The Milfordian

Milford Bridge by John Constable © V&A Museum, London

The Milford Preservation Group

Working to Protect and Preserve

April 2021

PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE SALISBURY COMMUNITY

51-61 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3SU | 01722 424524 | salisbury@w-w.co.uk | www.w-w.co.uk

Chairman's Report

The huge and distressing impact of the pandemic has been reflected, in a small way, in the activities of the Milford and Area Preservation Group in its 40th Anniversary year (2020). Nonetheless, I think that we have adapted to our circumstances and continued to deliver against our aims.

Routine committee activity has been conducted remotely, and we successfully held our 'Open Skies' AGM in November 'virtually' too. We have updated the Group's Constitution - broadening its aim to include a focus on the preservation of 'Milford and *Area*'. This change is in recognition of a need to extend our reach a little wider than the narrowly defined boundaries of Milford.

The most visible example of our activities has been through our work in enhancing the appearance of the local area. The Milford Mill Bridge river improvement project (generously supported by various local Council and Parish Boards, and Barchester Healthcare) was coordinated and managed by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The project was delivered in two phases, using a mix of MAPG volunteers and expert contractors. Whilst the site may still look rather 'raw', it is important to understand that the changes have been designed by wildlife experts to enhance the natural processes of the river and allow the site to support a greater abundance of wildlife. I encourage everyone to give nature a chance and to enjoy watching the riverbanks and island settle and grow over the coming months and years.

The MAPG also initiated its first litter pick in December. Covering a wide area of Milford and Laverstock, the team of fifteen volunteers filled 20 large rubbish bags of waste. Whilst disheartening to find so much rubbish in our neighbourhood, it was nonetheless a rewarding experience and one which we intend to conduct on a regular basis.

Since the last AGM in November, there have been some changes to the committee. After many years of support, Bridget Hamilton stepped down. I would like to record my personal thanks to Bridget for all her hard work – she will be missed but I know remains a keen supporter of the group. I am delighted to welcome two new committee members: Dr Roger Humphry (a previous stalwart of the MPG) and Tony Goddard.

The group has continued to direct its energy to other key issues including the long-standing problem of traffic in our area and the

scrutiny of planning applications. Last autumn we met with John Glen MP, local Highways Authority representatives and council members to discuss our concerns regarding traffic (see the full report on page 8). As a group, we have followed planning issues very carefully and recently submitted our objection to the proposed development of 135 houses on archaeologically and wildlife-sensitive land along Church Road, Laverstock.

As you can see, we continue to work towards our group aims of preserving the amenities in our local area and striving to ensure that the interests of all residents are protected.

Andy Howard, Chair, MAPG

Honorary Secretary's Report

At the 'virtual' AGM last November, motions before members were decided by the 'silent procedure'. This means that in the absence of any objections, the committee's proposals will be deemed to have been approved. In this manner the following were formally adopted:

- The name of the Milford Preservation Group is changed to the Milford and Area Preservation Group (MAPG).
- The Committee is authorised to select MAPG candidates as Independents in the forthcoming City and County elections.
- Whether through purchase or donation, the MAPG will explore the possibility of acquiring cherished open spaces threatened with damaging change.

We plan to hold the AGM in November, probably at the Community Farm. By then, this should mean meeting each other face-to-face at last. Further details will be sent to members nearer the time.

Possible Future Projects. The restoration of Milford Hollow. If opportunity and funding allow, the restoration of wildlife meadows. Members are invited to email the Committee with their ideas for future projects. milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

David Lovibond Hon. Sec.

Treasurer's Accounts

MILFORD PRESERVATION GROUP

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st JANUARY 2021

	2021		2020		
INCOME	£	£	£	£	
Subscriptions	418.00		612.00		
Donations	255.00		44.70		
Advertising	575.00		0.00		
Bank Interest	5.92		11.47		
		1,253.92		668.17	
River Bourne Restoration					**Information Board**
Grants, Wiltshire Council	2,000.00		1,250.00		Donation, Wessex Care
Grant, L&FPC	1,000.00		750.00		Grant, L&FPC
Donation, Barchester Healthcar	500.00		0.00		
		3,500.00		2,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME		4,753.92		2,668.17	
EXPENDITURE					
Stationery & Printing	184.59		86.20		
Secretarial Expenses	0.00		8.40		
Website	61.20		0.00		
AGM 2019 (Chafyn Grove)	0.00		99.00		
AGM Refreshments	0.00		82.48		
PA System Assessment	0.00		30.00		
AGM 2020 (Community Farm)	0.00		50.00		(Donated to venue)
Litterpick - HiViz Jackets etc	47.00		0.00		
Liability Insurance (Nov to Nov)	142.59		142.47		
		435.38		498.55	
River Bourne Restoration					**Information Board**
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	3,751.78		2,118.60		
Boswell Bros	594.00				
		4,345.78		2,118.60	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,781.16		2,617.15	
Balance at 31.01.2020		7,450.20	Cash in hand	0.00	
Surplus/Deficit for the year		-27.24	Current Account	1,675.34	
			Savings Account	5,747.62	
Balance at 31.01.21		**7,422.96**		**7,422.96**	

Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the books and vouchers relating to the Income and Expenditure Account, have verified the balances, and, in my opinion, the above figures give a true statement of the accounts as at 31.01.2021

Due to Covid 19 Accounts have been audited electronically

J Perry. Hon. Auditor. 8th February 2021

MAPG Subscriptions

The membership subscription for 2021 is £5 per household. This sum helps with project and running costs. In return, members receive this newsletter and other communications – as well of course as the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to preserve the character and open spaces of Milford and area.

Payment can be made by cheque and made payable to 'Milford Preservation Group'. Bank transfers can be made to: Acc name: Milford Preservation Group; sort code: 40-40-14; Acc No: 51090593. When paying, please use your address as a reference.

Planning Watch

The most significant developments in the past year have been the admirable extensions at the two nursing homes.

The MPG has also been monitoring recent housing allocation plans for the fields near Milford House Care home and at Milford Farm. These areas were ultimately not considered suitable for development because of the risk of flooding, the adverse effect on heritage assets (including on the deserted mediaeval village of 'Meleford'), and the extensive work required to improve access to the area.

The flooding concern has been subsequently validated by the total inundation of the area north of the care home and the partial collapse of the adjacent railway of embankment. We are pleased to think that the many concerns MPG has expressed over the traffic volume on Milford Mill Road have also been instrumental in influencing the decision to exclude this corner of Milford from development under the Wiltshire Local Plan - at least for the present.

The Committee will remain vigilant.

Dr Roger Humphry. MPG Planning Officer

Johnstone's Removals and Containerised Storage

Happy to Support the Milford and Area Preservation Group

Unit 33, Downton Business Park, Batten Road, Downton, Salisbury, SP5 3HU
01722337384 or 01725511671

MPG Litter Pick, Saturday 12th December

An impressive 19 volunteers turned out on a pre-Christmas Saturday morning to collect litter in a wide area around Milford.

The volunteers were split into three groups and each issued with high vis jackets, kindly printed on the back by Tony Goddard, and armed with pickers and bags supplied by Mark Annetts from WCC and Salisbury City Council.

The fortunate residents of the residential closes and roads branching off the thoroughfares had little litter. The main roads were a different story. There was a staggering amount of rubbish, and the most prevalent item of littering was beer cans (Carling Black Label seems to be the can of choice). Two of the team were overwhelmed with the number of cans alongside the railway bridge by Milford House Care Home. In fact, so monumental was the task that the parish council became involved and arranged for a professional firm to complete the clear-up.

Over 20 huge blue bags of rubbish were filled and WCC kindly collected all of this on the following Monday. It was a good and satisfying morning's work - but sadly highlights the blight that is litter in our community.

When Covid restrictions allow, we will resume our periodic litter picks and we invite readers to join our heroic volunteer teams.

Julia Eastaugh, Litter Co-ordinator

The challenge of increasing volumes of traffic on our roads: an Update

Last September the MPG distributed a leaflet and asked what you thought could be done to reduce the incessant flow of vehicles on Milford Mill Road and surrounding streets.

***The MPG had some ideas including**:*

• One-way traffic from Milford House Nursing Home in an easterly direction to the railway bridge. Width restrictions along this stretch of road to prevent use by HGVs.

• A speed camera placed on Milford Mill Road to enforce 20 mph limit.

• Traffic calming measures along Milford Mill Road.

• The local Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be amended so that Milford Mill Road bridge is protected from overweight HGVs.

We then had an onsite meeting with John Glen MP, county councillors and senior officers from the Highways Authority:

These were the agreed actions on Highways:

Traffic Survey Request L&FPC submitted a request for a traffic survey. Another to be submitted to complement this located on Milford Mill Road, between Manor Farm Road and the bridge.

Yellow box Request to be submitted to Highways England for consideration of a yellow box at the junction of A36 & New Petersfinger

Road. Extension of 20mph Speed limit. This will be considered once the results of the traffic surveys are known.Signing of the 7.5t Weight

Limit Review existing signage and consider additional signage on the approaches from the A36 & Manor Farm Road.

The MPG Committee has had this update from Wiltshire Highways as of March 9th 2021

Traffic Survey Request

A traffic survey request form has been submitted for a survey to be undertaken in the vicinity of the junction of Milford Mill Road and The Meadows. The council has suspended undertaking traffic surveys because of the national lockdown. Once the council resumes traffic surveys this survey (as well as the ones in the section of Milford Mill Road in Laverstock and Ford) will be undertaken.

Yellow Box Marking

A request for a yellow box marking to be provided on the A36 was submitted to Highways England (HE) last year. HE stated that they would not support a yellow box marking at the location requested. HE's view was that the key concern to them was congestion on Southampton Road and that any measures on the A36 should be aimed at addressing that problem and the provision of a yellow box would not meet this criterion.

Extension of 20mph Speed Limit

The issue can only be considered once the results of the traffic surveys requested by Laverstock and Ford PC are known. The undertaking of the traffic surveys is subject to the comments provided above.

Signing of 7.5t Weight Limit

The sensor in New Petersfinger Road indicates that roughly twice as many HGVs are travelling along Milford Mill Road away from the A36 than are travelling towards it. This disparity is due to substandard warning signs on the A36 of the weight limit. HE has indicated that they would consider allowing the erection of advanced warning signs of the weight limit on the A36 but the provision of the signs would have to be funded by Wiltshire Council and would need to be subject to a HE design check.

Little Manor Care Centre Development Now Complete

Starting in 2019 and continuing through 2020, work on the Little Manor Care Centre in Milford has been a great success, providing state-of-the-art care facilities for vulnerable adults in Salisbury. This development is the third project in a series of redevelopments by Wessex Care to fully refurbish each of six sites across the city. The sites accommodate up to 30 residents each and provide life-changing care to those living with a range of physical and mental health conditions.

Wessex Care works with the local authority to place residents into available accommodation when they need support. Since Little Manor Care Centre opened, it was only a short time before the local authority and NHS Trust asked that Little Manor be used as a Hospital Discharge Support Unit, to help care for those affected by COVID-19. The HDSU is one of many across the UK, helping to care for patients who no longer require ICU treatment in hospital, but need continuous care to help manage their condition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Milford residents for bearing with us throughout the development of the Little Manor site. If you have any enquiries about Little Manor Care Centre, or any of our service, please get in touch by calling us on 01722 336933 or by visiting our website: www.wessexcare.com

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A Walk Through Time

Distance: 4 miles. Time: 2 hours

Start: Milford Mill Road bridge. This Grade 1 Listed structure dates from the 1490s. The coping stones are 18th century. There were earlier bridges crossing the Bourne at this point, and a ford took the minor Roman road over to what is now Queen's Manor Road.

Cross the bridge and take the boardwalk alongside Milford Mill Road. The part of the field to your immediate right is the site of the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of 'Meleford' which was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 but is now reduced to shallow ridges and shadows. The fields on the other side of Milford Mill Road have evidence of pottery kilns dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries. As you walk towards Milford House Care Home, this latter part of the field on the right has yielded potsherds from the early to late Saxon periods.

At the end of the boardwalk turn left and continue with caution along Milford Mill Road and under the rail bridge. Then immediately take Petersfinger road to the left until reaching a Bridleway sign 300 yards on the left. Take that route and having passed under the rail bridge there is a quarry up to your right (now partially occupied by Travellers and behind fencing) which is the site of an early (6th century) Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Excavating in the late 1940s, Stuart Piggott found 64 warrior burials here, many furnished with swords. Follow the track past a concrete bollard for 150 yards and then take the muddy track on your right that passes round the quarry. This footpath skirts Ashley Hill on the summit of which scattered Roman building material indicates a farmstead or minor villa.

Continue for ten minutes to Ranger's Lodge Farm. Turn left onto the Clarendon track and then almost immediately right onto the footpath. After 50 yards or so take the left fork and pass the farm cottages.

Climbing steadily, carry straight on past the permissive path. Three hundred yards further on the left and close to the wire fence are two low mounds – these are probably post-medieval rabbit warrens. A little further along the track, the field to the left has vestigial features of a field system – best seen in low, slanting light. The system is undated, but the ridge patterns suggest a 13th century date.

Walking along this path you will glimpse Burrough's Hill House. There is evidence of a Neolithic flint quarry here. Also, there is a mound immediately in front of the house called 'Byrhtferth's Low'. As 'Byrhtferthes Hlaewe', this tumulus is mentioned in King Eadred's Anglo-Saxon charter of 949 AD and defines the parish boundary of Laverstock and Ford.

Follow this path until reaching a metal kissing gate on the right. Take this footpath along Laverstock Down towards Cockey Down. This is an archaeologically rich area. On the slope to your left as you leave the gate, sherds of Roman pottery were found in the 1990s. Continuing down the path for 200 yards, the hilltop to your right and above the belt of trees is the site of a Late Bronze Age (1000- 800 BC) inhumation of a new-born child. Walking steeply for perhaps 450 yards, Cockey Down is now above you among woods.

(A detour can be made at this point and the hilltop reached. The fields invisibly beyond the woods here constitute a major archaeological site. During pipeline work in the 1990s a complex continuity of remains was uncovered: Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery; evidence of a long-lived Romano-British settlement and an extensive cemetery nearby.)

Our walk skirts Cockey Down and follows an obvious track running gently downhill for 300 yards. If the light is right, the large field to

your left has the faintly raised marks of a field system. Go through the kissing gate on your left and walk along the fence line beside the school playing fields. In the middle of the field with the traces of the field system, a Bronze Age drinking vessel was found in the 1950s. It is possible this was the site of a small settlement, and whose people worked these ancient fields.

Follow the fence line until reaching the byway. Turn right and walk down to Church Road. Turn left and visit the foundations of the medieval St Andrew's at the rear of the Victorian church. Somewhere among the weeds at the very back of the site are the fragments of a Roman sarcophagus which was found when builders were laying out Greenwood Avenue in the 1930s. Unbelievably, the coffin was broken up and the greensand pieces scattered.

Cross the road and take the first road on the left. This is Duck Lane. Follow this lane past the Duck Inn until reaching Queen Manor Road. Duck Lane and its continuation as Gypsy Lane are ancient trackways which conceivably marked the boundary between Roman villa estates.

Turn right at Queen Manor Road and back to Milford Mill Road bridge.

David Lovibond

Guided Walk:

17th July at 10 am from Milford Mill Road Bridge.

For further information, email:

david@lovibondpr.com

Flood Warden's Report

Since my report last spring, we have seen relatively few problems regarding flooding except for the flooding at the junction of Milford Mill Road and Queen Manor Road. Unfortunately, there is seemingly little that can be done given the low-lying topography of this junction.
Whilst not immediately concerning Milford and area, I thought I would take this opportunity to highlight a major local scheme which has the issue of tackling flood risks in Salisbury at its heart: the proposed *Salisbury River Park* scheme.This is a £19M project located in central Salisbury which will:

- Reduce flood risk to existing homes and businesses;
- Create wildlife corridors and improve biodiversity by connecting fragmented green spaces;
- Improve the recreational and amenity value of the area;
- Enable regeneration of key development sites.

With reference to alleviating flooding, the scheme will: build a new embankment and flood wall to reduce flood risk to properties; create a new channel through Fisherton Recreation Ground; and create a new wetland area through which the new channel will pass. A public consultation took place over seven weeks in the winter. In sum, the scheme looks an excellent one. It is comprehensive, extremely well designed and its aims should enhance the lives of everyone living or visiting the area. It is anticipated that the planning process will conclude in 2021 with construction commencing 2022 and completion due by December 2023. More information can be found at www.salisburyriverparkphase1.com

Finally, I would like to thank residents who have sent me information or photographs of recent or historical flooding. All such information is welcome as it helps us build up an accurate picture of how our area responds to flood events. For further Flooding information and advice, access: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-flooding. Flooding or related issues, can be reported via My Wiltshire: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting.

Andy Howard, Flood Warden

‘As seen in…’ coverage for MPG in the Salisbury Journal

Feb 6th: Proposal to build 135 houses on Church Road, Laverstock

“..the application is frankly a most egregious assault on a much cherished landscape. The view From Church Road over the fields and up to Cockey Down is not only aesthetically pleasing and an amenity of great value to local residents, the land proposed for this development is archaeologically rich and resonant with accumulated history.

"To dispose of it in this fashion for misplaced housing and on this scale would quite simply be an outrage. I urge local people to register their objections to this impertinence in the strongest possible terms."

Aug 2020: Threat of more traffic in Milford

“Our concern is that Wiltshire Council has not appreciated that traffic will not simply disappear but, like water flowing downhill, find other ways to get where it needs to.

“If you’re driving from Southampton and certain streets are closed, naturally you will look at other routes into the city centre and the first that’s available to you as you come in is the narrow country lane of Petersfinger and Milford Mill Road through to Milford Mill Road bridge.

*“***Oct 2020 River Bourne Restoration Project**

The MPG says the £4000 project has restored the open setting of Grade 1 Listed medieval bridge and will allow local people to properly see the beauty of the Bourne for the first time in decades.

“This river crossing has been in continuous use since the Roman occupation, and the present bridge dates from the 1490s. But in recent years the island below the bridge has been colonised by willows and obscured with underbrush. This has encouraged the dumping of litter and other rubbish. Volunteers from the MPG, working under the expert supervision of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, have "transformed the

island and riverbanks into places of beauty and wildlife habitat – a corner of old England in a busy world"

Oct 2020 Meeting held over concerns about Milford Mill Road bridge

AT A breakthrough meeting, county officials have vowed to work with the Milford Preservation Group (MPG) to resolve long-standing traffic problems on Milford Mill Road.

The "crucial" meeting took place by the Grade 1 Listed bridge, and included MP for Salisbury John Glen, Councillor Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council cabinet member for highways), Parvis Khansari, Director of Highways, and Wiltshire Councillors Sven Hocking and Ian McLennan.

The Chairmen of Clarendon and Laverstock and Ford Parish Councils were also present. David Lovibond of the MPG, said it was "gratifying to see the key decision-makers" after months of lobbying and campaigning.

Help us Protect and Preserve Milford's Cherished Landscapes

Despite lockdown restrictions, MPG has had a busy and expensive year. We are also looking to the future and, as agreed at the 'virtual' AGM, exploring the possibility of acquiring cherished open spaces threatened with damaging change. Milford has within its boundaries, fields of great archaeological, landscape and wildlife value. It would be tragic if these were lost to housing or other forms of development. Whether through purchase or donation, the MPG could become custodians of these precious fragments of rural England.

Could we ask that members wishing to contribute to our costs and to our plans, send their donation to our Treasurer, Louise Gay: 29, Riverbourne Road, Salisbury SP1 1NU.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Milford Preservation Group'. Bank transfers can be made to: Acc name Milford Preservation Group; sort code 40-40-14; Acc No. 51090593.

If paying in online, please use your address as a reference.

Carpetwise is pleased to support the work of the Milford and Area Preservation Group

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MAPG volunteers are invited…

The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust is currently working on the pollarding and coppicing of water-meadow ditch trees in the Laverstock water meadows at the Community Farm.

Pollard and coppice willows along the ditch lines have been left unmanaged for the last twenty or so years. As a result, these crack willows have grown into a tangled mass of boughs chocking the fresh-water life from some of the ditch sections.

Project leader David Burton suggests MAPG members might like to help with future work at this local landscape restoration site.

For details, please contact David Burton at:

David.Burton82@outlook.com

Milford Preservation Group Committee Members

Chair: Andy Howard: andyghoward23@outlook.com 07796716978

Honorary Secretary: David Lovibond david@lovibondpr.com

07958322896

Treasurer: Louise Gay: louiseanngay@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Barbara Lovibond: milfordpreservationgroup@gmail.com

Lorry Watch coordinator:Peter Hickspeteredhicks@gmail.com 07801 704254

Julia Eastaugh: Member jupe.eastaugh@btinternet.com 07803243217

Planning Officer: Roger Humphry: rogerhumphry@yahoo.com

Member: Tony Goddard: tony.goddard@btinternet.com

The MPAG Committee has vacancies for energetic members willing to share in our active and expanding work. Anyone prepared tp help, please contact David Lovibond: david@lovibondpr.com

Editor's Note

I hope everyone has enjoyed the expanded 'Milfordian.' My thanks to all contributors – and especially to our wonderfully supportive advertisers, without whose backing this magazine would not have been possible. Thank you.

I will keep MAPG members up to date with events, projects, and news via our website: www.mifordpreservationgroup.com

Barbara Lovibond

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