

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN



January 2023

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## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Clyde Deacon</b>	<b>01844 279242</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>		
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Peter Allen</b>	<b>01844 278334</b>
Ward:	Milton Common	

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto: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 Nethercleft (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak, 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 Carpathians entertain at The Neighbours' Hall on 25th November.

**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: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@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: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
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	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
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

## Draft Parish Notes

Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday 12th December 2022 at 7:30pm.

The meeting was attended by Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, D Harms and Cllr F V Mierlo (OCC). Apologies were received from Cllr C Newton (SODC) and Cllr M Horsley. Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and one member of the public were in attendance. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda. There was one variation of the order of business where Broadband in the Pavilion was discussed during Cllr F V Mierlo's update.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website along with the District Councillor's. A member of the public is interested in becoming a councillor, and a brief outline of the role and time commitments were discussed.

Cllr van Mierlo updated the Parish Council on the traffic filters. There are traffic filter questions and answers in his report, which explain the traffic filter plan more clearly. The report shows that most people's journeys which are affected by the traffic filters will only increase travel by 5-15 minutes. The benefits of the filters mean this is a worthy sacrifice. The traffic filters will not be implemented until the Botley Road work is completed. People with a filter pass will find travel to and from Oxford much faster, along with buses and other vehicles that can use the filters. With the filters in place, it should mean electric buses will be funded.

Cllr Harrod asked a question about blue badges as they are registered to a person and not a vehicle. Cllr Van Mierlo will look into this and report back.

With the new 20mph speed limit in place in Great Milton, Cllr Harrod proposed the potential of a speed survey next summer to see the impact of the new limit.

Cllr Van Mierlo was asked about an update on the Harrington proposal. South and Vale are far away from allocating any sites. This is expected to be in 2023.

Summix will have to comply with OCC's Local Transport Connectivity plan, along with providing evidence that Summix is not creating a dormitory town.

OCC's role would be to reject the proposal on lack of transport infrastructure. It is down to the District Council concerning the planning matters.

P22/S4121/AG (Heath Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7JD) Prior notification for the erection of a

steel portal framed clear-span agricultural building. The Parish Council agreed to NO STRONG VIEWS on the application.

P22/S4191/PDS (The Penn Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX) Additional

storey to increase the height of the building by 2.3 metres. The Parish Council agreed to NO STRONG VIEWS on the application.

P22/S3852/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7EJ) Retention of single-storey extension and its use for storage. The Parish Council agreed to NO STRONG VIEWS on the application.

P22/S3961/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common Oxfordshire OX44 7EJ) Retention of an existing building and continued use as offices. The Parish Council agreed to NO STRONG VIEWS on the application

P22/S4135/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7EJ) Retention of single storey building and continued use as two office units. The Parish Council agreed to NO STRONG VIEWS on the application.

The minutes of the November meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 21st November, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses November: £562.72

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste October: £62.40

J M Dudley November Bulletin: £335.20

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

Hugo Fox: web support July: £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Tim Darch: Cost of living wage backdated: £227.50

Chris Ashworth: Cost of living wage backdated: £136.50

Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee Insurance renewal: £1,140.95

The November bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.

### **Budget 2023-24**

The second draft of the budget was approved. Since the draft budget was discussed at the November Parish Council meeting, the forecast number of households in the village paying council tax in 2023-24 has been received. This forecast shows that the number will rise by 2.5%. This means that in order to achieve the aim of keeping the Precept per household flat year-on-year, the total needs to be increased by £500.

Forecast expenses for 2023-24 total £25,930. Income from sources other than the precept is anticipated to be £5,250, while the precept is forecast to rise from £20,180 to £20,680.

### **Precept 2023-24**

The precept request for 2023-24 was agreed as £20,680, in line with the



final budget for that year

### **Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

Work on the gateway features has been raised with the signing contractor. It will take a few months for the necessary materials to be acquired then we will be given a date of installation.

Christmas tree recycling will be collected on Tuesday 10th January, so trees will need to be dropped off by Monday 9th January, adjacent to the entrance of the recreation ground.

3 quotes for the Mowing contract are being found. The date for renewal is 28th February 2023.

### **Security in the village**

Residents are encouraged to please continue to report any incident that they witness or experience to the police via the 101-telephone service or online via the [police.co.uk](http://police.co.uk) website.

### **Dates for Great Milton Parish Council meetings 2022**

The following dates were reviewed and approved.

16th January

20th February

20th March

17th April

15th May

19th June

17th July

No meeting in August

18th September

16th October

20th November

11th December (A week early due to the proximity to Christmas)

### **Thame food bank initiative**

Cllr Caroline Newton could not attend the meeting.

### **Broadband in the Pavilion**

OCC plan to build fibre broadband connection to the Pavilion via the contract with Gigahubs. Gigahubs are focused on community centres. However, there are many centres within the County that will be part of this project. There is the potential to speed this process up for the Pavilion by checking with the contractor if they could subcontract to AirBand. The Clerk will make this enquiry.

Cllr Van Mierlo was asked about funding for the electrics at Neighbours Hall,

unfortunately, there is no fund left, but the new budget will be set in February 2023 with allocation for Neighbours Hall potential.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th January 2023, at 7:30pm at the Pavilion. Meeting ended 20:07.

## Benefice Services for January

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st		Holy Communion for New Year's Day 10:30am	
Friday 6th			Compline for Epiphany 6:00pm
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion 9:00am		Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 15th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 22nd	Family Gathering 4:00pm	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer 9:00am
Sunday 29th	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am		

## Benefice Services for February

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

## The Rector's Pint

It is a shocking thing that food banks have become a fact of life and are now to be found in every city, and probably every town, in the country. We have a 

foodbank in Thame, a town which outwardly we would call prosperous, but tragically there is need for it. However, the response to our first monthly foodbank collection at St Peter's church was magnificent, and I very much hope that this generosity will continue.

We all know that 2023 will be a challenging year. The cost of living and energy crisis affects us all. We know that there are huge challenges ahead for our climate and we hope beyond hope that there might be a resolution to the terrible war in Ukraine and an end to the ongoing suffering because of conflict in the Middle East, in Syria and Yemen.

The Gate of the Year is a poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins, a retired London School of Economics academic. It was famously read by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas radio broadcast when this nation and the world faced a very dark and dangerous time. I have used it before so forgive me if this feels a little 'recycled,' however I think it is very apt to use again, it is filled with hope when we know there is a difficult road ahead.

The Gate of the Year – Minnie Louise Haskins

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied: 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the

Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

A member of our Benefice also suggested this, a poem written by novelist Susan Coolidge at the turn of the last century, and which is also particularly relevant at the start of a new year:

New Every Morning

Every day is a fresh beginning,

Listen my soul to the glad refrain.

And, in spite of old sorrows

And older sinning,

Troubles forecasted

And possible pain,

Take heart with the day and begin again.

Whatever the challenges that lie ahead this year, we can still embrace the joys, and there will be many of those as well. I pray and hope that you have a truly Happy New Year.

*Simon*

## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

January 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	No Service	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion CS
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
29th	11:00am	G. Milton	Sue Barratt	

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## Number 46 Bus

A friend, who lives in Florence Park, gave me the following, thinking that people in the village might well be interested in how the 46 is viewed by people in that location. They have had their bus service severely curtailed.

It was printed in the Florence Park Newsletter, the equivalent of our Bulletin.

### Our Seat on the Bus

The bus is back

Thank goodness for that

The 46 bus is here to stay

So, lets be using it day by day

Going to town is now easier by far

Or out to Great Milton not using the car.

Enjoying the ride through country locations

With lunch at the Bull as our destination

Le Manoir too is at the end of our ride

With a glimpse through the gates of the gardens inside

Our seat on the bus gives us pleasure and more.

Workers, shoppers, and pensioners all score.

So, let's all applaud and smile every day

Now that the 46 Bus is here to stay.

Sheila and Sally, Sept. 2022

*Ann Price*

## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair raised £1,550.

### Winners of Great Milton Church Christmas Fair Raffle

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons: Dinner for 2 people

Father Christmas's Elf – Wendy Foster

2 tickets for a Waterperry Opera Festival Event 2023 worth £100

Lucy Heywood

£100 voucher for Table d'Alix

Malcolm Horsley

The Lamb, Little Milton – meal for 2 people (excluding drinks)

Jordan Sheridan

Luxury Hamper

Belinda Wilson, Gt Haseley

Smoochy moo moos hamper

Rob Cartwright

Voucher for the Fox and Goat

Geoff Earnshaw

Lancome perfume

Charles Bacon c/o Margaret Rogers

Shand's cake

G Farmer, Little Milton

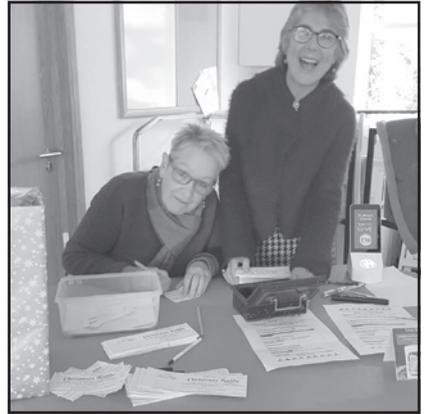
Painting by local, Linda Webb

Evelyn Joslin

Many thanks to all those who have donated these fabulous prizes and those of you who bought tickets.

Also, many thanks to Grant and Stone who sponsored the Father Christmas Grotto, Bucks Wigwams, Village PO for selling tickets and Hollands Farm for their burgers.





## Swing Band Evening

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Swing Band evening at the Neighbours' Hall on Friday 25th Nov. We all agreed the band & singer were incredible & extremely talented. A good time was had by all!

*Yvonne*



# Christmas Cake Raffle

## Prizewinners List

	Prize	Ticket	Winner	Sold at
1.	Cake	584	L.S.D.	The Bull
2.	Champagne	400	Bobby	The Bull
3.	Biscuits	415	Greg	The Bull
4.	White Wine	192	Julie	The Shop
5.	Toilet Bag	610	L.S.D.	The Bull
6.	Hand Creams	670	Bobby	The Bull
7.	Scarf	580	L.S.D.	The Bull
8.	Mixed Nuts	392	Bobby	The Bull
9.	Twiglets	888	Julie	The Bull
10.	Scented Candles	394	Bobby	The Bull
11.	Hand & Nail Cream	911	Colin	The Bull
12.	red Wine	153	Ken	The Shop
13.	4 Cans Lager	140	A. Catterall	The Shop
14.	4 Cans Guinness	186	Mike Black	The Shop
15.	Quality Street	967	Chris	The Bull
18.	Red Wine	76	Janet Earl	The Shop

Thank you for Your Support

The Annual Party funds benefitted by £91.50 – the total of the raffle proceeds.

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## View from Views

The cold weather has held crops back which is a good thing, it is never good for crops to go into the winter to forward as this makes them more vulnerable to what the weather may throw at them. We seem to have a good supply of wildlife loads of small birds, on a nice bright day many skylarks can be heard but not seen, I am very bad at identifying small birds but I do know there is a good variety on our land, certainly a greater number of Starlings visible this year, I also thought I saw fieldfares the other day. Some of these birds will be finding it hard to find food during this period, as I write I don't know how long it will or has lasted.

2022 has been a challenging year one way or another who would have thought a year ago we would be inextricably intertwined in an all-out war in spite of what 



some say it is. Having just started to accept life post pandemic now everyone thinks the country owes them a substantial pay rise, forgetting that they were looked after financially by the Government during lock down, which has to be paid for somehow, I would of course exclude the nurses from this comment having spent time on hospital during this period. This has also had a remarkable effect on Agriculture by increasing our cost dramatically and completely overturning normal market forces that we had become used to, we are not offering to strike, not sure what the public would say if we did not milk our cows or tend sick animals. We have to wonder just how correct some of the reports in the media are, take one instance that I know to be a fact, is the shortage of eggs, widely we are told that this is due to Avian Flu, NOT THE CASE. The real reason is that the supermarkets, in competing with one another for market share, will not pay the producer enough to cover the extra cost, so producers are not restocking their flocks just to loose money.

As anyone reading this will be aware the war in Ukraine has had a massive effect on practically everything we do or buy, and inevitably a lot of money is being made by some. Difficult to identify any but it is obvious some, larger businesses, are taking advantage of a situation. I cannot understand how energy prices are so high when after all the sun and wind don't cost any more than they did a year ago, if you produce power from the sun you are only paid 6p per Kwh. As an industry we have always had monitor our costs, but the increasing costs over the last year is just mind boggling, the only way we can counter this is from the market which is not that easy, with in or case the price of grain varying day by day, caused mainly by actions of others around the world.

Interesting at last the River Thame Conservation Trust (RTCT) has at last started, with the help of volunteers, to monitor the water quality for the full length of the river and its tributaries. This is work being taken over from the Environmental Agency (EA) who it appears, as I see it, do not to have the funding, are relying on charity to do their work. This has enabled the RTCT to analyse the EA's records which do in fact show that a vast majority of the pollution on the river is due to sewage, and not farming, which always seems to have to bare the brunt of all or most of the blame.

At the above farmer's meeting with the RTCT, we discussed soil as being an important issue in this scenario, as good soil structure does so much to make use of nutrients and to hold and manage water, as well as controlling a certain amount of pollution. This question of water management made me think, I asked the meeting and, later our Agronomist if that is why last summer, we did not notice areas where plants were suffering severely from drought, the answer was confirmed by both independently, that it would be down to the fact that due to our change in farming practice, we had built up our soil structure (which was our aim). For once we could see how our actions

had had an effect and, for once achieved what we set out to do by, less cultivation and cutting out ploughing, not as I have been saying all along that it was because once the dry weather set in it never rained at all causing the plants send roots down to follow the moisture. Unfortunately, this could not be achieved without the use of Glyphosate, meaning if it were to be banned (which is threatened) we would probably have to return to older methods which may well not be so environmentally secure.

Recently an interview with some students by BBC Radio 4 where they were asked about saving heating bills, it was suggested that they try Draught excluders, this was apparently followed by blank faces what are you talking about. About the same time, we had an incident at our “Jack Peers Centre”. Teacher teaching basics of life etc to younger students, how to light a campfire. Every so often small boy 8 kept hitting his forehead saying “got it” after a while teacher asked what had he got? the answer was Dad has to light a fire in the garden because he can’t afford to use the cooking stove, he has problems getting it to light, I can see now he needs to put the paper underneath not on top. I think this illustrates that sometimes people are lacking in common sense.

*Charles Peers*

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## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

In December, we started the Christmas celebrations with Cocktails & Carols. Thank you to Adele for accompanying us on the piano, Amilia for the beautiful solo, Jane for the yummy nibbles and Lucinda for the delicious drinks.

At our next meeting on Thursday 12th January at 7pm are going out for our annual New Year dinner to a local pub.

We’ll be back in the Pine Lodge on Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm with a Pilates taster class by Lee Caulfield. Some gentle exercise to shift those Christmas calories! 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 at 7.30pm (unless we’re out!)

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/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

## **Morland House Surgery News**

### **Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre**

Cowley is now host to the recently developed Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre. This site can provide blood tests, 'x-rays', ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs, echocardiograms and more.

The Centre, which is not too far from the Eastern By-Pass and BMW Cowley Works:

- Will reduce waiting times
- Provide services nearer patient homes in a quieter location than the acute hospital sites
- Has free parking!!

There is a drop-in x-ray service (for people aged 18 and over)

Once your GP has requested your x-ray (electronically so no paperwork to take) please attend the Centre between 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. As this is a drop-in service there is no need to book in advance.

### **Blood tests (for people aged 16 years and over)**

Once your GP has given you your test forms, please book an appointment

- Through <https://my.drdoctor.co.uk/clinic/OUH-Phleb-CDC> . You will need your NHS number from your request form.
- If you don't use the internet, you can call 01865 222652

If you need to reschedule or require the blood test within the next 3 days and none are available on the website you can also call 01865 222652.

Please remember to take your blood forms!

Address: Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre, Perspectum Building, Gemini One, 5520 John Smith Drive, OX4 2LL.

### **Visit Morland House Website**

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, a link to the NHS App and opening hours, please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) The website also provides access to a large amount of information and advice on managing your health and wellbeing, including a large range of conditions, symptoms, treatments, and medicines.

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## Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

### Online talk to tell the story of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire men that went 'a bridge too far'

- Online Talk and live Q&A available on the museum website from 7pm, Thursday, 19th January 2022
- A talk by Brigadier (Retired) David Innes, museum trustee.
- Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome.

Video Link: <https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/oxnbucksarnhem/>

The next in Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum's series of online talks, Arnhem and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry will be streamed on the museum website from 7pm, 19 January 2023.

"A tale you will tell your grandchildren.....", this talk will tell the story of the men of the county regiment who fought and died at Arnhem in September 1944.

Though the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry's 2nd Battalion, the airborne unit that famously captured Pegasus Bridge in the early hours of D-Day were not as a whole involved in Operation Market Garden, many of the 1st Airborne officers that were at Arnhem had a past in the county's regiment.

As well as this, the 1st Airborne Divisional Defence Platoon incorporated members of 2nd Battalion when it flew to Arnhem.

Speaker and museum trustee, David Innes, explains "there is a Victoria Cross in this story, and we shall meet the officer you will remember from the film 'A Bridge too Far' who was armed with an umbrella at Arnhem as well as other tales of courage, fortitude and sheer luck".

The officer with the umbrella in the film was inspired by Major Allison Digby Tatham-Warter, formerly of the Oxf. & Bucks, then serving with 2nd Parachute Battalion. He was well known for carrying the item with him, reportedly disabling an armoured vehicle at one stage by poking the driver in the eye after pushing his umbrella through the vehicles observation slit, and aiding a Chaplain pinned down by enemy fire with the line "don't worry, I've got an umbrella".

Lieutenant John Grayburn, another former officer of the county regiment serving with 2nd Parachute Battalion at Arnhem, was posthumously awarded the VC, the highest award for gallantry. Despite having been wounded multiple times, for nearly four days, despite this and a lack of food or sleep, he refused to be evacuated and stayed to lead his company. His citation for the award states that without his 'inspiring leadership the Arnhem bridge could not have been held for so long'.

The online event will also salute the skill and daring of the men of the 

Glider Pilot Regiment, and the outstanding bravery of the local Dutch population who found themselves caught up in the aftermath of this infamous battle.

Those that miss the live talk and Q&A on 19th January will still 'catch up' as an archived feed will remain available using the same link, shortly after the live event ends. Free to view, like all the museum's online events, donations will be encouraged from those that wish to support SOFO Museum's work in preserving the county's military heritage and collections. The museum aims to keeping stories like these, of courage and combat in conflict and peace alive, and can only continue to do so with your support.

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## **John Howell MP writes...**

Whatever your personal beliefs Christmas brings with it a spirit of goodwill. As always I am writing my newsletter in the middle of the month and there are just a couple of weeks until Christmas. However due to publication lead times for some this will be included in a January magazine. As a new year dawns I hope that something of the Christmas spirit of goodwill might linger on.

I know that for many life is not easy and personal and global struggles can weigh us down. I share the concern for all those who struggle and who worry about making ends meet. I know that cost of living issues are a very real fear for many, especially in relation to heating and power. There is real hardship and while the Government has helped the actions of others outside of the UK, such as Russia, take their toll on us all. It is not just in the UK. Inflation is increasing across the world and there is great need to bring it under control. I know that the Government will continue to do all that it can to assist, and I will whole-heartedly support them.

Social media and the internet are very welcome in many ways. However they also bring another very real fear when misused. We cannot ignore the very real harms people face online every day and this is one area where the Government can and has acted. The Online Safety Bill, which is currently going through parliament, introduces new laws to protect children online and tackle the worst abuses on social media, including racist hate crimes. As it has progressed through the House the Bill has been strengthened to address some concerns and at the same time seeks to protect freedom of speech which has been a concern expressed by some. In order to address the latter Ministers agreed to amendments that will get freedom to adults to express views online that can legally be expressed elsewhere and replace it with a fairer, simpler

and more effective mechanism which will focus on user choice, consumer rights and accountability whilst protecting freedom of expression. The Bill still has stages to go through for scrutiny and I look forward to this becoming law in due course so that the vulnerable are protected.

Both here at home and across the world there are many deserving of our thoughts and concern. The media will put an issue at the forefront but once something else comes forward it is easy for us to forget the plight of many. This year the war in Ukraine shocked us. The aggression of Russia continues to create so many problems and heartaches. Our thoughts go to all those weighed down by oppressive regimes and war. Through my work in the Council of Europe I have been privileged to speak directly with President Zelensky and parliamentarians in Kyiv and look forward to being able to do so again next year to offer continued support. I do sincerely hope that the New Year may bring some peace and joy.

In seeking to work together we need to get beyond the headlines. Sometimes we can do something to support a large number of people. At other times work is focussed on an individual as opportunity is afforded to us in our particular work. For me one such opportunity came along in my role as Rapporteur on Turkey for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In this role I have been working for justice for arrested philanthropist and businessman, Osman Kavala. Together with my fellow Rapporteur from Latvia I have been granted the chance to visit Osman personally in January. This is a breakthrough as the visit was previously rejected. We hope that this is a sign of a softening attitude by the authorities on human rights issues.

As we begin 2023 and the year progresses I hope that we will all do what we can to ease the burdens of others. Any action however small carries on the spirit of goodwill. There will, of course, always be differing views on important issues and often some conflicting approaches to similar ends. There is rarely, if ever, a perfect answer. It is good to discuss issues, and sometimes discussion may be heated, but when disagreement turns to abuse, and protest causes genuine difficulty to others we have lost our democratic compass.

If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.



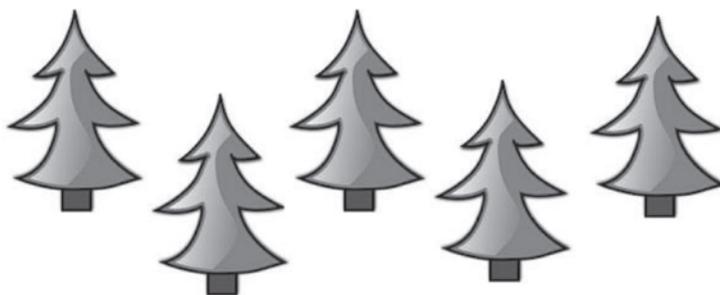
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## Quiz Night

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Have you seen the website?

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

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so please could you advise Chris Ashworth  
of any updates that need to be made  
**([contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk))**

## **BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 360 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

**1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year**

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**• Full back page colour £35 or £350 per year •**

Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

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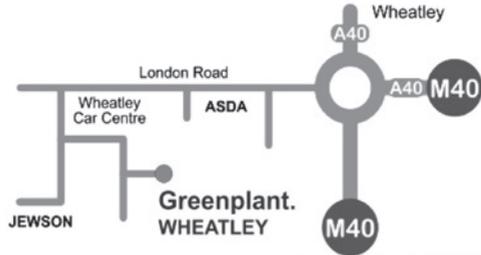
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### January

Waterperry Gardens have been delighting visitors for years with 8 acres of inspirational gardens nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside. Enjoy winter walks and see the gardens turn into a spectacular vision as the frost spreads across the grasses and trees and the mist winds around the garden and the Riverside Walk. The garden is at its most dramatic state in January as it is cut back for the winter and prepares to burst into new life with Snowdrops in February.

The plant centre, housed within the ancient walled garden offers plant connoisseurs the chance to buy more unusual varieties of shrubs and herbaceous plants. Waterperry is not just for garden lovers, the Gallery and Gift Barn house beautiful artworks by British artists alongside home, outdoor living and gift ideas. Waterperry's Rural Life Museum is packed with quirky ephemera and the Saxon Church within the grounds is complete with its original 13th century stained glass windows and Waterperry House conducts tours of their stunning contemporary frescoes each Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

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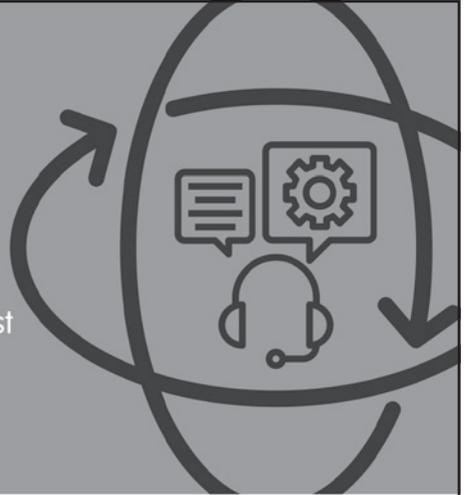
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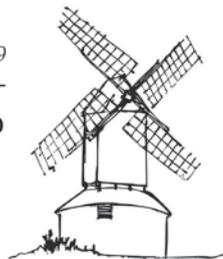
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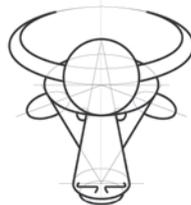
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## Diary

- 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*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm  
*or by appointment*  
2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- 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*
- Saturday Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*  
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*

## January

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| 9th Mon  | LAST DATE for Christmas Tree Recycling by Rec entrance | —       |
| 14th Sat | FreeCycle Live at The Pavilion + Pop-Up Cafe!          | 10:00am |
| 16th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                 | 7:30pm  |
| 20th Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours' Hall                     | 7:30pm  |
| 21st Sat | Table Top Sale at The Neighbours' Hall                 | 10:30am |

## February

- |         |                            |        |
|---------|----------------------------|--------|
| 4th Sat | Quiz Night at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
|---------|----------------------------|--------|

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