



# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2020

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## 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:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Front cover: A chilly dawn.  
*Photo: Tim Darch.*

## 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

## **Draft Parish Notes – February 2020**

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February were Cllr Steve Harrod (Chairman), G Bennet, M Horsley, P Fewell and C Deacon plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and four members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chairman) and P Allen.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 were received and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda. There is no report from either the County or District Councillor this month.

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in Planning Application P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). The land upon which the proposed housing will be constructed is partly owned by Cllr Fewell.

### **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

A request has been received from St Mary's Church PCC to tidy Lychgate Lane, which is reported as being in a poor general state with significant growth of weeds and brambles. It was agreed that this work would be carried out as soon as is practical.

It was intended that Dominic Hare, CEO of Blenheim Palace would appraise the meeting of a new initiative from Blenheim regarding monitoring of environmental conditions in a locality, and opportunities for Parish Councils to join this network. However due to illness Mr Hare will instead attend the May meeting.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been received from SODC:

P19/S4092/HH and P19/S4093/LB (Creeper Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PB). Remove existing bay window to rear elevation and replace with oak framed single storey extension with hipped tile roof. New single storey extension to extend existing entrance area and provide new WC facility - remove existing internal flat roof area. (as amended by drawings received 10th February, to reduce the depth and height of the rear garden room).

It was agreed that the Parish Council FULLY SUPPORTED this application given its relatively trivial nature and negligible impact on neighbouring properties.

The following planning decisions received were reviewed:

P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX). Erection of two x 4 bedroom dwellings with x1 double garage and x1 single garage (As amended by revised plans and additional information addressing highways concerns received 11 November 2019, and revised plans received 28 November 2019, and updated arboricultural survey and assessment received 4 December 2019, and updated

plans and further arboricultural survey and assessment received 10 January 2020). Planning permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

An update has been received from SODC on the application for power generation facilities at Lobb Farm, Milton Common. The Applicant has submitted a corrected Certificate of Ownership. This is because the original Certificate did not declare all of the landowners who have an interest in the site. The Certificate of Ownership is part of the planning application form and there is a legal requirement for this to be filled in correctly. In terms of procedure, this means that the 13-week determination period on the applications starts again. The consultation will also be open for 21 days and this will involve another site notice being displayed at the site. The Applicant will be submitting a further piece of information this week: this will be added to the application documents and will be available to view on the SODC website. SODC apologises that the application process has dragged on with this site, and hopes to determine the application soon after the 21 day statutory consultation process has expired: local councils will be updated if this is not possible.

After discussion it was assumed that the amended ownership documentation was procedural in nature, and would have no bearing on consideration of the applications by the planning authority. With regard to the document detailing the potential for hydrogen to provide power for the proposed facilities, it was agreed that it was vague, had little relevance to the specific site and associated applications, contained no acknowledgement of its source and was largely speculative in nature. As such it was the Council's opinion that the document should not be afforded any weight in the evaluation of the amendments currently under consideration, or the applications as a whole, and it was agreed that the council OBJECTED to the latest amendment to the application for the reasons outlined above.

The Parish Council also wished to place on record its concern that two applications each of 49.9 MW generation capacity have been submitted in an attempt to circumvent the need for a more rigorous planning submission process, and to reiterate that its previous objections to these applications remain unaltered.

### **Financial Resolutions**

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £476.55

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £278.50

SLCC/ALCC membership 2020-21: £109/£40

SODC dog bin emptying (July-Sept/Oct-Dec): £69.07/£69.07

OALC web accessibility training: £60

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were all



received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 February was £27,977.69.

### **Proposed shared use path to Wheatley**

Cllr Bennet's suggestion to make Sworford Lane one-way in the Wheatley direction, with the Wheatley-Great Milton carriageway dedicated to pedestrian and cycle use, has been put to Oxfordshire County Council and their feedback is pending. It was agreed to await this response and to assess usage of the new bus service and the potential for further enhancement prior to making further progress on the suggested path through the fields alongside Sworford Lane.

### **New bus service**

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) will be diverted through Great Milton village from Monday 24 February. A journey to Oxford will serve the stop opposite the Post Office on Monday to Friday at 10.52, first serving Thame Road and The Green, then travelling to Wheatley (Park Hill), Headington and Oxford. The return journey will leave Oxford (High Street) at 14.35, arriving back in Great Milton at around 15.00. These journeys will initially operate on Monday to Friday only. The new service has been publicised locally via all available channels: it is hoped that the village will support the facility.

A village resident has suggested that the Parish Council may wish to financially support the service, possibly using Sheppard Trust funds. Initially Red Rose has offered to operate the diversion commercially (i.e without financial support): as detailed at last month's Parish Council meeting, Section 106 funding from development in the village is available should the service require support. This could also be used to perhaps contribute towards a Saturday service, but the Parish Council wishes to assess initial demand before committing these limited funds to continued or improved provision. The Parish Clerk has informed neighbouring villages of the facility in the hope that residents of Haseley or Little Milton may also find it of use.

### **Other matters**

An OCC highways officer will be visiting in March to inspect the verge at the junction of the A329 and A40 in Milton Common which has been damaged by parking.

A few sets of parents have been allocated to park in the two available driveways on Lower End on a trial basis from Monday 10 February, although it is reported that this has not commenced as expected. The Clerk will follow this up with the school: it is hoped that the trial will be successful, and that more residents will offer up space should the scheme become a permanent fixture.

The litter pick has been confirmed for 10am on Saturday 11 April, to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' event, and will be publicised in the

March Bulletin and via other means.

The village Community Emergency Plan has been reviewed and amended, with just minor additions and updates to contact information necessary. It was agreed to adopt the Plan in its revised form.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th March starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

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

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## **Waste Recycling Centre Closures**

During March and April, your Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance.

Closing dates:

Alkerton (Banbury)	- Tues 3rd & Wed 4th March 2020
Ardley (Bicester)	- Tues 17th & Wed 18th March 2020
Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt)	- Tues 24th & Wed 25th March 2020
Drayton (Abingdon)	- Tues 28th & Wed 29th April 2020
Oakley Wood (Wallingford)	- Tues 31st March & Wed 1st April 2020
Redbridge (Oxford)	- Tues 10th & Wed 11th March 2020
Stanford (Faringdon)	- Tues 21st & Wed 22nd April 2020

Full details can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure) including details of your nearest site during closures. Thank you in advance for your patience.

For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of our centres.

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## **Get Your Waste to the Right Place**

A new and magical hero is in town to kill the confusion around recycling. The Waste Wizard is a new online tool that's here to provide a magical solution to help Oxfordshire residents in their quest to solve the riddle of household waste and defeat General Waste.

Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard)

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## Services in Our Benefice for March

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st <i>Lent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Wednesday 4th	Compline 7:00pm		
Sunday 8th <i>Lent 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Wednesday 11th		Compline 7:00pm	
Sunday 15th <i>Lent 3</i>		Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	St. George's Chapel 10:45am
Wednesday 18th			Compline 7:00pm
Sunday 22nd <i>Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Benefice Mothering Service 10:00am	
Wednesday 25th	Compline 7:00pm		
Sunday 29th <i>Lent 5</i>			Benefice Communion 10:00am

## Services in Our Benefice for April

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Wednesday 1st		Compline 7:00pm	
Sunday 5th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

## Ramblings from the Rectory

We are in Lent, a time traditionally of fasting. What is fasting? Is it about giving up cream cakes and alcohol? Is there something more to it than that? In the Christian faith

fasting is an act that cultivates discipline in our relationship to our appetites, usually food and drink, but it is also meant to help us cultivate a discipline of prayer and with it seeking to listen to God.

I was struck a few weeks before lent by one of our Sunday readings, from Isaiah chapter 58 which looked at the practice of fasting. The context was the self righteous worship of the faithful, those who fasted to come near to God but who then refused to see the plight of those around them:

“Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high” (Isaiah 58 vss 3)

This is a rejection of those who took their religion seriously but somehow missed God’s priorities. What are these priorities? we go on to read:

“Is not this the fast that I chose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (vss 6)

Jesus as he engaged with his public ministry in a synagogue in Nazareth quoted from Isaiah 61 and applied the prophesy to himself:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

In fasting, as we give something up, I think it is helpful to seek a discipline of also taking something up. In my context as a christian that needs to be an examination of my prayer life, and with it a connection with the Bible, that which every Sunday we declare as the ‘Word of the Lord’. I freely confess that in my life there is room for improvement with both of these! Is my faith, my spirituality simply all about me? If so something needs to change and a healthy fast will involve the discipline of listening to the heart of God and with that understanding a little more about God’s priorities for the world.

What for instance are the contemporary equivalents of loosing the bonds of injustice, undoing the thongs of the yoke letting the pressed go free and releasing the captives?

At the beginning of the year I heard myself saying in the context of a sermon something along the lines that it is impossible to be a christian and not be political. I noticed one or two surprised expressions! The problem was I think that people thought I was saying something about being party political and so heard me having a dig at the present government.

However, I do stand by what I said. Not everything can be resolved by politics and indeed so much of the mission of the Church, the mission to reflect God’s priorities and love for the world, love most fully revealed to us in the person of Jesus has 

historically taken place in spite of in the face of the direct opposition of the political authorities. That holds true today in many parts of our world. However, in our context, where we still do mercifully enjoy extraordinary religious freedoms, I do believe that we have to take an ongoing keen interest in the decisions of our government in light of the christian values that for centuries have shaped our nation.

And I do believe that there are things that are a cause for alarm, although I won't spell out the specifics here lest I am then accused of being party political! But perhaps Lent is also a reality check against hypocrisy. If I am prepared to point critically at someone or something else, there will be one finger pointing away but three pointing back! Giving up cream cakes and alcohol I am sure will do me good, but in doing that I need to ponder how I am able to reflect in some way God's priorities for the marginalised, the oppressed, the lost? What does that look like? How will these shape my priorities? I think only then, after some hefty self examination, will I have the right to ask the same questions of our wider society. Is ours a society that reflect's God's values and priorities.

For me, perhaps only then that might result in the discipline of getting a little bit more political and writing one or two letters of concern to my MP!

*Simon*

## **A reminder about the various activities during Lent.**

### **Lent Lunches for Christian Aid**

All the lunches will take place between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm

This year our lunches will be:

Thurs 5 March: Briarwood, Haseley Road Little Milton. Hosted by Jane Willis

Thurs 12 March: Northen Cottage Lower End Great Milton. Hosted by Jane Jefferis

Weds 18 March: The Old school House, Back Way Great Haseley. Hosted by Anne Maloney

Thurs 26 March: Orpswood Cottage, Thame Road, Great Milton. Hosted by Trudy Timbs

Weds 1 April: Delafield, Little Haseley. Hosted by Scilla Greenall

### **Hot Topics for Faith**

A series of three conversations about the nature of faith in the real world

March - 4th : Creation and Environmental Challenge

March - 11th : Faith and issues of Mental Health

March 18th : The Nature of Suffering and what our faith has to say

These will take place in The Plough, Great Haseley. We hope that we will have the chance to relax and talk freely about some of the issues and challenges which we face on a daily basis.

If you would like to stay in touch, as venues are confirmed, and we develop the framework for our conversations, please email Victoria Barry at victoriajbarry@gmail.com or Simon Cronk at simon.cronk@btinternet.com

On Sunday 15th March there will be an 8.00am Holy Communion at Little Milton. There will be no other church services but all are invited to go to St George's Chapel in Windsor for a service of Morning Prayer at 10.45am.

Also please see the details of services throughout Lent which of course includes Mothering Sunday and our simple evening complin services every Wednesday.

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## **Easter Story and Activities Morning**

**March 28th 10-12am**

See separate page/poster on page 23.

Please book your place by telephoning Sally Ann on 01844 278029 or by emailing iandennis1@btinternet.com and you will receive confirmation of your place.

*Sally Ann, Lucinda and Lesley*

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## **Church Development Project**

### **Regular update**

We hope you have had the chance to read the leaflet together with the Rector's covering letter delivered to each household in January. The leaflet is also on the village website. Thank you to those who have already had a chat with us.

This is the first of a regular project update that will appear in the Bulletin every two or three months providing news on progress, activities and events.

If you would like to make a donation to the Church Development Fund, please download and complete the Donation form that can be found on the village website. Go to [www.greatmilton.co.uk](http://www.greatmilton.co.uk) then select Churches and St Mary The Virgin. Alternatively, pick up a copy of the form from St Mary's Church or contact any of us below. Thank you.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Trudy Timbs, Liz Isherwood, Jane Jefferis, Mary Wakefield  
*Tower Fundraising Committee*



## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev John Anderson on 01235 529563

March				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Matthews	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Martin Wellings	
15th	11:00am	St. Mary's	Jennifer Thompson	
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Anderson	Holy Communion
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	

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## Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you for the lovely flowers and cards on the devastating loss of Philip and for their comfort and support at this very sad time.

Many thanks,

*Chris Simon and Clare*

*From the Tite family*

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## Great Milton History



### Coming shortly...

#### 'Family History and the Lure of the Graveyard'

Alan Simpson is coming to the Neighbours Hall on Wednesday April 22nd to talk about his recent work and discoveries in our churchyard – more details later!

Also there will be a small display, on Sunday March 8th, at the Party to formally open the 'new' Neighbours Hall, of the original plans, photographs possibly, and a selection of our History booklets.

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## The life of George Bissill, coal-miner and artist.

I have finally finished the project I have been working on for the last ten years and produced a biography of a once-famous but now largely unremembered artist ,George Bissill (1876-1973). George was a coal-miner at the beginning from the age

of thirteen, but hated the life, and, showing prodigious talent as an artist, he met and became friends with my grandfather. He went to London, was discovered and given an exhibition in a Bond Street gallery and huge fame followed for a few years. He went to Paris and learnt wood engraving and developed his style. Finally he moved to the Hampshire downs and painted the landscape there for the rest of his life.

My father inherited a great deal of his work and this cluttered up my parents' house and then our Great Milton home for years until I started to try to raise his profile. Apart from the book I have organised an exhibition in Oxford in March and another in Ilkeston near his home town in Derbyshire. The Oxford show is at South Oxford Community Centre and will display his development as an artist through all the phases of his fascinating life. Details of that exhibition can be found elsewhere in this bulletin. I do hope some of you will come and see it. It is of both artistic and historical interest ;I will be giving free guided tours on Tuesdays, and these can be booked in advance (see my details below).

The book, *George Bissill Life and Work* can be bought from The Book House Thame or Great Milton village shop, or from me.

*Kate Pattinson*

Fossils End, Great Milton – 01844 279204 – [katepattinson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katepattinson@yahoo.co.uk)

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## **The Neighbours Hall**

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 19th February.

The highlights were :

- (1) It was agreed that the newly renovated room, overlooking the Manoir Orchard should be called the “Orchard Room”: a sign will be affixed to the door.
- (2) The grants and donations we have received have covered the planned part of the work. However when renovating an old building, the act of renovation points to further work that needs doing: the Neighbours’ Hall is no exception, work is needed on the lavatories, the kitchen, the car park and hedge.
- (3) When the accounts have been settled our residual funds should enable us to have a regular maintenance fund for the hall and the car park.
- (4) On the committee the Chairman demitted office and Michael Robinson was elected in his stead. Christine Donnelly will remain as Treasurer and Janet Smith will continue to take the bookings. Minna Nieminen is leaving, we have been indebted to her skill and vision in “up-cycling”. The committee would welcome further members.



On Sunday 8th March we will be holding a Tea Party at 3.00 pm in the Hall. There will be a photo exhibition of the hall through the ages and a raffle. This will be an opportunity for us all to thank those who have worked so hard and given so generously to the refurbishment; all are welcome.

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## **Le Manoir hosts the Great Milton Senior Citizens Club**

On Tuesday 18th February the Senior Citizens Club was treated to a light lunch and a tour of the gardens of Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, hosted by the ebullient Raymond Blanc OBE who engaged the visitors with an animated history of his time in the village. The more athletic of the group were then taken on a guided tour of the extensive gardens and all in all a grand time was had by all. Sadly, Jean Hill was unable to join the group but was presented with a package of delicious Manoir treats the following day!



## 275 Bus Service

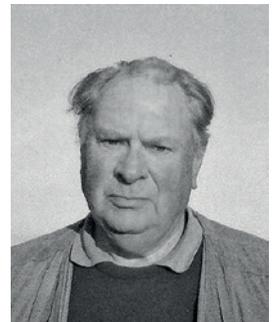


The new 275 bus service to Oxford appears to be a roaring success. The rain didn't dampen passenger spirits! Photos by Nick Belcher.

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## View From Views

Until Storm Ciara hit, swiftly followed by Denis, all seemed to be drying out, and the prospect of being able to get on with some spring work was energising us somewhat, however that is now on hold for the time being, we now will have to be patient. Still our Oil Seed rape is looking awful I am assured it will be ok but I have my doubts, the Wheat on the other hand looks quite respectable but slightly lacking in a bit of food and suffering from cold damp feet, one or two days of warm weather would make all the difference, having said that some good hard frosts would not go amiss. Occasionally we get severe flooding so that the road at Cuddesdon mill 



is impassable, this year for the first time in my memory it has been impassable twice (so far) indicating the amount of rain we have had in a short period in time, the river has been virtually in flood from mid-November through to end of January. (10 weeks).

Nothing much else is happening here down on the farm except looking at ways to get water off the crops as fast as we can before more comes along. The small farmland bird population has risen remarkably since we started our winter feeding regime, it is very gratifying making it very worthwhile as it demonstrates that we are really doing some good. Some weeks ago I spotted a raptor that had a white front and socks being about Buzzard size, I had illusions that I had spotted either a rare bird or that it was a Sea Eagle, (one has been spotted in the Oxford area). However I am assured it was a buzzard, in fact have seen it since with other Buzzards nice thought!

Well like or not we are out! and it remains to be seen now what sort of deal we will get, I fear that certain sectors will be sacrificed in favour of other industries and as, although Agriculture and particularly Fisheries are the largest industries in the country they are not seen as that important as food can always be bought from elsewhere but at what cost and security those of us who remember the war years will know what that means.

It was refreshing to read an article by Jeremy Clarkson in the "Sunday Times" on 2nd February where he actually speaks positively about Farmers & Farming, usually high profile writers and orators do the opposite, and that is the problem we face here in Agriculture, as if an Agriculturist speaks it is thought of as grinding our own axe. I would not usually say that I agreed with his sentiments but he did have some very sound comments on the whole. He jokingly says that we are to be paid for public goods, or in other words paid not to plough and cultivate our fields, just let planted crops take their chance of survival, so that what did, would not provide the food we need but save the planet, this of course is an over simplification of the situation we are in, but does make a point. I always ask the question is why does farming have to change as after all we have been ploughing the fields and scattering in time-in-memorial, what has changed over time is that we are all travelling which is the largest cause of Green House gas, added to the fact that the population is growing and the planet cannot sustain this number of beings. I recently read that we need to plant millions of trees to capture carbon, it has been calculated the one acre of broad leaf trees will absorb 120 tonnes of carbon over 50 years, but an Airbus 350 on a return flight London to New York emits 234.5 tonnes of carbon. Therefore it will take 50 years for 2 acres of trees to offset one transatlantic flight, what chance have we so we might as well keep eating meat.

The recent announcement that the Government were to give concessions to Flybe struck a note of dismay with me. I wrote to John Howell questioning the fairness of this when local buses have been cut, through lack of Government support, He replied that

the government was about to announce £200m for local transport. Since this event a lot has happened, the reshuffle, HS2 finally given the go ahead, plus probably the third Runway at Heathrow, we are expected to accept this by offering more money for local transport, as I have just mentioned and so on. Add to this the likely hood of SODC loosing it's planning status, all because they are listened to residents of SODC. This all points to a lack of democracy, are we fast becoming a dictatorship I this country? It will be interesting to see the result of Mr Packham's legal challenge over HS2. I must say I am concerned about the cost both monetarily and the environment the destruction of nature is unforgivable.

I don't always watch Country File but did when they visited a Scottish estate and one of the issues that the programme featured was that of Deer culling, this raised the hackles of some, as reported in the Daily Express. Probably those objecting are those that are advocating rewilding, one of the main reasons for Deer culling is to counter over grazing and tree damage, we can't have it all ways!

*Charles Peers*

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## **The Maple Tree – February 2020**

### **Hayley Hayle - Coordinator**

We have lots of new activities/sessions lined up for you as well as all of our regular sessions at The Maple Tree.

Maple Chefs return with a 4 week block of sessions from Tuesday 25th February. This time we will be cooking gingerbread men, savoury scones, rock cakes and cheese and onion tarts. This is a fab cooking group for accompanied under 5s. The cost is £20 per child if all 4 sessions are booked or £6 per child as a one off (concessions available). We cater for allergies and dietary requirements. The children get so much out of this session and can also take home their cooking to enjoy at home.

After our successful Story and Rhymetime at Wheatley Library in January, we will be back there again on Tuesday 3rd March between 10-11 am. Come down and meet us for an hour of stories and singing. Find out what other services the Library can offer you too.

Hayley has recently qualified as an Infant Massage Instructor with IAIM (International Association of Infant Massage). We will now be holding regular Baby Massage sessions. The first block of five weeks will begin on Thursday 5th March from 1-2.30pm. The cost is £50 for all 5 sessions (concessions available) – email us for more information. Baby Massage has many benefits for both baby and parents.

Friday 3rd April is our Pamper Evening. For just £5 per ticket, you will receive



entrance and a glass of wine. We have lots of different treatments for you and also you will have the opportunity to purchase beauty products too. This should be a fun evening.

Do you regularly have contact with young children? You may be a parent/carer, grandparent or a babysitter. Thames Training will be here on Saturday 4th April (10-12) and Wednesday 22nd April (6.30-8.30) to deliver a two hour First Aid course designed specifically for children. This is just £20 per person with a £5 non-refundable deposit required in order to secure your place.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk). Or [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk) Look out for our new Website coming soon...

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## **Great Haseley And District Horticultural Society**

I feel rather uncomfortable writing about gardening when so many people and businesses have had their homes and possessions destroyed by yet more flooding in the last few weeks; once again, they have to start over. My sympathy goes out to them. Certainly, when we bought our house almost 30 years ago, I never even considered flooding as an issue and, probably, neither did many of these people. I imagine that the last thing they are thinking about is gardening. Farmers are particularly suffering greatly with crops being destroyed by the wet; as if theirs is not a difficult life without these problems. I have the utmost respect for our farming communities.

Currently I am doing very little outside as treading on wet soil causes compaction and reduces air spaces around roots. Work can be done from the paths in parts of the garden and I admit to working from the lawn. Compaction in lawns increases the moss growth which is already a problem for us already. A gardening friend used to live in a cottage by the Thames which flooded regularly. Eventually she treated all plants as annuals as very little survived the wet. In summer the garden was very dry, so it was very difficult to design planting which could cope with both situations. As gardeners, we have been advised to adapt our gardens to survive without water in summer which I am increasingly doing, but there is no easy answer.

It's time to get working in the vegetable garden, but we cannot do anything much other than fruit bush pruning as the ground is largely flooded. The soil is wet and cold so things will have to wait for now. One option would be to use cloches or fleece to cover seed sowing areas for a couple of weeks which will warm the soil before you sow. I'm not sure that the amount of water will be affected much, but at least the surface will be dryish. We will have forced rhubarb very soon which is at least some compensation.

I would really like to be mulching with my better half's wonderful homemade compost, but the heaps are beyond flooded ground and the compost is heavy to push through water and uphill in a wheelbarrow, so that too is on hold for now. Sadly, the weeds are doing particularly well everywhere and I will not dwell on that thought any longer!

The most cheering event is the flowering of the spring bulbs which continue to brighten my days. The tulips are doing well in pots around the greenhouse. Spring bulbs and wild primroses signify spring even though we don't have spring weather yet and are the reason I have always felt that winter is largely over when flowering starts and the days noticeably lengthen. Obviously, I am deluding myself, but it keeps me content for a few weeks even though I know that the worst winter weather is probably still to come.

While gardening is tricky, I suggest you study plant catalogues and treat yourself to a gardening magazine or two. When things start to dry up the hard work will begin!

*Liz Moses*

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## **Little Milton WI**

In February, we had a wonderful evening with Waterstock & Tiddington and Thame WI, hearing funny stories of a fishmonger with Kevin Little.

On Thursday 12th March, we're back in the Pine Lodge for our AGM and an evening of board games (feel free to bring along games) plus a canapés competition. Make a plate of 6 canapés and the most attractive one wins a prize! We'll also be launching a brand new programme for 2020 including Lindy Hop & Charleston dancing, authors, Project Linus quilts, comedians and sea shanties.

Visitors £5 or 2020 membership is £43.

Little Milton VE Day celebration on Friday 8th May planning is underway and the WI is making an afternoon display of photos, rationing, memorabilia and making dishes from that era for people to try. If any of you have wartime cookery books, photos, stories or ideas, please let me know.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, get out the house, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](https://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

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

Kath Stacey 279438 or email [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

## News from The Pine Lodge

Preparations are well underway for the village 75th VE Day Celebrations (Friday 8th May) with a busy program being planned. We now need your help for one of the items. We would like to create a slide show of old photos/slides that your parents or grandparents may have passed on to you of their service in the war or their life during the war. Also any photos that relate to the village during that period would be wonderful. In addition we are hoping to be able to put on a display of any memorabilia that you may have from that period (old posters, magazines, ration book, medals, etc). If you have scanned copies of photos, or any memorabilia that you would be prepared to show, please contact Steve Willis [five.penny@zen.co.uk](mailto:five.penny@zen.co.uk).

The next Quiz Night at the Hall with supper provided as usual is on Saturday 21st March. There is also a concert by the talented guitarist Elliot Morris at the beginning of the month on Saturday 7th March.

### Regular activities at the hall:

- Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am
- New Strength and Resistance class Tuesdays 09:30-10:30 with Alyce Hoban
- Leone weekly Drama acting and theatre sessions for adults  
Tuesday evenings 19:00-20:30.
- Pilates with Lee on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am
- Toddler Sense Thursday mornings 09:00 – 13:00.
- Advanced Textile workshop every Wednesday 9:30 – 15:30
- WI on 2nd Thursday of the month (12th Mar) 19:00
- Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 19.30 (18th Mar)

For more details about events or the hall please contact [linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com)  
[gilesdenby@yahoo.com](mailto:gilesdenby@yahoo.com)

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## An Apology

The Editor would like to apologise for the errors in last month's article celebrating Sinclair Hood's birthday. Sinclair was, of course, the impressive age of 103, not 100 as stated. Apologies also for the 'were' that turned into 'wee'.

If the Editor paid closer attention and was not so easily distracted, he might...

...ohh – what's that outside...?

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e-mail [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk) or tel. 01844 278347**

## **Our Easter Story and Activities Morning...**

will be at: The Pine Lodge, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ  
on: Saturday March 28th  
from: 10am-12pm  
for: Primary School Aged Children



Book your place and receive full details either by telephoning Sally Ann on 01844 278029 or by emailing Sally Ann at [iandennis1@btinternet.com](mailto:iandennis1@btinternet.com)

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## 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))

## The Three Villages Car Service

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There are endless benefits from using resistance bands, they add an extra challenge to bodyweight exercises but don't put the same sort of pressure on your joints that external weights do. They're also great for targeting smaller stabilizing muscles that you may not typically work and will help with ongoing injuries and imbalances.

Classes run from: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 9:30 am 10:30 am

Cost: £7 per class the class will run for 8 Sessions

Interested in joining the class or need more information please contact me via email: [alycwfw@gmail.com](mailto:alycwfw@gmail.com) or Mobile: 07834233728

Please bring your own exercise mats as only a few will be provided.

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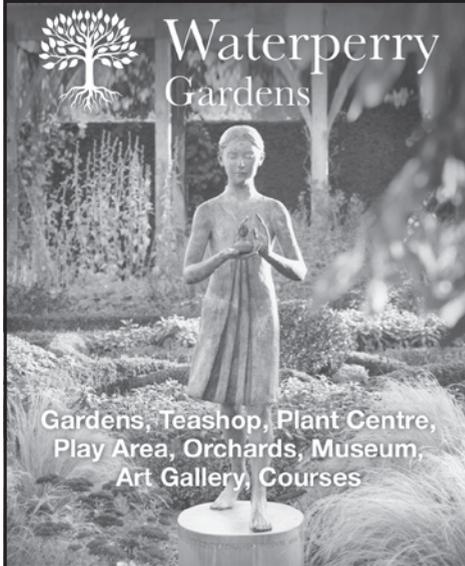
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## **March at Waterperry**

The Gardens at Waterperry are springing back into life with daffodils in bloom in our new daffodil meadow and the fritillaries in our wildflower meadow, and with the National Collection of Porophyllum Saxifrages at their best during March, spring really is the perfect time to visit the gardens.

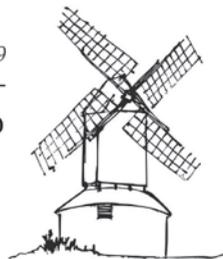
## **Mother's Day 22nd March**

The Gift Barn has some lovely Mother's Day gifts, and for an extra special Mother's Day, treat mum in the Teashop with freshly prepared home cooked food including hot and cold lunches and a fantastic selection of cakes. Afterwards enjoy a stroll around the gardens with FREE entrance for all mums on Mothering Sunday!

*The gardens are open in aid of the  
National Garden Scheme  
on Sunday 15th March.*

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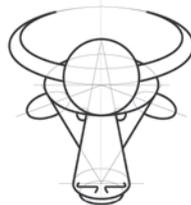
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## Diary

- 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.sandy lane farm.net*  
Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Friday 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*
- Saturday Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490*  
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*

### March

- Sat 7th Elliott Morris Live in Concert at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:00pm
- Sun 8th Neighbours Hall Official Opening Tea Party 3:00pm
- Mon 16th Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion 7:30pm
- Sat 21st Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:00pm
- Sat 28th Easter Story and Activities at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton. 10:00am

### April

- Sat 11th Spring Litterpick. Meet at The Old Garage. 10:00am

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

Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PB.

Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.

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