

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2019

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Parish Council Publication Scheme (*Freedom of Information Act*)

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. These records include minutes, financial information, and responses to planning consultations. Applications can be made to the Parish Clerk and documents viewed by appointment. Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	07401 399489
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
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

Early sun over the orchard.
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		Fxmystreet.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. Adam Stevenson	01491 613223	
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

In My Opinion

Reading our Parish Chairman & County Councilor's notes, he is going to leave it for others to have their say on current village issues. Good idea. I have been writing my column for twice as long as he in the hopes it would generate some comment for discussion but, so far, nothing.

So here goes. As a start, how about the PC pressing for 50 mph and enforcement of the weight limit on Windmill Hill (there are more people living close to this road than there are between Milton Common and Thame). Also, a CC point, why is it that we still allow such chaotic road repairs as on the Forties where an odd stretch of the edge has been patched and the first good frost or heavy lorry will lift it out? I have suggested many times that this should be made one-way; how about it?

Charles Peers

Draft Parish Council Notes

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st January were Cllrs. S Harrod (Chairman), P Allen, G Harris, C Deacon, G Bennet and P Fewell, plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr W Fox (Vice-Chairman).

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th December 2018 were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and is available on the Parish Council website.

Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P18/S4096/FUL (6 Thame Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7HY). New detached dwelling.

There have been no objections from neighbours, and the Parish Council AGREED to FULLY SUPPORT this application.

P18/S4161/HH (Haddon, Lower End, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7NL). First floor rear extension and internal alterations to provide additional bedroom, alterations to existing dormer window and external material alterations to rear ground floor. There have been no objections from neighbours, and the Parish Council AGREED to FULLY SUPPORT this application.

P18/S4178/HH (Brannock, Lower End, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7NL).

Replacement garage, home workshop and store. Demolition of existing garage and stores. Subsequent amendment to increase size of garage, remove store and replace chimney with flue (chimney was replaced with a flue on request of SODCs case officer for the application). There have been no objections from neighbours, and the Parish Council AGREED to FULLY SUPPORT this application.

P18/S3555/FUL (Hugghendon Motors, London Road, Milton Common). To note amendment: additional information and amended acoustic fencing plan amplified by responses to the local highway and planning authorities and noise technical note dated 19/12/2018 received 19 and 20 December 2018. The Parish Council AGREED to FULLY SUPPORT this application.

P19/S0011/FUL (Crofts Furlong Farm, Lower End, Great Milton). Alterations to part of the existing equestrian building to form stables. There have been no objections from neighbours, and the Parish Council AGREED to FULLY SUPPORT this application.

P19/S0013/FUL (Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock). 34-space extension to existing HGV park and associated works. The Parish Council AGREED that it had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

The following planning decisions were reviewed:

P18/S3645/FUL and P18/S3646/LB (Monkery Farm Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB)

Conversion of a grade II listed barn into a dwelling (as amended by revised plans received 3 January 2019). Planning permission is GRANTED for this application.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £438.82

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production December. £254.80

WREN: Third Party Contribution, Neighbours' Hall refurbishment. £4,000 (loan to be repaid by Neighbours' Hall Committee)

Green and Growing. Verge maintenance. £438

A full bank reconciliation was received and the latest bank statement signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 3 January was £28,617.40.

Parish Clerk's update of matters in hand

Drainage grips on Thame Road, Lower End, Sworford Lane and The Forties have been cleared and dug out. Most of the village's road markings have been re-lined (Lower End excepted: the Clerk will follow up on this if not actioned within a week or two). SODC has 'deep cleaned' the village's pavements. Litter-picking of Sworford Lane was also requested but this hasn't happened: the Clerk is investigating but at the

time of writing had received no explanation.

Other matters

The recent tree survey raised few concerns, recommending some trimming here and there. It was agreed to proceed with the required works.

A request has been received for the annual donation towards the Maple Tree Children's Centre's operating costs for the 2019-20 financial year. It was agreed to donate £500 in line with the amount budgeted. The Children's Centre was thanked for the benefit it gives to parents and children resident in Great Milton.

The final version of SODC's Local Plan 2034 has been published. The publicity period for comment is open from 7 January to 18 February: documents can be viewed and comments submitted at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan. The Parish Council will submit its own consultation response in due course.

Difficulties with access to driveways caused by inconsiderate parking have been reported by residents living near to the school. A suggestion was made by a resident to erect posts to demarcate driveways from the rest of the greens: the Parish Council has no objection to this but would not be able to fund the provision and installation of posts. The Parish Council will discuss the potential to use the recreation ground for parking with the Recreation Ground committee, ideally by means of a school employee unlocking and relocking the gate before and after school arrival and departure times.

An e-mail has been received from Wheatley Parish Council suggesting co-operation with them and other communities potentially affected by Expressway corridor B3 should it be chosen, along with a proposal for a meeting for the benefit of those living in the vicinity of corridor B3. The Parish Council AGREED to respond positively to the suggestion of co-operation but to investigate further the nature of the cooperation proposed.

The Salvation Army has offered to provide a recycling 'hopper' for textiles, which would be placed on Parish Council land. A similar facility benefitting the Air Ambulance has recently arrived in the pub car park: the Parish Council agreed that another clothing hopper was probably more than the village needed. It was therefore AGREED to decline the Salvation Army's offer.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th February starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch

Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for February

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>5th Sunday before Lent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>4th before Lent</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>3rd before Lent</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>2nd before Lent</i>			Benefice Communion CW 10:00am

Services in Our Benefice for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

Whilst this is to be published in February, as I write the New year is still very new and so nearly a whole year lies ahead with all the opportunities and challenges it will bring.

And there are challenges. It is no secret that all three church buildings are in need of substantial work to prevent degradation of the stonework. I have estimated that if everything were done to a standard that would our church architects have asked of us, between the three churches the total cost, simply to restore crumbling stonework would be well over a million pounds. As someone said to me, this is un-fun money!

Also, we are still looking further ahead to provide better facilities in the Churches, this has already started in Great Haseley with the inclusion of an excellent Kitchen and WC. We want to see the buildings better used.



I wonder what local people feel about this work? How important it is? Who should actually take the responsibility for paying for it?

One possible answer to the latter question will be 'the Church should take responsibility.' What do people mean by the 'the Church?' Is it the small local band of faithful worshippers who should keep the thing going? Might it be the wider Church of England? After all the Church of England is wealthy isn't it? 'You're always asking for money' is a familiar cry whenever we go public about church finances.

However, much of the wealth of the National Church is tied up in the very buildings that are increasingly becoming a burden, buildings such as ours. Of the other investments in the national church that generate an income, the money is put where it is considered to be most needed and that is to the poorest dioceses. None of it will come to rural churches in South Oxfordshire placed as we are in arguably one of the wealthiest parts of the country! What that means is that the local church, churches such as ours do not get a penny of outside financial help from the 'Church of England' to keep the whole thing going, absolutely nothing. Everything has to be raised by our own efforts and provided for by our own generosity. That includes the payment for people like me to be in post - whether or not that will remain to be justified in such small communities will be a question that will need to be asked - and also of course the maintenance and upkeep of our church buildings.

So let me return to the answer to that question who should be responsible for paying for it? The wider Church of England will not cough up a single penny. It is hoped that the main funding will be from grants and yes we will need to look at all of these. The Heritage Lottery Fund is perhaps the most substantial grant body. However, whilst there used to be a special category for 'places of worship' this has now stopped, Churches such as ours are having to compete alongside other heritage buildings for what we have been told is a depleting pot of money.

If we can't raise all the money from grants should it then be the sole responsibility for the small congregations to pay the difference? I will humbly suggest here that no it is not. I am now going to say something which some might find surprising, although I hope that it will in fact be obvious. We don't need ancient and beautiful historic buildings to worship God. Really! We don't. I don't deny that they provide a bit of atmosphere, but my faith is not dependent upon where I actually worship God, it is not in any way dependent upon stone and mortar. If it were it should be rightly said of me that I was totally missing the point. My faith, and why I do what I do, is in the living God, the God who in Jesus has come among us who has died for our sin, who has shared in the human experience of suffering and death but who is risen from the dead, and who is coming again. Of far greater importance than the buildings we

worship in is the message we proclaim to shape the world with the news of God's justice, of our common standing before God who loves us, broken and sinful as we all are. The truth is we don't need historic buildings for any of that. I think it could be rightly argued that the energy and efforts needed to keep our church buildings going actually get in the way of the essential message. When we meet together, why not hire a local school hall? It would be warmer and cheaper! Weddings, Funerals? Again, village halls - anywhere that people can congregate.

I don't think though that local people would want that and no we haven't got to that place. I suspect that most local people would want to see the churches remain open and usable for generations to come. I also fully accept that the church buildings are seen as a part of the fabric and landscape of the local village scene, and dare I suggest as sacred places for some. If that is the case however, then local people should rightly be a part in helping to resolve the problems we face with our degrading buildings. Again I say, the burden cannot wholly fall on the faithful few who pitch up on a Sunday to worship in these buildings, that is just not right. Preserving the Church building never was and never should be the primary message or priority of a worshipping christian community (please see above!)


We are of course enormously grateful for the efforts already given to maintain our churches, for instance with our parish fetes. However those alone will never come any way near what we have to do if we are to secure the buildings for future generations. We do have to look for people who can give to this, yes financially of course, but as importantly we are looking for those who have expertise and experience with the sort of fundraising we have to engage with to find a way forward. One or two are already doing that and again we are really grateful but if anyone reading this has a desire to help with this we would love to hear from you.

So a bit of a challenge then....

Simon

From the Churchwardens

Thank you so much to all of those who helped with preparing our church for Christmas - the wonderful decorations, music, refreshments and contributions to the services. We are also extremely grateful to Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons for the impressive Christmas trees they gave us and the use of there many candles.

The Crib service was a delight with so many children enraptured with the Christmas story and the candle lit church looked very attractive for the Nine Lessons and 

Carols. We gave £ £40.71 from the school Christingle Service to the Children's Society and £292.99 from the Carol Service to the Oxford Winter Night Shelter.

Many of you have been asking when we are going to get a kitchen and WC in the church. This has been set back by the fact that we need to repair our church tower urgently. £220k is required for the external work (phase 1) so we have developed a fundraising plan. David Treanor has written an application for the Heritage Lottery Fund and we will apply to other bodies too. Phase 2 is the internal facilities. You will hear of other fundraising activities over the next couple of years to help us achieve this. Tony Sinnott kindly has painted a board to advertise how much we have raised and how much more we need for the Tower Restoration Fund. This will be erected in the churchyard so you can see how we are doing!

Any ideas for making our church relevant for our village and how to help preserve and develop the building for future generations would be greatly received.

Easter Activity and Storytelling Morning

The date for this event – the promised follow up to our Advent morning – will now be on Saturday April 6th between 10 and 12 am. All children are welcome of about primary school age, but it will be necessary to book a place by Saturday 30th March (ideally as soon as you read this or can do so!) so that we have sufficient craft materials. You can book a place by emailing Lucinda Arnold on l.arnold1963@btinternet.com or phoning Sally Ann on 01844 278029.

Further details are also available from either of these sources!!

S A Dennis

SING GOSPEL

**AFTERNOON
WORKSHOP
and/or
EVENING CONCERT
with singer/
songwriter
GERALDINE LATTY**

**SATURDAY 6th
April**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH,
GREAT HASELEY
OXFORDSHIRE
OX44 7JZ**

Concert free to workshop attendees
(Please book - numbers limited)
Workshop - 1:00pm £15
Concert - 6:30 pm £15
Family £20

Further info: events@miltonbenefice@gmail.com
Tickets: Email ahead / on door

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Canon Dr Martin Wellings on 01865 243216
Services at Gt. Milton during the Chapel renovation will be held in the Common Room, Rullers Field

February				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Martin Wellings	Holy Communion
17th	9:30am	Gt. Milton	St. Mary's	United Service
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Lenton	

A Pilot Scheme for a Car Service to Existing Bus Service 280

Eight people have agreed to be drivers for the scheme (see below), but more would be welcome! I also need someone to be a coordinator. Please think about it and get in touch with me if you can help.

The 280 bus from Oxford to Aylesbury stops close to the end of Sworford Lane, but too far from the village for most bus users to be able to access. A small group from Great Milton are proposing to set up a voluntary system of lifts to and from a Wheatley bus stop so that residents of Great Milton can access the 280 bus.

What we need:

- A group of volunteers prepared to use their own cars to drive bus users from their homes to a designated bus stop and/or collect from the same place. (It need not be the same driver for both journeys).
- Two 'contacts' who would be prepared to take phone calls and coordinate with the volunteers via a group email list.

How it would work.

Potential users of the scheme would ring or email one of the two contacts and say which bus they would like to catch AND which bus they would be returning on. At least 2 days' notice must be given.

The contact would circulate the details and find one or two people to make the journeys (clearly it will not always be possible for the same driver to do both journeys).

A small charge would be made to cover petrol costs (£2 per journey).

Users would complete a short registration process and agree to the following:

- The service would operate between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday. As 

it would be a pilot scheme to identify need, it would be easier to offer lifts only between 9 – 10 am, 12 – 1pm and 3 – 4 pm.

- The user is responsible for informing their driver if there is any change in the arrangement (e.g they miss the return bus or the bus is delayed.)
- The scheme should not be used for regular trips such as for going to work or shopping at Asda.
- Adequate notice must be given to the coordinator, Ideally a week, but a minimum of 48 hours.
- Initially the scheme would be open to users over 21 years of age. Users must be able to get in and out of the car and on and off the bus without assistance.

A pilot scheme will run from March to June, subject to volunteers and co-ordinators being forthcoming.

If you can offer to be a driver or share the coordinating role, please be in touch with:

Kate Pattinson – katepattinson@yahoo.co.uk

Warning! Please do not contact me about lifts yet until the scheme is up and running.

Little Milton WI

Thank you to the Coach & Horses in Chiselhampton for a wonderful New Year dinner, delicious food in a beautiful old coaching inn.

This month on Thursday 14th February we're back in the Pine Lodge for a Valentine's day #Show the Love Green Heart workshop. The NFWI is a founding member of The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people working together for action on climate change. We will be joining their campaign by making lots of green hearts to wear and share, showing we want action on climate change.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, 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 in the Pine Lodge. Everyone welcome, visitors £5 or membership £42.

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

GREAT MILTON FOOTBALL CLUB



January Results

5 th	League, Chequers (Away)	0-4	
12 th	League, South Park (Home)	P-P	
19 th	Cup, South Park (Home)	3-2	J. Ford 2, L. Warmington 1

Fixtures

26th Jan Summertown Development (Away)

Recruiting We are currently looking for additional players for our team, and also for committee members. Please get in contact for more details if you are interested.

Thanks to everybody who supported us with our Christmas Raffle. We raised £300 which is very much needed. We were pleased to see many winners were from Great Milton.

Facebook - www.facebook.com/greatmiltonfc/

Twitter - @greatmiltonfc

E-mail - greatmiltonfc@gmail.com

Website - <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/greatmiltonfc>

***Thank you to our sponsors – Studio Rigging, 37 degrees Fitness
and 1st Choice Scaffolding***

The Neighbours Club

The Club opened on the 3rd January with quite an informal meeting with lots of chat when we caught up with what had been going on over Christmas. We also did one of Lin's quizzes to wake our brains up (!!).

On the 17th January we held our AGM when we looked back over what had been happening in 2018 and received reports from our treasurer, secretary, programme controller and also from our excellent chairman. Everyone was persuaded to stay in their posts for another year. A Happy New Year to you all.

JCP

Forthcoming Events

Wed 20 Feb - Skittles at Bablock Hythe

Wed 6 March - Alternative date for Skittles at Bablock Hythe



GREAT MILTON
HISTORY SOCIETY

History – don't yawn, it is not about Kings, Queens and dates. History is about us, me, you, our parents, grans and great grans. Think how many things have changed in our lifetime, customs lost, old ways forgotten. So keep the pics, video the grandparents, value your heritage.

The Community Room is where the Village Records are housed and the Great Milton History group meet once a week to plan new projects and answer queries in person or by email.

About us – we are all volunteers, all with degrees – of ignorance. We number 4 or 5 regulars, rather mature in years but with a shared interest and love of village history.

History is composed of small pieces – collected together they present a bigger picture, as a piece in a jigsaw does. Please contribute your piece of the jigsaw which will keep village history alive.

Contact us at gmhistorysociety@outlook.com or visit on a Wednesday 11:30 – 1:00 pm

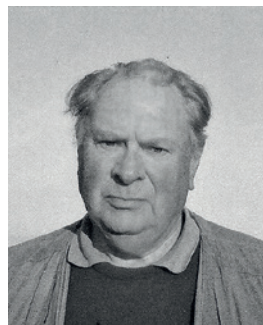
Well Well!

Our well research is progressing at pace! Thank you for all the details so far - lots more to come – so let us have any information, pictures, theories etc .(we can copy documents and return the originals).


Our plan is to keep all the facts together (probably in an album), in conjunction with a large map of the wells, pumps, boreholes, streams and underground rivers!

View from Views

As a “New Year” comment, I recently read the following, In 1787 Thomas Jefferson wrote to George Washington, “Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will, in the end, contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness”, I think there are a lot of organizations and individuals who would do well to take note of this comment. How true the above statement is today 230 years later, as it is the stability that agriculture gives to a community, can, and does, on its own provide, the environmental protection, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, soil management, and anti-pollution initiatives, to the best of its ability within the constraints of having to make a living. This is not to say we are successful, but in spite of public perception we are concerned and are trying to right the wrongs of our, and our Governments policies of the past, we do not though always get it right but we are trying and certainly doing our best. I must add that this message would come from most of the farming community but not all sadly.



Great News was announced on “New Year’s Day” that we had successfully passed some space rock further into space than we have been before, this will tell us about the origins of our universe and that of our own planet. Then a couple of days later the Chinese announced that they had landed on the dark side of the moon. It seems to me that if all the pundits are right about climate change and pollution, if we do not spend similar amounts of money on these subjects, there will not be a planet earth, or the need to know the origins of, or worry about. We seem to be able to spend money on exciting high profile projects, ignoring more fundamental issues such as, care for our elderly, mending roads, local communications (both physical and on air/wire), or even run a sensible railway,(without building a brand new all singing and dancing one that no one wants). It is interesting to read that some MPs are seriously questioning HS2, if this could be stopped then that would release more for other projects like perhaps the existing Rail Network.

The countryside is very quiet at the moment, now we have past the Rubicon of the shortest day Christmas and New Year, we can look forward to spring bulbs bursting out all over birds getting on with what they do at this time of year, longer evenings and warmer weather. Whilst on the subject of the weather, in the last few years I have been keeping a few records (not that accurate but representative) of rain fall here at Views Farm, this shows the average per year has been 25.84 inches, with 2017 being 23.14 and last year 2018 being 21.84 in spite of the prolonged drought. I will repeat 

what I eluded to in earlier comments that last year we survived last year's drought because the summers weather followed a wet cold spring and early summer, this was then followed but a very benign autumn the result of which is there does not seem, with the exception of Oil Seed Rape (OSR), a bad crop anywhere except a very few exceptional cases, this being due to ideal conditions at planting time. The problem here is that OSR, which has to be planted in August/September, this year it was very dry at this time, any cultivations done then made the conditions even drier, consequently a bad germination.

Whilst on the subject of OSR, I am always moaning about the damage the pigeons do during the winter, in the last months or so I have been commenting that we do not seem to be suffering this year. Although they have done a little damage it is nothing compared to previous years, why is this we ask ourselves, I really don't know the answer. Generally I don't think they have been a problem so far, I had been thinking it was that we had more ground cover than usual, (they don't like landing on covered ground) then it occur to me that the field we are growing it in always seems to have a buzzard or 2 in it, maybe one day we shall know. All my thoughts on the subject of these pests have been shattered, as I was about to believe that perhaps I had got to a situation where I knew how to control them. Sadly this is not the case as, I have been reliably informed that there is an abundance of beach masts, a great favorite of pigeons, in the Chilterns and that is where they all are. Unfortunately for the pigeon population because there is such concentration of them in one area they are infecting each other with some disease or other, as there appears to a lot of dead ones about. This of course could be nature's way of controlling numbers as there was really too many of them around. None the less it is an interesting subject. It is also amazing how the cold weather affects the OSR as every time we have a frost more of it seems to disappear, on inspection it is only shrinking it is all still there. We don't notice this in any other crops unless we get a prolonged cold spell like 1963, that's a different story. Now all my thoughts on what.

Having said all the above as I look out of the window today (mid Jan) suddenly I notice a few around the crops, let's hope they do not increase and that there is still some Beach masts left in the Chilterns.

Morland House Surgery – We're Here for You for Longer

Did you know that the GP Practices across South East Oxfordshire work as a collective to provide additional routine, pre-bookable appointments each week? Each Surgery provides services at different times and on different days; however you can

book into an available slot at ANY of the participating surgeries. With your consent the clinician who sees you will have access to your medical record.

If you feel an onward referral to a specialist or any further investigations might be required then it may be better to arrange an appointment with your own doctor; however, this is not essential.

To book an appointment or find out more – call Morland House on 01865 872448 and speak to a receptionist.

PLEASE NOTE: these appointments are aimed at routine GP care and DO NOT replace the current urgent 111 service. If you require an urgent GP appointment when your surgery is closed then you will still need to call 111. This service is NOT for emergencies or walk in appointments and in these instances you will be directed to call NHS 111.

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

Dates to note:

Wednesday 6th February 10:30- 11:30

Join us for a morning with Imogen Matthews, local Headington author, who will introduce her latest novel, *The Hidden Village*, set in World War 2 Holland.

Imogen will discuss her career in writing, her Dutch background and frequent visits to Holland that led to her discovery of a real hidden village, the inspiration for her fiction novel. Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday 23rd February Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

Saturday 9th March 9:30 -12:30

Jigsaw Swap event. An increasingly popular event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap for another.

Saturday 30 March Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Monday afternoon art sessions from 3-5

Monday evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

Do pop into the library – an idea for 2019 if you haven't before – you may be surprised at what is on offer

Best wishes for 2019 from all the Wheatley team.

News from The Pine Lodge

We had a fun Quiz Night in January, with raffle takings going to Kidney Cancer UK in memory of our friend and fellow villager, Bruce Shelton. Our last quiz of the season is on Saturday 23 March, welcoming a new quizmaster, Alan. Also breaking news, Elliott Morris will be back in concert in Little Milton on 11th May, playing songs from his new album. Save the dates in your diary.

We still need more help. Would you be interested in joining the committee or becoming an event volunteer? Volunteer roles include cooking, serving, car-parking, ticket selling, advertising, event planning - the choice is yours.

Please consider giving some time to supporting the community. No previous experience is needed. Take this chance to meet new people, make new friends and gain new skills.

Regular activities include:

LMWI #Show the Love Green Heart workshop at 7.30pm on 14 February

Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (20 February)

Power Yoga with Hayley on Mondays at 9.15am

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

Pilates with Lee on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am

Adult Drama Club with Leone on Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm

Upcoming events:

Quiz Night - Saturday 23 March at 7pm

Elliott Morris Concert - Saturday 11th May 7.30pm

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Live Better. Live Well Oxfordshire

Looking for information about services and activities in Oxfordshire?

Then Oxfordshire County Council's Live Well Oxfordshire directory is the place to start your search – it's easy to use and brings together over 2000 services and activities across the county. You'll find useful information and advice on a range of subjects – all aimed at giving you greater choice and control over the support and services you or a loved one need www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell

John Howell MP writes...

I write as Parliament gets into full swing again and Brexit looks to dominate media attention once more. However, despite the obsession of the press and media with Brexit I am sure many will be relieved to know that there are several other serious parliamentary issues which are still being dealt with. This month I write to share some of the things not in the headlines but, I think, important.

Feedback suggests that Universal Credit is generally welcomed but I know that many people have been concerned with the implementation of it. I was pleased to see changes in the delivery and that with this the rollout remains on track. I have raised queries with Ministers and work with them as we move forward.

Oxfordshire Lowland Rescue Charity may not be a particularly well known charity but it does important work assisting the police in the search for vulnerable missing persons. I was delighted to learn of £11,883.60 new government funding awarded to Oxfordshire.

Although it is against the law to refuse access to someone with a Guide Dog, a survey by the charity found that three quarters of assistance dog owners reported that they experienced this problem. I was pleased to be able to support a recent event in Parliament run by the charity Guide Dogs to raise awareness of this discrimination and to learn of the impact of this on people.

I share the growing concerns at the increase in mental health problems, especially among young people, and am thus pleased that in Oxfordshire children and young people's mental health services are to be transformed as the county becomes one of 25 trailblazer areas across the country that puts the NHS and schools together to transform mental health care. This is welcome news of much needed support for young people.

Finally, you may like to know that Heathrow's consultation on the use of airspace and future operations has now opened and will run until 4th March 2019. This will provide the chance to contribute to Heathrow's plans for future airspace use and on their proposals for how the airport will operate. You can provide feedback online or the nearest location to attend a consultation is Maidenhead on 7th February. More information can be found online at www.heathrowconsultation.com

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

Don't Let the Sparks Fly this Winter

Nearly 50% of all chimney fires in Oxfordshire happen during January, February and March. If you enjoy cosying up in front of a log fire, make sure the sparks don't fly at home this winter.

Have a cosy home not a fire zone

- Get your chimney swept at least once a year, if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently
 - If you have a 1st floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris
 - Store logs away from the fireplace
- Find out more at: www.365alive.co.uk



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Performance: 6.00pm

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Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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)



The Community Room home of Great Milton History

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

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Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or

Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.

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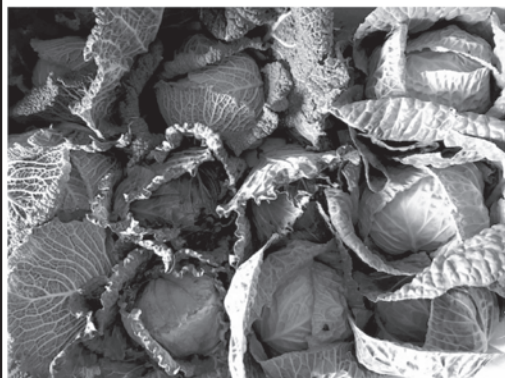
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Acting allows us to express ourselves through the imaginary characters and scenarios we create. We learn to listen and observe more deeply, communicate more fully, focus and use the full breadth of our voices and bodies in a playful environment that encourages spontaneity, creativity and joyfulness.

Sessions are relaxed, supportive and pressure-free.

Classes at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton.
£10 per session.

Tuesdays 7 - 8.30pm.
15th January - 12th February
26th February - 26th March

For more information, a discussion about the classes and whether they're right for you, or to sign up/drop-in, please contact Leone on 07445 059 001 or info@leonewhite.com. You can also visit my website at www.leonewhite.com.

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February at Waterperry

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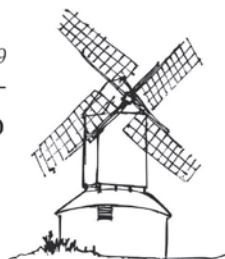
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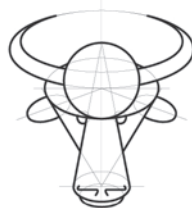
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contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
 Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm
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- Thursday Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
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 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 Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- 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 218345*

February

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 20th Wed | Neighbours Club: Skittles at Bablock Hythe (see below) | — |
| 24th Sun | GM & Wheatley Singers: Fauré's Requiem at St. Mary's Church | 6:00pm |

March

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 6th Wed | Neighbours Club: Alternative date for Skittles | — |
|---------|--|---|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th February 2019**.

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