

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2021

Published by the Parish Council

No. 561



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

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey 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:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: 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:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: Dancing hares at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons.
Photo: Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: 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

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) or via noticeboards.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Draft Parish Notes – January 2021

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 parish councillors were present along with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and Tim Darch (Clerk/RFO). 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 14th December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Vice-Chair on camera.

Matters to report

Regular updates are being received from OCC and SODC and continue to be communicated to residents via the available channels as appropriate. Caroline Newton circulated a lengthy monthly report which is available on the Parish Council website:

<https://www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/meetings-2021/>

Correspondence and Public Discussion

No correspondence was received which is not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning Applications

No planning applications or decisions have been received since the last meeting.

Financial Resolutions

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

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £504.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production January. £189

Website hosting January (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

Recreation Ground Annual Maintenance Grant. £400

The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received and approved. The current account balance as at 7 January was £39,337.55.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

An appeal has been submitted in response to SODC's decision to refuse reduction works to the degree nearby residents believe is necessary to the silver birch tree close to the school. If the appeal is dismissed reduction will still be possible, but at a reduced level as recommended by SODC's forestry officer. A decision is awaited.

It has been recommended by a tree surgeon that the two large trees on the bank between The Great House and Romeyns Court should be removed due to potential weakness in some areas. This opinion has been confirmed by three potential contractors who have submitted costings for the work. A contractor has been selected, and residents living adjacent and nearby will be advised of progress as it continues: although the trees are not subject to TPOs they are in a conservation area so the proposal will require approval from the planning authority.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

Residents are reminded to continue to follow government guidance. The Parish Clerk is happy to receive requests for assistance from those shielding or isolating and to pass these on as appropriate. A reminder from SODC to always wash/disinfect your hands and your bins after collections are made: the refuse teams handle many items during the course of a round, which presents an obvious potential transmission risk.

Village mowing

Costings have been sought from three potential contractors for mowing the village greens and verges for the next two years.

Proposed move to new dog waste collection contractor

Notice has been given to SODC for the emptying of dog waste bins: a private contractor will take over from April, at around half of the quoted cost of 

continued provision by SODC (although this is still five times more than SODC's charge of two years ago).

Proposed road closure, Lower End/Sworford Lane, June 2021

Advice has been received from Oxfordshire County Council of a two-day road closure of Sworford Lane from April Cottage to a point close to Lower End from June 21st to 23rd. The suggested alternative route sends all traffic to and from Wheatley via Windmill Hill and The Forties: use of The Forties for significant volumes of traffic in both directions raises concerns over safety and the impact on this single-track road for the period of the closure, along with the risk of damage to vehicles using the severely rutted pull-ins and potential subsequent claims to OCC as the highway authority. The Clerk will speak to the officer named on the closure notice to seek a potential alternative, possibly routing traffic via Little Milton instead and/or closing The Forties for the duration.

Kate Dawson OBE

Kate Dawson was awarded an OBE for Services to Business in the Queen's New Year Honours List. Kate grew up in Great Milton and is the daughter of Maurice and Pat Dawson who have lived in Tinker's Cottage since 1963. Kate founded The All-in-One Company, which is based in Northumberland and creates bespoke 'onesies' to order. The offcuts are donated to schools, charities and fundraisers and onesies are made from the remnants for baby banks and women's refuge centres. The company has close links with The National Autistic Society (its onesies are designed with sensory seams to help those that struggle with feeling seams and labels inside clothes), and also manufactured scrubs for healthcare workers during the first national lockdown.

The Parish Council would like to extend its hearty congratulations to Kate, Maurice, Pat and family.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday February 15th starting at 7.30pm.

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

ROAD CLOSURE: A329 Little Milton

The A329 will be CLOSED at Little Milton from 15 February 2021 up to and including 17 February 2021. The publicised alternative route is via the A40, the Oxford Ring Road and the B480 from Cowley to Stadhampton then the A329 to Little Milton.

Benefice Services February

	Live Service 9:00am	Virtual Service 11:00am
Sunday 7th <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	NO LIVE SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>		Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Wednesday 17th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		Invitation to Zoom Service at 7:00pm
Sunday 21st <i>Lent 1</i>		Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th <i>Lent 2</i>		Invitation to Zoom Communion

The Rector's Pint

I read in The Guardian on Boxing Day an article by Simon Jenkins, with the heading 'If the Church of England worships online, how can its historic buildings survive?'

It was a serious article, but one part of it made me laugh; 'Lockdown 2020 brought incipient disaster, with Boris Johnson putting churches on a par with steamy nightclubs and sweaty gyms. This was despite the clergy pleading that empty churches had been socially distancing for years'. It was the last part that brought the laughter!

It is perfectly true, in our context, social distancing has in fact been an ever-present reality before we ever heard the term! As those who might have come along when I have been presiding know, I sometimes ask people to move so at least we can all have a sense that we are together in this! Oh, happy days.

As many will know, we aren't even doing social distancing now. I was very eager to open our churches as soon as we were able following the first lockdown, but after consultation with our churchwardens in the New Year I felt that with another lockdown and with a new and more virulent strains of the virus at large, closing our churches for public worship was in fact the only choice we had, although legally we were permitted to stay open. We have a duty of care; at times this must mean doing what we don't want to do. Also, in some small way, I felt that we should stand in a kind of solidarity 

with local businesses, pubs, and schools who have had to take a hit. We continue with our online presence and we are in contact with vulnerable people. We continue with these restrictions as we await with hope the slow opening up of our lives again, as more and more people are vaccinated. I think though, that we all need to acknowledge that things have changed, that vaccines won't rid us of this virus, only help to control and contain its spread, this is now a part of who we are, and we will have to adapt.

Feb 17th is Ash Wednesday, and so marks the beginning of Lent. I will be arranging a special Ash Wednesday Zoom service to mark the occasion. Traditionally, we give something up for Lent. I'm not so sure about that given the many things we have all had to give up in the last year! I prefer to think of it positively, such as taking something good and positive up, more exercise perhaps, or better eating and drinking (which yes may involve dropping a few things, but think of it in a positive way) and as a Christian, most importantly, I believe in the importance of a reset of my spiritual life, with self-examination and prayer. So may I wish you all well, that in the present restrictions you will find something purposeful, positive, and life enhancing this Lent.

Ash Wednesday Zoom Service: Wednesday 17th Feb 7.00pm. Zoom details to follow.

Great Milton Church Raffle Prizewinners 2020

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons: Dinner for 4 guests. Valid January-June 2021 – Amanda Garrett and family

Molton Brown Patchouli and Saffron trio box set, incl. candle – Nicholas Wills

Unlimited month of yoga lessons with Yoga Lizard – Amanda Sheppard

Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection voucher for 2 adults and 2 children (4-16 years). Valid until Nov 2021 – Carina Martin

Framed Peacock Print – Julia Lawrence

Waterperry Garden: season ticket for two – John Catterall

Home baked Christmas cake – Heather Peers

Stoneware 12 piece dinner set – Friends of Lisa Lloyd

Nspa toiletry gift basket – Karli from Tiddington

Cotswold Wildlife: tickets for one adult and one child – Sue Barrett

Croft Pale Cream Sherry – Carole Greenhalgh

Thank you all so much for supporting our Christmas raffle to raise funds for the church. The Draw took place on December 6th after the church service. Despite the difficult circumstances, we raised a magnificent £1,300. This is appreciated as our

church funds are so depleted this year. The lucky winners are shown in the table. We hope they enjoy their prizes. We would also like to thank those who gave such generous prizes. We are always very appreciative.

We have some Christmas paintings still on display in the Church. They all received prizes for their great contributions. The Church is open on Sundays should you wish to visit.

Morland House Surgery: Vaccination Programme

Morland House is very pleased to have started the first phase of our COVID-19 vaccination programme. We are vaccinating in accordance with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's (JCVI) advice on Priority Groups.

The Priority Groups are as follows:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

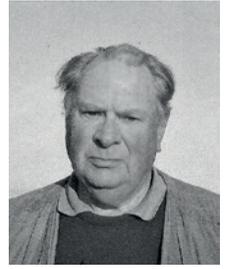
We are currently working way through the top three Groups. When the time is right for you to receive the vaccine you will receive an invitation from us to come forward. Please do not call us to try to make a vaccine appointment until you have received this invitation.

If you are a frontline health or social care worker you may be eligible now. You will need to produce identification and proof of current employment before an appointment can be booked for you.

For more information on the vaccine please visit www.nhs.uk

View from Views

Now we have past the witching hour and “surprise” “surprise” at the eleventh hour of Brexit negotiations, “we have a deal”, not perfect I am sure in fact some are very unhappy but I am sure it will all pan out over a period of time, and we will have forgotten all about it with life more or less back to normal, (wishful thinking!) some prices will rise and some fall. Did we really believe we would see livestock waiting to clear customs day after day, or food rotting on Lorries waiting for clearance? I think not. The Fishermen are not happy but as I do not know much about that side of food production it would be wrong to comment, unfortunately as in all negotiations some sectors are going to be disadvantaged, I just hope there will be some sort of compensation, for those disadvantaged. As in all these cases there is more to them than meets the public’s eye, we will have to wait and see how things pan out in the long run, many aspects are not good for my industry I just hope we are able to manage our way through them, I am sure there are plenty of opportunities around the corner.



Now while we are in lock down again all wildlife seems to be taking advantage of the fact they can carry on their life with less human interference, except the birds have their own pandemic to contend with but unfortunately we cannot impose a lock down on them, except for the domestic ones who have to be kept in, as they have their own pandemic to contend with. This can be a real problem for those with large flocks of free range birds, I know from experience when we had just a small flock what a problem it was. Our Egrets still come and visit when the floods go, I note that my assumption that they are more common is due to climate change was confirmed recently by some expert somewhere. Fingers crossed as at last the Hare (as long as the Hare coursers don’t visit again) and Partridge population seem to be on the increase at Views Farm, this is great news as both species have stayed very low or non-existent for some time now hopefully this is through the measures we have been taking. What I had thought were a small number of Fieldfares have I think morphed into a small flock of Starlings not so attractive but non the less important, in that Starlings do seem to be on the decline.

Now we enter a new world for our industry and most of us do not really know how it will affect us, all we do know is that the basic payment we receive from public funds is due to be reduced by 2026 for the larger units, and 2027 for the rest of us. The plan is that this will be replaced by environmental payments, which in theory will make up support to similar amounts received at present. There is no mention however what this will be: A. for, or B, how it will affect those of us that are already in various schemes, and will the criteria be the same? Many readers will be aware of the term ELMS this stands

for “Environmental Land Management Scheme” and is reckoned to be “Public Funds for Public Goods”, (PFfPG) which after all one cannot argue about, and covers things like the environment, land management, pollution of (land ,air and water), but nothing about the production of food. The only mention of food is the quality and production methods, as this was the issue that the public supported, and pressurised Government to create the “Trade & Agriculture Commission”, this was to safeguard our production methods and British agriculture and to control the import of food produced to a lower standard. As yet we do not have a clue what, when, or where, making planning extremely difficult. No doubt we will respond in our usual resilient way.

Most importantly we have vaccines that are supposed to control this awful Virus, let's hope so, so that we can progress with a normal or near normal life. Interesting comments made in the press on the same day and on the same page by Prince Charles and Boris Johnson that there was a connection between the pandemic and the way we are pushing nature into a corner. A fact I have been eluding to for some time. This is when the PM is allowing the HS2 contractors to plough through nature reserves, without as I understand it the permission of those who have spent hours, and pounds of public money, on their conservation.

It is good to hear politicians at last saying that we need to start to train the workforce in skills that will help us out of this climate change problem, as we recover from this awful pandemic, and reap the benefits, if any, of Brexit. There should now be a climate for individuals with a bit of Government encouragement, to set up some small projects. Also to support other projects like the fact that Rolls Royce have produced small nuclear electric generators, that could go into production fairly soon and employ many of the unemployed. Just think of the possibilities, this would enable us to have smaller generators around the country, giving us more flexibility should one or two breakdown.

An interesting link to a video <https://youtu.be/feSBsLSRkWs>

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

In January, we couldn't have our traditional New Year dinner and decided it's a bit weird eating on Zoom. We will have a meal out to look forward to later in the year. Instead we used Alison's idea of Zingo - bingo to music, which luckily was more fun than normal bingo! We played 3 rounds of 80-90s, 60s and 70s music, so had great fun reminiscing about our favourite bands and teenage crushes.



Our next meeting on Thursday 11th February is Chair Yoga with local Yoga teacher, Yvonne Cartwright. We'll be online from 7pm with Yoga session starting at 7.30pm. The class is approximately 30 mins & participants just need to be sat in an ordinary dining room type chair (not an armchair). Suitable for any age group & all levels of mobility!! Contact me if you'd like to join us. Everyone welcome, the more the merrier!

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. Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI.

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

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

Kath Stacey 279438 or email littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The winter has seemed very long this year and this dismal wet January is not helping. January always seems a very difficult month with poor weather and the day length only creeping a little longer every day. Being under lockdown means that walks for me are limited to road walks within the village as footpaths are very muddy and often under water. A large part of our meadow is under water (it is a water meadow after all!) and reaching the compost heaps requires the big risk of getting the garden tractor stuck as, unfortunately, it is not four-wheel drive. Nevertheless, my other half manfully digs compost for me to spread on cleared areas of the garden.

Things are undoubtedly improving on the signs of spring front. Winter box and Daphne are flowering as are a number of named snowdrop varieties. Primroses and hellebores are coming into flower. I'm afraid I only cut back the leaves on the latter this week which was too late as the flower stems are starting to elongate and getting in the way. This year the biggest issue with Hellebores is that something has been chewing off the flower buds; it would feel so bad if they had actually eaten the bits, but those are just dumped. I suspect it is mice. Mice have also been eating the centres of my beautiful spinach plants which have so far survived the winter. I can't blame any other creatures as the plants are in an old bath which has a mesh cover so it cannot be either deer or rabbits as they cannot gain access; I'm rather sad about this. Despite the underwater status of the veg garden, we have a serious mole problem which I cannot

understand; who knew that moles could live in such conditions?

Some days there are a worrying number of large deer roaming the field and garden and I know they will eat my roses in particular. Still, it is lovely to see lots of animals and, adding in red kites sitting in the trees, it has a feel of the savannah. The birds that have given me most pleasure have been the large flocks of Gold Finches which have been visiting on cold, bright days to eat lavender seed. Normally, my other half would tidy up the lavender after flowering to make it neat for the winter; we will not do that again as we have had close up views of these beautiful birds which is a huge treat.

When the sun shines and the wind drops, it almost feels there is a touch of spring in the air, but the Tulips aren't peeping above ground so I think is a way off yet. I think we will all feel a bit better with more light and warmth in our lives.

Liz Moses

Wheatley Library

Wheatley library was open for a week before Christmas but sadly, the coronavirus infection rates rose significantly and we had to close our doors again.

As the global population continues to contend with impact of coronavirus on our lives, the library service, as a whole, is ticking away, doing our best to serve our customers within the national guidelines.

From 4 January national lockdown restrictions mean the following services are available at 14 libraries:

- New click and collect service.
- Reservation service via the online library catalogue or the library app
- Prebooked access to computers
- Returns facility.

The nearest libraries, to our parish, for these services are:

- Cowley
- Headington
- Kidlington
- Oxfordshire County
- Thame

Residents can also access our extensive online services, providing inspiration, creativity and relaxation. Ebooks and audio, online music library, Pressreader and RBdigital magazines as well as lots of free resources to help with studying at home are all available at the click of a button.



- All loan periods have been extended until April 2021 and you will not incur fines.
- All activities in libraries have been cancelled until further notice.
- Libraries are unable to validate documents during the national lockdown period for applications such as: Blue badge, Bus passes, Residential parking permits
- The Home Library Service remains operational – in line with government guidelines.

Keep safe everybody and we look forward to being able to see you in our village library again as soon as possible.

Village Police in the 1900s

By Nick Belcher and Geoffrey Claydon

The long arm of the law stretched over Great Milton during the early 1900's. Although there was no resident police constable in the village other constables from Stadhampton, Wheatley and Great Haseley provided important police cover. According to Kelly's directory 1911 the police constable in Great Haseley was William Hudson. From 1901 he occupied a purpose-built police station at the Crown House.

The three Police Constables worked a system called 'Keeping the Points'. These were agreed times and locations at which two of the three constables would meet and hand over responsibility for patrolling the village. You can just see a police constable in this photograph from about 1908.



Now fast forward to the 1930s

Although there was very little crime in the village Geoffrey Claydon's father Edwin tells of a fracas at The Bull Inn sometime during the 1930s. His account was recorded on audio tape by Mr Sinclair Hood in 1967 and this is a shortened version.

Joe Cox was a larger than life village character and known for being easily annoyed. He enjoyed going to the Bull Inn on Saturday nights and on one occasion Joe had an argument with Jack Tallant and his son Bobby. It was all about their road building work to straighten out a bend in the London Road near the Three Pigeons pub at Milton Common.

After a few beers Joe said that HE was earning his money for his work on the road AND somebody else's too – and that somebody else was Bobby Tallant. Bobby reacted to this provocation and argued back. In response Joe walked over to Bobby and flat-handed him on the cheek. Bobby and Jack Tallant were not happy and left the pub.

Later that evening Caleb Nutt, landlord of the Bull Inn, called time and Joe finished his beer and left. He sauntered down Church Road towards his house by the brook next to Creeper Cottage.

Joe got as far as the brook where he was jumped on by a couple of blokes. One of them hit him on the head with a truncheon and they both ran off. Joe staggered home to his shocked wife who bandaged his wound.

Joe wanted justice, so he lodged a complaint and a police constable came around to investigate. The question of the truncheon came up. The police constable said that Jack Tallant had been a special constable during the first world war, and had illegally retained his truncheon. That was an offence in its own right.

Joe decided to take his case to the County Court in Oxford. At the court hearing the only witness evidence came from a village character named Shocky Bennett. He had seen the argument in the pub. When the magistrate asked who was to blame Shocky said, "I tell ya wot sir – it was six of one and half a dozen of the other". In the end Bobby and Jack were bound over to keep the peace. Things quietened down after that.

Notes:

1. With thanks to the Great Milton History Society.
2. 1967 recordings of conversations between Geoffrey Claydon's father, Edwin, and Mr Sinclair Hood.
3. The story has been conveyed by word of mouth over many years so may not be totally accurate.
4. Great Haseley police constable: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol18/pp235-274#h3-0051>
5. Kellyeys directory 1911.

Little Milton Village Hall

With the positive news of vaccines being rolled out and thus the the prospect of freedom to socialize by the summer, the Hall is beginning to plan for a celebratory Summer event, tentatively at the end of August.

Our current plan is to organize a series of fun activities/competitions for children and families in the afternoon, and then hold a dance with live music in the evening at the Hall.

We are looking for volunteers from the village to help us plan and then organise the event. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Lovegrove at linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com.

John Howell MP writes...

When I wrote in December, for publication in January, I was optimistic for this new year and now in January, despite this current lockdown, I do remain so. Having said that I fully appreciate the difficulties of yet another tightening of restrictions, I know that some people are very worried and others very frustrated, but it is essential. What does sadden me is the lack of understanding by some as to why this is so necessary. I have received emails from people seeking my support for their own justification to push the boundaries of restrictions to allow particular activities. Such requests go completely against the spirit of the restrictions and each of us has to be able to justify any activity outside or our own homes for ourselves should they be required to do so. We simply have to reduce unnecessary face to face communications as far as possible.

However I do remain optimistic as we see more vaccines approved and the pace of the rollout stepped up. The priorities for vaccination remain to protect the vulnerable, reduce deaths and reduce pressure on the NHS. In conversation with the Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which is heavily involved in the rollout, I have been reassured that we are on track to meet the Government schedule. At the start of the rollout it took time to get different locations set up and more will be operational by the time this newsletter is published. There is plenty of supply of the vaccine and it is being used as it becomes available. The Government is, of course, concerned to make sure that distribution is evenly spread across the county so that vulnerable people nationwide are protected.

Some very generous people has asked me if they can bypass their vaccination to allow some other person to receive it. The spirit of this is much appreciated but in truth

we need everyone who is in the categories set to take the vaccine for the reason set out above. In contrast to this generosity I have also had reports from GP surgeries of people verbally abusing staff as they have been wanted higher priority for themselves. I too have received calls along the same lines. I am sure that most of us will be relieved when we personally have the protection of the vaccine, but we have to be patient and we have to look at the collective good. Our turn will come and in the meantime we must all continue to follow measures to protect one another whether we have been vaccinated or not. It takes time to build immunity after receiving the vaccine and those who have been vaccinated must remember that others have not yet had the benefit. Hands, space, face will remain the mantra for some time yet. There is no place for selfishness in this, only by working together and showing mutual respect will we be able to get back to a way of life that we would prefer.

In this current lockdown Parliament continues to run as best it can with remote working. The Speaker has strongly encouraged MPs not to travel into London unless absolutely necessary and has limited further the number of MPs who can be in the Chamber at any one time. However, this does not mean we are simply twiddling our thumbs; far from it. Many changes have been made to enable MPs to carry on with important business. My staff team continue to work remotely and together we are doing our best to respond to the heavy workload we are experiencing particularly at present.

Council of Europe

I am delighted and honoured to have been asked by the Prime Minister to become Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is a non-EU organisation of which we remain as members beyond Brexit. My delegation is cross-party and represents the UK at the Council in a number of ways including dealing with climate change and other important issues. The Council of Europe was founded in 1949, in the wake of the Second world War to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It has 47 member states and remains an important link with our European neighbours. The Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentary representatives from the members states and has to reflect the political balance of the country.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page.

The Three Villages Car Service

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

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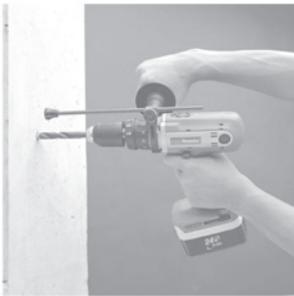
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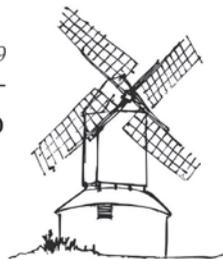
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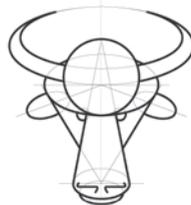
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Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm
contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
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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
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The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.
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Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
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Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
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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
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- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
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February

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|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 2nd Tues | World Wetlands Day | — |
| 4th Thurs | World Cancer Day | — |
| 14th Sun | Valentine's Day | — |
| | Variety Club Gold Heart Day | — |
| 16th Tues | Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) | — |
| 15th Mon | Parish Council Virtual Meeting | 7:30pm |
| 21st Sun | International Mother Language Day | — |

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