

# THE MK VOICE

## MK CITIZEN COMMENT

**O**ld age, it catches up with us all. And, as we all know, growing old is better than the alternative.

So here's a tale on someone who will be celebrating a landmark birthday in 2017.

Sure, once upon a time she was the height of sleek modernity whereas now we are all used to her – but that doesn't mean she isn't still dynamic and pioneering.

And yes, she might be a bit larger than she used to be, but here at the Citizen we like to think that she's elegantly grown into her size.

And so after half-a-century we love her more than ever, because "she" is Milton Keynes, and her big year will be celebrated throughout 2017.

There will be countless events to celebrate the city's landmark year, and you can expect to learn plenty about MK's short (well, short-ish) history in the coming 12 months too.

So buckle up and prepare yourself for a birthday like you've never seen before throughout 2017.

Many happy returns to you, Milton Keynes!

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## Fond memories of Galley Hill

We have lived on Galley Hill, which was the first estate built in the designated area of Milton Keynes, for 44 years when my husband got a job at Edwards of Hull in Old Wolverton Road.

When we first moved in there was a shop and post office in

Bunsty Court as well as a Community House from where a playgroup was started by local parents. There was also a doctor's surgery in Clai-ley Court and a local school which was called Watling Way at the time. Our two boys attended this school and then went onto Radcliffe School. Also two dairies one of them being Taylors would ply us with goodies so we would have their milk deliveries. A newsletter called the Noose (apparently because the Gal- lows for Stony Stratford were up here) was launched by the local vicar who also lived in Bunsty Court and the arrivals workers (people who greeted us when we moved in) one of whom was Roger Kitchen (Living Archive). This news- letter's circulation increased as the rest of Galley Hill was built, also taking in Fullers Slade, Hilltop and Latimer. A copy was sent each month to the library at the City Centre when it opened. It folded because it got too big to produce for the local volunteers then involved and old copies were given to Living Archive when we closed.

When the shop, meeting place and workshop were opened the community houses could go back to being homes.

The playgroup moved into the small meeting place and extended to eight sessions a week because of the demand. There was also a Senior Citizens group on a Wednesday afternoon, a martial arts group, disco dancing and many social events.

The hall was owned by the Development Corporation at the time and run by local volunteers. I believe it was about 2005 when the council who



Members of Newport Pagnell Football Club spread Christmas cheer when they visited the town's Castlemead Court care home with gifts and hampers

then owned the building said we had to close because Tesco was interested in the shop and needed the upstairs for storage. This never happened but the local committee had by then disbanded. Unfortunately the hall needs a much needed facelift.

I remember before the A5D (I still call it that) was built we would go blackberrying down there in the fields. Before this road Stony High Street was very busy being the main A5 to London (of course there was the M1) especially before the loop road was built. A swimming pool was built at the Watling Way Centre and there used to be swimming there all the time plus life saving groups etc and even pool parties.

I remember the Queen opening the City Centre and when parking was totally free.

There was also a local TV station called SelectTV when we were on the cable that is.

I have fond memories of Bill Spooner our local Father Christmas. He would be at the playgroup bazaar and Christmas party also at the school and other Christmas events. In the summer he would help at the summer playschemes and we even used to take children down to the river in Stony Stratford and they would paddle in it (can you imagine that happening now).

I also remember there being parties in the Courts for the Silver Jubilee and the Royal Wedding.

The reason I still like Galley Hill is you only have to walk down the road to Stony Stratford and the local countryside, there is a bus service every 15 minutes to either Wolverton or the City Centre.

We all have gardens, drive- ways and most of us garages with open spaces in the middle of the courts.

**DOREEN TIDY**  
Mursley Court, Galley Hill

## A lovely start to our Christmas

I would just like to say a big thank you for Michelle and the people at the Eager Poet, Neath Hill, for their generosity.

They did a special Christmas dinner for Skylah Mae, a little girl of three years old who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

They arranged for Father Christmas and his Elf to visit her with presents and really made a fuss of her. What a lovely start to Christmas.

**MARGARET JOYES**  
by email

## Our city was built for the car

I am deeply disappointed, but not surprised that the Labour Administration running Milton Keynes Coun-

cil has once again hiked up parking charges in CMK from April 2017.

This is bad news for residents and workers who are already paying a fortune for just getting to work or doing a few hours of shopping.

This is frankly an additional tax on employees; it is unfair and unjustified.

It just increases the parking profit made from employees by £2.50 per day and is an insult to those who have tried to do the right thing by using low emission cars.

It makes no sense on any level for employees, the economy or the environment. Whilst the Cabinet Member amended the initial recommendation to reduce the very significant impact on Low Carbon Output Vehicles and Multi-Occupant Vehicles users by 50 per cent, this is only to apply the other 50 per cent in 2018/19; a slight cash flow change.

## Shoot to thrill

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