

# Meet The Locals

Highlighting local people...

**Madeleine Newland**  
Community Champion

This month in 'Meet the Locals' we meet a lady who has lived in New Milton for nearly 50 years and has spent most of that time giving her time and energy to a wide variety of worthy causes.

Madeleine, known to all as Maddy, was born in Jamaica in the 1920s. However, by 1927 her family were settled in Edgeware, North London. Maddy was educated at a convent school until she was 14. Whilst working in a clothing factory she met her first husband, Don Hall. They were married in 1947. Soon afterwards Don was made redundant. They looked on this as an opportunity for a career change. They moved to Paignton in Devon and opened a launderette. By 1967 Don's health was causing concerns so they decided to move once again. This time they settled in New Milton.

Both Don and Maddy threw themselves into local life getting involved in fund raising for a number of charitable events and voluntary service. Maddy became secretary of the ratepayers association and Don became the editor of the 'Focus' magazine. Maddy became a Special Constable in the Hampshire Constabulary for several years in the early 1970s.

thousand pounds for the Guide Dogs for the blind. They did this by collecting jumble and selling it not only from their bungalow but also at organised jumble sales in the Catholic Church hall.

In 1972 Maddy was involved in campaigning to keep New Milton and Lymington borough in Hampshire. The boundary changes proposed that the whole borough would be passed to Dorset County Council to administer. The protesters voices were heard and the borough remained in Hampshire.



Maddy with her award from the Mayor



Maddy thoroughly enjoyed the New Milton Carnivals. There used to be an annual procession of floats travelling in convoy around the streets of the town. Each float had a different theme or advertised a business. Maddy organised the float for the New Milton and Barton on Sea Residents association.

In 1974 they were award 1<sup>st</sup> prize for their St George and the Dragon theme. Maddy was inside the dragons costume! (photo above)

In 1978 the War Memorial Hall in Whitefield Road burnt down. Funds were raised from a variety of sources to pay for a new building. Maddy and Don were at the forefront of the fundraising campaign.

Sadly in 1982 Don passed away. Maddy once again threw herself into a new charitable project. This time it was to set up a Leonard Cheshire Home in Spencer Road. A

new venture in 1986 saw Maddy turn her hand to being a Hospital Radio presenter in Lymington.

A chance encounter in 1987 with a dog walker on the cliff tops at Barton led to romance and marriage for Maddy. Her new husband, Lou Newland, was understanding and supportive of her charitable and voluntary work. When Maddy set up a talking book service for the partially sighted Lou would drive her around the town delivering and collecting the tapes. Sadly in 1999 Lou passed away.

From 1998 until 2009 Maddy drove patients to and from hospital appointments at Lymington. She also joined the talking newspaper service as a registrar.

In 2008 Maddy was given a well deserved 'citizen of the year' award by the mayor of New Milton in acknowledgment of her 40 years of voluntary service. (photo above)

Maddy continues to volunteer and assist worthy causes whenever possible. She says that she likes to be busy. "Not having something to do drives me mad!"

Maddy Newland is an inspirational example to us all.

**Nick Saunders**



Both Don and Maddy were heavily involved in raising funds for a new Community Centre which is still open and thriving to this day. In addition they raised several