



# Milton Conservation Society

Representing Milton and Shorefields Conservation Areas



Newsletter - Spring 2022

[www.miltonconservationsociety.com](http://www.miltonconservationsociety.com)

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter which for obvious reasons has been somewhat delayed - our last newsletter went out in December 2020 but that does not mean that we have not been active. Please read on for details of some forthcoming events and catch up on what has been happening.

## Quiz Night

We will kick off this year's events with another outing for our 'Fish & Chip Quiz' evening.

This will take place at St Helen's Church Hall (at the back of the St Helen's Church Milton Road) on Friday 29 April 2022 starting at 7.30. Tickets cost £10 which includes the Fish & Chips and can be obtained from committee members or drop us an email to [info@miltonconservationsociety.com](mailto:info@miltonconservationsociety.com)

## AGM

We aim to return to being able to host our AGM in real life on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Further details will be circulated in a subsequent newsletter.

## Visit to Brighton Royal Pavilion

In a 'First' for the Society we have organised a coach trip to Brighton on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September leaving Southend at 7.30. The day in Brighton starts at the Royal Pavilion at 10.00. Once your visit to the Pavilion is over the rest of the day is free to explore Brighton's many attractions. We plan to meet at 17.00 for our return to Southend.

The tickets cost £30 which includes admission to the Royal Pavilion. To book your place on this trip email us [info@miltonconservationsociety.com](mailto:info@miltonconservationsociety.com) and we will put you on the list or via any Committee member. A deposit of £5 per ticket secures your place with the balance due by 20<sup>th</sup> August.

## Society News

I am sorry to report the passing of two stalwart members of the Executive Committee. Paul Cavanagh who served as Treasurer for over 20 years died after a short illness in December 2020. He carried on working on the committee after relinquishing that role bringing a down to earth approach to any issues before us.

Michael Mann joined the committee in 2015 and took charge of maintaining our membership list with a cheerful and efficient manner even when illness struck. We had all hoped that his remission meant he was cured but it was not to be as his illness returned and he died in January 2021.

Paul and Michael were friends as well as valued colleagues and we as a Society will continue to miss them and their contribution to the work that we do.

## Palace Theatre architect has another building locally listed

Last summer we put forward to the Council the local listing of a very attractive range of buildings at the junction of Burdett Avenue and London Road. This elegant red brick edifice was designed by Leon Cabuche, architect of the Palace Theatre, half a mile further up the road. The building includes a decorative



corner with Dutch gables and a range of gables above each original shop, with

bull's eye windows and decorative applied swags. One of the apparently original shop fronts survives.

It's easy to miss but take a look up next time you pass - you are looking at one of the finest buildings in Southend. It's a shame we don't have more examples like this around the borough. The building was agreed for local listing which will help to protect it in future.

## Unrule Britannia!

For some time we have objected to the terrible alterations to the front of The Britannia Inn, Eastern Esplanade. It's a bit off our patch but we do speak out on significant buildings around the town centre from time to time. This is one that deserved our attention. The original building was agreed for demolition (yet another conservation travesty by our uninformed Council) with a facade retention scheme, an attempt to protect the original building look. Whilst the facade was retained the building became a fish and chip shop with new flats behind. Unfortunately the developer added a corrupt and unhistoric modern fascia, lobby and signage. Some of this had been improved but the gold shingle fascia survived until we understand that enforcement action was initiated by the Council. The original version below left and how it looks today on the right which we feel is a significant improvement to the façade of this relic from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.



## Local Plan Consultation

The local development plan reached an important stage 2 consultation recently. We submitted our views which centred around some far reaching thinking - that the town consider nothing less than declaring a new *Heritage Charter* with the local community. This would be an inclusive contract with all the community,

enquiring and exploring into local heritage in all its forms and describing this in local policy for the future benefit of the developing city. A very grand aspiration but we might as well aim high! This could allow all forms of heritage, the tangible buildings and monuments as well as intangible culture and tradition, to form a new wider heritage landscape.

### **Hamlet Court Road - our newest conservation area**

Hamlet Court Road was designated Southend's newest conservation area in September. This was the result of 5 years of work that originated in our group and expanded into a new conservation group, Hamlet Court Conservation Forum. Led by our vice chairman Andy Atkinson the group lobbied and cajoled,



**1 Hamlet Court Road c.1912**



**2 Hamlet Court Road Today**

sometimes to the point of great difficulty but eventually to the point where the beautiful upper, commercial part of the road is now a conservation area.

This is a major development for heritage in our city to protect the fine Edwardian Freestyle and Art Deco architecture. It is only the start of the potential future improvement to the area and the Forum still wish to see lower Hamlet Court Road and neighbouring roads protected. But it is a big step forwards.

### **Avenue Road Conservation Area extension resisted**

As part of our recent consultation on our conservation area we asked for the Victorian terrace at the north end of Avenue Road to be included in the area. The terrace is almost completely intact except for non-original windows (which



can always be recovered over time). However, the Council resisted this inclusion which is a real shame. Perhaps this is due to the last building in the terrace forming part of commercial London Road and this is just a step too far for the Council. But this is a classic example where the true special interest

of the area (the lawful measure required for conservation area designation) is ignored in favour of other things. We'll keep trying.

### **A Regular Reminder**

Do not fit UPVC windows or doors to your property where they can be seen from the road or side road. As this is a Conservation Area any new windows or doors fitted should be in the style and material as originally fitted when the property was built. In nearly all cases that means timber.



There are many other types of work where additional planning controls apply and permission is normally only given if proposed development preserves or enhances the property's character. Demolition of buildings and work to trees are also controlled.

If in doubt, ask before you commit yourself so you don't have to pay twice.

## From the archives

This picture from c1896 shows Park Nursery which was situated in the middle of the old Southend Park behind the houses on Park Terrace, Park Road and Avenue. In this picture the houses on the right are in Avenue Road the first one stood on the site of Baron's Court School today.



The nursery set up in 1892 by the man seated in the cart on the right whose name was Henry Tether. He was a successful business man responsible for building several houses in Park Terrace and was active in the local community organisations such as the Southend Liberals and the Westcliff Ratepayers Association. In January 1904 the Nursery was put up for sale with the reason for sale cited as 'continued illness of proprietor'. He moved his family back to London but the following year it was his wife Emma who died. He remarried and moved to Pembrokeshire where they had another family and he lived until 1934.

A nursery business continued on the site until c1960. Today it is occupied by lock-up garages.

## Help and Advice

We are often asked to help residents with their queries over fences, parking or their properties. We are happy to do this but we have one qualification - you must be a member of the Society. If you have a query, make sure you are signed up and we will try to help you.

## Contacts - Executive Committee

Chairman	Mr Tony Brown	15 Park Crescent	394094
Vice-Chairman	Mr Andrew Atkinson	28 Park Road	437722
Secretary	Mrs Julia Cannon	15 Park Terrace	331941
	Neil Lands	Avenue Terrace	
	Susan Wright	Shorefields	
	Jill Freeth	1 Park Crescent	
	Gill Salter	Park Terrace	

**Email - [info@miltonconservationsociety.com](mailto:info@miltonconservationsociety.com)**

## Join Us

As you will remember the pandemic made collection subscriptions problematic so for the last 2 years we rolled any existing memberships forward.

Membership subscriptions will become due soon and once again we are holding the cost of membership per household at £8 for the coming year starting 1<sup>st</sup> June. You can get ahead of the curve by renewing early. If would like to help us keep our area a special place to live please join us.

You can email your details as per the form below and can pay the subscription by bank transfer to our account

A/C Name        Milton Conservation Society  
A/C no            40414916  
Sort Code        23-05-80

Please use the reference field to enable us to identify your payment!

Alternatively you can add your details to the form below and drop it together with your subs in a sealed envelope to 15 Park Crescent.

Name(s)	
Address	
Tel No	
Email	

I/we enclose £8.00 for membership for \_\_\_\_\_adults living at the above address