



# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

October 2020

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## **Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme in November 2019: details can be found on the Parish Council Website at <https://www.great-milton.co.uk/freedom-of-information/>. Residents can see records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk or via the website.

## **Great Milton Parish Council**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey 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>Peter Fewell</b>	<b>01844 279400</b>
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Clyde Deacon</b>	<b>01844 278554</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>George Bennett</b>	<b>07482 339905</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: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **Parish Council Representatives**

Rec Ground Committee:	Michael Robinson, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: Rainbow over the windmill  
Photo: Sam & Ben Hall

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	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. John Anderson	01235 529563	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
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		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	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
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

## **The Bulletin**

Due to issues surrounding delivery and a reduction in the volume of news items, The Bulletin will not be distributed on a house-to-house basis until further notice. However, a link to the electronic version can be found on the Parish Council website ([www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)): additionally the village shop will stock 50 copies specifically for those unable to access the website. Please contact the Parish Clerk if this raises any concerns.

## **Parish Council meetings: UPDATE**

Due to restrictions currently imposed by UK Government on indoor gatherings of more than two people, Parish Council meetings are being held virtually until further notice. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month as usual, via a virtual meeting platform. The agenda is published on the Great Milton village website no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, along with an access code for the meeting. Business is conducted broadly as per a standard meeting, with one or two small variations (cheques require two signatures so are approved at the meeting and signed the next day). All are welcome to participate in the virtual meetings: if you have any issues with access please contact Tim Darch (Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council) on 01844 278347.

The Clerk is always available should you have any queries or concerns, whether related to Coronavirus or other matters. Any necessary updates will be relayed via the Parish Council website ([www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)) or via noticeboards.

*Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council*

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## **Draft Parish Notes – September 2020**

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020.

All councillors were present at the meeting. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the Agenda.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15th July 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the chairman on camera.

## **Matters to report**

The County Councillor has been sending regular updates during the pandemic which have been cascaded to the community via various means. OCC has been able to save £15m without cuts to services in 2020-21 due to reduced delivery and delayed projects during the Covid pandemic: however cuts may be necessary in the 2021-22 budget, although statutory services will be retained. A council tax increase may also be necessary.

Caroline Newton reported on the Planning White Paper. The proposals are outline and in their infancy. The recommendations will work in cities but seem ill-suited to rural areas. Areas would be designated for growth, protection or regeneration, with the assumption of permission being granted the default option.

The Chalgrove Airfield planning consultation ended in early September. A decision was due by 9 October but uncertainties over the associated infrastructure will delay this considerably. A decision is not expected until December, after which further steps may be necessary (including a likely appeal if the application is not given permission).

## **Planning Applications**

P20/S2676/AG (Views Farm Windmill Hill Great Milton). Portal framed straw/machinery shed. This application was submitted during the two-month gap between Parish Council meetings. After brief informal review the Parish Council gave its full support to this application, given the nature of the proposed development and its isolated location with no impact on other properties: however SODC has now advised the applicant that planning permission was not required.

P20/S3181/HH (6A Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HY). Single storey rear extension.

After brief review and discussion it was agreed that this application raised no concerns, either for the Parish Council or neighbouring residents who have been consulted. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would FULLY SUPPORT the application.

The following planning decisions received were reviewed.

P20/S0929/FUL (Oxen Field Thame Road Great Milton). Conversion of existing agricultural barn to form a single family home with garden, parking space, landscaping, and associated works. Planning permission is granted for the works described above.

## **Financial Resolutions**

The following payments were authorised, with cheques to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to this meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £578.40.

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production August. £98.20.



Green and Growing. Village mowing July/August. £564/£810.

Jenks. Tree maintenance. £174.

MP Printers. Chalgrove Airfield leaflets. £190.80.

Carina Martin. Website SSL certificate. £47.99.

Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee. Annual insurance premium. £921.84.

Mike Robinson (Great Milton noticeboard refurbishment). £80.95.

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements for July and August were received and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 2 September was £35,673.32.

The Clerk advised of a backdated salary increment from £11.22 per hour to £11.53 per hour from 1 April 2020, following the delayed agreement of the NJC annual salary award.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

The new Saturday bus service has begun. Please use it!

The delayed litterpick generated around 20 bags of rubbish plus various larger items. Great Milton village and Milton Common are noticeably tidier as a result: many thanks to all that helped.

The Grove footpath from The Bull to the A329 has been strimmed.

The 'Great Milton' sign at the entry to the village at Sworford Lane/Lower End which was missing presumed stolen has been replaced by OCC.

### **Proposed revisions to Great Milton village website**

The website is currently being migrated to a new platform and re-formatted. Comments and suggestions from the survey conducted in advance of the website refurbishment have been considered and encompassed where possible.

### **The Bulletin**

Issues surrounding resumption of full production and delivery of the Bulletin were discussed. Given the increasing concerns over a 'second wave' of Coronavirus it was AGREED to delay until November at the earliest and to review the situation on a monthly basis for the time being.

### **'A lost year, refound'**

A resident has suggested a 'festival' in 2021, including the various events that should have taken place in 2020 but which were postponed due to the Covid pandemic, plus various other special activities. All present agreed with the principle behind the idea and were very appreciative of the suggestion: however given the increasing concerns over a 'second wave' of Coronavirus it was AGREED to review this proposal on a regular basis.

## **Proposed Freecycle produce, books and toy/game exchange**

The Freecycle committee has suggested a facility where surplus fruit and veg can be made available free of charge, along with books, toys and games. The suggested location is on The Green in the vicinity of the shop, phone box and parish council noticeboard. Concerns over the risk of the facility becoming a 'dumping ground' were raised, and it was AGREED that further information and detail should be sought from the Freecycle committee, with particular regard to supervision and maintenance arrangements.

## **Vacancy for Parish Council Representative on Recreation Ground Committee**

A vacancy will shortly arise on the Rec Committee for a Parish Council representative. The committee has been contacted to get their views on filling the position.

## **COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

There were no significant developments to report, other than to note the increasingly worrying situation with increasing case numbers nationally. The Parish Council remains on alert and will continue to monitor the situation and liaise with OCC, SODC and the village's superb volunteer network as required. Regular updates will continue to be cascaded via the village website, the online Bulletin and the Chairman's e-mail updates.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday October 19th starting at 7.30pm.

*Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council*

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## **Litterpick**

The Covid-delayed village litterpick finally went ahead on Sunday 6 September. Residents collected over 20 bags of rubbish from various locations, along with larger items including prams, a traffic cone and a car dashboard. Many thanks to all those who were involved: though it's depressing that these events are necessary, the end result is very satisfying and the improvement noticeable.

Tim Darch, Parish Clerk/RFO



## Benefice Services October

	<b>Live Service 9:00am</b>	<b>Virtual Service 11:00am</b>
Sunday 4th <i>Trinity 17</i>	St. Mary's Great Milton Communion BCP	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 11th <i>Trinity 18</i>	St. Peter's Great Haseley Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 18th <i>Trinity 10</i>	St. James Little Milton	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 25th <i>Trinity 11</i>		Invitation to Zoom Communion

## The Rector's Pint

I find it hard to believe but the 19th October will mark the fifth anniversary of my being Rector in these parishes.

Anniversaries are times to ponder, and five years is a milestone. One thing that took centre stage a few years ago, and has been difficult since, was the revelation about the real situation of our buildings. All three churches have been drawing up plans to tackle this, and I have estimated a combined price of over a million and a half pounds! I doubt that we will come anywhere near the full extent of the repair that is actually needed for the stonework. Rather, we will be looking at more realistic and practical 'make do' approaches, but this will still be ferociously expensive.

I am saddened that this is the issue that has dominated and I am truly grateful to those who have worked hard to remedy this. For all our sakes I hope it won't dominate for the next five years, after which I will retire. Because of the enormity of the problem, I have found the buildings at times, to be draining, and, as we have recently discovered (out of necessity), I believe there are some really positive ways to worship outside them.

But I want to reflect on lawn mowing. For five years I have been mowing the substantial lawn at the Rectory, and no, I don't have a ride-on mower. For the first four years I tried in vain to mow the front lawn in straight lines. The problem is that it is on a slope, and mowing a straight line across a slope is not at all easy. Then, after four years, I discovered the obvious solution. What an idiot! Follow the gradient, mow in curved lines! The result has been far more elegant, it looks better and it has been so much easier to do.

This is the third vicarage (or rectory) lawn that I have had to mow, all of them large.

I console myself that there are times and seasons in my ministry when the lawnmower has, in fact, been the only thing in the parish that has moved when I have pushed it! The meditative state of mind that mowing can bring has, over the years, also given me some strange breakthroughs in my thinking. I had one the other day when I was reflecting on my new-found art of curved mowing. This is a metaphor for the Church. We spend so much time and energy trying to ‘mow’ the Church in neat straight lines. We have volumes of church legislation ‘canon law’ which takes a PhD to understand, even more so now as we try to emerge out of ‘lockdown’. We also have books of finely-honed straight-lined liturgy. This is not following the natural gradient of how people think, and are. The question I have is this, in an institution that tells us to do things in straight lines, how do we start mowing in curves?

*Simon*

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## **Graham Griffiths**

Graham Griffiths, who sadly died earlier this year, lived in the village for over 30 years. He was a former chairman of the Recreation Ground management Committee and an influential and effective Parish Councillor.

As chairman of the Recreation Ground Management Committee Graham helped build the original extension to the pavilion, as well building the wooden fort in the Play Area. As a parish Councillor Graham was instrumental in getting mains gas into the village.

Graham kindly left a bequest to the Recreation ground and we intend to use this to get extra seating for the Rec, which will also serve as a permanent reminder of his contribution to our community.

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## **Ride & Stride – Cyclists Doing Good**

You, dear reader, will now be familiar with Ride & Stride, the annual event where walkers and cyclists visit as many of Oxfordshire’s churches as possible to raise money to help preserve these magnificent buildings.

Our village cycling group comprised five “old hands” – Tony & Jane Jefferis, Helga Dowie, Clare B-P and your correspondent – augmented this year by the esteemed presence of Carina Martin and Dictynna Hood. As she struggled up Church Road to the foregathering point outside the Bull, the group wondered whether Dictynna 

had got the message that this was a one-day event as she had come dressed for sub-Arctic conditions, and brought with her a sizeable rucksack containing food, maps, scrumping tins (I kid you not!), and what looked like a complete change of clothes.

Despite Dictynna's obvious distrust of the weather, we set off in glorious sunshine to our first church, St Giles at Tetsworth. Last year, it had taken your correspondent three attempts to locate this church, but this year, he found it first time, and thus set the tone for what was to be a relatively incident-free first part of the ride.

Uneventful visits followed to the churches in Wheatfield, Adwell, South Weston, Lewknor, Aston Rowant, Sydenham and Towersey before we stopped at the Memorial Gardens in Thame for our picnic lunches. Our next stop was St Mary the Virgin in Thame where, inter alia, the group gathered round the gaudily over-decorated grave of the much-lamented Bee Gee, Robin Gibb. As we paid our respects, Clare B-P informed us that the youngest of the Gibb brothers, Andy, had tragically died while staying with Robin in Thame, following the break-up of his relationship with Victoria Principal (Bobby Ewing's wife in Dallas), and it had been hushed up at the time.

Who knows where Clare gets her information from, and whether or not it's true, but suffice to say it was a significantly more subdued group that headed to St Joseph's RC church, and thence to St Helen's in Albury where a wedding party was just exiting the church.

It was an idyllic scene, and the group's spirits were restored by all the love and happiness on show. However, after an embarrassingly lengthy delay, it eventually dawned on us that a dishevelled bunch of sweaty, ageing cyclists smirking in the background was perhaps not what the happy couple would necessarily have wanted to see in the photographic record of their special day, so we grudgingly turned tail and headed for Tiddington.

Visits to the churches at Waterstock, Waterperry and Holton passed off without incident, and having stopped off at the last of Wheatley's three participating churches, Our Lady of Lourdes in Crown Road – no, we'd never heard of it either – the navigator gave the group two options: either to go straight back home, or to head up to Littleworth to pick up the Church of the Holy Ascension, rather appropriately named as any trip to Littleworth involves a fair degree of ascending.

Anticipating an overwhelming vote in favour of the former, the navigator had pointed his bicycle towards Gt Milton when Dictynna announced that she couldn't recall ever having been to the church in Littleworth and was rather attracted by the idea. The others looked at her incredulously, but Dictynna, who had gamely struggled to keep up throughout, had made up her mind.

On arriving in the village, we set about trying to find the church, but to no avail. In

desperation, we approached a group of locals who were adamant that no such church existed. The navigator then brandished his list of participating churches: there it was, the Church of the Holy Ascension, Littleworth. It must be here somewhere. Heads were scratched and chins stroked; and then we were asked whether we'd considered the possibility that the Littleworth in question might be the one near Faringdon rather than the one near Wheatley.

Painfully slowly, the awful truth dawned. At least part of the reason why Dictynna couldn't recall ever having been to a church in Littleworth was because there isn't one. As the navigator led the group up the vertiginous remnants of Littleworth Hill to pick up the off-road trail to Cuddesdon, he knew that several more Covid embargoes would come and go before he was allowed to live this down.

The rest of the trip took care of itself, as we finished with All Saints at Cuddesdon, and the two churches in Gt Milton. Thus ended a memorable day – glorious weather, good company, 36 miles, and 21 churches, some in out-of-the-way places, a number of which most of us had never been to before. The only downside was that several of the churches were closed and/or unmanned due to Covid restrictions. Hopefully, vaccine permitting, that will not be the case next year when we hope more of you will be tempted to join the fun!

To date, our exertions have raised over £220 for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and if you would like to add your support, donations can be left with Clare B-P or at the Post Office. Thank you.

*Bill Fox*



## Bus Update

A trial Saturday service will be added to route 275 effective from the first weekend in September 2020, leaving the village and returning from Oxford at the same times as the weekday journeys.

The A40 is closed between Tetsworth and Postcombe until mid-December. As a result, service 275 will divert via the M40 from Lewknor and will not serve stops in Milton Common east of the A40. A shuttle service is in operation so that passengers from Milton Common can connect with buses at Lewknor.

<b>275S Tetsworth and Postcombe Shuttle - A40 Closure</b>				
<b>Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)</b>	<b>from 22 June 2020 until further notice</b>			
<i>Service Number</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>
MILTON COMMON, Common Cottage	08:48	10:18	11:48	13:21
Tetsworth, The Green	08:52	10:22	11:52	13:25
Postcombe, top of Salt Lane	09:02	10:32	12:02	13:35
Lewknor, Lambert Arms	09:05	10:35	12:05	13:38
<b>LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6 (opp. Bus Shelter)</b>	<b>09:06</b>	<b>10:36</b>	<b>12:06</b>	<b>13:39</b>
Connecting 275 bus:				
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6	09:11	10:41	12:11	13:44
HIGH WYCOMBE, Bus Station	09:52	...	12:52	...
OXFORD, Carfax	...	11:19	...	14:24
<i>Service Number</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	
<i>Notes</i>	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>	
Connecting 275 bus:				
OXFORD, Carfax		11:30		
HIGH WYCOMBE, Bus Station		10:00		13:05
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6		10:41	12:11	13:44
<b>LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6 (Bus Shelter)</b>	<b>10:46</b>	<b>12:16</b>	<b>13:50</b>	
Lewknor, Lambert Arms	10:47	12:17	13:51	
Postcombe, top of Salt Lane	10:50	12:20	13:54	
Tetsworth, The Green	11:00	12:30	14:04	
MILTON COMMON, Common Cottage	11:04	12:34	14:08	
<b>Note R - Shuttle buses from Lewknor only run if passengers on board. Buses will wait for late running service 275 journeys</b>				
<b>At Lewknor M40 Junction 6:</b>				
For High Wycombe, 275 buses depart from Stop B (the bus shelter side)				
For Oxford, 275 buses depart from Stop C (opposite the bus shelter)				
<b>No Saturday or Sunday service</b>				

# High Wycombe - Bledlow Ridge - Chinnor/Stokenchurch - Oxford

275

## MONDAY TO SATURDAY

From: 5 September 2020

Notes:	NS	SAT	NS	SAT	Notes:	NS	SAT
High Wycombe Bus Station, Gate E	0700	1000	1305	1605	Oxford City Centre, High Street, Stop	0830	1130
West Wycombe, The Swan Inn	0708	1008	1313	1613	Headington, Brookes University	0838	1138
West Wycombe, Chorley Road	0710	1010	1315	1615	Headington, Shops	0842	1142
Piddington, King Street	0713	1013	1315	1615	Sandhills Turn, for Park & Ride	0847	1147
Studley Green, St Francis Road	0716	1016	1316	1616	Wheatley, A40 Eastbound	0852	1152
Stokenchurch, New Road	0718	1018	1318	1618	Wheatley, ASDA	0854	1154
Stokenchurch, Kings Hotel	0720	1020	1320	1620	Great Milton, Post Office	0900	1200
Bledlow Ridge, Old Post Office	0722	1022	1322	1622	Milton Common, Sandy Lane	0905	1205
Bledlow Ridge, Routs Green	0724	1024	1324	1624	Tetsworth, The Green	0909	1209
Chinnor, Old Kiln Lakes Estate	0726	1026	1326	1626	Postcombe, The Old Inn	0911	1211
Chinnor, Village Hall	0728	1028	1328	1628	Aston Rowant, Lambert Arms	0915	1215
Chinnor, Estover Way	0730	1030	1330	1630	Kingston Blount, Cherry Tree	0920	1220
Kingston Blount, Cherry Tree	0732	1032	1332	1632	Chinnor, Estover Way	0924	1224
Aston Rowant, Lambert Arms	0734	1034	1334	1634	Chinnor, Village Hall	0928	1228
Postcombe, The Old Inn	0736	1036	1336	1636	Chinnor, Old Kiln Lakes Estate	0936	1236
Tetsworth, The Green	0738	1038	1338	1638	Bledlow Ridge, Routs Green	0939	1239
Milton Common, Sandy Lane	0740	1040	1340	1640	Bledlow Ridge, Old Post Office	0943	1243
Great Milton, Post Office	0742	1042	1342	1642	Stokenchurch, The King's Hotel	0945	1245
Wheatley, ASDA	0744	1044	1344	1644	Stokenchurch, New Road	0952	1252
Wheatley, Park Hill Roundabout	0746	1046	1346	1646	Studley Green, St Francis Road	0952	1252
Sandhills Turn, for Park & Ride	0748	1048	1348	1648	Piddington, King Street	0952	1252
Headington, Shops	0750	1050	1350	1650	West Wycombe, Chorley Road	0952	1252
Headington, Brookes University	0752	1052	1352	1652	West Wycombe, The Swan	0952	1252
Oxford City Centre, Carfax	0754	1054	1354	1654	High Wycombe Bus Station	0952	1252

**Notes:** **CF** - Journeys that operate via Great Milton village will pick-up and set-down passengers at the Common Farm bus stop n Milton Common instead of Sandy Lane.  
**NS** - Not Saturdays  
**R** - This journey will serve Piddington and New Road in Stokenchurch if requested to the driver when boarding  
**SAT** - Saturdays only

Operated by Red Rose Travel 01296 747926  
[www.redrosetravel.com](http://www.redrosetravel.com)

## Great Milton History

During the Covid restrictions we are opening on a Wednesday with limited access. One visitor at a time and face masks should be worn. Times will be 10:00am to 12:30pm until further notice.

### From the Archives

#### Milton Feast

Now to the Great Milton Feast picture, which turned up recently at a photographic exhibition by the village's local history society.

This is thought by some people to have been taken in about 1920 although the dress looks nearer 1912 to me.

And it was around 1920 that Morrell's took over the Bull pub from Wells of Wallingford whose name you can probably make out in the board to the right of the pub door.

Mr Gilbert Pickett, the chairman of the parish council and a member of the historical society, has been telling me about the the picture over a pint or two in the newly refurbished bar at the Bull.

The Great Milton feast would have taken place, had the tradition not lapsed, five days ago – the first Sunday after September 19 (though why they should have fixed the day I can't say).

The leading part in the proceedings – the carnival on the green, the eating and of course the drinking – was played by the local court of the Ancient Order of Foresters which in those days before social security provided the only assistance in times of financial need and therefore had a large membership.

The society's meetings were held in the club room behind the Bull, demolished in the recent renovation; this room was the home of the splendid banner being carried in the picture and which is now in the safe keeping of Mr Peter Lawrence, the chairman of the local history society.

The band in the photograph are almost certainly the Oakley Band who performed in those days at functions throughout the area.

It would be interesting to know whether anybody has any recollections of that feast day. Perhaps some of the youngsters in the picture are still around...? I should like to hear from them if they are, and so too, I'm sure, would Ester and Mick Pipkin, the landlord and landlady of the Bull.

(From a local newspaper, date unknown).



Coombe Farm Certified Location was established in 1982 when the late John Davis of Garden Close, Lower End asked me if I could take a couple of caravans for the night as he was full. We are only licenced to pitch five vans. That was the start of the CL, we



were then inspected for entrance gates, water etc. which we passed and we were granted a licence by the Caravan Club and SODC.

We made many friends over the years, we still have many of them, but like us, all getting older. One couple from the district of Harrow, London came to us for over twenty years. We also had many rally's during the thirty-eight years we ran the CL, mainly Abbey Owners Club, they were pitched on the two acre paddock field and would number around thirty-five vans and came about fourteen or fifteen times.

Members used to support local functions, pubs, shops and our village fete in June. Every year they quietly contributed income to most of the village businesses, a few thousand pounds over that period, it will be missed I'm sure.

The reason for closure is a number of things and of course now we have the corona virus problem, that put the tin hat on it as they say, also age and health don't help, so the decision was made mid-July to call it a day, but of course it still has to be maintained, can't let it go too wild.

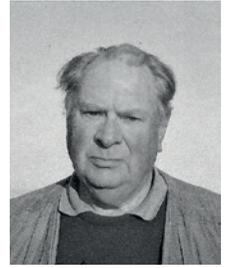
*Les & Sylvia Preston*

**Present Day**



## View from Views

This has certainly been a roller coaster year, we had some wonderful weather to get us through lockdown this of course followed an extremely wet period. Then this wonderful weather started, (almost as if it were ordered by our illustrious PM to help us thro' lockdown), unfortunately this became quite a drought, once the rain came it was too late for crops to recover, with both grain and straw very short. I would rather forget our Oil Seed Rape, as it was more than a disaster more like a failure producing something like 40% of an expected crop. Our Winter Wheat which had looked so good right up to end of May suffered as well, luckily not so bad but I estimate it being down by about 15%. The Spring Barley fared better than I had hoped with only about a 10% drop in yield, so all in all I think, so I think we have done better than the national average. All these crop results are in one way or another due to adverse weather and beyond our control. As the Barley was very late ripening it was then too late to think of planting Rape. This is not good as it will now upset our rotation which is so important nowadays.



As I have just mentioned this has been an extraordinary year where nature has benefited thro' lockdown and all it's implications, we now need to build on this and not allow ourselves to slip back into our old traditional ways. Not directly connected but a change in habit of the Grey Squirrels, which after a winter (2 years ago) of concerted action against them they are not so obvious. Normally have a constant battle with them in late summer when the hazel nuts are beginning to ripen, if I don't pick them before they are ripe the Squirrels will have them all, I can tell when they start their onslaught as there are empty shells all around the bushes. This year I thought I had beaten the little devils, as we had not seen them about at all, and no empty shells but, when I went to pick I found the bushes bare "why"? Don't ask me.

I read in the press recently some interesting and realistic points that to a certain extent confirm my comments over the years, these are from some pretty reliable sources. Firstly on milk, a kilogram of Soya meal used in the UK produces 85 litres of milk, but it takes 7.5 kg to produce 1 litre of soya milk, as the production of soya crops being a crop that is not that environmentally sustainable, and tends to be one that is destroying the rain forests, this is especially the case as in the UK most milking cows are grazed on grass, being much more sustainable as grass absorbs carbon. (So Vegans think before you drink, this is not an environmentally safe product). Another point/statistic is the use of plastic bags, this report was precipitated by the announcement by Morrisons that they were going to stop the use of plastic bags altogether. The fact

is that plastic is a by produce of the oil industry, paper bags require wood (trees) as a raw material, and the manufacturing process produces a higher concentration of toxic chemicals, plus as they weigh more they cost more to transport. In summary we need to use a paper bag 3 times to mitigate the carbon footprint over plastic, not to mention the cotton bag which needs to be used 131 times due to the high amount of energy used to produce and fertilize cotton yarn.

In my humble opinion there is nothing wrong with plastic, in fact it is a very useful product, it is what we do with it when we dispose of it, that the problem starts. We have to educate ourselves to dispose of all our waste responsibly, It would help if waste disposal was universal countrywide, so that wherever we are the process is the same, (same colour bins etc) then perhaps there could be no excuse for littering either the land or sea.

It looks as if the battle to save Chalgrove airfield from development, is lost, which I suppose was obvious, once that the government land was passed to another government department, Homes England. And then the housing minister dictating to the District council not to alter their local plan, on which the council was elected to do. (Of course we live in a democracy!!!). They have now come up with a scheme which on the face of it could only have been thought out by a deranged planner. This is a new town with a main through highway straight through the centre, doing away with a perfectly good and existing bypass, which is to be turned into a green lane. Then to cap it all to have a runway running only a few yards away from the main development. And the provision of a surface water balancing pond almost none existent, no recognition or the access to the site via Little Milton, which is just not safe. This madness for development at all costs must be curtailed we are pushing nature back all the time, why do we have to have so much development in our area, over 10,000 houses within a small radius.

*Charles Peers*

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## Poppy Appeal

Please support your local collector at the end of October.

These people help me voluntarily so please support them.

Many thanks,  
*Sue Denham*

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## Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The weather this growing season has been very different from usual. We had a very wet winter followed by a beautiful spring during lockdown for which I think we were all very grateful. Since then there have been alternating periods of heat and sun, followed by cool and rain. The result of this for us has been a 2000L tank of rainwater which has kept our vegetable garden and man greenhouse well-watered all summer with plenty to spare. When we put this in (above ground) after the winter, we did not think it would fill before the coming winter, but each period of cool rain has topped it up and we have plenty. This has made life hugely easier over the summer and we are so pleased we did this.

The meadow was cut for hay during the first week in August and the production was huge. Usually we have alpacas grazing during the winter, but not this year so there were fewer flowers, but much more grass. The flowers still gave us pleasure and some of them are reflowering now which is something of a surprise as we have not seen it before. This is particularly encouraging as one of them is *Geranium pratense* which tends to flower late and so has not fully set seed before haymaking. These flowers are definitely going to set seed which will add to the plant population next year.

As I said earlier, things are not quite as usual in the garden and this week we have a spring flowering *Viburnum* (either *burkwoodii* or *carlesii*, but I'm not sure which as the labels have disappeared) with lots of beautiful flower open. I don't think I like this as the flowers lie behind other plants which are currently performing and so are not very visible. It is certainly unusual, but it is more useful to me to be flowering in spring. My experience is that when plants flower at the wrong time of year they don't perform when you really need them to. Another variation is *Irises* which suddenly flower in November and then do nothing the following June.

I used to be what is called a balanced gardener, using pesticides occasionally. This year, I'm pleased to say, everything has outgrown the dreaded capsid bug; affected plants just flower later. I'm no longer using any pesticide sprays, but still use slug pellets sometimes. I'm afraid I also use some weed killer, mostly just glyphosate, but occasionally a selective one which can be used on fields which will be used for grazing. We simply don't have the manpower (just me and my better half with very occasional help) to do all the weeding by hand, especially in the drive and meadow. The meadow has unfortunately become infested with the field bindweed which is swamping even the grass. I have sparingly used the selective weed killer on the regrowth this autumn (another thing we haven't seen before after haymaking) and this has been damped down (I have no expectation of killing it totally as it is a vicious weed with its rootstock

at least a metre deep) and I am hopeful that next year it will be less dominant. In the garden borders, I simply pull out any stems I see, working on the premise that if it doesn't have green bits it can't photosynthesise!

*Liz Moses*

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## **The Maple Tree**

We bring you good news! The Maple Tree is cautiously introducing a limited programme! Sling & Buggy Walks take place from The Maple Tree on a Wednesday morning (10-11.45). Melanie Kinghan will lead the initial 4 walks. Pre-booking is essential so we can keep on top of the numbers. We ask for a donation of £2.50 per family which should be paid in advance.

Stay and Play is also returning on a Thursday morning commencing Thursday 24th September. This will initially run between 10-11am. We do have very limited numbers for this session – currently 6 families per session (with a strict one adult per family policy). Again, the cost will be £2.50 per session and pre-booking is essential.

If you are interested in either of the above sessions, please contact [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk) to secure your space. You will then receive an email confirmation with details of payment methods together with a new registration form that we will use for track and trace purposes.

### **Appeal for New Trustees**

We are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of charity trustees. We are keen to recruit volunteers with a background/expertise in finance and accountancy, premises management and ICT/data collection. However, we would also welcome trustees from other backgrounds who are able to help us. If you would like more information about the Maple Tree, or a chat about what is involved in becoming a trustee, please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk). Do have a look at our website for more information: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk). Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

Finally, this is the very last report that I will write as Coordinator of The Maple Tree. I will be leaving The Maple Tree on 30th September to move on to pastures new. I have really enjoyed my three years getting to know all of the local families and I will look back fondly at my time here. I wish The Maple Tree well for the future and thank everybody for their support which has been greatly appreciated.

Goodbye for now

*Hayley Hayle (Coordinator)*

## The Pine Lodge

The hall is now open in line with current government guidelines with procedures to ensure gatherings can happen in a secure manner. As we all know these are a moving target that we are adapting and sharing with our hirers as new rules are announced. For clubs this limits gatherings to 6 people, and for managed fitness classes there is a separate set of guidelines.

Currently WI and Craft club have restarted meetings - contact Kath Stacy  
Pilates with Lee and Yoga classes with Yvonne have also restarted.

Please contact them to confirm their current schedules and availability as the number of participants are limited.

After many years of incredibly dedicated support for the Hall Kay Ward is stepping down from the hall committee and her role as Secretary. We are very sorry to lose her and her organization skills. Needless to say we are now looking for someone to fill her shoes as the Hall secretary. If you are interested please contact me or one of the other committee members.

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## Morland House

Flu clinics will start on Saturday 26th September. Please phone us on 01865 872448 to book your appointment. This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2020
- children in primary school in an at risk group, if they have missed the school programme
- children in year 7 (secondary school) also in an at risk group, if they have missed the school programme
- frontline health or social care workers

Please note that, if you are aged between 50 and 64 and not in a clinical at risk group, the earliest you will be offered a flu vaccination is November, providing there is sufficient vaccine. No appointments will be offered for people in this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first. If you are aged 50 to 64 and are in a clinical 'at risk' group which is eligible for the flu vaccination, for example you have a health condition which puts you at risk from the flu, you will be invited earlier.

Please visit the NHS website for more information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

# Have your say

## Emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

The consultation will run from  
21 September until 2 November 2020

**Find out more** about this consultation and how to view the documents at:  
[southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan](https://southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

**Scan** the QR code to go straight to the consultation



If you know anyone who does not have access to the internet or is shielding and who may wish to take part in this consultation:

please contact us on **01235 422600** or email  
[planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk)  
and our team will be happy to help.



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## **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  
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The smaller room, The Orchard Room, can be hired separately for small groups and business meetings.

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Please visit the website [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org) to join or call 01234 924111 for further information.

## Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it up to date so please could you advise Carina Martin of any updates that need to be made ([carina.martin@gmail.com](mailto:carina.martin@gmail.com))

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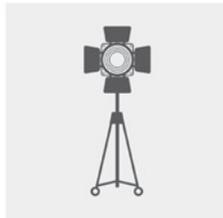
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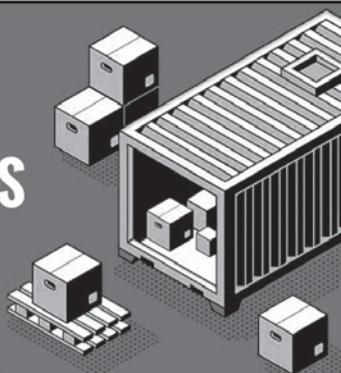
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### **Apple Weekend: Sat 10 & Sun 11 Oct**

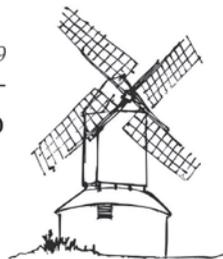
Apple Weekend is back for 2020 here at Waterperry Gardens. Given the current situation we've implemented a number of hygiene and safety measures to offer you a safe and enjoyable visit. This year our popular guided tours of the orchards and fruit sheds will also include the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see our apple press in action. Orchard Tours are £2.50 per adult or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders. Tickets available on the day from our Garden Shop. The Tea Shop will be offering a fruity menu all weekend so be sure to visit whilst you're here!

### **The Great Bat Hunt: 24 Oct – 1 Nov**

Find the Bats hidden in the ornamental gardens and win a prize! A great chance for the kids to have fun and get some fresh air at the same time! £2.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

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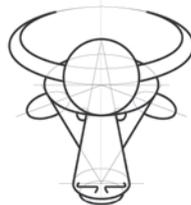
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[JONNY@ORODRUI.CO.UK](mailto:JONNY@ORODRUI.CO.UK)

## Diary

- Monday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday  
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
*or by appointment*
- Thursday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.  
*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 Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 281345*

## October

3rd Sat	World Architecture Day	—
4th Sun	World Animal Day	—
7th Wed	National Smile Day	—
19th Mon	Virtual Parish Council meeting	7:30pm
21st Wed	Trafalgar Day	—
25th Sun	British Summertime Ends	—
31st Sat	Hallowe'en	—

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th October 2020**.  
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