

# MILL ROAD MOMENTS

## Mill Road data project intrigues BBC News

From the BBC website: **Cambridge Mill Road chalk graffiti charts scientists' community data**

30 August 2013 – Chalk graffiti has been popping up on a Cambridge street as part of a project run by two computer scientists.

Lisa Koeman and Vaiva Kalnikaite, from University College London (UCL), are collecting "community data" and presenting it as street art.

The Visualising Mill Road project uses electronic keypads to ask questions about people and the local area.

The pair said the graffiti charts are an experiment in "how people react to different ways of presenting data".

Miss Koeman said: "It is a very vibrant place and we wanted to find out how connected the community is, how safe they feel, and how well they know their neighbours. "It's the perfect area for this kind of visualisation."

Electronic keypads have been installed in 18 businesses along the road, and every other day the pair post a new question which they invite shoppers to answer.

Questions such as "How are you feeling today?" can be answered using three "smiley face" buttons on the keypad.

The buttons represent a positive, neutral or negative response.

"With the aggregated data we produce graphs in the different colours of the buttons," Miss Koeman said.

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-23896544](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-23896544)

Sam Motherwell **Mill Road** animations: Find them on [mill-road.com](http://mill-road.com)



Mill Road Bridges fundraising: Please donate on [www.LocalGiving.com/millroadbridges](http://www.LocalGiving.com/millroadbridges)



After 2013, the Mill Road Bridges Newsletter will no longer receive grant funds from the Cambridge City Council, so we're asking for your help to support this and other community outreach projects. Examples of how your one-time donation on Local Giving can help: **£5** helps to pay for a Mill Road networking lunch, offered free twice a year. **£10** helps to pay for printing our popular gift cards and bookmarks. **£20** will pay for the printing of our Newsletter for an entire street!

MRB's small gifts can still be purchased from Fundraising Chair Eileen O'Brien at the Six Bells Pub, Covent Garden: **Michael Beesley 'Street Sign' bookmarks £1, cards £1 or pack of 6 for £5, poster A4 £3.50 Sam Motherwell 'Bridge' notecards £1.50, bags £3**

**MILL ROAD BRIDGES NEWSLETTER** is published by the non-profit organisation Mill Road Bridges, c/o The Six Bells Pub, Covent Garden, Cambridge UK. You may also **download** the Newsletter on [mill-road.com](http://mill-road.com).

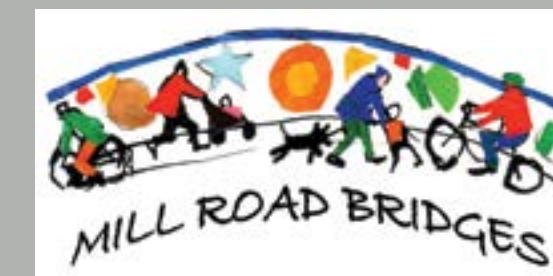
We welcome your submissions on any topic involving the Mill Road community. Send your images and short articles to [secretary@mill-road.com](mailto:secretary@mill-road.com). Please note that articles cannot favor a specific political party, they should not be of a purely commercial nature, and we must reserve the right to edit, refuse, or postpone use of submissions.



Mill Road Bridges acknowledges the grant received from the Cambridge City Council Area Committee, and thanks the Suzy Oakes Trust for start-up funding for the **History Project** and the bequest of [mill-road.com](http://mill-road.com).

**ISSUE N°6 AUTUMN 2013** Design/Editing: Pam Wesson, Hope Street Yard [pam@fantasia.uk.com](mailto:pam@fantasia.uk.com) Printing this issue: Labute, Cambridge [www.labute.co.uk](http://www.labute.co.uk)

MRB logo: Sam Motherwell, Gwydir Street Mill Road signs: Michael Beesley, St. Barnabas Road



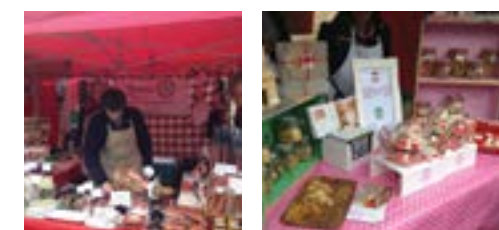
# NEWSLETTER N°6 AUTUMN 2013

## Mill Road Festive Lights & Winter Fair

Mill Road in Cambridge is distinctly multicultural, offers a variety of independent shops and is a place of strong community spirit. The Festive Lights are so called because of our diverse community; they provide a point of celebration for people of all backgrounds, religion or no religion. Festive lights improve the image of our street and this year we are celebrating the installation of LED lighting in two new locations on the Romsey side of the bridge. **Come and join us for the Switch On event!**

In addition to support from Cambridge City Council, our Festive Lights have been supported by a number of Mill Road Traders' Association businesses and local organisations: *Baguette Express, Computer Repairs, Al Amin, Cambridge Bed Centre, The Sea Tree, Safe Box Ltd, Limoncello, Elitian Ltd, O'Sullivan Shopfitting, Cambridge Econometrics, H Gee's, Frameworks, Halls of Cambridge, Bush Property Sales and Lettings, Saint Andrews Bureau, Wardrobe, Tattooing by Fabio, Arjuna, Cutlacks, Cycle King, Lally's, Curry Queen, Martin & Co, The Bike Shed, Avis, The Co-operative Food and the Suzy Oakes Trust.*

**Mill Road Festive Lights Switch On**  
Sunday 17 November  
Cambridge Bed Centre, 213 Mill Road  
Starting at 5:00pm  
[www.millroadfestivelights.org](http://www.millroadfestivelights.org)



It's time again for one of Mill Road's biggest events of the year. On Saturday 7 December Mill Road will be closed to traffic from East road to Coleridge and opened to dancing, music, parades and fun!

We're expanding on last year's successes. The Al Amin sponsored food fair was a great hit last year showcasing the culinary talents of Cambridge and the surrounding region. It was incredibly popular, drawing people in to **taste all the sumptuous delicacies** available in the area.

We've been very lucky again this year to have the creative power of local resident Nicky Webb to build on the fantastic parade that took place last year. Local community groups and schools have rehearsed weekly from October to put on a fantastic spectacle that is not to be missed!

This year there will be even more family activities and brand new musicians and performers to add to the acts that make the fair so special.

Do come down and bring some friends to join in the festivities and celebrate winter with us in style.

**Mill Road Winter Fair**  
Saturday 7 December 2012  
10:30-4:30pm  
Road closure from East Road to Coleridge Road  
[www.millroadwinterfair.org](http://www.millroadwinterfair.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Mill-RoadWinterFair](http://www.facebook.com/Mill-RoadWinterFair)  
Twitter: @MillRoadFair

# AROUND & ABOUT MILL ROAD



## One year on: Mill Road Coordinator

It's been one year since I was appointed by the City Council to be the Mill Road Coordinator and I thought now would be a good opportunity to update you on what I've been doing in that year.

When I started, I spoke with lots of local community groups including Mill Road Bridges, Mill Road Society, Romsey Action and others, to talk about how we could all work together. I held an exhibition event at Bharat Bhavan in January this year to ask local residents about their suggestions for how we can improve Mill Road and asked local business people to join up to a Mill Road Traders' Association.

The Traders' Association was formed in February and the group meet regularly to talk about local issues. I arrange their meetings and document the discussions and action points. A number of local traders have expressed concern about things like safety and anti-social behaviour, pavement conditions and parking – similar to concerns of residents. The traders receive weekly updates from me about local issues, events and activities and I try as much as possible to be a useful source of information for them. The Traders' Association, led by Peiro d'Angelico, remains a powerful forum for our local business community, as proven by their submission of a petition to the County Council for improvements to our pavements. The Traders' Association has also led to joint advertising initiatives like newspaper features and radio campaigns.

One of the main parts of my job description is to assist in the delivery of 'a community led action plan of projects to improve and promote Mill Road'. So what does this action plan look like? Here are a list of projects, suggested by the community, that I am looking at:

**Community Art Project** – improving the appearance of the hoardings between the Spar shop and Brookfields Hospital through creating a mural.

**Mill Road Shop Directory Orientation Board** – Like other parts of the city, we want to create a display stand that details the variety of shops and services we have here in Mill Road. We hope to locate one at both ends of the road.

**Festive Lights** – I've been working with traders and local groups on securing funding to light two new trees in Romsey. I'm also working on the switch on event that will take place on 17 November and raising enough money to get the snowflake lights installed this year.

**Arts Development** – We have a number of art venues and spaces around Mill Road and I've been arranging monthly meetings for them to get together to talk about developing the arts and cultural offer around this area. Through this joint meeting developed the CB1 Gallery Walk – a guided tour of our local art spaces. I also helped Cambridge Art Salon in developing the Romsey Art Festival.

People often tell me that Mill Road is known for being a creative and alternative place and I hope that developing the arts and culture here will bring more visitors, enrich the environment for those who live here and importantly, encourage trade in the area.

**Food Fair** – The food fair at Gwydir Street Car Park is always a roaring success at Mill Road Winter Fair and people are supportive of seeing a more regular event. I'm arranging quarterly food fairs for next year. The first one will be in March at Gwydir Street and may move to other local venues throughout the year. The focus of this event will be about good quality food produced locally; Mill Road traders are encouraged to trade there and we'll be keeping stall holders to Cambridgeshire and neighbouring counties.

**Publicity and PR** – I've helped Mill Road Bridges update [www.mill-road.com](http://www.mill-road.com) and distribute their newsletter, as well as running a monthly show on local



community radio station Cambridge 105, assisting the traders with joint publicity campaigns (see photo above from the Cambridge News) and encouraging articles in local event programmes and publications, like this newsletter. I am working with business school students from Anglia Ruskin on developing more of PR strategy for Mill Road over the coming months, of course in conjunction with local groups.

I'm always open to feedback and suggestions – my job is very much about helping you to get your project ideas up and running, so please get in touch.

– Ceri Littlechild, Mill Road Coordinator  
[millroadcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:millroadcoordinator@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Mill Road Coordinator  
Twitter: @MillRoadCo



## Pounding pavement pays off

The County Council have recently agreed to spending **£287,000** on improving Mill Road's pavements. This is all thanks to hard work from local group EMRAG, who have been campaigning, with support from the Traders' Association and others.

The cycle improvements at the junction of Perne Road and Mill Road, which has been a long struggle to get funding for, will get £105,000. £1,800 has been provided to widen Mill Road outside Cutlacks, so that the pinch point there stops causing accidents. £1,800 has been given to make the Hemingford Road entrance to the Vinery Road Recreation ground safer for pedestrians and slowing cyclists down.

The East Area Committee granted £5,300 as a **Environmental Improvement Project** fund for traders that helps them improve the sections of pavement that they own.

Memories of a 1970s Cambridge childhood: Barney's on Mill Road in the background, next to Penguin Dry Cleaners



## "If you don't know Mill Road..."

Mill Road History Project manager **Becky Proctor** writes about her new role and how you can get involved in Mill Road History

As a Romsey resident, I enjoy reading the stories in the Mill Road Bridges Newsletter, and now, happily, I find myself writing for this issue as Mill Road History Project Manager. I took up the role in August, following my career as a museum curator, and am delighted to be working on my own patch.

On a rainy October Sunday, our invited guests enjoyed afternoon tea at Ditchburn Place, Mill Road, to launch the project (photo below). Our venue, the former maternity hospital and old Union workhouse building, was a fitting choice since our project will celebrate the past, present and future of Mill Road.

One of three local people who agreed to speak at our launch, Denzil Gordon, was born there and works as a chef for residents of the sheltered housing. He said, "If you don't know Mill Road, then you don't know Cambridge".

His words made me think about my own connections. The Mill Road of my childhood consists of buying singles at Andy's Records and '70s fashions from Barney's and Dave Pinks. My Mill Road of the last 20 years or so would be opening my first bank account, discovering the delights of real ale at the Kings-ton Arms, and more recently, chatting over 'flat whites' at the Black Cat.

Our project will support and train a team of volunteers to get involved in capturing the history of Mill Road, and the lives of the people who have lived and worked here. To find out more, email [millroadhistory@gmail.com](mailto:millroadhistory@gmail.com) or write to Becky Proctor, 152 Cromwell Road, Cambridge CB1 3EQ.



Mayor and Romsey Councillor Paul Saunders (center) helped launch the Mill Road History Project in October. Front row L to R: Becky Proctor, Emma Prince, Mayor Saunders, Lucy Walker, Caro Wilson. Behind, L to R: Denzil Gordon, Ed Jenkins, Phil Rothwell of Heritage Lottery Fund, Allan Brigham, Melissa McGreechan, Ian Bent, and other supporters

Wouldn't it be nice if your kids could play out on the street just like you did when you were younger? The problem these days is concern for your child's safety – the streets are just too busy with traffic to make playing out a reality. In Bristol, a group of parents got together to close off their street to traffic and create a safe 'playing out' environment for their kids. As much as many of us would like to see Mill Road closed off more frequently, we know from the experience of Mill Road Winter Fair that it is both difficult and costly. But could we do it in some of the side streets?

On [www.playingout.net](http://www.playingout.net) you can download lots of useful tools and information about how to go about 'playing out' on your street. Would you be interested in trying it? There's a full 'how to' manual on the website – although some of the information is specific to Bristol and its Council, it provides a good model to follow.



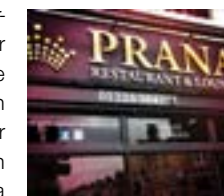
### A step by step guide:

- 1 Set up a meeting with your neighbours to see who would be interested in supporting the event and getting involved
- 2 Set a date for your playing out event and designate the roles of those involved
- 3 Drop a letter through every door on the street to see if people will support a road closure (a letter template is available on the website)
- 4 Apply to the County Council to close the road
- 5 Finalise your arrangements, publicise and **play out!**

For more information about Cambridge City Council's policy on street parties, find more information on [www.cambridge.gov.uk/street-parties](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/street-parties)

## Sharpen your pencils! Enter our Limerick Contest

**Prana Lounge** at the corner of Mill Road and Gwydir Street are celebrating one year of business this month and are offering a prize to our competition winner. To be in with a chance of winning a voucher towards a delicious meal, submit a Mill Road limerick by 12 December to [info@mill-road.com](mailto:info@mill-road.com). Here is a sample of the limerick form: *There once was a young lady named Bright*



*Whose speed was much faster than light  
She set out one day  
In a relative way  
And returned on the previous night*  
**Rules:** Your limerick should be about Mill Road or inspired by Mill Road in some way. **One winner** will be announced on [mill-road.com](http://mill-road.com) and by Tweet (@millroadbridges) on 19 December.

## Romsey Action update

**Romsey Action's** well-attended AGM took place on 9 October, hosted by the wonderful Romsey 'much more than just a playgroup' Mill. You can find a summary of the proceedings and our recent activities plus details of the constitution, how to join or simply how to get in touch at [www.romseyaction.org](http://www.romseyaction.org). At the same time you'll see the vast improvements that have been made to our website made by Simon Middleton. Romsey Action's next public appearance will be at the Mill Road Winter Fair. Look out for our stall in the Hope Street Yard, shared with Mill Road Bridges, and come up and introduce yourselves and have a chat about local issues. Cards featuring the winners of our recent photo competitions will be on sale to raise some much needed funds. Looking forward to meeting you then. *–by Eryl Griffiths*

## Starting a business in risky times

When we opened The Sea Tree in 2009, it was the fulfillment of a family ambition and one I had personally held for over 35 years. To some it may have appeared crazy to open a new enterprise during a recession when businesses everywhere were under pressure from households tightening their purse strings, but in actual fact the timing for us could not have been better.

We identified Mill Road as the ideal location for our alternative fish bar, because not only does it have a central location with heavy footfall and is surrounded by residential property, but it also has a unique independent feel in which we thought our new concept restaurant could thrive. With location being so critical, when the double fronted shop space became available we had to snap it up.

Finally, we were not completely ignorant of the economic climate when we started; we saved money wherever we could in setup costs and budgeted carefully, but we always felt that an innovative concept could still be successful despite the state of the economy. When eating out people would clearly spend



## Mill Road Readers' Roundup



Mill Road has always been known for its diverse independent offering and the new edition of **Independent Cambridge** edited by Anne Prince proves just that. With a foreword by local historian Allan Brigham this 200 page full-colour book is still in the same handy format – with a map and an index at the beginning of each section. The Mill Road section features shops that have existed on the same site for 100 years through to 'new kids on the block' who have opened their doors in 2013.

From designer eyewear, retro clothes and homeware through to pubs, cafés and coffee shops – Mill Road has it all! Available from Waterstones, Heffers, many of the independent shops and online at [www.independent-cambridge.co.uk](http://www.independent-cambridge.co.uk).

Photographer Daisy Zoll writes of her images in **Mill Road**: "I hope to illustrate a community's interaction with its living space. Tiny sagas present themselves throughout my work and hint at the very transitory nature of human attention. A discarded photo album, a half sucked sweet and a wastegrounded front garden create taxonomies of unplanned human activity. By highlighting what happens around us I hope to re-awaken our appreciation of what community can be." Order online at [www.lulu.com/spotlight/daisyzoll](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/daisyzoll)



## Only-Good-Newsbytes

Tweet @millroadbridges or email [info@mill-road.com](mailto:info@mill-road.com) with short, upbeat Mill Road area announcements: births, marriages, awards, openings... At press time Mill Road is shortlisted in The Telegraph Reinventing the High Street competition; thanks to all who emailed [highstreet@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:highstreet@telegraph.co.uk)... New shops or owners: Nipln, Pa Kua, Café Coco Belle, Entice Dessert Lounge, Mill Road Butchers on Mill Road; Fantasia and Carpentree in Hope Street Yard; Tsunami Fight Gym at Romsey Labour Club... The RSPCA Bookshop won an award from Cambridge BID last week, for best local knowledge... Cambridge 105 on Gwydir Street are currently running repeats of Mill Road traders' radio adverts as a gesture of community spirit.

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY** BE PART OF THE BIGGEST DAY OF THE YEAR FOR SMALL BUSINESS

**Small business Saturday** on 7 December is another national campaign that has been launched to encourage people to shop local and will promote smaller businesses. It takes place on the same day as Mill Road's Winter Fair and Cambridge City Council are supporting the campaign.

## Meals delivery in the Mill Road area: Papworth Trust's 'Meals-to-You' Service



– by Ed Jenkins, Voluntary Meals Delivery Driver

Usually I arrive at St Philip's Church between 11.30 and 11.45 am and the Chef/Manager of Papworth Trust's 'Cornerstone Cafe' has the full delivery list typed out ready for me. This has address details, and individual meal requirements, including any special dietary requests.

The requirements vary, some customers like a hot two-course meal delivered daily, some prefer just the hot main meal only, whilst some take delivery of frozen meals to last them the whole week and in some cases even longer! The hot meals are placed in insulated



containers which can maintain the food temperature for up to two hours. The frozen meals are stacked in separate bags, one for each customer. Most times I manage to leave the Cafe before 12.00, stack the containers and bags into the boot of the car and set off on the round. Customers are always looking forward to my

arrival and greet me with "Ah, hello, it's Ed", when they first hear my voice. "Hi there, how are you today?" is my usual reply. Every customer is different and I always listen respectfully, so a good conversation can ensue. Many don't have much contact with the outside world, because they're relatively housebound, and so welcome the opportunity to chat. With some I help stack frozen meals into freezers and with others, place their hot meal on the dining table ready for them to tuck in!

After each delivery, I take note of any comments or new requirements the customer may have mentioned, before continuing with my round. I unload empty containers, report back to the Chef/ Manager and quickly run through the customer comments and requests.

It's then time to drive home and get on with the rest of my day, usually with a satisfied feeling of 'A JOB WELL DONE'!



**The members of Lifecraft** invite you to join them at the Bath House during the Winter Fair where there will be a warm welcome, freshly made soup, filled rolls and mince pies, arts and crafts, Christmas wreaths, and a cinema showing short films made by members of the Mill Road-based mental health charity. [www.lifecraft.org.uk](http://www.lifecraft.org.uk)