

ImPACT



SUMMER 2004

The newsletter for Petersfield Area Community Trust

www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact
E: PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com T: 01223 570157

Full of Eastern Promise!

Petersfield's new Community Centre is moving closer to reality – and PACT is getting very excited about it! For the first time, residents of St Matthew's and Riverside will have a non-sectarian, open-to-all, venue in which to hold meetings, enjoy group activities, pursue shared interests, and make friends with like-minded people!

Our Community Centre will be at the Abbey Street end of the proposed 'Eastern Gate' redevelopment. This will occupy land between Newmarket Road, Harvest Way (near the New Street allotments), Coldham's Lane, and Abbey Street.

The Centre will have an inviting and welcoming entrance foyer with reception and office areas, good disabled access, a large hall that could be subdivided, a large kitchen, a small hall with additional tea/coffee-making facilities, toilets for adults and children, a safe enclosed garden/play area and some car parking.

If you are a local

- **resident** with a suggested activity for the new Centre?
- **group** looking for a place to meet?
- **business** needing occasional seminar or conference space?

then please contact Richard Allen via PACTcambridge@bigfoot.com or 07811 469498 to express your interest and to ensure that your needs will be catered for in our brand-new Centre!

Activities at the Howard Mallett Centre

This has been the best year for local youth activities since the Howard Mallett Centre was closed down in 1998. Years of campaigning by PACT are finally paying off, and the community is beginning to see real benefits.

PACT works hard to encourage the provision of activities that are available to the community. We have received minutes both of the latest meeting of the Red Studio Users' Group, and of meetings between the City Council and The Studio that review activities at the former Howard Mallett. These minutes boast of a range of services and activities taking place there – and of ImPACT's role in publicising them! This is our chance to share with you the news we have received, which we trust to be accurate!

Tim Lindon is the new full-time Media Facilitator. He is available to support activities according to demand, including in the evening. The Minutes record that the audio editing suite is equipped and in good repair, enabling Tim to offer a 'hands-on' service and insight into working television. Tim hopes to raise awareness of this for community groups and volunteers – and is available via 722722 or 722777, 10 am–6 pm.

One of the very best developments has been the appointment of Neill Wishart as the Parkside and Petersfield Youth Worker.

He has established a number of regular activities and is planning even more for local young people. He hopes to help a group of 13-year-olds to put on a charity event/disco, and has ideas for projects for local skateboarders – especially once the weather and daylight improve. Another project might be the refurbishment of the Community Room, to make it more 'friendly' for young people.

Young People's activities in and around the former Howard Mallett Centre now include:

- Drop-in/Petersfield Reccys (with the City Council Children's Team, tel. 457873)
- Tuesdays 4.30 pm–6 pm Drama Workshop (via Neill Wishart, tel. 712600 or nwishart@parkside.cambs.sch.uk)
- Tuesdays 7.15pm–9pm Petersfield Youth Club (for 12–15-year-olds; contact Neill Wishart, as above)

Neill is also responsible for managing bookings of the Community Room (which is available for free) and keeps the adjacent notice board up to date. Perhaps you have noticed the recently installed improved lighting outside the Community Room? That's also thanks to Neill!

Other activities at the former Howard Mallett Centre include:

- Skate Art Group + Skate Park pressure group
- Just Us (contact: Sally Stubbings Children's Participation Officer, Cambs. Social Services, tel. 717734)
- Kite/SexUality (contact: Lara Jaffey on 369508)
- Chinese Brush Art (contact Peter Cavaciuti on 366573)
- Woodcraft Folk (contact John Collins on 245117)
- The Funky Flamingo Club (disabled club night organizers; contact Tanya Peters tel. 01954 718181)
- Video workshops (contact: Kate Blackwell via Parkside Community College, 712600)
- Brazil4UK (contact Glauco de Souza-Crook on 423244)
- 3CV Meetings (multiagency youth planning; contact Janet Parish on 518325)
- St Matthew's Gardens Residents' Association (contact David Harris 355916)
- Kick Boxing and Capoeira (martial arts)

The Main Hall is also available for booking by community groups at favourable rates, via Mick Rushby (tel: 716308) or by email to: nwishart@parkside.cambs.sch.uk

St Matthew's Piece

Over the last year St Matthew's Piece has seen impressive improvements. New benches now provide an abundance of places to sit and take in the view, so whether it's shade or sun that you're looking for, there's a seat for you. The most recent changes have been in the supply of new play equipment and the removal of some overgrown shrubs that were well past their best. The whole area has now been landscaped to provide an area that is both safe and visually welcoming.

The next stage to these improvements will be the erection of a Community Noticeboard, which will be installed later this year; new fencing on the York Street side; and resurfacing of the pathways. So go on ... come and enjoy this much improved facility with your families.



View of St. Matthew's Piece and the south side of the former Howard Mallett Centre, showing new play equipment and one of the new benches. The entrance to the Community Room is the left-most of the three doors on the building.

New and improved? Changes in planning policies

Hitherto, Cambridge City Council has followed a policy of seeking to achieve high-quality *outcomes* in its planning decisions, rather than mere *speed* of reaching those decisions. With the introduction by the Government of Performance Targets on planning-delivery times, this Council policy has recently been revised. All this for a veritable "mess of pottage" – extra funding for those Councils which meet the Government's targets.

It is ironic that the Council should come to this decision in a year when it has enjoyed 'Beacon Status for the Built Environment', has been graded as 'Excellent' by the Audit Commission Inspectors, partly on the quality of its consultations with the public, and has picked up a Commendation from the Royal Town Planning Institute for its unique Development Control Forum!

PACT shares the concerns of planners over the quality of outcomes and very much regrets this change of policy by the Council. These new circumstances will lead to a whole sea-change in the way Development Control Services must operate in future. Residents will need to respond actively to these changes if we are to achieve good outcomes.

The Head of Development Services has advised developers of the need to engage in pre-application discussions. This will include consulting with residents before applications are made. Residents should be aware that they will need to get involved in the planning process at a much earlier stage and also that planning officers will, necessarily, be working to much tighter deadlines once plans have been submitted.

In PACT's experience, many developers submit outrageous

plans which can take a long time to knock into any sort of shape acceptable to their neighbours. If developers want decisions on planning applications to be reached more quickly, it would be very helpful if they would submit more sensible, and less contentious, proposals in the first place.

Incidentally, at the same time that the Council's Environment

Committee was grappling with the problem of speeding up the planning process, its Strategy Committee was introducing inherent delays by having some planning applications decided at the new Area Committees – held on an 8-weekly cycle – instead of at the full Planning Committee which meets every 4 weeks. Just how does the Council intend to square that particular circle?

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Local Planning Update

Over the past year PACT itself has been involved in 2 planning applications that it considered had implications for the wider community. One was the application by Chartfront for the Newmarket Road/Harvest Way site and the other was the application by Anglia Polytechnic University for a canopy on their East Road frontage. For all other applications PACT has provided advice and support to local residents as necessary.

Newmarket Road/Harvest Way. PACT supported this application through its Outline stage – not just because of the promised community centre! We also consider that what is proposed will be a marked improvement in the appearance of what is, at present, a very dreary stretch of Newmarket Road. Outline plans were unanimously approved by Committee and we now await the Reserved Matters stage, when full details have to be provided.

APU Canopy in East Road. PACT opposed this application because of the threat it posed to the 8 beautiful plane trees on the East Road frontage. The plans were unanimously refused by Committee. Sadly, this refusal was overturned by the Planning Inspector on appeal. Soon afterwards the 8 trees were felled. They are a great loss to the area. PACT expressed the community's displeasure at this deplorable act of vandalism.

Philips site in York Street. The developers of this site attempted to substitute 32 flats – which had not been approved – for the 12 houses for which they did have approval at the Silverwood Close boundary. Residents of Silverwood Close and the new residents of St Matthew's Gardens joined forces to oppose this amendment. The proposal was refused by Committee. Construction is proceeding behind the new doctors' surgery, and all is quiet at the moment on the Silverwood Close front!

Labgear site, Abbey Walk. Construction is proceeding on this site, but very slowly. Are the developers, Camstead, having trouble selling 3-, 4- and 5-bed houses with miniscule gardens? Serve them right if they are! For a variety of reasons, some of which were set out in last year's issue of ImPACT, residents sharing a boundary with this site have had a very poor outcome. PACT considers that 24 houses is far too many for this restricted site.

179 Sturton Street (Hanley House). Plans for 8 flats in the garden of this lovely double-fronted house were refused. The existing house was to be retained but the modern flats sat very incongruously with this Victorian family home. Most of its fine established garden would have been taken up with the flats and associated car parking. A resident of Geldart Street produced superb 'before' and 'after' montages of what the development would have looked like from his garden and from Sturton Street.

Vicarage Terrace. Plans for this housing to be adapted for use by adults with learning difficulties were approved. There will be 24-hour warden care on site.

Foister & Jagg site, York Street. This has been completed but, at the time of demolition, 3 trees on the York Street frontage were felled. PACT was verbally promised that replacement trees would be planted within the site. PACT is following this up but it may all be too late now.

OTHER NEWS

John Summers, Head of Development Services for the City Council, invited Glenys Malyon, PACT's planning specialist, to take part in a Beacon Council Open Day to give a "resident's perspective" at a Seminar on "Community Involvement in the Built Environment". Colin Brown, of January's Planning Consultants, was also there to give his views as a planning agent.

They all teamed up again to give a presentation of Cambridge's unique Development Control Forum before a judging panel of the Royal Town Planning Institute. The framed certificate, recording their success in gaining a Commendation, is now hanging in Planning Reception.

For advice on planning matters or further information contact Glenys on 570157 or consult our Ward Councillors.

PACT news in brief

PACT is now in its 6th year. Get in touch and tell us your views on our achievements! What would you like us to tackle in the next 5 years? Look out for our forthcoming **Questionnaire**. It's due soon in your letterbox, and it's an opportunity to make a difference. Your responses will guide us and could help us in future fund-raising efforts on your behalf.

PACT has secured the promise of a **community centre for Petersfield** from the developers of the Newmarket Road/Harvest Way site! The outline plans were unanimously approved in September 2003. PACT is now engaged in talks with the City Council's Community Development Department to progress this project.

PACT is also engaged in talks with Parkside Community College about the **former Howard Mallett Centre**. This building on St Matthew's Piece used to be a Youth Centre, and we therefore want to i) secure maximum community access to this building, especially for young people, ii) explore the possible future of this building, and iii) review youth work in Petersfield.

PACT has stopped cars being parked on the **grassed area to the east** of this building (adjoining York Street). The gates to the car park are now locked between 5 am–9 am

PACT is also trying to get unsightly barrels and crates removed from the rear of the building, and hopes to establish, once and for all, that the grassed area to the east of the building is "available and freely accessible to members of the public at all times" for recreation. After all, it was not, and is not, the intention of the City Council that this land should be a "Public Right of Way Only". If necessary, PACT will ask the City Council to put up its own, countermanding, signs.

PACT already has a **community noticeboard** near the Millennium Garden. It is fixed to a brick pillar outside the dentist's. Another is planned for St Matthew's Piece. We also asked ASDA to put up a community noticeboard in their store. Look out for it, to the right, in the entrance foyer.

As PACT has become better known, and ever more active in Petersfield, the demands on our time and energy have increased.

We need volunteers to i) edit the next newsletter, ii) organise our team of distributors, iii) organise advertising in the newsletter and iv) help organise social events, such as the Summer Event on St Matthew's Piece.

If you think that you could **help PACT** in these or other ways, or would like to know more, please contact Glenys on 570157



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Financial Contributions from Developers

Some years ago, PACT heard that money "had been found" to re-surface the all-weather pitch at St Matthew's School. PACT quizzed our Ward Councillors closely on where the money was coming from and why this work was not being paid for out of the school's budget. We were told that this was additional funding which could be used in this way because the pitch was available to the community as well as to the school.

It transpired that the money had come from the developer of Varsity House in Occupation Road. This was the first of many such financial contributions to come in. These funds are referred to as S106 monies, so-called because their collection from new developments is allowed under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. This money is intended to offset the impact of rapidly expanding populations and the pressures on local facilities that result from this.

Since our discovery of this source of additional funds, PACT has kept a close eye on how much money is coming in to Petersfield and how it is being allocated. The City Council's Parks and Recreation

Department held a public meeting at which residents were able to prioritise the improvements that they wished to see for St Matthew's Piece. These are now underway (see page 2). Thanks to PACT's efforts, the whole S106 system is now much more open and accountable.

However, PACT is concerned that some of the money collected from developments in Petersfield has been allocated to other parts of the City. Of £284,875 so far collected, £161,000 has been allocated to local projects. But £92,440, or 32% (nearly a 1/3!) is to be spent on so-called citywide projects such as Kings Hedges Learner Pool or Coleridge Rec Skateboard Park. One City Council Officer commented that if all the money collected in Petersfield was spent in Petersfield we would have gold-plated swings. Well, actually, swings of any description would be nice!

Laudable though these "citywide" projects are, PACT is reluctant to see funds spent elsewhere before the needs of Petersfield have been met. We have submitted a 'wish-list' for improvements to other open spaces, such as Flower Street Rec., and are fighting to save the

small toddlers' play area at the corner of Ainsworth St/Sleaford St. In due course, residents should be consulted on other proposals so look out for public meetings in your area.

To comment on this, or for further information, contact Glenys Malyon on 570157. Or contact our Ward Councillors.

Are you running a community-minded local business?

You can get involved with your community association, Petersfield Area Community Trust, in several ways. Place an advert or leaflet in ImpACT – from just £14 you can reach over 3,000 homes and groups right on your doorstep! You can join PACT as a group for just £2 per year. You can also make a donation that goes directly into improving the area where you work. Just complete the membership form [on the back page]. We'd be delighted to hear from you.



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Piece by piece

Strollers who have been enjoying the Millennium Garden on the Norfolk/ St. Matthew's Street corner will have noticed a further enhancement: a second mosaic.

Created over the course of almost two years with the help of four young adults from the Papworth Trust, and clients from Cherry Trees Day Centre, this second mosaic represents the community spirit and diversity within Petersfield, and the theme of responsibility. It was designed to complement the first mosaic, which represents Petersfield Open Spaces.

A formal celebration of its completion and installation will be held on Thursday 1st July at 6.30 pm (our Summer Event!) but in the meantime, come and enjoy the Garden, and the two mosaics!



The new mosaic with (from top, left to right): Kathy Brent, Anna Lindsay (bottom, left to right): Jo Pegg, Carole Hillen, Rebecca Arnold, Beryl Miller



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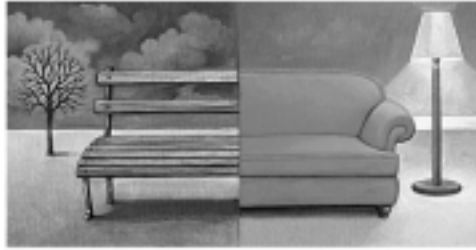
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St Matthew's Gardens

There are currently several brownfield development sites in Petersfield, one of which is Scholars Court. Although this is the name of the development, the address is St Matthew's Gardens – which can be a little confusing for visitors and deliveries! In addition to the ubiquitous crane, a good landmark is the new doctor's surgery (the York Street Medical Practice).

The location is, in fact, the old Philip's factory. The development is about half-way through to completion, when it will contain about 200 dwellings ranging from one-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom townhouses, including some social housing.

One of the most striking features of the development is the provision of open space, built above the underground car park. The large central area is due to become public open space after completion of the development. Two smaller areas will become toddler playgrounds.

Residents have already formed the St Matthew's Gardens Residents Association and they are keen to work with PACT and to be part of the Petersfield community. With quite a number of families already resident, they are interested in local amenities and activities, particularly for children and young people.

For more information, please contact David Harris (PACT committee member and Chairman of the St Matthew's Gardens Residents Association, on 355916).

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Over 50s Club

At the Cherry Trees Centre on Fridays 10.30 am – 12.00 noon

Our self-help club is now in its second year and meets every Friday, from 10.30 am to noon, at the Cherry Trees Centre in St Matthew's Street. Our ages range from 50 to 80+, several of us are wheelchair users, and all newcomers are made welcome.

- *We have a varied and fun-filled programme that keeps us coming back for more – all planned and organised by our members.*
- *Over the past year we have enjoyed selected speakers, several local history presentations, as well as dancing, exercises, raffles, bingo, celebrations, music, outings, advice sessions and much more.*
- *Our recent challenge has been a history project, focussing on our memories of childhood. We are hoping to have local schoolchildren illustrate our final publication.*

We now hold a regular weekly exercise class, specially geared to the needs of older people, and run by Simon, who is an expert instructor. Why not come and try it for yourself? This takes place every Tuesday from 11 am to noon at the Alex Wood Hall, on Norfolk Street.

For more information on all these activities, call Glenys Malyon (570157) or Dorothy Runnicles (462318).

Better Government for Older People?

In November 2003, PACT held a public meeting entitled "Older People's Services – Who Cares?". It included presentations by Eric Robinson, the new Director of Cambridgeshire Social Services and Liz Sargeant, the new Director of Health and Social Care at Cambridge City Primary Care Trust (PCT). They described, and consulted us about, the changes taking place. The most important of these is the integration of health and social care services for older people in Cambridgeshire. Many other organisations displayed information about services available to older Cambridge residents.

Since then, a PACT committee member has been co-opted on to the Cambridge City Project Board, as an older person's representative. It is rewarding to know that Liz Sargeant has taken a particular interest in the Petersfield area, attending two local meetings of older people and service workers at the Cherry Trees Centre. One meeting was to consult older people and the second was the March 2004 'Mingle Munch'.

Individuals over 50 from Petersfield are invited to join a new citywide organisation called COPE (Cambridge Older People Enterprise). This will tackle issues of interest to older people across the city, taking appropriate action. To contact COPE, phone Rhona Boorman (364303) or Anthony Hymans (561320).

PACT is particularly interested in hearing from over 50s in Petersfield about the services that older people receive and need. Contact Dorothy Runnicles (on 462318, or via d.runnicles@ntlworld.com).

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Based in Dale's Brewery on Gwydir Street, 'shape Cambridge' is the regional centre for architecture and the built environment. Established a year ago as the public face of the Built Environment Education Trust, shape's mission is to work towards improving the public places, spaces and architecture of Cambridge and the city's wider subregion.

shape's Director (Ben Koralek) and Projects Co-ordinator (February Phillips, herself a Petersfield resident) collaborate with a growing network of teachers, architects, builders, artists, local authority officers and designers. They are working in schools, community centres, village colleges and shopping centres in and around Cambridge to explore the issues and processes involved in improving the built environment in which we live and work.

Our most recent community project was a workshop to help local co-housing group "Enlinca" (www.enlinca.org.uk) visualise their ideal living environment and environmentally-sustainable neighbourhood. One of the workshop's facilitators was designer Nick Hawksworth of the Petersfield-based Wayfinding consultancy. Have a look at the drawings produced during the workshop, and the participants' feedback, on the 'Community' pages of shape's website www.shape-cambridge.org.

Look out for the shapeHOUSE during Environment Week (June 12-18) and Architecture Week (June 18-27); or contact shape at mail@shape-cambridge.org.uk.



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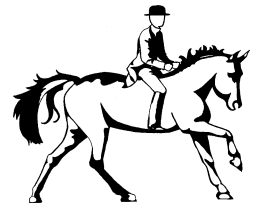
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Stagecoach

Over the last couple of years, Stagecoach have weeded out the competition, cut routes, and raised some of their fares by 70%. PACT believes that this is unacceptable and unethical, and have been campaigning to halt and reverse this trend. Rather like David in his fight against Goliath, we lack the resources available to Stagecoach, and frequently feel the effects of bashing our heads against so many brick walls. But your voice and support may shame them into action. You can make a difference. Write to Anne Campbell to demand visible action, or contact Sebastian Bos on 07816 760093.



BOOK CLUB

I am interested in starting up a book club in Petersfield area, something informal, perhaps meeting up in local pub. I would be interested in hearing from you... if you'd like to join, have experience of running a group yourself or are a landlord or landlady who'd be happy to have a book club meeting in your bar. Please get in touch with me by email at berenice@becdesign.co.uk

ImPACT is produced by the Management Committee of Petersfield Area Community Trust and distributed free to 2,800 homes, groups and businesses in the Petersfield area. Our sincere thanks go to our many tireless distributors, as well as to our advertisers and printer (Piggott Printers Ltd). We would also like to thank the designer of this issue, Dale Tomlinson, and the designer of the previous five issues (Berenice Howard-Smith) for their support. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of our individual members. PACT does not take responsibility for the services offered by the advertisers in ImPACT. For details of how to join PACT or place an advert, please email PACT on PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com or phone 354079.

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**Please join us at 6.30 pm
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to celebrate a major
enhancement to Petersfield's
Millennium Garden.**

The Millennium Garden is at the corner of Norfolk and St Matthew's Streets. This is a special PACT project that has blossomed and gone from strength to strength since 2001.

Its thoughtfully selected shrubs, bulbs and climbing plants cheer passers-by all through the year. Now the Gardens will boast a second lovingly crafted community-art project.

Thursday 1 July marks the formal unveiling of the second of PACT's Millennium Mosaics. These centrepieces for the Garden have been carefully created within our community for our shared enjoyment.

So, mark your diary now, and please join us to toast this new arrival!

While your diary is out ...

Please also make a note of PACT's AGM (Annual General Meeting) at 7.30 pm Weds 17 November 2004 in St Matthew's Church Hall (on St Matthew's Street)

This is where you can hear more about what PACT has been doing, and guide what it will next do. We'll provide an interesting guest speaker and refreshments – but the vital ingredient is ... **you!**

Membership Form

My details

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

I would like to join PACT (annual sub):

- ☐ Adult £1
☐ Under-18 50p
☐ Group £2

I would like to make a donation of £

I enclose a cheque for £

(Payable to Petersfield Area Community Trust).

If you would like information on joining PACT's Management Committee please tick here ☐

PACT welcomes feedback about this newsletter and its work.

Please write to PACT (or return this form to):

% 3 Rexbury Court

Sturton Street

Cambridge CB1 2RU

or call 354079, or email PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com

I agree to be bound by the PACT rules and constitution, available at www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact or by contacting PACT (see above).

I understand that my membership is subject to approval.

If you object to PACT holding your details please tick here ☐

(PACT doesn't sell or give members' details to other parties).

Signed

Dated

OFFICE USE:

Subscription paid

Date..... Amount

PACT Website

The PACT website is regularly updated with information about PACT activities and news of events. Its address is: www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact/

If there's something you think should be added to the website please contact us via PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com

This easy-to-remember email address gets mail to the most appropriate Management Committee member.

If you haven't got access to the internet at home, remember that you can go online at free public access points around the city.

Those in or near Petersfield are:

- Centre at St Paul's, Hills Road, tel. 576899
- Citizens' Advice Bureau, 72/74 Newmarket Road, tel. 222660
- Romsey Mill, Hemingford Road, tel. 213162
- Centre 33, 33 Clarendon Street (under 25s only)
- Indian Cultural and Community Association Bharat Bhavan, 117 Mill Road (member groups only)

Who's who in PACT (2003-04)?

For general contacts/questions use:

Tel: 570157

Email: PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com

Web: www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact

Chair: **Valerie Neal**

Secretary/Web: **Daniel Gordon**

Treasurer: **Helen Wright**

Planning: **Glenys Malyon**

Fundraising: **Richard Allen**

Over 50s Club: **Dorothy Runnicles**

Better Government for Older People: **Dorothy Runnicles**

Millennium Project: **Anna Lindsay**

Youth Issues: **David Harris**

And in 2004-05... why not **you** too?

Get in touch anytime, to find out all the different ways in which you could get involved! And why not complete the membership form (opposite)? PACT must be the best bargain in town!