



The Milfordian Newsletter

September 2024

Email : milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

Website: www.milfordpreservationgroup.com

Welcome to the Milford Area Preservation Group's Newsletter. These regular updates will replace the annual Milfordian, but still provide news features as well as the latest on upcoming MAPG events and activities.

First, I would like to thank the hundreds of households in Milford and Laverstock that have once again helped our work by paying their £5 subscription – and in many cases making a generous donation too. Your continuing support is essential in allowing the Group to thrive. Should there be anyone else wishing to subscribe by BACS, these are the details: Account name, Milford Area Preservation Group; sort code, 30-99-50; account number, 25774860.

Second, very many thanks to the volunteers without whose help none of our curatorial and other activities would be possible. We are always eager to recruit more helpers. Our email address is milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

Church Road

The proposed development of 49 houses on the last open stretch of countryside on Church Road, Laverstock has been rejected by Wiltshire Council. The Council had been expected to approve the application but refused it once Councillors had heard from the planning officer, who said at the August 14th meeting: "The development constitutes unsuitable development in the open countryside. The development is also contrary to revisions of the Laverstock and Ford Neighbourhood Plan 2022 which recognises that the settlement is identified a small village where development is limited to infill." The field in question has archaeological survivals of regional importance and is integral to the wider Cockey Hill landscape. The passionate opposition of local residents (and of the MAPG) was key in the Council's decision. Your voice matters...

Litter Pick. Saturday October 26th

Assembly is 10am at the Black Barn

If you can help please contact Julia

jupe.eastaugh@btinternet.com



Flooding Remedial Work

It is gratifying that following months of intense lobbying by MAPG, Wiltshire Highways has carried out significant engineering works to address the severe flooding on Milford Mill Road (MMR) and surrounding areas. As recently as July 2023, the Director of Highways told us, that flooding on MMR “is not a high priority in terms of intervention criteria.” The fact that MMR lies in a flood plain means that the long-term solution to flooding in our area may not yet be within reach of financial realities. But this summer’s deepening of the ditches and the installation of a new outfall pipe into the Bourne below the medieval bridge, may alleviate the most severe flooding. The true test will come when the winter rains return in their full fury.



Return to the River. Saturday October 12th 10am at Milford Mill Road Bridge

This is our annual clear-up of the River Bourne and island below the medieval bridge on Milford Mill Road. As usual, we will be clearing excess weed from the water, cutting back intrusive weeds from the riverbanks and island, conducting a limited pollarding of the crack willows, and clearing litter. Contact david@lovibondpr.com if you would like to help.

Road Markings and Signage

Wiltshire Highways has also responded to our requests for renewed road markings at the junction of MMR with Queen Manor Road. As readers will know, there is a persistent problem with drivers coming from Petersfinger and failing to either give way to traffic from Riverbourne/Potters Way or even to glance in that direction. We have had many reports of near misses. As this Newsletter goes to print, the road markings are being repainted and the ‘Give Way’ metal sign is to be replaced with a much clearer ‘Stop’ sign.

Milford Hollow

Readers of this year's Milfordian will know that the Group's restoration site in Milford Hollow is not owned by Salisbury City Council but by Godolphin School. Since this news broke, the school has been immensely supportive and although we still cannot be certain of the future the auguries are promising. We were delighted to offer a gardening activity in the Hollow as well as a local litter pick to a couple of groups of girls as part of Godolphin's 'Volunteering Day'. See the photo below.

Salisbury Council, it seems, remains responsible for the trees at the back of 'our' site and contracted with tree surgeons to remove some dead elms. Unfortunately, the team drove over many of the mature ferns – thus severely damaging plants that volunteers had nurtured for years. The Council agreed to pay for replacements, and by the time you receive this Newsletter the new plantings will be in place.

We are always very grateful for any donations of plants that are native to English woodlands e.g. wild primroses, foxgloves, ferns, violets etc

'Walking on Bones'

In July, Milford House Care Home asked us to talk to residents on the history of Milford. Readers may recall that recent Milfordians have included 'A Walk Through Time,' and our talk drew on some of the more entertaining parts of a couple of those. Playing Anthea to my Brucie, Barbara handed rounded the visual aids – aka flint hammerstones and Anglo-Saxon potsherds – and was asked to demonstrate the 'Anthea Twirl,' which she duly did. Knowledgeable residents knew that it was the Montgolfier Brothers who launched a hot air balloon from the old Punch Bowl pub on Shady Bower in 1784 (the account of the fiery fate of a cat consumed by flames as the balloon caught fire over Clarendon, drew gratifying gasps of horror). As I spoke of the original owner of Calico Castle on Milford Mill Road, several residents shared their memories of working for the Gerrish family in their Market Square store long ago (Bradbeers now occupies the site). We very much enjoyed talking to everyone at Milford House and hope to offer these informal talks to other local care homes.



Forthcoming Events

Stourhead Garden Visit.

Friday October 11th Pick-up time 9.00 am from Riverbourne Road

This outing is the third of this year's garden (and house) visits. Numbers are limited and those wishing to book a place should contact Laura Jones lauraejones76@googlemail.com
The cost per person is £36. (£16 for NT members)



Quiz Night.

Saturday November 23rd

at Laverstock Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start.

This is MAPG's annual quiz which has become perhaps our most popular event. Last year we had a wonderful evening enjoyed by over 60-people. The cost is £15 per person to include a hot supper. There will be a cash bar and a hard to beat quality raffle. To book please contact: lauraejones76@googlemail.com

