make.

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Our "green corridor" runs from the bottom of



Want to see a water vole? Or spot a kingfisher? Just down the end of Mill Road is a watercourse where you can do just that! Cherry Hinton Brook runs from the pond called Giant's Grave (near the Robin Hood pub on Cherry Hinton Road), through Cherry Hinton Hall, all the way down Snakey Path past Sainsburys, and then through Coldhams Common (where it is called Coldhams Brook) to the River Cam. The paths along the brook are a very busy route for walkers and cyclists and, with its special wildlife, it makes a lovely and unexpected green corridor on this side of Cambridge City.

The water vole was once common in the UK. However, numbers have declined dramatically since the early twentieth century and surveys show that overall they are still going down. We are thus privileged and justifiably excited to have what appears to be a

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Receive emails about community events! Join Mill Road Bridges on



or email secretary@mill-road.com. You

ridor" at Mill Road



healthy population in Cherry Hinton Brook. There is also a rich bird population, with the kingfisher and egrets regularly catching the eye of passers-by. In spring, frogs, toads and newts can be seen crossing Burnside to breed in the Brook.

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook run a series of activities – litter picks, nestboxes, interpretation boards, and flow deflectors – to keep the brook and its surroundings clean and attractive and to benefit the wildlife in collaboration with the City Council, the Coldham's Lane Sainsbury's store, the Wildlife Trust and numerous other supporters.

Please do get in touch if you would like to join FCHB, receive or help produce our newsletter and take part in any of the volunteer work parties. We would welcome new members and supporters!

friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Eat, read, live

We are all pretty nifty gardeners or fast learning novices but how about growing our local life by sharing seeds, bulbs, cuttings, ideas, crops and so forth?

An attractive book full of month by month tips on how to co-operate with neighbours to enhance our urban lives is



Veg Street: Grow Your Own Community by Naomi Schillinger published by Short Books shortbooks.co.uk/book/veg-street. For the joy of growing lunch on your doorstep £16.99 seems a reasonable price to pay.

– Eryl Griffiths, *Romsey Action*

Veg Box workshop from Make Do and Mend

Starting May 2, the 'Veg Box' workshop will involve collecting and recycling old wooden pallets into raised beds for people in need. We will then deliver the finished raised beds planted up with vegetables.

We need volunteers and members to help with the project as well as nominations for people who may benefit from a raised veg box. We are also looking for volunteers from other local organisations to come on organised days.

We plan to hold the workshops on Mondays and Wednesday from 13:00 – 15:30 at the Whitehill Allotment site (plot 56).

makedoandmendinfo.co.uk

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Letters, opinions ...

Write to secretary@mill-road.com

To the Editor:

Lets get 1 thing straight mill rd is not diverse eccentric or cosmopolitan it is a disgusting mess i walked down from ross st today where i live and from the broadway to swimming baths i encountered 5 fresh piles of dog muck 2 old piles of vomit the usual cplection of alkie and there filthy dogs so best street in england dont make me laugh it is a pig sty and unfortunately i live there

ronnie
ross st

Editor: Thank you for writing. It's good to remind ourselves that, while many of us love Mill Road as it is, there are always improvements that can be made.

To the Editor:

I have a book of my brother's who has recently died, called Flicks Through the Ages by F.T.Unwin and in it is a letter dated 1993 from the Cambridge City Council in response to his letter about the future of the Kinema. He was brought up in Cambridge and had very fond memories of the cinema – as we all did! I would like

to donate this book and letter for your archives if you let me know where I can drop it off.

Thanks

Christine Woodhouse

Editor: Thank you for writing and it was a pleasure to meet you. I'm flicking through your donated book right now.

To the Editor:

Not so long ago local officials and law enforcement agencies argued that plants in public places encouraged crime. They advocated removal of hedges, trees and herbaceous borders suggesting that muggers would have nowhere to hide. This approach was dubbed the scorched earth policy and was challenged by bands plant lovers who, calling themselves guerrilla gardeners, actively planted up public spaces on the sly. Fortunately with changing fashions public spaces are, once again, becoming greener. A stark style of silver birch trees, illuminated at

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night, and intermingled with water features has become a modern classic. Mill Road has not benefited from this trend yet, nor has the Petersfield stretch benefitted from active guerrillas other than the persistent endeavours of natural forces.

Ten years ago blue larkspur was cultivated in a Mill Road garden. Wind borne seed



colonised the garden space in front of the Peterborough Building Society. Spring after spring larkspur germinates and grows but alas it is usually uprooted just before it blooms. What a pity, maybe this year it will be allowed to flower.

Nicola Teufel

Editor: Thank you for writing, keep us posted.

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may also submit an event for consideration. **Mill Road Bridges** is open to anyone with an interest in the Mill Road neighborhood.

MILL ROAD NEWS SPRING 2016





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Learn about other Mill Road residents' projects and ideas. Come hear what 2016 is bringing to our favourite neighbourhood, and tell us what you're up to.
Tues 3 May, 10:30 AM, Relevant Records Cafe, 260 Mill Road, CB1 3NF
www.meetup.com/Mill-Road-Meetup



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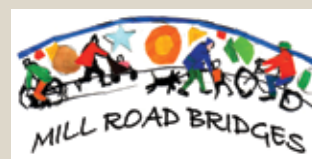
We welcome your submissions on any topic about the Mill Road

community. Send images and short articles to info@mill-road.com. Please note that articles cannot favour a political party, they should not be of a purely commercial nature, and we reserve the right to edit, refuse, or postpone use of submissions.

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