

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

January 2017

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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 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:	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:	Lesley Bush, Liz Sands
Kent & Couling Charity:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Front Cover

Harris's Hawk at the Christmas Fayre at the Pavilion. Photo: Paul Wakefield.

In Somebody Else's Opinion...

As I write this, our esteemed leader and Chairman of Everything is enjoying a family reunion in S Africa, and he asked me to pen a few words for this column in his absence. After much thought, and with significant input from my dear wife, I have decided to take as my theme for this piece, the subject of “community”.



On 9th December, a hugely enjoyable and well-supported Christmas Fayre was held in the pavilion. I know a number of people worked very hard to make this such a successful event, but one person in particular is deserving of our unstinting praise, and that is Laura Putt who's brainchild this was. Thank you, Laura, and your army of helpers.

On 17th December, we had the Carol Service in the church, led by our wonderful rector, Simon. It was another highly enjoyable event, our village choir was on form with soaring descants, and the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards went down a treat.

And finally, we had the Carols on the Green on the 19th which was the best-supported such event I can recall in our 30 years in the village. The children singing Away in a Manger, and the Page in Good King Wenceslas, will live with me for a long time. And then we all piled into our community-owned pub, where Tash and her splendid team looked after us brilliantly, and where there was standing room only. Just as it should be!

In all these events, it was a joy to see our very special village community come together. Our village faces a number of challenges in the months and years ahead, not least the loss of our bus service, the threat of Harrington, and the implications of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. Never has it been more important for our mutually-supportive community to stay strong.

The events leading up to Christmas showed this village's community spirit at its best. When he returns, we can proudly re-assure our Chairman that we didn't let apathy rule!

I hope you had a wonderful festive season, and that we all enjoy a happy and peaceful 2018.

Bill Fox, PC Vice-Chairman

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
District and County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	Stephen.Harrod@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

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	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 279474	
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

Apologies were received from Cllrs S. Harrod, C. Deacon and G. Bennet. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th November were signed and approved as an accurate record.

It was noted that Ian Melton has updated the property list and map on the parish noticeboard near the shop.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P17/S4227/O: Land on the South Side of London Road Adjacent to ‘Great Expectations’, Milton Common. Erection of up to eight dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space. Consultation with neighbours has yielded a variety of views on this site, but most were keen to see housing built at this location. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council held no strong views on this application.

P17/S4021/HH: The Annexe at Sands Cottage Stadhampton Road Great Milton OXFORD OX44 7PE. Extension to The Annexe at Sands Cottage, and internal remodel of Sands Cottage. Consultation with neighbours has yielded no objections to this proposal. It was RESOLVED to recommend approval of this application.

The following planning decisions have been received:

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that consent is GRANTED for the execution of the works referred to below:

P17/S3081/FUL (Crofts Furlong Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NJ)

Amendment to Full Application: construction of private tennis court (as amended by drawing P20A which has moved the tennis court away from the hedge).

No further comments were received on this application.

P17/S3180/CC (Oxfordshire County Council Ref.R3.0064/17: Great Milton C of E Primary School, High Street, Great Milton, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX44 7NT).

Demolition of an existing one and a half classroom prefabricated modular building and the installation of a two classroom prefabricated modular building, to include drainage and creation of fire appliance hard-standing access where the existing prefabricated modular building.

Following the award of planning permission for the proposed development, Cllr Bill Fox has contacted the County Council to remind them that leases need to be in place before further progress can be made. The land pertaining to the application is defined as ‘school playing field’: a ‘change of use’ application is therefore required. Cllr Fox has authorised the County Council to submit a change of use application on behalf of the Parish Council: further news is expected early in 2018.



Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £519.12

Timothy Darch. Refund of sum for purchase of parish council laptop: £400

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production, November: £269.20

Green and Growing. November grass cutting: £264

OALC. General Data Protection Regulations course: £48

St Mary's Church grasscutting grant: £600

Cllr Steve Harrod. Reimbursement for purchase of Community Christmas Tree: £50

Budget for 2018-19

The final draft budget was discussed in detail. Expenses totalled £19,530, an increase of 3.9% compared with the previous year. Income from sources other than the precept was £2,540 compared with £4,970 in the previous year while the precept was forecast to rise 5.6% to £16,990. It was noted that the General Reserve stood at approximately £17,000. It was agreed that this level of reserves was reasonable and should be maintained. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2018-19 be accepted and approved.

Precept for 2018-19

In the light of the agreed budget for 2018-19 and after discussion it was RESOLVED that the precept for 2018-19 be set at £16,990.

A full bank reconciliation was received and approved. It was noted by the Clerk that the bank statements relating to the reconciliation should be presented for signature each month. The bank balance as at 5 December was £24,760.28.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

The Transparency Fund grant has funded purchase of a Parish Council laptop.

However 'Office' programs are required. It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to investigate upgrading the Parish Council's BT subscription from £6 per month to £9 a month, to include access to Office programs which are not currently included in the subscription.

Village maintenance.

Thanks were expressed to the property owner for cutting back overhanging branches opposite Priory Bank. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation received from Green and Growing for various small jobs around the village, and to additionally request a costing to remove the collapsed ivy on the footpath between The Green and Fullers' Field.

Proposed fencing at Milton Common (opposite SVS). Oxfordshire County Council

is yet to comment on the proposed addition of fencing at this location: additionally no quote has yet been received from the village handyman for this work.

Lower End footpath (refurbishment of bridge across brook by landowner). It was RESOLVED to defer further consideration of this item to the January meeting of the Parish Council.

Those present at the meeting expressed disappointment at Red Rose Travel's decision not to divert service 275 via Great Milton, though its consideration of the Parish Council's suggestion was appreciated. In the absence of further obvious opportunities to restore bus services to the village it was RESOLVED to await the outcome of a meeting proposed by Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport to discuss rural public transport.

Thanks were expressed to the Chairman of the Parish Council for his response on its behalf on SODC's Local Plan 2033.

The village's postal delivery arrangements may be reviewed. The Great Milton round may be split in two, with one half of the village being included in the Great Haseley round, and the other half in the Cuddesdon round. Ian Melton reported that the current village postman is pessimistic that input from the Parish Council will influence Royal Mail's decision: additionally the Post Office and Royal Mail are separate entities so no intervention is possible from the village's post office. It was agreed that a single round covering Great Milton is preferable and more logical than a split round, and it was RESOLVED to lobby Royal Mail once the correct person to write to has been identified.

Salt supplies for the village have been deposited in a single location (The Old Garage). It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will investigate the possibility of supplies being delivered to locations adjacent to the salt bins in future, and to look to move some salt from the Old Garage to the salt bins now.

Councillor Harris reported that 360 copies of the Bulletin are currently printed. The only fixed cost is a £50 editing fee: other costs are determined by the number of sheets that need to be printed. It was RESOLVED to reduce the number of copies printed but with no decision yet on whether distribution of the Bulletin will continue on a selective basis or whether copies will be solely available in the village shop.

It was RESOLVED to agree a proposed increase in the Clerk's salary from SCP16 (£9.054 per hour) to SCP19 (£9.743 per hour) to reflect previous experience in local government that is proving beneficial to the role.

The following dates were agreed for Parish Council meetings in 2018:

- 15th January
- 19th February



- 19th March
- 16th April
- 21st May
- 18th June
- 23rd July
- No meeting in August
- 17h September
- 15th October
- 19th November
- 17th December

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th January 2018 starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch, Parish Clerk

Services in Our Benefice for January

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7th <i>Epiphany</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 14th <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 21st <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Shared Service with Methodists Great Milton 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 28th <i>Epiphany 4</i>		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am	

Services in Our Benefice for February

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

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Adam Stevenson on 01491 613223

January				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
7th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Lenton	
14th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanna Tulloch	
21st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Covenant Service
28th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	

Poppy Appeal

We raised £718 .12 this year which is a record for us.

Thank you to everyone who supported the door to door collectors.

Once again a big thank you to Mr Ayton and Laura Putt who continue to help me with the door to door collections.

Without them it would be an arduous task.

Sue Denham

Neighbours Club

Beryl's visit to us on November 23rd was particularly enjoyable as that was her last one; her 1750th talk – she started in 1968 and this time it was all about islands.

Our outing to Waddesdon Christmas Lights was quite magical and we all loved it.

We all enjoyed this year's Christmas lunch very much indeed; the caterers did us proud again.

There is one amendment to last month's notes – the work on the Neighbours' Hall and floor has been postponed and will not take place for the time being.

Club starts again on the 4th January 2018.

Forthcoming Events

Wed 24th January - Pantomime Cinderella at Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Wed 28th Feb - Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe

Neighbourhood Watch

Hello everyone. I'm Jola Miziniak, Neighbourhood Watch representative for Great Milton. In the last year the most significant rise in reported crimes we have seen has been in burglaries, with a minor increase in vehicle crime and bike thefts. Some incidents have been reported on the Rec so please do be aware and take precautions on all fronts. I am happy to help anyone who needs support in reporting an incident or crime: you can call me on 07917 676463. The dedicated rural crime officers for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are PS Steve Bobbett (P5159) and PC Darren James (P4650)

If you need to report a non-emergency incident remember to call 101 or you can report it online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/

Important details to note when reporting an incident include the date, time and details of what you have seen, along with a description of any people or vehicles involved. This 'aide memoir' can be printed out and kept at home or in your vehicles for easy access in the event of an incident: https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/documents/1327/4608_Rural_Crime_Aide_Memoir_3up_v3.pdf

Of course, it's always best and most important to take preventative care, as many incidents are opportunistic. The police's rural crimes website recommends registering or marking your goods. You can find more details through <https://www.immobilise.com>. If you wish to receive direct updates and alerts to our phone or inbox you can register through Thames Valley Police Countrywatch <http://www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk>.

Wishing you all a safe and happy 2018!

Jola Miziniak

Sheppard Trust

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be held on Thursday 18th January 2018. Funds are available for distribution and applications are welcomed.

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to apply.

Applications should be sent to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or emailed to janewillis1@live.co.uk and should arrive by Wednesday 10th January 2018.

St Mary's Church Christmas Fayre

Thank you to all those who helped with or came to the Christmas Fayre on December 9th. It was a great success and well attended. Mulled wine, mince pies, roasted chestnuts, the school choir and Great Milton Singers helped put us in the Christmas festive mood.

The Christmas card competition brought out the creativity in the children and we were delighted that the illustrator and author, Emma Chichester Clark came to judge the entries. Key Stage 1 category was won by Freddie Watts with runners up Eva Lloyd and Monty Lawrence. Key Stage 2 category was won by Maya Roach with Joshua Powell being the runner up.

Many thanks to the stall holders, particularly the teenagers, Dave Putt (roasting chestnuts) and the Wheatley Birds of Prey team who braved being in the gazebos outside, and those providing teas. A huge thanks to Laura Putt who organised the event so well along with her committee of Mary, Tricia, Rosamund, Trudy and Clare. We are also grateful for the generous raffle prizes - they were amazing.

We were delighted to raise £1,282 for the church and to collect donated goods for the Oxford homeless. Pat Donnelly also kindly collected donated goods in the shop.

Thanks

Trudy and Rosamund would like to thank all those who so kindly brought cakes and preserves for their stall at the Christmas Fair on 9 December. These contributions looked absolutely delicious and we were very grateful.

'DRY' – A Human Story Theatre Production

Friday 26 January, 7.30pm. Neighbours' Hall, Great Milton, Oxon

TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT humanstorytheatre.com

DRY by Oxfordshire playwright Gaye Poole is a new one hour drama about parenting, disappointment and middle-aged drinking.

The Wilsons may be middle class and middle aged but there is nothing middling about their alcohol intake. Can they keep the 'toxic' out of 'intoxicated' and keep the family together, or is it a case of sorrows drowned?



Hot off the heels of becoming a charity, Human Story Theatre are launching their latest play DRY in January. After two successful productions earlier this year, Flat 73 (supported by the Samaritans) and The Fourth Dog (supported by Against Breast Cancer and Maggie's), Oxford-based Human Story Theatre are premiering DRY at Arts at the Old Fire Station, Oxford, in January, and then touring Oxfordshire and beyond for 'Dry January' 2018. Venues include village halls, community centres, village pavilions and libraries as well as theatres. Human Story Theatre are continuing their 'pop up' small space approach and tickets at non-theatre spaces are 'pay what you can'.

Commissioned by the NHS to write a play about alcoholism, DRY is a one-hour play with music about parenting, disappointment and middle-aged drinking. Written by Human Story Theatre's Gaye Poole, music composed by Arne Richards (Oxford Concert Party - Flat 73) and directed by Anna Tolputt. Cast: Bryonie Pritchard, Paul Ansdell and cellist Rachel Watson.

DRY is supported by Turning Point who deliver the Oxfordshire Road to Recovery service for people who want to make positive change in their lives, and other local counseling services. Like with all Human Story Theatre productions there will be a Q&A after each show with guest professionals from Turning Point and other organisations to discuss the issues dealt with in the play and the impact of alcohol on our communities, as well as to signpost people to services.

"We are inspired by possibility and believe that every person has the ability to change. Turning Point support DRY as it helps bring awareness around the harm alcohol costs in our society".

(Oliver Sampson, Recovery Worker Oxford Hub)

"For us, Human Story Theatre are a valuable and useful addition to our programme, tackling social and community issues but doing so with engaging, well-made pieces of theatre."

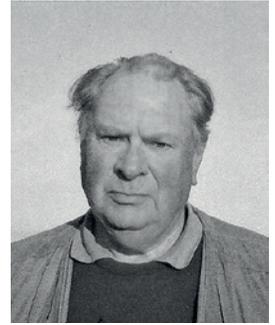
(John Terry, Artistic Director, The Theatre Chipping Norton)

"... they produce the kind of work that we are keen to present: new, well written, well executed, thought provoking and reaching out to new audiences."

(Jeremy Spafford, Director, Arts at the Old Fire Station, Oxford)

View from Views

Another year! I cannot believe how quickly it's another one, anyway again I would like to wish all readers a very happy one, I also hope that you had the sort of Christmas we all look forward to. Last year as I have said many times before or at least eluded to, was really a non-event in our area being short of rain and sun would apply to the whole year, the rainfall I recorded shows that we are well below average taken over the whole year, except for the snow in December and the following days rain amounted to some 28mm over an inch, I just hope that this short and sweet cold snap is not all the winter we will get. On a brighter note our crops look on the whole very well having had almost perfect weather since planting, in spite of the inclement weather early in December.



I would like to illustrate one of the minutia regarding our annual subsidy claim that we have been battling to sort out with the “Rural Payments Agency”, this is the fact that the aerial photos have picked up one of our cattle pens in a grazing field. This does not comply with our grazing area, so this area has to be measured and deducted, I guess an area of some 40 square meters which has grass on it and is actually grazed as the cattle can have access to it. This anomaly only picked up in the run up to the payment date now has to be resolved before any payment is considered. How petty can you get this pen has been there at least 20 years.

I am pleased to say the Barn Owls are still about down by Cuddesdon Mill, and I think I heard a short eared Owl during the night in late November, otherwise so far this season there seems to be plenty of the usual birds about. At the moment we here have a problem in the garden with feeding the small birds, as we have a family of rats about taking the food, and us humans being reluctant to feed the rats instead of the birds, one day we will win the battle, either with a bang, the snap of a spring or poison. Pigeons are certainly flourishing on the Rape now especially after the snow.

Here on the farm this is the time of year when very little can be done on the land that our thoughts turn to maintenance, such jobs as Hedging and Ditching not that we have many Ditches on Views Farm. Also it is time to take stock and make plans for the future, one such plan, or decision, is as most will by now know that sadly we have decided to give up the Chickens (no more Views Farm Eggs). The main reason for this being that we had always felt that this would make a nice little part-time job for someone and that once we had got it up and running we could hand it over, but in reality that person did not materialise. We tried to make a go of it ourselves but



with the pressures of the rest of our business activities it was not getting the attention needed. It is especially sad to the whole family, as it was a small enterprise that we had set up providing our locals something that they really liked!

Just lately it has been heartening to see that the question of plastic waste has taken a much higher profile in the media, and as I write there is an international conference on the matter taking place in Kenya. Takes an African country to show us all up, at the same time it is depressing to read that from March onwards the Chinese are going to be more selective in what of our rubbish they take, this seems a bit odd that we as a country, who are supposed to be so advanced in technology that we have to send our rubbish half way round the world to get rid of it. This is only a matter building some more incinerators like the one at Ardly which will solve several problems, getting rid of plastics and generating more energy. Whilst on the subject I read with interest Trevor Ford's letter in the last issue of the Great Milton Bulletin, re fly tipping, Trevor you hit the nail right on the head, my sentiments entirely.

I have mentioned several times as well as, above petty beaurocracy, how about this one, we have an incident over the bridge on the main and well used footpath from the village, which was in serious need of repair before someone got hurt, and that to leave it for the authorities to fix would have meant we would be still waiting now, with the path closed. With this in mind we decided to repair and reinstall said bridge ourselves, and then see if we could get some financial help from the public purse, seeing that it is of no benefit to us. The whole issue is complicated by the fact that it traverses a ditch which is our boundary, who is responsible for it's maintenance? I naively thought as it was a public amenity perhaps the County or Parish Councils would be prepared to support some of the costs (we are only talking £300), as it happens Roger White did give a very generous donation. The PC said no and the county informed me that actually they are responsible for all bridges on foot paths, and that they would as a matter of their responsibility but as this path is not in the right place according to the official map, (it has been there for the 45 years) and that the path would have to be altered they would then put in another bridge, not sure of the economics of this at times when we are cutting so many council services. So now we are faced with the expense of having the map changed, or the county putting in a new bridge and realigning the path either way a cost considerably greater than a small donation to help us defray the costs. Silly me – I should have kept my mouth shut!

Waste has never Bin so easy with a New Smartphone App

Waste collection information is now just a screen tap away in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The two district councils have launched a brand-new smartphone app, which is available free of charge for iPhone and Android phones right now. The app is called Binzone – by simply tapping their postcode in and selecting their address, residents can find out which bin is being emptied this week, and what day it's being emptied.

The app will also send users a notification if their waste collection day changes due to a bank holiday – very handy for keeping track of what day bins will be emptied over the Christmas period.

It will also let residents know if collections are disrupted by snow or icy conditions.

That's not all though – residents can also use Binzone to look up what bin their rubbish goes in. Ever been confused as to what bin an empty aerosol can goes in? Not any more – residents can simply search for it in Binzone and find out. It's the green recycling wheelie bin, by the way.

Councillor Charlotte Dickson, cabinet member for waste at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said, "The app is so easy to navigate and will save residents time by having all the information needed right at their fingertips, especially the changes to collection days around bank holidays."

Councillor Tony Harbour, cabinet member for waste at South Oxfordshire District Council said, "If the weather worsens again this winter I think the Binzone app will come into its own by keeping our residents informed on what is happening to their collections. It is very handy to have the information in one place."

Binzone is available to download free of charge on the iPhone Appstore and the Google Play Store.

Little Milton WI

Thank you to Liz Kidd for the Christmas Craft workshop. A fun evening of crafting, drinking mulled wine and eating festive treats. Our next meeting on Thursday 11th January is our New Year Dinner, this year at Lassco in Milton Common.

We'll also be starting to plan our new programme for 2018/19 so if you have any ideas or suggestions of talks or activities, or would like to give a talk or run a workshop, please let me know.

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.

The 2018 membership is £41, which includes the monthly meeting, a National and Oxfordshire magazine, organised events, trips and talks and discounted courses at Denman College.

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

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

News From the Pine Lodge

On 20th January we continue the Quiz season with quizmaster, David Hawkins, lasagne for dinner, lots of puddings and a well stocked bar. Everyone welcome, on your own or in a team. Tickets available at The Village Shop. We also have Craft Club on Wednesday 17th, weekly Yoga & Fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates restarting from 17th on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am.

After news that three of our village hall committee are stepping down in June, we urgently need new volunteers to join the Pine Lodge team. Could you help with village events, admin, accounts, cooking, fund-raising ideas? We would especially like a book-keeper or accountant - you will be provided with a dedicated computer and full training. Would you like to become more involved in village life? Want to feel part of the community? There's something for everyone. Please get in touch and keep the Pine Lodge alive.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535



As the nights get colder and darker, the chances of severe weather increase. Storms, floods and other extreme conditions can cause damage to network infrastructure and disrupt your energy supply.

To Be Winter Ready, you should:

- Know your free emergency numbers – in a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.
- Prepare your home – keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. Contact your gas or electricity network to find out more. Visit www.energynetworks.org to find out who your network operator is.
- Keep your eyes open – keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

In recent years the chances of unplanned problems with electricity and gas supply have reduced dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Despite this, our gas and electricity networks can be affected by natural events, with severe winter weather potentially causing significant damage. The gas and electricity network operators are urging the public to Be Winter Ready. Make sure you're prepared in case you have a power cut or gas emergency.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The arrival of snow more than a week ago was a delight for many, particularly as it came at the weekend. It was certainly earlier than we usually have snow and the cold weather has meant the resulting ice has hung around for a long time. I was talking to one of the society's previous chairmen the other day and he commented that he thought the snow 'heavy' and I agree that, for the amount that fell, the snow has caused a lot more damage in our garden than I would have expected. I think the main 

problem was that it fell at night so that by the time it was light the damage was done.

A number of evergreen shrubs were bent to the ground, as you would expect, and despite brushing the snow off, recovery was only partial. My tallest Daphne 'Jacqueline Postil', which is around 10 feet tall and covered in buds already showing colour, is now bent right over the narrow path it is growing by; we will allow it to flower and then it will need a major prune. Pruning of Daphnes is renowned to cause death and indeed Daphne 'Everlasting Fragrance' seems to get sick and die following pruning. However, we have a number of plants of this variety and all but this one have been pruned without incident so we will go ahead confidently. We also have an established Rhamnus alaternus 'Argenteovariegata' which was also about 10 feet tall and beautifully shaped; it is now bent right over and will probably not look so good after the necessary pruning which will have to take place.

Our most difficult problem is the Italian Cypresses which are now tall enough to be well out of reach. Unfortunately, the snow has splayed the tops out and they don't look nearly so good now. Maybe it will be time for a change. Death in the garden is always an opportunity to try something new. I buy very few plants these days and mostly acquire new ones from other gardeners and various village fetes. You will find gardeners are generous people with their plants. I know I cannot resist potting up bits and pieces so I always have new plants on the go.

I have to admit there are still bulbs in the shed awaiting planting. When I have a free moment after the soil has thawed I will get started. They should be fine. Much to my surprise I have just had Anemone coronaria, which I planted as corms to flower for our daughter's wedding (they didn't!), flowering as well as a small yellow day lily. Gardens are full of surprises!

On a final note, the moles were busy putting up hills while the snow was on the ground. Is there no end to this?

Happy New Year!

Liz Moses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay

caryselindsay@gmail.com

07984250752

Wheatley Library and Friends Group

On 18th October, we had a lovely morning of poetry being read aloud. Wheatley library friends group selected a few beautiful pieces and a local actor came in to contribute his élan to the event.

1st of December was a speaker event featuring Anne Ledwith and stories about local war veterans. The event was well attended and a big thank you goes out to everyone who played a part in the success of these local gatherings.

Dates to note:

Every Thursday 3.30pm

Story Times for children under the age of 6. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 10:30

“Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs”

Between 1997 and 2010, in collaboration with local authors, Roger Simmonds wrote and led the staging of three operas for, and by the Wheatley community.

Come and hear about the rollercoaster ride that was writing and co-producing

“The Enchanted Loom” – based on a novel by Raymond Vernède

“Letters to Paola” to a Libretto by Robert Avery

And “Poet and Plumber” to a Libretto by Kit Arnold.

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

Morning craft sessions weekly

Evening Craft sessions monthly

Drawing group weekly sessions during term time

Computer Buddy sessions fortnightly

Talks with coffee every 3 months

Book club

One of the Book Clubs based at our library still has space for a new member (or two). Please speak to staff if you are interested.

Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

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17th January 7:30 – 10:00pm

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12 JAN 7.30pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AG	20 JAN 7.30pm	CHARLEBY MEMORIAL HALL, OX7 3QW
13 JAN 12pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AG	22 JAN 7.30pm	THE MILLARTS CENTRE, BANBURY, OX15 5QE
13 JAN 7.30pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AG	23 JAN 7.30pm	THAME LIBRARY, OX9 3PH
16 JAN 2pm	HIGH WYCOMBE LIBRARY, HP12 2DN	24 JAN 7.30pm	COMPTON ARTS CENTRE, BRIDGE, OX11 7NE
17 JAN 7.45pm	EVERYMAN STUDIO THEATRE, OX10 2HG	25 JAN 7.30pm	RAMPTON PAVILION, OX18 2AS
18 JAN 7pm	THE COOPER SCHOOL, BUCKLEIGH, OX29 4RS	26 JAN 7.30pm	NEIGHBOURLY HALL, GREAT MILTON, OX44 7PZ

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**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
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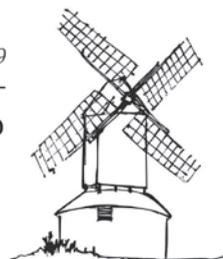
With no garden entrance fee throughout January it really is the time to enjoy winter walks around the gardens. See the gardens turn into a spectacular vision as the frost spreads across the grasses and trees and the mist winds around the garden and the Riverside Walk. Follow up with a 'pit stop' at the Teashop - a lovely way to spend time with friends or family.

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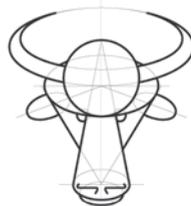
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contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday 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
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 – oliviahill@hotmail.com
- Saturday Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm
contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637
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*

January

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| 15th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 17th Wed | Craft Club at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:30pm |
| 18th Thurs | Sheppard Trust Meeting | — |
| 20th Sat | Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:00pm |
| 24th Wed | Neighbours Club: Cinderella at The Corn Exchange, Wallingford | — |
| 26th Fri | DRY at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |

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Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**
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