

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2023

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Sarah Illingworth	07792 083549
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Sarah MacMahon	07580 581655
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Netherclef (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

Cover: The performers at the Candlelight Concert in St. Mary's Church.

Photo: Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance	999	
Police non-emergency	101	thamesvalley.police.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448	morland-house.co.uk
NHS non-emergency	111	nhs.uk
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	nationalgrid.com/uk/safety/
Electricity Outage	0800 072 7282	sse.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak	0800 714 614	thameswater.co.uk
Floodline	0345 988 1188	gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	07970 264667	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, 15th January 2024 at 7:30 pm. Present: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), D Harms, S MacMahon, S Illingworth and Cllr G Heritage (SODC). In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

01/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Allen and M Horsley and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

02/24 Variation of order of business

06/24 Planning application P23/S3048/FUL was spoken about after agenda item 12/24

03/24 Declarations of members' interest

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the Agenda.

04/24 Matters to report

The District Councillors' report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website. No report from OCC was received for this month.

05/24 Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received in matters not otherwise on the agenda.

06/24 Planning applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were reviewed and discussed:

P23/S3048/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout (Bat roost assessment, tree protection, and plan to make changes to car park layout received 13 December 2023)

Cllr Harrod raised that the Parish Council are very keen to see the plans get going and that GMPC are all behind the development and stated that to the Parish Council, this is exceptional circumstances due to the benefit to the Village.

Cllr Heritage said she is currently trying to gather all the information regarding the planning application for The Bull. Cllr Heritage will be in contact with the Planning Department to find out where they are with the application, but the Planning Department requires an ecologist survey completed as there is too much information missing without it. Mr Hutton mentioned that he had an ecologist's report done himself, which has been completed, and the report is available. Cllr Heritage said that the Planning Department have to refer to their own Ecologist.

The main contention is that the works planned to be undertaken now do not involve the part of the property that SODC needs the ecologist to report on and that these works should be given the go-ahead, with ecological reports on the remainder of the property carried out later in the year, in preparation for the works planned for 2025. Furthermore, SODC requested this ecologist's report too late to conduct it in the 2023 season, thus delaying the whole project by 12 months.

Mr Hutton stressed the need to act quickly on these issues and wants to take the planning application to the committee to get approval. Cllr Heritage understands the need to act quickly and agreed to be in contact with the relevant departments on Tuesday, 16th January.

Cllr Heritage was unaware that the Planning Department was working from an outdated document and not the new National Planning Policy Framework 2023. Mr Hutton stated that it is the Local Authority that is using and quoting the outdated document, and as such, he is following those guidelines.

Cllr Heritage said she was in principle in support of the Pub and would do what she could to find out how to get things moving. Cllr Harrod reiterated the Parish Council's full support for this application.

P24/S0011/FUL and P24/S0014/LB (Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons Church Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7PD) Erection of glass porch and external alterations to stable extension, and installation of a dummy gate, access panel and light fixture to the listed wall.

Cllr Harrod spoke to the Parish Council with regards to this planning application, as the work is not within sight of any neighbours. Cllr Harrod recommended the Parish Council support this application. The Councillors in attendance all agreed.

B The following planning decisions were received along with any outstanding planning matters.

P23/S2902/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Retention of single-storey extension and its use for storage. (As amended by agent letter dated 24 October 2023). South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

P23/S2905/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Continued use of the single-storey building as storage without compliance with condition 3 of P02/N0682. (As amended by the agent's letter dated 24 October 2023) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

P23/S2906/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE)



The retention of the existing building and continued use as offices (mail order company). (As amended by the agent letter dated 24 October 2023). South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

P23/S2907/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Retention of single-storey building and continued use as two office units. (As amended by the agent letter dated 24 October 2023). South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

P23/S2209/FUL (Garages at Holloway Farm Milton Common Oxfordshire) Conversion of existing garage outbuilding into two 1-bedroom flats.(Additional details received 3 October 2023 and amended red line plan and certificate of ownership received 4 October 2023.) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

07/24 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the December meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 15th December, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

08/24 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were reviewed, agreed and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses January: £608.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste December: £62.40

Christmas Tree purchase: £250.00

Lion Message in a bottle (Rod Snowdon): £19.00

BT Office/e-mail package: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The December bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.

C Budget 2024-25

The Parish Council reviewed the third draft of the budget, which includes the changes agreed during December's meeting. The budget was agreed upon.

Precept 2024-25

The precept for 2024/25 of £22,148 was approved.

09/24 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- Grass-cutting quotes are being found for the renewal of the Parish Grass-cutting contract. A few recently have been unable to undertake the full requirement.

10/24 Security in the village

Neighbourhood watch updated the Parish Council regarding the security in the

Village and raised that recently there had been an intruder spotted in a back garden in the village. TVP turned up and did a walk-through of the Village to ensure safety. Thanks to the quick thinking of the resident in question, the offender was caught.

Residents are reminded of the benefits of security lights and cameras, especially as much of the village backs onto open land.

11/24 Allotment/School Barrier

The Parish Council has been asked by a Foundation Governor at the Great Milton School about a barrier between the School and the Allotments. For the School to meet Health and Safety standards, the School is required to have an effective barrier along the boundary to the allotments.

The Parish Council discussed the request by the Foundation Governor for a 1.8m high barrier to be installed. The Parish Council were in full agreement and agreed to a barrier being placed on the boundary. The Parish Council would like the barrier to be as ecological as possible. Finally, the Parish Council agreed as this is a school requirement, it would be the school's responsibility to pay any costs related to the installation of the barrier.

12/24 Re-introduction of the annual Parish Walk

Cllr Harrod raised that an annual Parish Walk should be introduced again, all Councillors agreed that it would be of benefit to start this annual event again. It was agreed the decision for a date would be agreed upon during the March or April meeting and the Walk to be completed during a springtime evening.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 19th February 2024, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Meeting ended at 20:30

Neighbours' Hall Future Events Planned for 2024

Dates for your Diary

- Quiz Night - 16/2/24
- Senior Citizens Christmas Party - 6/4/24
- Sea Shanty Group - Short Drag Roger - 12/4/24
- Ceilidh band called Mouse & Trousers - Tba

We are a small enthusiastic committee who would welcome any other suggestions for events at the Hall.

Benefice Services for February

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 4th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Wednesday 14th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>			Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes 7:00pm
Sunday 18th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Wednesday 21st		Compline 6:00pm	
Sunday 25th	BCP Communion 9:00am		Benefice Family Worship 10:30am
Wednesday 28th	Compline 6:00pm		

Benefice Services for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

The Rector's Pint

I find that January and February are possibly the hardest months of the year to get through. It is partly the post-Christmas effect. Our 2023 Christmas in all three parishes was remarkably good, and I left our Christmas Day service in Little Milton with a feeling of joy and goodwill. I was then clobbered by the inevitable bug. I was in bed at 9pm on New Year's Eve, and spent New's Year's Day in a haze, having cancelled a meet up with friends. I did not face the New Year filled with great enthusiasm! I had just turned 64 a couple of days earlier, and was feeling every one of those years.

However, I write this following a rare and crisp frosty morning. The first snowdrops are showing and as I walked with Oscar past the windmill, the sun was rising over the Chilterns. To the south are The Clumps and beyond those, the foggy outline of the Downs; ancient Wessex. I was overwhelmed with gratitude, and with a reminder that moments of joy, when they come, need to be welcomed and cherished.


We are already looking forward to Lent. As usual, there will be a weekly reflective service of Compline every Wednesday at 6pm. There will also be a series of Lent Lunches, and in addition, we will be hosting a series of studies every Tuesday looking at St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. The details are included here, following The Pint. Further details of venues for all the Lent activities will follow once they are known.

On another matter entirely, I have been so struck with how divided things are now. This came to a head for me with the demonstrations around the world relaying to Gaza, and the corresponding rise in antisemitism, not least in London. In December I organised a simple and non-partisan 'vigil for peace' in St Mary's. I hope that for those who did come, they found it helpful. I am grateful to Andrew Meynell for letting me have a prayer he came across some years ago, which comes from St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. I believe it still has relevance now.

Pray not for Arab
Or Jew,
For Palestinian
Or Israeli,
But pray rather
For ourselves,
That we might not divide them
In our prayers, but keep
Them both together
In our hearts.

Simon

Lent Lunches

Every year we are pleased to host Lent Lunches around the Parishes. These raise much need money to support Christian Aid and they also have the added joy of bringing people together to share a convivial lunch. We do ask for donations to cover the costs and also to be able to give generously to Christian Aid. Although we are suggesting a donation of £10.00, any donation will be gratefully received. 

There will be three Lunches, all beginning at 12.30pm.

- Weds 28th February, hosted by Jane Jefferis at Northland Cottage in Great Milton
- Weds 6th March, hosted by Scilla Greenall and Anne Maloney at Dellafield Cottage in Little Hadley
- Weds 13th March, hosted by Sally Anne Denis and Jane Willis at Spring Cottage Little Milton.

There is no need to book in advance, do come along.

Lent Course 2024 - The Christian Life in a Turbulent World

If you're interested in how much the historic Christian faith has to teach us about how to navigate the complexities of the 21st century, there will also be a five-week Lent course on Tuesday evenings throughout Lent. The first is on 20th February at The Rectory in Great Milton, and the others will be on 27th February and 5th, 12th and 19th March all at 7.30pm. We will be using Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, one of the earliest Christian writings to provide a framework for our discussions. Everyone is

is welcome, but it would though be helpful to know who will be coming, so please contact me at: simoncronk@btinternet.com 01844 278349.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

February 2024				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Simeon Mitchell	
11th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	

Churchwardens' Update

We are delighted that we have now been awarded a Faculty from the Diocese of Oxford to conserve the historic Dormer monument in situ, as recommended by Clivedon Conservation Workshop Ltd in their report dated July 2023. Work will start on February 5 and will probably last 3 weeks. It should cause no disruption to church use.

As part of this project, we have installed an Info Point. We are the first religious building in Oxfordshire to have one. If you have a phone, you can tap on the localised wi-fi network and you can read the interesting history of the Dormer monument and other historic items of interest in the church. Do try it. We will be adding information in the future.

We are grateful to The Benefact Trust, Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Frances Coales Charitable Foundation, Leche Trust and the Morris Fund for grants totalling £18,900 which were added to our contribution of £8,769. These grants funded the work to be done on the monument as well as improving information available on its history.

Our next phase of work will be on re-ordering the interior of the church, to include a WC and kitchenette. We have refined our ideas, building on feedback so are awaiting revised plans. Once we have these, we can apply for more funding and Diocesan approval.

Dear Lovely Bull Customers

We have failed at the Bull in our attempt to obtain planning permission for the planned improvement work to the pub. This is quite a blow and totally unexpected too! The application was submitted after much consultation, we thought we had planning officer support, seemingly not! We thank you all for your kind words and support.


It is now required that we carry out further ecology and habitat investigations, these can only be carried out in July and August in any year, only then and after our submission of the reports will planning consent be granted.

We are very disappointed. It means the works to the toilets, garden and parking will be delayed by one whole year. I am sorry to report this and I am sorry that our pub will not have the much wanted improved facilities when we re-open on the 21st February.

We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Flora and the team at the Bull

Dear Great Milton Residents,

As many of you will know, following the sale of the pub there was a balance left after the shareholders were reimbursed. It was specified that this fund should be given to the Great Milton village community and the pub shareholders were consulted on the proposed beneficiaries. As a result, a sum of £20,000 was generously gifted 

to The Great Milton Recreation Ground, to be invested in the property for the benefit of the local residents.

We firstly wanted to say a very big thank you to all of the pub shareholders who responded to the survey and voted to gift this money to The Great Milton Recreation Ground. We also felt it was essential to keep you updated on the spending of this money and invite you to put forward any suggestions for its use. The Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee is delighted to be able to use this fund to carry out long overdue work on the property and invest in its future at the heart of the village. As a guideline, the committee expects this work and investment to fall into the following categories, noted with their priorities:

- Recreation grounds - make good and maintain substantial wear and tear, landscape, improve waste management
- Pavilion building - refurbish, repair (interior and exterior)
- Ancillary areas - repair and refurbish sports facilities and play area

We will be reviewing suggestions in our next meeting in early March so please email us on gmrecommittee@gmail.com by 1st March to ensure your comments are considered.

With best wishes,

The Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee
gmrecommittee@gmail.com

Great Milton History



Did You Know... No. 1 of a monthly item from the Archive

At one time, several centuries ago, houses were often built facing North. This is said to be because it was thought that the South wind brought diseases. This, as we now know, is untrue, but it is easy to see how the idea arose.

Much minor disease did appear during the Summer, when the wind blew from the South. In fact, the cause was often water from the village pond or from wells, which spread sickness around. In the end it was the newly established Water Board which, by insisting on a pump between every 4th or 5th house, ended the cycle.

As most of you know, we are now located in the 'Cabin behind the Garage' - come and see us! We have decided to meet only twice during February - on Wednesday 7th, and Wednesday 21st.

GMH

Update on Local Housing Plans

Good news but we all need to act

The latest proposals from South Oxfordshire District Council for housing in our area is very good news for those who support Haseley Brook Action Group.

The draft Local Plan both:

- Removes Chalgrove airfield from the list of possible sites; and
- Does not include 'Harrington' on the list of possible sites.

The Emerging Joint Local Plan which aims to identify sites for housing in our area for the next 20 years is open for feedback via a consultation until 21st February.

To help ensure that this Draft Plan progresses to an Agreed Plan for South Oxfordshire we all need to go online and express support.

Responding takes as little as 5 minutes and the link to follow is here:

<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/corporate-services/jlp-preferred-options-consultation/consultation/>

Below we provide guidance on how to best respond.

As many of us as possible should enter responses online. It is important that we collectively register our support, as other stakeholders will push for changes to this plan that would undermine the excellent work to reach this updated set of proposals.

Importantly - you don't need to answer every question.

HBAG encourages you to:

1. Strongly Agree with the main elements of the Plan;
2. In Chapter 6 questions on Housing: Strongly Agree with the majority or all of these proposals;
3. In Chapter 8 Strongly Agree with deliverable sites such as Grenoble Road, Culham and Berinsfield;
4. Also in Chapter 8 (AS10) Strongly Agree with removing Chalgrove airfield from the Plan and using your own words reference:
 - Unsuitability of the airfield site
 - A 'New Town' in Chalgrove being undeliverable
 - Location not being adjacent to the housing need in Oxford
 - Poor transport provision for accessing Oxford.
5. Contribute to other questions and topics of personal interest and using you own words consider referencing:
 - Support for developments adjacent to Oxford that will serve the city;
 - Strong commitment to carbon reduction principles within the Plan;
 - Need for affordable housing as part of the Plan.



6. Submit your response by pressing “FINISH” having also added your contact details.

This 5 minutes of your time will have a meaningful impact in supporting HBAG and protecting our beautiful rural area of Oxfordshire.

Haseley Brook Action Group; January 2024

Great Milton Candlelight Concert

What a delight this concert was on January 6th. Our accomplished young performers played on a variety of instruments or sang pieces including Stevie Wonder, Bach, Debussy, Chopin, CC White, Beethoven and Monti. The standard was exceptional and as one person said afterwards “this should be an annual event”. The main part of the church was full and it looked beautiful, lit with candles.

A special thanks is given to all our performers (one who had driven all the way from Leeds University), Abbie Adiri for encouraging some of her students to perform and for putting together the varied programme, Le Manoir for the candles, and to all those who set up the church and organised refreshments. Our young compere was a revelation including his ad libbing- a new skill to add to his CV! Also, a big thank you to those who came and supported us. Apart from an enjoyable evening, we also raised £471 for the church.




View From Views

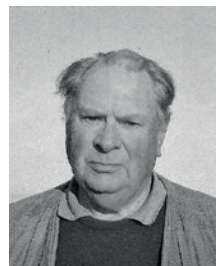
For a change I won't bore anyone with a comment on the weather, I think we all know it has been wet, I have never known the river to be as high as it was on the 6th of Jan, nor have I known it to have been in flood for so long end!!

There is no question now as to what we have to do with 2/3 of our planted ground which, is a complete washout literally. Let's hope the respite in the weather in the middle of January when, I write this column continues and, we can get our planting done in good time and conditions, to let the spring planted crops flourish.

Most of our land was drained by my predecessor but, now unfortunately they are beginning to cause problems, exacerbated by the wet weather. We find that some are blocked with root fibres that can be cleared once they are found. This is a process not aided by the 60 plus years since they were laid, these are all mapped, measured in imperial, with most of the reference points either not there or in the same place. These rely on what we call Mole draining, this is done by pulling a round 3" diameter cylinder through the ground about 18-24" below the ground crossing the drains at strategic angles to create channels for water to percolate into the drains all these now need renewing, those we have already show how effective they are, this is just another job we will have to do, as well as making sure all other water courses are free running mainly ones that come from water courses from other land, the law being the lower land has to take the higher.

Sir James Dyson, of Vacuum cleaner fame, is also a very big Farmer, owns as much land if not more than the Monarchy, known as "Beeswax Farming". He is producing Strawberries 12 months of the year under glass, in a completely sustainable way, all rainwater is collected and used for irrigation, he has anaerobic digesters that provide the electricity, and all berries are picked by robot. What the produce is like is up to those who eat them but, it does illustrate what the future could hold for food production. It does take those with his resources to lead the way and, experiment. If we are to survive in the future with the increase in population and, less labour, or willingness to do these mundane jobs, then these practices will have to be developed. You could argue is this the way we should be going? But it does have some merit.

I don't know if anyone has noticed how much more Mistletoe there is in trees around lately. This parasitic growth has mainly been prevalent in apple orchards and in Herefordshire, but now appears to have spread over the whole country, particularly noticeable here along the roadside at Adwell between Wheatfield and Lewknor. I read that this is due to there being more Blackcaps now overwintering in Britain, 



possibly due to Climate Change (Global Warming). Apparently, these birds like Mistletoe berries but not their seeds which get wiped off on other trees, unlike Mistle Thrushes (hence the name) and Fieldfares who I guess eat the whole lot and spread the seeds in other ways. Another possible sign of Global warming we saw a couple of hares (on the 7th January), cavorting as they are known to do in March, Partridges paired up around Christmas time, untimely early. In spite of the reports, we hear that nature in this country is depleted, I would defy anyone to come here and say that, the other day we counted at least 20 tits and others around our feeders, and whenever I walk our fields there are always flocks of unidentifiable birds flying around, I suspect Sky Larks, Buntings, Fieldfares, Starlings and, I suspect many other species. When mentioning Starlings there certainly do not seem to be so many about although, I understand plenty around the Otmoor reserve, there was a report on Faming today a few days ago where a farmer was having to erect netting around his cattle feeders because, Starlings were nicking all the best bits of the cattle food, I can remember in my student days, being responsible for a group of Barley beef animals and having the same problem. At the time this was the latest system now not accepted anymore as the beef it produced was lacking in all sorts of ways, flavour, texture and many other ethical issues.

So, with the storms we have been having, just as was predicted some 30 years ago the above habit of the Blackcap could be caused by Global Warming. So, if this is the case are we taking it seriously enough, our politicians certainly don't seem to be in spite of their rhetoric, the recent Cop conference statement may have some effect, unfortunately it hasn't so far, but let's hope. Unfortunately most of the measures we need to take will cost us all money, something we have to accept if we are to save the planet, in the past we have had our energy and, food far too cheaply, now we need to accept that it should cost us more to fill our cars, or feed ourselves and become more realistic on what spend on the necessities of life.

Our new Minister, Steve Barclay, came to Oxford for the annual Farming Conference, and as usual with Ministers, gave a paper saying, how marvellous we farmers are and, he would do all he could to support us. We have heard this record so many times before we await with bated breath. Some things sound good but, they often do but then fizzle out in delivery. All the Shadow Minister said was they would support green energy.

Charles Peers

Morland House Surgery

Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only. Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023. WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN. There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything. If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then please do so. Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Group Consultation Clinics – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In January 17 of us went out for our annual New Year dinner to The Lamb in Chalgrove. A big thank you to Katie & team at the Lamb for the wonderful food and warm welcome. Highly recommend a visit.

Sadly, long-standing WI member Deirdre Mann passed away in December. She was a big character and will be very much missed. Love to all her family and friends.

We're back in the hall on Thursday 8 February for a Mardi Gras Pancake Cook off! Come and have a pancake party with us.

Everyone welcome, visitors £5.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends?

Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

- Exhibition of art and museum objects related to the Battle of Waterloo open now until 30 April 2024
- Artist Shaun Maloney also running a series of workshops to build visitors' own drawing skill and confidence
- A recreation of the 19th century Waterloo Cartoon by Daniel Maclise, Shaun's piece has been donated as a prize in charity raffle supporting the museum which celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year.

Running alongside the popular war comics exhibition, Into Battle!, the Waterloo Cartoon by Shaun Maloney is now on display at the county's military history museum until 30 April 2024. The incredibly detailed sketch depicts scenes from the 1815 Battle of Waterloo and is based on the 19th century original by Daniel Maclise, on display in the House of Lords. Alongside the artwork itself, the museum has dipped into its own archives to display a range of objects and artwork of the Waterloo era, many rarely seen on public display.

These include items of the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry who fought in the historic battle - some historians arguing they played a pivotal role in defeating Napoleon's Imperial Guard. Supporting panels from the National Army Museum provide visitors with the context behind the battle itself. Artist Shaun is a veteran himself, having served a long and varied career in the British Army, including the Falkland Islands, mainland Europe, Bosnia and Kosovo, Northern Ireland and the Far East.

With a strong sense of social responsibility, he now uses art alongside his coaching experience, to help others overcome trauma, physical pain and damaging thinking patterns. Drawing is a tool Shaun often uses.

Shaun explains, "Drawing has been a constant in my life for as long as I can remember. In recent years I have used mindful drawing to steady my own mental health as well as helping others. There is a special gift that drawing gives us and for

me, it's being able to focus on just one thing at that one moment in time. When I'm drawing, time is immaterial. Hours pass without any intrusive thoughts entering my mind. To help with this meditative process, I tend to draw finely detailed pieces. I love to be able to get right into the detail and discover those things only really close looking can see”.

Alongside the exhibition Shaun is running two art workshops for visitors looking to build their own confidence in drawing or develop their skills, the first on 17 February, and the second on 13 April 2024.

Open to all ages from children aged 10 up to adults, the workshops will encourage attendees to both express their own creativity while casting an analytical eye over historical visual sources such as the original Waterloo Cartoon. While visitors can drop in to see the exhibition any time the museum is open, spaces on the workshops are limited, with tickets available now from the museum's website and via Eventbrite.

Following the exhibition, Shaun is also kindly donating his Waterloo Cartoon as the grand prize in Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust's 10th Anniversary raffle, with proceeds supporting the charity's continued work at the museum in Woodstock, preserving the county's military heritage and sharing Oxfordshire people's stories of conflict and peace.

John Howell MP writes...

Even before the Christmas decorations were down, or perhaps before they went up, speculation on the date of the General Election has been hotting up. It could actually be as late as January 2025, but that would not be a preferred option for many people, not least as political campaigning over the festive period would not go down well. Now the Prime Minister has given a strong hint that it is more likely to be later in the year than sooner.



Whatever the date, the campaigning is already underway. Not just in the battle for media attention and getting messages out, but also in more subtle ways. In Parliament the increase in emails on specific issues referring to the next Party Manifesto was noticeable even in November and December. In parliament the use of mechanisms to promote specific issues, such as Early Day Motions and Westminster Hall debates appears to be increasing, so it might be helpful to explain what these are.

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions that formally call for debate in the House of Commons but there is no timeline, simply at an 'early day' and few ever get debated. They are often used on behalf of campaign groups and, although it may

seem that they are being proactive, the reality known by all involved, is that they rarely achieve anything. In any one Parliamentary session there will be well over a thousand EDMs tabled, and at an average cost of a several hundred pounds each, this is a substantial cost to the taxpayer. Given that they are ineffective, along with many colleagues on both sides of the House, I decided some time ago that I would not sign EDMs. Instead, there are many other more effective ways for an MP to raise an issue or lobby government. These include writing to Ministers, meeting with Ministers, asking Parliamentary Questions (which can be written for oral) and holding Westminster Hall debates. Over the years I have frequently raised numerous concerns in these alternative ways. Whilst EDMs can only be signed by MPs we now have e-petitions which can be signed by anyone. These have much more success in raising awareness of different issues and some do get debated.

There is also a note of caution on Westminster Hall debates. I said above that I have often held a Westminster Hall debate. An MP uses a Westminster Hall debate to raise issues of concern to them. They are formal debates recorded in Hansard, but there are not votes. However, they do get a response from a Minister. So, whilst the debate is important to the MP holding it, the attendance of other MPs is neither critical nor representative of the wider support for the issue. Sometimes it is just not possible to attend, but this does not mean that I am not interested in the issue.

I have always been very conscious that most local magazines do not want carry Party political material. As such, over the years I have always been careful to ensure that my newsletters share my thoughts rather than make sweeping Party-political statements. I am grateful to those Editors who have faithfully carried my copy and encouraged exchanges with constituents. I know that some Editors choose not to carry copy but include my contact details to ensure that constituents have them should they wish to make contact and I am grateful for that too.

I have already made public that it is not my intention to put myself forward as a candidate for the next General Election. I have served the Constituency since initially being elected in 2008 and have been returned to Parliament in four subsequent elections. I continue to take an interest in the views of constituents and, with the support of my team, assist those constituents wanting help. However, I am in the happy position of being able to sit light when an email tells me that the senders vote at the next General Election depends on my reply to their email. Such emails often spring from campaign groups and, whilst I will continue to reply with my view, it is really the views of the various Parliamentary Candidates for the Constituency that should be of greater interest. I will have moved on to pastures new.

Wheatley Library

Happy New Year! ☺



In the spirit of the new year, there are a few new initiatives occurring in the library over the next few months.

We have a new Digital Helper session on alternate Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30p.m. for anyone who needs help with a specific computer or online query. Please contact us to book a Digital Helper session or speak to a member of staff in the library for further details.

A new Storytime session will begin soon on alternate Saturday mornings for children ages 4 – 7, so keep an eye out for specific dates and times that will be posted in the library and on our website at bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary.

Here's a reminder of our regular events:

- Rhymetime: *free* & every Friday, 10:30 a.m. for kids up to 5 yrs old
- Digital Helper: *free* & alternate Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: first Saturday of each month, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Art Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Fibre Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 2 – 4 p.m.

For news and event updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page. Our Wheatley Friends Group would benefit from additional members so if you'd like to join, please visit wheatleylibrary.org or send a Facebook message.

We recently recruited several fantastic new volunteers to work in the library so please keep your eye out for those new faces, who we are very happy to have on board!

For library queries, please email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 875267.

Hope to see you soon!

Wheatley Library
The Merry Bells
High St
Wheatley
Oxford
OX33 1XP

QUIZ NIGHT

at The Neighbours' Hall

**Friday 16th February 2024
at 7:30pm**

Come along and test your knowledge of a range of subjects in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Tables of up to 6 people.
Please feel free to bring along your own nibbles – drinks will be available from the cash bar.

Entry is by ticket only.
These are available from the village shop and cost £5 per person.

*All proceeds are for the
maintenance of The Neighbours' Hall.*
Look forward to seeing you there!



WELCOME to St Mary's Church

Come inside and access our new **Info Point** to appreciate every aspect of this historic building



It is impractical to keep this South Door open all the time but please go around to the North Door, which should be unlocked during normal daylight hours, and use your mobile 'phone, scan the QR code which is displayed inside, and explore your way all around the Church

Find out about:

- ❖ The architecture.
- ❖ The Dormer Monument.
- ❖ The unusual organ.
- ❖ Unique features.
- ❖ The font.
- ❖ The bells
- ❖ The empty external niches
etc, etc.....



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TONY SNELGROVE

LADIES

TUESDAY
6-7PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

CAROL PHILLIPS

UNDER 12S

SATURDAY
10:30-11AM

REC FEILD OUTSIDE
VILLAGE HALL

HEIDI BATES

UNDER 11S

THURSDAY
5:30-6:30PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

RYAN UNDERWOOD

UNDER 9S

BOYS AND GIRLS

MONDAY (TERM TIME)

17:30-18:30

ON THE MUGA DURING WINTER.
ON REC FIELD FROM APRIL

DARREN GILL

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FRIDAY
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You can pick up your free bottle from:

Morland House Surgery
Health centres
Pharmacies

Or contact Rod Snowdon (Neighbourhood Watch)
on 07836 728919 or via the Village WhatsApp group.

It would be useful if you could let Rod know if you're using this scheme or if you find anywhere else that distributes the bottles.

Thank you.



THE MAPLE TREE TREASURER VACANCY

- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk.
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:



www.mapletree.org.uk



www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/

Registered charity no.: 1174117

OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION
WHEATLEY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB PROJECT
Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth Workers

The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm.

The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly, we are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Childrens opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing'

Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of 2 references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV's for the role, to request an application form please contact; Martin Gillett, OPA Manager. T = 07436 270267 or E = martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk

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Part time opportunities

If you are a parent looking for part time working to fit around childcare commitments or if you are a student spending the summer in the local area, and would be interested to work with us, we would love to hear from you!

We are looking for dedicated and people-orientated team members to join our award winning team. Hospitality experience is welcomed, however, training is provided and a willingness to learn and become part of our collaborative environment is more important.

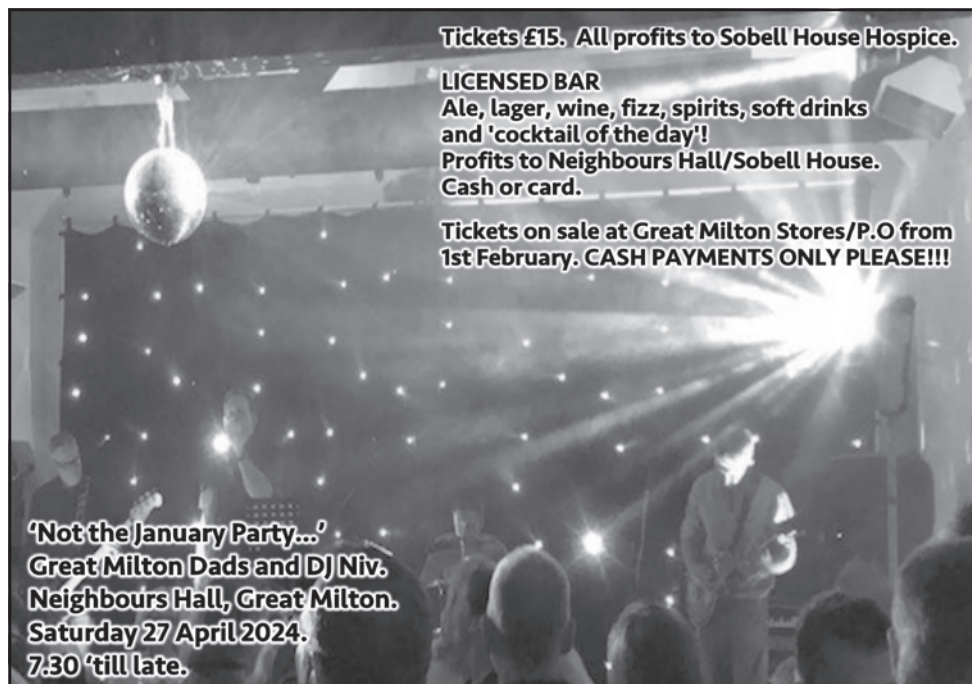
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General Manager





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Neighbours Hall, Great Milton.
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Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for
prebooked telephone consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our
reception team for more information.

From 3rd April 2023 our new Dispensary hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

For further information, please visit our website www.morland-house.co.uk

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

Neighbours' Hall

A large recently refurbished community Hall with Wifi, central heating, new lighting and well-equipped kitchen. The

Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

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Please contact our Booking Secretary

Janet Smith on 07970 264667

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First Monday of every month (second Monday in January) in the Pavilion from 6.30-9.00pm

The Three Villages Car Service

The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**

Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground

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Book Library at the Neighbours' Hall

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11 am – 12 noon

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- Please feel free to make use of the Library at any time you visit the Neighbours' Hall

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

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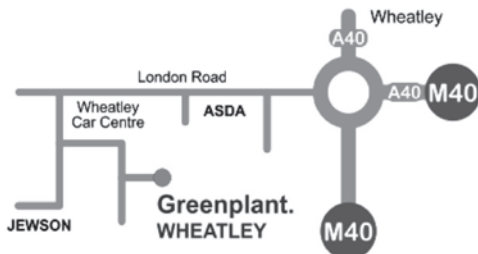
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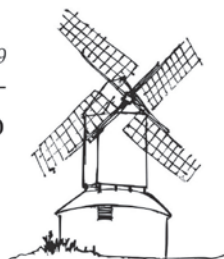
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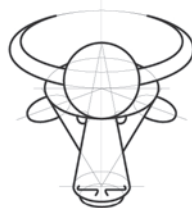
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Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
- Wednesday 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

February

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| Tue 6th | Neighbours' Hall AGM | 7:00pm |
| Fri 16th | Quiz Night at The Neighbours' Hall | 7:30pm |
| Mon 19th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |

April

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| Sat 6th | Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Neighbours' Hall | — |
| Fri 12th | Sea Shanty Group at The Neighbours' Hall | — |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th February 2024**.

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contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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