

# TREACLE CITY

MILFORD'S COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER

No.5 MARCH 1984

## **MILFORD SCHOOL~keep it open**

For the second \* time in less than six months Milford has shown how much better it works when different groups in the village pull together. The meeting at Milford School on 6th February to discuss education in the Belper area with the Matlock 'mandarins' was a milestone for the community of Milford. Teachers, governors and parents, those most threatened by the threat to Milford School, stood alongside the Residents' Association, the Playgroup Association, the Cameo Group and local political figures to make the message abundantly clear to County officers and Councillors:

"PROPOSE CLOSURE OF MILFORD  
SCHOOL AND YOU CAN REST  
ASSURED THAT YOU HAVE A  
FIGHT ON YOUR HANDS !!!"

Councillor Frank Revell, Chairman of the Working Party whose paper suggests closure of Milford School as a 'possibility', gave little comfort in his address to the meeting. Backed by an officer of the County Council who seemed confused about who he worked for, Frank Revell painted a picture of hard-pressed Councillors faced with falling numbers of pupils and very little choice about what to do about it. And yet he claimed that closure of Milford was only one option being considered. The consultative paper had only given one option as far as Milford School was concerned ! Frank Revell was at pains to dismiss accusations of acting in haste but stubbornly ignored repeated requests for more time to consider the very important issues raised by the paper.

(\*the first was the new Treacle City News!)

## **TOO LAVISH!**

I thought the Chairman was more than a little surprised by the strength of feeling displayed by, and the persuasiveness of arguments put from the floor. He was unable to justify comments about the unsuitability of Milford School for modern primary education (whatever that is supposed to be!) contained in the Consultative Paper; in fact at one stage he suggested that Milford School was 'far too lavish for our children!! He and his officer companions tied themselves in knots with numbers--apparently they just 'come out of the computer'. Most importantly, he found little sympathy from the parents and friends who had turned up on a bleak night for the difficult position he claimed he and his colleagues were in.

What he most certainly did receive were passionate, sometimes angry, but at all times UTTERLY CONVINCING ARGUMENTS FOR KEEPING MILFORD SCHOOL OPEN, and for developing it more as the Community School it has become in recent years. Councillors Fletcher-Davies and Massey were quite obviously impressed, and voiced support for the principles of a community school in Milford. In presenting a letter signed by over 550 local people (well done all of you!), a third Working Party member, Councillor Richard Beardsley, summed up eloquently the village's determination to keep its school intact. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 2 MILFORD SCHOOL CONT.

### M.P.'S SUPPORT

Milford School also, and somewhat to the surprise of sceptics like myself, got the support of local Member of Parliament Mathew Parris in an open letter last week. He, too, was surprised at "the strength of feeling and loyalty shown by parents, particularly towards Hazlewood and Milford Schhols, and also Ambergate School." He has asked the Working Party to give worthy consideration to developing Milford and Ambergate Schools into full primary schools as suggested by several different groups in the village. When his letter was quoted in Belper News last week his views on the Milford School were conveniently left out. How sad it is that it is left to the local community's own newsletter to print the full story !!!

The Parent-Teachers Association has now considered what to do next, and other groups are debating the same issues. The next hurdle for Milford School will be the meeting of the County's Schools

Sub-Committee on Wednesday 21st March at 10.30 a.m. I am unable to go but do urge all those who are able to go to Matlock to make sure that Milford's message is crystal clear and fresh in the minds of the Councillors. And remember that it is not too late to write in support of the school if you have not already done so. Write to

Councillor Frank Revell

or J. Evans at

County Education Department

County Offices, MATLOCK, Derbys.

Finally, I would like to say that the attendance at meetings, and interest shown in Milford School, has been magnificent. I know that the parents, teachers and the governors of the school would join with me in congratulating everyone on their efforts.

Mike Kave

## LETTERS.....

"ON YER BIKE".

"WHEN CAN I HAVE MY BIKE OUT DAD?" WHERE CAN I GO ROLLER-SKATING?" WELL, WHERE CAN YOU LET A YOUNGSTER RIDE A BICYCLE IN MILFORD?

IT WAS WITH THIS PROBLEM IN MIND THAT I CAME UP WITH AN IDEA. HOW ABOUT A SMOOTH TARMAC PERIMETER PATH AROUND THE FOOTBALL FIELD?

THINK OF THE ADVANTAGES IT COULD OFFER, NOT ONLY FOR YOUNGSTERS. THE

LOCATION WOULD BE SAFE, "FUME FREE" AND IDEAL FOR RUNNERS, JOGGERS, DOG "WALKIES" ETC., AND COULD BE A USEFUL FACILITY FOR THE SCHOOL.

THE QUESTION OF PERMISSION PLANNING, COST AND FUND RAISING WOULD NEED TO BE INVESTIGATED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IDEA?

MR D. GENTLE



MILFORD SCHOOL P.T.A.

ON SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 10TH MILFORD SCHOOL P.T.A. HAVE A STALL AT RIPLEY MARKET. CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL KINDS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME, BUT CAKES AND PRESERVES SELL ESPECIALLY WELL.

### ARTICLES NEEDED FOR TREACLE CITY

SINCE TREACLE CITY FIRST APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 83 IT HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF STORIES, POEMS, ARTICLES AND LETTERS WRITTEN BY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

ARTICLES ARE ALWAYS WANTED AND ONE OF THE AIMS OF TREACLE CITY IS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO PUT PEN TO PAPER, SO WHY NOT HAVE A TRY?

SEND IT TO TREACLE CITY c/o 6 CHEVIN ROAD, MILFORD

(P.S. DRAWINGS MUST BE DONE IN BLACK PEN SO THEY CAN BE PRINTED).

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A REGULAR CHILDRENS FEATURE IN TREACLE CITY SO COME ON KIDS START SENDING YOUR STORIES/POEMS/DRAWINGS (IN BLACK PEN)



## News from Belper Town Council

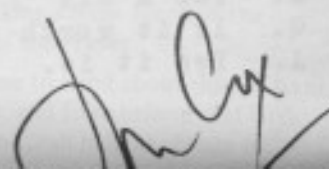
3

One of the things that causes your councillors much concern is the delay which occurs between the local authority agreeing to carry out some particular course of action and the event actually taking place. Sometimes the delay is so long that we wonder if people begin to have doubts about our efforts and to think that we've invented the whole story. For example on 28 July 1983 representatives from AVDC (Amber Valley District Council) agreed that Sunny Hill required a new surface, 'as a matter of urgency' and also that a pavement would be built at the top of Sunny Hill to prevent the deposit of silt on a lady's front lawn during heavy rain. This latter would be done, 'before Christmas'. Neither activity has yet started and the matter is shortly to be raised again at the Town Council.

Similarly the Town Clerk reported at the Council meeting on 3 January 1984 that AVDC Technical Services department had given lighting at Makeney Terrace, 'a high degree of priority' in the 1984/1985 draft estimates'. We understood informally it was number 2 in the list, but we are still waiting. So with pressure on budgets good intention is not necessarily immediate action - patience seems to be the order of the day.

The proposals for changing education in Belper have not been discussed by the Town Council. It's probably just as well since as far as the primary school proposals are concerned our loyalties are to the schools in our own wards. As far as our own defence against closure goes, our many efforts have been well orchestrated, genuine and on an objective basis deserving of success. We must now wait and see.

Current Milford matters to be brought to the attention of the council are the erosion of the Makeney Road opposite the Garden Centre and the local few motorcyclists who are making a nuisance of themselves trials riding with noisy exhausts, particularly on Sundays.





# milford playgroup

In the past few weeks we have heard a lot about Milford Playgroup during discussions and debates about the closing of the School. Have you ever wondered what goes on at this Exclusive & Elusive Club for our young kids. We sent out our Roving Reporter to interview a typical member in the hope that we could get a glimpse of the 3'6" world of the three to five year olds behind the closed doors of the Playgroup.

I approached a young lad of about three and a half as he descended Sunny Hill, at 9 o'clock on a Tuesday morning, in the general direction of the aforementioned institution:-

- Q. Good morning Sir, can you tell me where Milford Playgroup is?  
 A. Down Sunny Hill and round the School room.  
 Q. When does it meet?  
 A. Thursday and Tuesday  
 Q. Just twice a week, how many meetings would you like?  
 A. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10  
 Q. Who goes with you?  
 A. Ben, Dylan, Richard and other boys - not big boys  
 Q. Any girls?  
 A. Only little girls.  
 Q. How old do you have to be?  
 A. Three  
 Q. Why do you go?  
 A. Because we like it  
 Q. Who is in charge there?  
 A. Penny, Charlotte's Mummy and my Mum, Penny teaches us not to fight and shoot and come in the room and do things with her: sticking and making things.  
 Q. What else do you do?  
 A. Play dough, games, do sticking, waistcoats, put them on and play cowboys, no guns - girls put on princess dresses - go out to play.  
 Q. What do you play out at?  
 A. Ride bikes, run about - we made sandwiches with butter and that black stuff\* cut in two (\*Marmite)  
 Q. Do they feed you?  
 A. Milk and biscuits - I sometimes give them out and the others - I'd like sausages.  
 Q. What does it cost you?  
 A. Nothing  
 Q. Does it cost mummy?  
 A. Yes a bit  
 Q. Is it worth it?  
 A. Yes it is.
- Q. What would you do if the playgroup closed?  
 A. Nothing - stay at home.  
 Q. Would anything make it better?  
 A. Soldiers and guns  
 Q. Thank you very much Sir.  
 A. Can I have the sweets now please?



I'm the magazine from your local church. I hope you'll enjoy reading me and want to see me every month. Why not visit us one Sunday. We'd be so pleased to see YOU.

## recruitment

Probably most parishioners are aware that Milford only has a very much part-time parish priest, knowing that I am also vicar of Christ Church, Belper. Perhaps fewer are aware that I spend at least as much time being Derby Diocesan Recruitment Officer as I do being vicar of Milford. I have been asked what I do in that job.

Who am I supposed to be recruiting for what? Basically candidates for the full-time stipendiary ordained priesthood. Why? The fact is that the number of Anglican clergymen in full-time parish ministry fell from 15,000 or more 20 years ago to only about 10,500 today. To replace those lost by death, retirement and resignation the Church of England needs about 450 new ordinands every year, and we are getting about 100 less than that.

Why do you think there is a shortfall today? Here are some reasons I have been given while conducting a survey throughout Derbyshire:

1. We ignore half the available candidates by failing to ordain women.
2. There is a shortage of young men in the pew.
3. The work-load of the modern priest is far too great and undefined - he is bound to feel a failure.
4. The remuneration is too low; the career prospects minimal, and the status declining.
5. We don't make the need known - not only in church but in job centres and libraries.
6. The church demands too high academic standards of its ordinands.
7. The typical model is not very attractive - there is little sign of job satisfaction.
8. The selection procedure is too stiff and far too secretive - alright for 'safe' men.
9. The hierarchy has an anti-working-class bias.
10. There is a general lack of confidence within the church about its faith and future.

Some, if not all, of these things we could try to do something about; but should we? What do you think?

gom

## March

## lent thought

### THE MIDDLE BIT!

The Lord's Prayer has a Beginning, a Middle and an End. The Beginning makes the alarming assertion that God is our Father, so that we must be brothers and sisters to one another.

It is alarming when you think how we actually behave to one another - poised to blow one another up, pretty careless of those who are poor and hungry, apparently supportive without asking too many questions, of measures that have rendered millions unemployed. "Hallowing" God as our Father nevertheless asserts our brotherhood as the deepest truth and priority.

The Prayer's End declares that the power to bring it about and all its superb possibilities are God's gift always ready to be given.

In the Middle, we see what we need, if that Beginning is to reach that End. It says we need the right attitude to things and to people, and, to attain to both, the right disposition towards the frailty in our hearts and the evil in our world.

Lent reminds us to be serious about this Middle of the Prayer.

This means to stop and be realistic about how frail - morally, spiritually, humanly, we can be, and with such damaging effects; and about how powerfully various forces in life around us can play upon our frailty and bring it to the surface, making a huge denial of the Beginning of the Prayer.

Lent is a time to mind about this, to want it to change, and to re-believe that God, and only God, can help us change it.



# DIARY DATES

for MARCH « »

Monday 27th February : The Parish Church's Annual Meeting is to be held at 7.30 pm in the Church Room. It is hoped that all adult members will be present for the elections, review and preview. The second half of the meeting will be chiefly concerned with answering the CHRISTIANS RESPOND questions.

Wednesday 7th March sees the beginning of the 40 days of Lent - Ash Wednesday starts our penitential preparation for Easter, in line with Our Lord's 40 days of preparation for His ministry - spent in the Judean Wilderness above the River Jordan, in which He had just been Baptized.

Friday 16th March is the date of the visitation to the parish by the Archdeacon of Derby, the Venerable Robert Dell, and his lay assistants. There will be a service, refreshments, and a meeting, starting at 7.30 pm in the church.

## lent:

Every WEDNESDAY of Lent we are invited to the Convent of St. Laurence (Field Lane, Belper) to the nuns' 3.00 pm devotional service. It lasts for a maximum of 45 minutes. The first one is on March 7th and the last on April 18th.

Every THURSDAY of Lent we are invited to Christ Church, Belper, for a lay-led half-hour service around The Fourteen Stations of the Cross. This will take place at 8.15 pm from Thursday 15th March to Thursday 12th April.

## hobbies:

Please don't forget our village HOBBIES WEEKEND. We shall be setting up shop, for a live exhibition and not a market, on Friday 30th March. The Church will be open from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday 31st March for YOU to come and watch other villagers (YOU TOO?) going about their spare time hobbies - from flower-arranging to computer programming. There will be a special celebration of our hobbies at the 9 am service on Sunday 1st April - MOTHERING SUNDAY. There will be flowers for the mums - if your child(ren) (of any age) come and get them for you.

If you have a hobby to show us please immediately contact Mrs. Jacquie Martin, 3 Derby Road, Milford - 'phone Belper 7438 NOW. We need YOU and your hobby and your enthusiasm - whether it is something you do or make or collect or ... whatever.

My Mum

Dear Mum we love you  
We hope you love us too  
We thank you for all you do  
We are so grateful.  
Well after all you are so kind  
On Mothers day it will be great  
We will love you, you will find  
Thanks, a million Mum. Richard MAIN

# SORRY !

THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
HAD TO CANCEL THE LAST  
ADVERTISED MEETING ON  
9TH FEB BECAUSE OF OTHER  
MEETINGS THAT WERE ARRANGED  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
WORKING PARTYS REPORT ON  
EDUCATION IN BELPER.  
APOLOGIES TO ALL  
CONCERNED.

PLEASE DISPLAY IN YOUR WINDOW

**WHAT A**

**WASTE!!**

**MILFORD  
PLAY SCHOOL  
CAME GR**

**PLEASE HELP**

**SAVE**

**OUR**

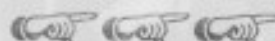
**SCHOOL**

# We're on top of gas central heating.

 **Glow-worm**  ...trust it  
The largest range of  
gas central heating boilers in Europe.  
Glow-worm Limited, Nottingham Road, Belper, Derby DE5 1JT

▷  
**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

THE NEXT RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
WILL BE ON THURSDAY  
15 MARCH AT 8PM AT  
6 CHEVIN ROAD  
WHY NOT COME ALONG  
AND TAKE PART. YOU  
WILL BE MADE VERY  
WELCOME.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF MILFORD  
AND MAKENEY RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION WILL BE  
ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH  
AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH  
ROOM.

**HELP!**

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE  
INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEEDS  
NEW PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS ON THINGS LIKE SOCIAL EVENTS, FUND  
RAISING OR ADVENTUROUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS. IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED WHY NOT ATTEND THE NEXT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH AT 8PM

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
16 MARCH 84. SEND TO TREACLE  
CITY, c/o 6 CHEVIN ROAD, MILFORD.

THE POINTS OF VIEW EXPRESSED IN  
TREACLE CITY ARE NOT NECESSARILY  
THOSE OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

PUBLISHED BY MILFORD COMMUNITY PRESS WITH HELP FROM THE FLEET ARTS  
PROJECT, BELPER S20484. PRINTED AT UNCTION 28, SOUTH NORMANTON