



Letters, opinions

Write to secretary@mill-road.com

Dear Editor,
I enjoyed your last Mill Road News issue on gardens but why did not you report on St Barnabas' new garden which actually abutts the Street Front? It is splendid.
Nicola Terwiel, Mill Road
Editor: It is indeed! Sometimes we don't see the roses in front of our noses.



Go on an art hunt!

Did you know there is a wonderful Art Trail just a few yards from Mill Road? In February 2014 the internationally acclaimed artist Gordon Young installed seven magnificent Bird Sculptures in Mill Road Cemetery. The six stone pieces and one wooden seat were sponsored by the Cambridge City Council Public Art Work scheme and you can read all about them on millroadcemetery.org.uk/art-in-the-cemetery. Gordon was inspired by the amount of bird song he heard on his first visit to the cemetery: each piece is titled after a different bird he heard there, and each has a phonetic representation of the bird's song

together with a poem, about each. Each is made of a different stone, but all the stone (granite, sandstone) is of a type used in the monuments of the cemetery. I really enjoy the way that you can just come across them by chance; do go for a wander and see how many you find. None are far from the path; you can find a map on tinyurl.com/hm82fo. I think I like Robin and Crow, best, but I know everyone has their own particular favourite.

— Caro Wilson



Dove, above and pictured in use below: Klerwi Dowson-Le Lay, age 8, Gresham Road



MILL ROAD NEWS THANKS....



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Learn about other Mill Road residents' projects and ideas. Come hear what's happening in our favourite neighbourhood, and tell us what you're up to.
Next date: Friday 9 September 2016
www.meetup.com/Mill-Road-Meetup

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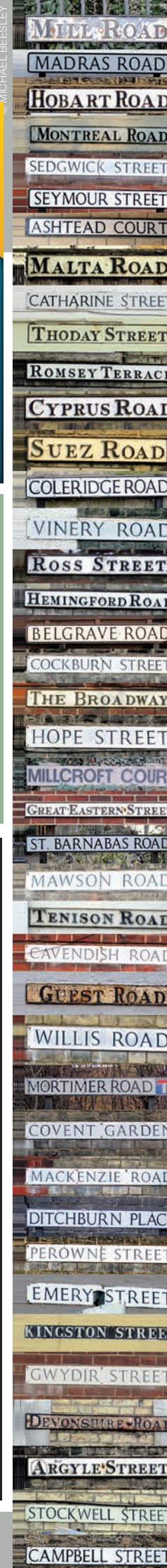
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MILL ROAD NEWS

N°14 SUMMER 2016

Mill Road The arts around us



fictitious character Dracula from abroad. The original photograph, which was taken by photographer Martin Parr, is an ambiguous image showing a pretty, girlish woman with her face painted as a skull; she is quite calm and content; certainly not scary. Here is an attempt by a charming child at being gruesome; it is an attempt that fails. The Mill Road painting has certainly lost the photograph's charm.

In April 2015 an objection to the painting/advert was lodged with the City Council's planning enforcement officer as the image did not have planning consent. Later a second complaint was received from a local resident

whose children could see the image from their bedroom window and 'could not sleep through fear'. Planning officers at a preview meeting decided that the painting/advert was part of, and added to, the diverse and eclectic nature of Mill Road and that they could not see a reason for refusing a planning application if one was received.

My own reactions to the painting have altered over time. Initially I did not like it but, after seeing it against blue skies, stormy clouds, from dusk to dawn in a host of different lighting conditions, I have come to appreciate how the image reflects changing mood and weather. Now I think that it may well be art after all but, that said, it is certainly not advertising! Passers-by on the shopping side of the street cannot see it.

The council response to this second objection was that no action against the image should be taken as it does not impact upon highway safety or amenity.

— Charlotte de Blois, Mill Road

Tuesday 16 August 19:00 – 21:00

Hands On: The Suzy Oakes Collection
The Mill Road History Society has been given a large box of photos, clippings and documents by the Suzy Oakes Trust that need sorting through and cataloguing. Please come along if you would like to help us with this.
RSVP: admin@millroadhistory.org.uk
The Bath House, Gwydir Street



Sunday 4 September 11:00 - 16:00

Mill Road Feast
Street food, organic food, all sorts of food...
Gwydir Street Car Park

Tuesday 6 September 17:00 – 20:00

Information and enrolment evening
An impressive list of art courses from photography to textile design to ceramics, and many other adult courses. (Not strictly a Mill Road neighbourhood activity but conveniently close and excellent value. — Ed.) hillsroad.ac.uk
Hills Road Sixth Form College



Friday 9 September 19:00 – 21:00

TGIF and Mill Road Meetup, all welcome.
Exchange ideas for the Mill Road area. Join the Meetup group online if you like, we're up to over 240 members. But we'd like to meet you in person! meetup.com/Mill-Road-Meetup
Venue TBD, please check website

Sunday 11 September Various times

Bridge the Gap charity walk
Part of Open Cambridge: Help raise funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill. Booking required. opencambridge.cam.ac.uk/bridge-gap-2016
Start: Parker's Piece

Thursday 20 October

Breakfast Rave
Non-alcoholic, family-friendly.
Bharat Bhavan (formerly Mill Road Library)
CB1 2AZ





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

residents, 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 and [f Mill Road Bridges](https://www.facebook.com/millroadbridges).

Mill Road Coordinator



The banner event of the summer (for me, at least!) was the Mill Road Midsummer Event on July 2. We had six venues up and down the road, plus a number of shops, community groups and local organisations participating: **Railway House** held a 30th birthday party; **Hughes Hall** opened up the college for tours and a concert; and **Friends of Mill Road Cemetery** commemorated the Battle of the Somme. It was a full, exciting night, and I am so grateful to everyone who helped to make it such a success. An organising committee met regularly, starting in November; more volunteers turned out on the day and stayed late to pick up rubbish and ensure the road was left in good order; and others volunteered power hookups, connections to performers and storytellers, and various other types of in-kind support.

In the planning and execution, the fair was Mill Road at its most friendly and generous, and I am so proud to have been a part of it. In choosing July 2 as the date, the committee hoped to set a precedent for the future of the Event. Just as the Winter Fair is the first Saturday in December, the Midsummer Event will be

the first Saturday in July. We are already thinking about the contents of next year's event, and taking forward the successes and lessons learned from 2016.

The Mill Road Feast in June was also a success, thanks to some beautiful weather and a lot of delicious food and drink. The next one is September 4 in the Gwydir Street car park – put it in your diaries! We have twenty vendors, including a couple who are new to the Feast.

As always, there is a lot percolating on the road. When I went on holiday after the Midsummer Event, I came home to discover that **Lighthouse Grille** and **Laguna** had opened in my absence, and **Prana Indian Restaurant** is a finalist in the 2016 English Curry Awards. **Tom's Cakes** is set to open in the old CB1 Café space later this year, and there is work happening in **dv247** – so lots going on, and lots to look forward to later in 2016!

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

THE MILL ROAD NEWS is published by the non-profit organisation **Mill Road Bridges**, c/o The Six Bells Pub, 11 Covent Garden, Cambridge UK. **Mill Road Bridges** is a volunteer community group serving Petersfield & Romsey wards in Cambridge. 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.

ISSUE N°14 SUMMER 2016
Editor and Designer: Pam Wesson, Emery Street info@mill-road.com
Co-Editor: Charlotte de Blois, Mill Road
Printing: Elitian, Mill Road www.elitian.co.uk
Distribution Coordinator: Richard

Wood, Perowne Street. Care to help? We need more volunteers! MRB logo: Sam Motherwell, Gwydir Street

You may also download this Newsletter and previous issues on mill-road.com.



LOTTERY FUNDED
f Mill Road Bridges

2016 Cambridge Open Studios around Mill Road: A sampling

Cambridge Open Studios, a collaborative effort by local artists and craftspeople to exhibit and hopefully sell work by inviting the public into their studios each weekend during July, has now been running for over 20 years. The Cambridge Open Studios initiative is larger than just Mill Road, it is city-wide and involves many of the villages too. A well-designed printed catalogue is produced each year, giving an alphabetical list of participants, a map marking studios by number, and a numbered index giving biographic information about each artist with a large postage stamp size example of their work.

Predictably here in Mill Road one is spoilt for choice and there is insufficient time to visit all the studios one would like to visit. This year I decided to call in on the studios that were really close to me. My first stop was **Sonia Villiers** who exhibited in Parkside. She told me that she loved the bohemian feel of Mill Road but that the locus of her work involves the medieval city. She tries to create 'a current day archive of life and a sense of place', bikes, ephemeral students and tourists in a built environment which is not 'squeaky clean' but lives. (soniavilliers.net).

My next stop was **Emily Fowke** in Gwydir Street. Emily's work is not urban, she does 'fenscapes' with animated skies and solitary trees. She says that she finds Gwydir Street a stimulating place to live and work because of the cemetery and its wild life (emiliefowke.co.uk).

A few doors further up Gwydir Street was **Carole Ellison**, like Emily non-urban landscapes seem

important to her but her work has a brooding quality whereas Emily's work is light and lively. Like Emily, Carole finds Gwydir Street a particularly stimulating environment because of the cemetery. She sold a lot of paintings this year and says that Open Studios is useful as it gives her deadlines to work to.

I finished my jaunt with a look at work done by **Rosemary Catling** and **Alexandra Drysdale**. I have visited Rosemary's studio before and I am particularly fond of a series of work she did on swimmers.



Although she still exhibits etchings and paintings of swimmers, all female and floating, she is now

spending more time depicting plants, gardens and people in surreal and unexpected situations among plants and in gardens. Her painting of a tea party on the edge of a precipice is particularly powerful (saatchionline.com/rosecat).

Alexandra's work is very different. She exhibited clean lined life drawing and zany tactile sculptures (alexandradrysdale.com).

Next week I shall be exploring the delights of work done at St Barnabas Press in Belfast Yard, which is on the borders of the Mill Road area.

I am conscious that I have not been able to see everything there is to see, which is frustrating. It is therefore heartening that charity shops in Mill Road recently organised a scheme where artists displayed their work in charity shop windows beside their website address. Mass produced art is dull and Mill Road could be in the forefront of finding ways in which artists can reach potential clients, to make original art available to everybody.

– Charlotte de Blois

The trouble with street art

The main issue pertaining to things that people paste, spray or paint on public property is where the place is. If it is somewhere where it is not welcome, like your front door, then it is vandalism. If it is somewhere where the owner of the property has given permission, then it may be Street Art. Whether it is Good Art or not is a different issue. That's aesthetics for you.



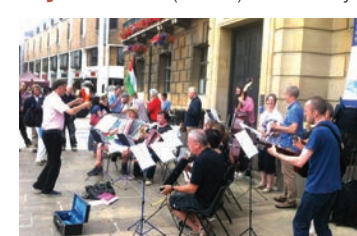
Mill Road Quiz: Where is this Banksy?

The main problem with "street art" is that it mostly appears in places where permission has not been granted by the owner, so it is vandalism. The aesthetics do not matter. So the City and County Councils remove vandalism – stickers and graffiti – from all properties they

are responsible for, plus any private places that request their assistance. – Dave Wesson

Listen to the music

There's music of all kinds on and around Mill Road, if you go looking. One of the most active community groups is CAMS Music Trust (CMT). It runs the **Mawson Road Community Orchestra** (below). Started by



Michael Copley in 2012 with 6-9 players it now has 40-45 members including 4-5 whole families and plays a wide range of music. All kinds of instruments are played to add to the fun. mrco.org.uk

CMT also runs a growing choir, an orchestra at St. Matthew's School and organises family music workshops (Jazz, Samba, Folk, World

Music etc). It also has links with a Big Band - Malcolm Talbot's Big Brass - and regularly partners with the Cambridge Jazz Festival.

What else along the Road? Starting in Romsey Town – have you seen the music cafe opposite the Co-op? **Jonathan Woolston's** violin and strings shop is based there. Do visit Relevant Records for eclectic vinyl and a cafe: relevantrecordscafe.co.uk

Off the Road, the **Empress** on the corner of Thoday Street for all kinds of music; Great Eastern Street sports The Earl of Beaconsfield for folk and blues, and a lively lot they are! Over the Bridge into Petersfield: **Hot Numbers** on Gwydir Street for jazz and art shows: hotnumberscoffee.co.uk. The **Six Bells Pub** in Covent Garden has open mike nights and Irish music; then down to **Hughes Hall** which has built a strong link to the local community through all sorts of musical and arts ventures. hughes.cam.ac.uk/academic-life/music

So whatever your tastes Mill Road will do it for you!

– Jennie Hawks

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