

It's a bit  
of a joke,  
People say,

Roundabouts, Concrete,  
Dull, Brutalist,  
That's not  
Everything grey,

my MK.

Nowhere place,  
Soulless city,  
That's what people say,  
But that's, that's not  
my MK.

I see it peaceful,  
Serene,  
Open space,  
Amber, gold and green.  
I see it different,  
Home,  
My Milton Keynes.

Yes there's problems,  
But still I'm proud,  
I love my city,  
I'll shout it loud.

50 years of MK,  
Sanctuary.  
Multi-cultural community.  
Place to grow up,  
Place to be safe,  
Place to work,  
Place to relax,  
Place to be.



Here's a story  
you never knew,

A story old,  
A story new,

Of what they found  
beneath our feet,

Of what was dug  
from out your street.





And when you know,  
You'll look again  
with fresh, clear eyes,  
A city revealed,  
beneath a disguise,  
Stories,  
People,  
Ancient times,  
Mystic song,  
Ancient rhyme.





So I'll set it down  
on paper,  
Tweet and Instagram,  
Write a blog  
and cache it,  
Tell them  
who I am.







DEAR MUM  
11/5 1966.  
New trained archaeologist  
Looking for a project.  
Something to make my name.  
And there's rumours,  
Solution to the housing crisis,  
Bombed out cities,  
Growing population  
No more room in the Metropolis  
Time to build, develop, grow  
New city  
New education.  
But before the building  
An opportunity  
To dig  
I'll keep you posted .



Dear Mum  
It's 1967,  
I'm in archaeologist heaven.  
New town building in progression,  
Milton Keynes.  
Out.  
Before the building,  
they say,  
Time to dig.  
Area  
22,000 acres  
Unprecedented opportunity.



And what a find,  
Only treasures,  
Things the old times left behind.

The other day,  
you won't believe it,  
Under a site-to-be lake,  
Fossilised,  
Ichthyosaur,  
And so much more...



Stone age spear heads,  
Iron age swords,  
Roman coins,  
Saxon pots,  
Glad that's nearly 2000 years old but still looks  
like a rainbow,  
Honestly, Mum, this stuff, it's an archaeologists dream.





Dear Mum

It's 1969

Fast approaching the deadline.

My beautiful digs will soon be  
buried.

We've found so much  
treasure

Burial mounds

Regeling hoards

Blank Coins ready for forging

And underneath the buildings;

The library, shops, theatre,

And underneath the roads,

The stories will sleep,

The songs will slumber,

New City,

Built on Ancient History.

Dear Mum  
It's 1971  
Building the  
new town has begun.

Fishermead  
Boulevard





**Milton Keynes Development Corporation**

Wavendon Tower, Wavendon, Milton Keynes MK17 8LX  
Telephone: Milton Keynes 74000

Chairman: The Rt Hon Lord Campbell of Eskan  
Deputy Chairman: Evelyn de Rothschild  
General Manager: F Lloyd Roche Dip Arch, RIBA

From the Information Unit  
Chief Information Officer: David Crewe

4 January 1977

Dear Lord Llewelyn-Davies

I write to inform you that we are nearing completion of the primary phase of development of the new city we are naming Milton Keynes.

So far positive feedback has been received from all involved with the project and we are on track and on budget to complete according to schedule.

Particular praise has been placed on specific features of the design, such as the grid structure, low rise buildings and amount of property for both sale and rent.

We're onto a winner here Sir.

Yours Faithfully,

Sidney Potter

Junior Architect

FROM THE DESK OF

Llewelyn-Davies

Memo on street names:

Not sure of date - been working too hard old chap!!

Wondering about theming the street names of the areas of MK accordingly:

Downs Barn - things to do with horses due to the barn up at the top of the grid  
Conniburrow - wild flowers - rabbits live in burrows, rabbits like eating flowers - see what I did there? Ha!  
Fishermead - places in Cornwall - fishing villages - little joke don't you think?  
Oldbrook - famous cricketers - just because - well, you know, cricket!

Something to have a bit of fun with don't you think old chap?

Possibly not your most pressing concern but what do you think? ... I'll run it past the chaps in the corporation too.

Yours

Dicky

(not been getting much sleep for some curious reason!)

Marvellous idea. Dreamt it up  
in the middle of the night  
after having a few whiskies.  
Let them 'dial a bus'.

Pick up the phone. Call a  
special number. A bus  
rumbles along and takes  
them where they need to go.  
Genius idea. Must make it so.

Thinking about kids -  
must make sure there's  
plenty of playgrounds for  
them in amongst all the  
houses. Don't want them  
under their mothers' feet  
all day. Playgrounds.  
Yes. Jolly good.

I seriously love  
roundabouts. Wonder  
if we can get any more in?

Couldn't sleep again last  
night. Had another  
brilliant idea. Make this  
the absolute city of the  
future. Why not have  
their own television  
channel as well. Local  
interest programmes, cookery,  
stuff about living in the  
BEST new city of all time.  
Another excellent idea.  
The kids will love it. Just  
imagine. Give them a camera,  
get them making programmes  
about the city. Must make it so.



Be part of  
the beginning  
of something  
incredible.

Join us in  
Milton Keynes  
today.

Want to walk to work without  
having to cross the road?

Want to live somewhere  
with clean air?

Want to own a car and  
never have to worry about  
parking it?

Want to have an  
indoor toilet?

Want an environment that  
encompasses the best of town  
and country?

Highest living standards.

Jobs for *all*.

Wide range of recreation  
activities.

Beautiful parks  
and open spaces.

Friendly connected  
communities.

The *best* of modern  
architecture, spacious family  
houses, all with internal  
bathrooms.

Wide open roads lined  
with trees.

Beautiful open spaces.

Cutting edge, American  
style, grid structure, elegant,  
sophisticated road system.

All the best shops gathered  
in one mall.

364 pedestrian underpasses  
linking the city – take the  
redway and you never have  
to worry about crossing the  
road again.

20,000 jobs guaranteed  
– from bricklayers to PhDs.





Dear Auntie Teresa,  
Just a short note to say,  
we've moved in. House is  
lovely. Clare loves having  
her own room at last.

Rest of the street looks  
worse than the slums.  
It's a giant ruddy  
building site. Mud  
everywhere.

Come and visit soon  
Love, your niece  
Patricia X



Teresa Lewis

47a Mile End Road

London.



John woz ere  
Wiv his mates

Between Fishermead,  
Oldbrook, Conniburrow,  
Downs Barn

Somewhere in the middle  
Wiv his mates  
Under the underpass  
Sheltering from the rain  
On his way into town

To buy his Mum  
Some slippers  
for her birthday.

Just because  
we're sheltering  
Doesn't mean we're lurking.  
Just because we're punk  
Doesn't mean we're louts.

We ♥ MK.

1979  
*Soul In The Bowl*  
Desmond Dekker  
and Geno Washington

27 July 1980  
The Police, UB 40  
and Squeeze

5 June 1982  
Queen  
2 October 1982  
Genesis

1-3 July 1983  
David Bowie

21 July 1984  
Status Quo, Marillion  
and Nazareth

10 September 1988  
Michael Jackson

19 August 1989  
Bon Jovi

5 August 1990  
David Bowie



Go up to the  
Light Pyramid in  
Campbell Park.

Take a breath

And look around.

Remember what's beneath,  
Remember the promise,  
the plan,  
Remember the people  
who came before,  
who built this city.



44,000 houses  
14 million trees and shrubs.  
83 new schools,  
10 new health centres,  
Over 100km of new city roads  
and nearly 230km of cycle Redways  
50 public artworks  
(it wasn't just the concrete cows you know!)

# Connecting people, connecting places

On the Verge (OTV) started the 'Underpasses – Connecting People, Connecting Places' project to focus on four of the oldest estates around the central area of Milton Keynes: Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Fishermead and Oldbrook. The 'Underpasses' project aims to unite people in their joint MK identity; celebrate the urban design of Milton Keynes; and connect residents with the unique urban heritage of the 'New Town', helping preserve its uniqueness for the future.

Urban features like the underpasses are essential to Milton Keynes functioning and are

important connectors for residents and visitors, enabling people to move freely and safely. This book, the underpass artwork produced, as well as the App and trail leaflets, and project as a whole are a celebration of Milton Keynes' unique urban design, features and identity which so many people are part of. Milton Keynes was created 50 years ago this year (2017), so historically these features are very young, but they form the character of Milton Keynes and raising awareness of the heritage value of the urban features such as the underpasses will help them be preserved for future generations.

"OTV hope to enable readers to explore and celebrate Milton Keynes' history and unique system of underpasses as part of its urban design heritage, seeing their environment from a new perspective. The project has highlighted features that are important and recognisable to the people of Milton Keynes, which have been discovered through the project and are reflected in this book, the underpass artwork, App and trail leaflets. OTV hope you enjoy discovering your Milton Keynes heritage!"  
– Charlotte Durrance, OTV Heritage Adviser

"Pioneered by Myriam Metcalf, the HLF-funded On The Verge 'Underpasses – Connecting People, Connecting Places' project will help local people embark on a real journey of discovery of their heritage. Encouraging exploration of their physical and social heritage, the Underpasses project engages local people with artists, heritage and an understanding of what it means to have the proud history of Milton Keynes in their culture."  
– Noël James, Director MKCDC

## Project Funders



## Project Partners



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# Tomorrow?

# What happens then?

# That's up to you.

Tweet or Instagram your favourite  
place in the city to and imagine it  
in 50 years. #mk50

Underpasses  
Connecting people  
Connecting places

Project by

