

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2020

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Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

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

Great Milton Parish Council

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:	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:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Front cover: Bus service restored! The Red Rose 275 bus.
Photo courtesy of Oxford and Chiltern Bus Page.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance	999	
Police non-emergency	101	thamesvalley.police.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448	morland-house.co.uk
NHS non-emergency	111	nhs.uk
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	nationalgrid.com/uk/safety/
Electricity Outage	0800 072 7282	sse.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak	0800 714 614	thameswater.co.uk
Floodline	0345 988 1188	gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. John Anderson	01235 529563	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

Draft Parish Notes – January 2020

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th January were Cllr Steve Harrod (Chairman), Cllr W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, G Bennet, M Horsley, P Fewell and C Deacon plus Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and three members of the public. No apologies were received.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 were received and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda. The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly reports were received by the meeting and can be viewed on the 'Meetings 2020' page of the Parish Council website. The key points from Caroline Newton were that SODC's budget will be set on 31 January, then go to Scrutiny Committee on 13 February. Following the decision from the Secretary of State ordering the District not to progress further with its Local Plan it has not been discussed or considered in any way. Plan-making powers may be passed to OCC, after which it is likely to be inspected as it would have been anyway. A formal merger of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils is still possible: this may present opportunities for cost savings, along with a one-off increase in council tax. A unitary council for all of Oxfordshire is also a possibility, but there is some doubt as to where Oxford City would 'sit' in this arrangement.

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

Correspondence and Public Discussion

An e-mail has been received from a resident of Milton Common detailing issues resulting from construction work at Milton Common, including obstruction of the footway, noise and mess. This has been reported to SODC's planning enforcement officer who has advised that most issues are not matters that the Planning Department of the District Council is able to deal with. Advice has been relayed as to the appropriate agencies to contact, which in most cases are Environmental Health or the police.

Residents once again raised the issue of parking on the bend at the bottom of Lower End, which continues to cause concern. After discussion of the possibility of yellow lines, asking problem vehicles to park elsewhere and a reminder that OCC was not of the opinion that there was a safety risk at this location it was once again determined that there is no straightforward solution to this matter. It is hoped that residents will approach this corner with care from both directions, and that those unfamiliar with the area will heed the speed limit in the area.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P19/S4652/DIS, for development work at the following location: The Old Stores The Green Great Milton. Discharge of conditions 2(joinery) & 3(glass) on application P19/S2743/LB. (Replace cracked and damaged single glazing with slim/heritage glazing in two bay windows). FOR INFORMATION ONLY: NO CONSULTATION ON DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS.

P19/S4694/FUL (Unit 11, Ashurst Court, London Road Wheatley). Alterations to building to provide meeting room. After brief review it was agreed that there were NO OBJECTIONS to this application given the nature of development proposed.

P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton). As per amended plans and additional information received 08 January 2020.

Cllr Bennet stated that the latest amendment largely takes account of the views of the Forestry Officer, along with small changes to garage and parking arrangements. A neighbouring resident noted that the houses had been made smaller and that the proposed development is now realistic as regards being an appropriate size for the plot available. However, it was also noted that the 'red line' extends all the way to the carriageway: the ownership of the verge should be questioned by the planning authority prior to a decision being made on planning permission. A request was received for support in requesting a planning condition for reinforcement to the hedge along Chilworth Road, to ensure that existing biodiversity is retained subsequent to construction. The Parish Council agreed with this suggestion, and agreed that its position as before was that it had NO OBJECTIONS but with comments to be considered, which will be relayed to the District Council.

No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council. Caroline Newton relayed news that the travellers site appeal in Tetsworth has been rejected, largely on the grounds of measures to mitigate noise from the M40 being deemed ineffective.

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses December. £436.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production January. £236.50

The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 7th January was £28,018.07.

Other matters

The Clerk will once again attempt to make contact with the school to get a trial of the proposed driveway parking scheme up and running.



Proposed shared use path to Wheatley

Peter Challis from Sustrans visited Great Milton before Christmas for initial discussions about a possible shared use path to Wheatley from the village. After discussion of potential routes it was agreed that a path on the 'field' side of the hedges along Sworford Lane and following the alignment of the road was likely to be the optimal solution for a number of reasons, not least avoidance of the flood plain of the River Thames. Peter advised that informal discussions with landowners along the potential route should be the first step in proceedings: initial contact will be made shortly to this end.

A relatively small amount of Section 106 funding (around £25,000) will become available from development in Milton Common over the next year or so, but with a new bus service starting shortly a decision needs to be made on whether this should be used to help support continued/improved public transport in the future (if necessary), or to support the proposed path scheme. With no aspiration from Oxfordshire County Council for the creation of such a facility, sizeable external contributions will be required. The cost of such a scheme based upon similar projects elsewhere and including a sum for contingency is estimated to be £250,000 to £300,000: this excludes the cost of land purchase or lease. All present were of the opinion that unfortunately this was likely to be unaffordable.

An alternative option was suggested by Cllr Bennet which involved making Sworford Lane one-way northbound from April Cottage, devoting the southbound carriageway to cycling and walking in both directions. Key benefits would be reduced speed of vehicles driving on Sworford Lane, a dedicated footpath reducing the risk of accidents, fewer vehicles entering Great Milton (avoiding the blind corner/parked vehicles at Lower End), and a reduction in vehicle through traffic in Great Milton and 'cut-through' traffic on The Forties. This may be a lower-cost alternative to a path, but would still require new speed limits, road resurfacing, marking and signage, and additional safety features, along with the approval of Oxfordshire County Council for whom Sworford Lane is part of the highway asset. It is also understood that it may present practical issues for some residents, but is merely a suggestion: the Clerk will seek the County Council's view on the idea and relay any response received.

New bus service

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) will be diverted through Great Milton village from Monday 24 February. A journey to Oxford will serve the stop opposite the Post Office on Monday to Friday at 10.52, picking up before this on Thame Road and at The Green, and afterwards at Lower End (Potts Close), before heading to Wheatley (Park Hill), Headington and Oxford. The

return journey will leave Oxford (High Street) at 14.35, arriving back in Great Milton at around 15.00. These journeys will initially operate on Monday to Friday only. It is vital that this facility is used if it is to be retained!

Although there is a sum of Section 106 money potentially available to support and maybe even improve the bus service in future, it was agreed that no commitment should be made until usage has been assessed.

The new service will be publicised in various ways, including via the Bulletin, the website and a banner on the village green if one can be produced quickly. It is hoped that the operator will also put up timetables at key stops: the Clerk is investigating this possibility.

The annual request for a donation in the 2020-21 financial year towards the Maple Tree Children's Centre's operating costs was received and discussed, after which was agreed to pay the agreed annual sum of £500, a cheque for which will be written at the April meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th February starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Ramblings from the Rectory

I know that sixty is meant to be the new forty, however turning that age at the end of the year was a bit of a rite of passage.

I was rather looking forward to it but in fact I did have a bit of a wobble the day before. Sixty, how can this possibly be? Was this late middle age? Was it officially the beginning of old age? I can now have free prescriptions, I can apply for a senior citizens rail card, I now receive a small pension from my time with Devon County Council Social Services and I have now received my bowel cancer home testing kit!

It does feel as if a corner has been turned. It is also a time to reflect on my life so far.

Without doubt the three most significant things that have happened to me (apart from being born) was knowingly acknowledging Jesus as my Lord and Saviour when I was twenty, I am happy to call that a conversion, my marriage to Cath and becoming a parent to two daughters. Beyond that my calling to ordination in the Church of England is high on the list. That event though now turns out to be marred and I want to reflect on why although it pains me to do so.

I was ordained deacon in the Church of England in Gloucester Cathedral at the beginning of July 1992. The ordination as a deacon comes first and then a year later there is the ordination to the priesthood. I was delighted to be ordained in Gloucester,

Services in Our Benefice for February

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd <i>Candlemas</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 9th <i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 16th <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 23rd <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am	
Wednesday 20th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		Holy Communion 7:30pm	

Services in Our Benefice for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Lent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

significantly because I was to be ordained by the recently appointed bishop, Peter Ball. He had a reputation as being one of the most charismatic figures in the Church and when I met him I understood why. I was made to feel as if I really mattered, indeed in his company you were the only one who mattered. Cath also remembers meeting him and particularly the way he looked at you, or rather seemed to look into you. At the time I thought I was in the presence of someone who reflected true holiness. He came to Christchurch in Cheltenham where I was the curate to take a confirmation service and wowed everyone by his manner and the way he communicated with the congregation. Everyone was in praise of the way he had done things. I remember one moment, I was acting as his chaplain and I had to receive his staff and Mitre (his bishop's hat!) by the communion table. He fixed me with his extraordinary gaze smiled his beatific smile and said, 'Perhaps one day you will be doing this.' Now I have to


say that I have never thought that I could ever achieve high office in the Church, nor have I had any ambition to do so. I am truly happy in that knowledge but it was a very flattering thing to say and humanly it made me feel very special.

It all went horribly wrong of course. In the same month that I and others were being ordained by Bishop Peter in the Cathedral a young man, Neil Todd, arrived at Bishops Court the Bishop's residence in Gloucester, to begin his postulancy as a monk in the community that the bishop and his twin brother Bishop Michael Ball had set up years before in 1960, a community of young men that was now based with him in Gloucester. I need to say that there has never been any accusation of misconduct or impropriety levelled against Michael Ball. It was from Neil Todd that the first accusations against Peter Ball came to light which led to the Bishop's arrest caution and resignation as the Bishop of Gloucester in March 1993. My Ordination as priest in the July of that year I think was taken by the Assistant Bishop Jeremy Wales.

The full and terrible story about the Bishop's fall from grace and the young men he had abused, and in at least one case a boy, was rightfully given an airing on BCC 2 in January. In my opinion it is something that every clergy person and most certainly every bishop should be compulsorily made to watch. I will not here go into the details, anyone can see it on iplayer. It is grim viewing.

There is no doubt in my mind that there was an establishment cover up, or at least a concerted attempt to minimise the damage. It will not do to suggest that twenty years ago 'we did things differently.' The Bishop should not have been cautioned. He should have been fully charged and made to face the full consequences of the damage he had done. The fact that this did not happen led to the eventual successful suicide attempt (if suicide can ever be described as a success) of Neil Todd in 2012. his sister has stated that he could not face once again after the way he was treated and abandoned by the Church the first time. The subsequent story of how the Bishop was not made to face the consequences of his actions for over twenty years involved figures at the highest levels of the British establishment.

One of the most shocking parts of the story was that in 1992 George Carey the then archbishop of Canterbury, a man I had admired and respected had received numerous letters from young men or their parents, who alleged that the Bishop has abused many others. These allegations corroborated Neil Todd's accusations. These letters were not handed over to the Police and remained hidden in church files in Lambeth Palace for another fifteen years. That is surely a cover up and a blow for justice that came from the highest office in the Church.

I also have to say that like many I was naive and taken in and wondered how this man could possibly have been guilty? Apparently there were over 2000 letters 

of support for Peter Ball. I took it on myself to begin a correspondence with him. I felt it my christian duty to continue to offer support. It was not regular but it did go on for several years, mainly in swapping news at Christmas. I no longer have these letters or cards. What I can say is that in these letters he continued to flatter (I really did not take that seriously) and also to stridently declare his innocence, that he had been a victim of injustice and that one day the 'truth will out'.

The truth did come out and the Bishop served a prison sentence beginning in 2015, 16 months of a 32 month sentence. We were all lied to by a man who was a very clever and devious manipulator. I now believe he was a wolf in sheep's clothing. It taught me a crucial lesson. Never ever trust at face value someone who presents as charismatic, charming and holy!

The other shocking thing was that in all of this for many years it was the Bishop's interests that occupied the thoughts and prayers of the Church, and the damage done to the Church, these were the central things. There was no mention of the victims. That is so wrong.

Why am I bringing this up? It is partly because of these documentaries. Some might have watched them and the Church comes out very badly and I think that needs to be acknowledged. When on official duties I wear a dog collar. It is a sign of my office. It should be a sign that we are safe people to be around. For many now it is a sign of abuse. However I also want to be able to move forward. As a local representative of the established church I want to say how sorry I am for anyone who has been hurt let down or abused by that establishment. We are not perfect and humanly we get things wrong, I know I have. However the sort of abuse I have talked about here is not an explainable mistake or shortcoming, it is evil and the consequences for the victims are destructive and as we have seen possibly fatal. The Church now takes the issue of safeguarding very seriously and this is now at the front of everything we do.

On a happier and local note. We are fast approaching Lent and there are several things we are planning. Once again Local Lent lunches to raise money for Christian Aid are being organised. These are shown below. Also a series of three evenings of conversation 'hot topics for faith'. Again please read the details below.

Simon

Lent Lunches for Christian Aid

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

This year our lunches will be:

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

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

Weds 18 March: The Old school House, Back Way Great Haseley. Hosted by Anne Maloney
Thurs 26 March: Orpswood Cottage, Thame Road, Great Milton. Hosted by Trudy Timbs
Weds 1 April: Delafield, Little Haseley. Hosted by Scilla Greenall

Hot Topics for Faith

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

March - 4th : Creation and Environmental Challenge

March - 11th : Faith and issues of Mental Health

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

These will be hosted locally, 7.30-9.00 in a venue to be advised, where we will have the chance to relax and talk freely about the issues and challenges which we face on a daily basis in the real world.

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

A Letter from the Diocese

Our churches and church-related activities must be safe for all, with safeguarding policies and practices that promote a safer church. We need to be certain that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of our clergy or church officers towards children and adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

Every church in the Diocese, including our own, is now undertaking a comprehensive review as part of the national Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2). You can find out more about PCR2 on the Diocese of Oxford website: oxford.anglican.org/pcr-2

If you have information or need to make a disclosure regarding church-related abuse, please make direct contact with the Safeguarding Team at the Diocese of Oxford on 01865 208290.

If you have lived experience of abuse from within the Church of England, you may prefer to call the dedicated telephone NSPCC helpline, which is independent of the Church. Call 0800 80 20 20

The NSPCC helpline is also available to anyone wishing to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England. The helpline is there for you whether you are reporting issues relating to children or adults or seeking to whistleblow about poor safeguarding practice. Your call is confidential, and your concerns will be taken seriously.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

February				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
2nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
9th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
16th	11:00am	St. Mary's	John Anderson	United Service/Holy Communion
23rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	

The Editor apologises for the incorrect time for the service on 12th February.

Happy Birthday to Sinclair Hood

Salutations and congratulations to Sinclair Hood at The Old Rectory who, by the time you read this, will have celebrated his 100th birthday. He will also have published his latest book 'The Masons' Marks of Minoan Knossos'.

Of additional interest, many of the photographs were taken by the late Michael Dudley, husband of Jean and father of Jonathan.

To give an idea of Mr. Hood's achievements, here is a quote and photograph from the British School at Athens website:

Sinclair Hood seen here, centre, in Chios in 1952. Hood, a giant in Bronze Age archaeology, came to Greece in 1947 as a BSA student. He went on to excavate sites in Chios and Crete and hold both the offices of BSA Assistant Director and Director.



Photo: British School at Athens

Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel

We have had a suggestion of starting up a coffee morning at the Methodist Chapel... therefore we have decided to start this venture on WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2020 from 10:00am – Midday. We intend to continue with a coffee morning every Wednesday morning throughout the year!! We hope that this will encourage everyone in the community throughout the parishes & beyond to come along for a slice of cake & coffee/tea but mostly for a chat!! All most welcome!!

Vonnie Cartwright

'January party' raises £850 for further Neighbours Hall improvements

Revellers descended on the Neighbours Hall on Saturday 18th January to blow away the post-New Year blues. Just shy of 100 tickets were sold (a record), and GMD, DJ Niv and top quality ale from local brewery Philsters hopefully ensured that a good night was had by all. The newly-revitalised Hall did the village proud as usual, and the refurbishment work made for arguably the best January bash yet: however, there's still more to do so the £850 raised will be put to good use. Many thanks for your support as usual, and see you at the next one!

Great Milton History

Coming shortly – 2020!

We hope to have a talk by Dr. Alan Simpson in late March when he will explain his recent survey of the Churchyard memorials. He and his team of volunteers completed their records of inscriptions and site references this summer. All information including locations has now been transferred to a disc for easy access.

We have nearly finished work on our new website - this should be up and running with a link to the village website by the time you read this.

GMHistory is considering a small display of WW2 artifacts in the new room at the Neighbours Hall. This would only last a few days, and we would welcome loans of ration books, gas masks, uniforms, photos, and any memorabilia that would help others (younger)(to understand how it was at the time.

Please contact us at the Community Room at The Bull, Wednesdays 11.30am – 1.00pm. gmhistorysociety@outlook.com

Red Rose Travel Service 275

HIGH WYCOMBE - OXFORD

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

HIGH WYCOMBE (Bus Station)	07.00	10.00	13.05	16.05
West Wycombe (The Swan)	07.08	10.08	13.13	16.13
West Wycombe (Chorley Road)		10.10	13.15	16.15
Piddington (King Street)	07.10			
Studley Green (St. Francis Road)	07.13			
Stokenchurch (New Road)	07.16			
Stokenchurch (opp. Kings Hotel)	07.18			
Bledlow Ridge (Old Post Office)		10.15	13.20	16.20
Bledlow Ridge (Routs Green)		10.18	13.23	16.23
Chinnor (Old Kiln Lakes Estate, Kiln Ave/Red Kite Rd)		10.26	13.31	16.31
Chinnor (Village Hall)		10.29	13.34	16.34
Chinnor (Estover Way)		10.32	13.37	16.37
Kingston Blount (Cherry Tree)		10.37	13.42	16.42
Lambert Arms	07.23	10.41	13.44	16.44
Postcombe (The Old Inn)	07.26	10.43	13.48	16.48
Tetsworth (The Green)	07.29	10.46	13.51	16.51
Milton Common (Sandy Lane)	07.33		13.56	16.56
Great Milton (Post Office)		10.52		
Wheatley (Asda)	07.40	10.56	14.01	17.01
Wheatley (Park Hill)	07.43	10.59	14.04	17.04
Sandhills Turn (for Park & Ride)	07.50	11.04	14.09	17.09
Headington (Shops)	07.57	11.10	14.15	17.15
Oxford (Gipsy Lane, Brookes University)	08.00	11.12	14.17	17.17
OXFORD CITY CENTRE (Carfax)	08.15	11.19	14.24	17.24
OXFORD CITY CENTRE (High St, Stop L1)	08.30	11.30	14.35	17.40
Oxford (Gipsy Lane, Brookes University)	08.38	11.38	14.43	17.48
Headington (Shops)	08.42	11.42	14.47	17.52
Sandhills Turn (for Park & Ride)	08.47	11.47	14.52	17.57
Wheatley (London Rd, Nr Holloway Rd)	08.52	11.52	14.57	18.02
Wheatley (Asda)	08.54	11.54	14.59	18.04
Great Milton (Post Office)			15.03	
Milton Common (Sandy Lane)	09.00	12.00		18.10
Tetsworth (The Green)	09.05	12.05	15.09	18.15
Postcombe (The Old Inn)	09.09	12.09	15.13	18.19
Lambert Arms	09.11	12.11	15.15	18.21
Kingston Blount (Cherry Tree)	09.15	12.15	15.19	
Chinnor (Estover Way)	09.20	12.20	15.24	
Chinnor (Village Hall)	09.24	12.24	15.28	
Chinnor (Old Kiln Lakes Estate, Kiln Ave/Red Kite Rd)	09.28	12.28	15.32	
Bledlow Ridge (Routs Green)	09.36	12.36	15.40	
Bledlow Ridge (Old Post Office)	09.39	12.39	15.43	
Stokenchurch (Kings Hotel)				18.27
Stokenchurch (New Road)				Q
Studley Green (St. Francis Road)				18.32
Piddington (King Street)				Q
West Wycombe (Chorley Road)	09.43	12.43	15.47	
West Wycombe (The Swan)	09.45	12.45	15.49	18.37
HIGH WYCOMBE (Bus Station)	09.52	12.52	15.56	18.45

Q - Calls to set-down passengers if required.

No service on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays

(With effect from 24/2/20)

Rainfall and Bird Observations from Coombe Farm

2018

The wettest month was May at 69mm.

The longest period with no rain was 16 days in June.

Total for the year 504mm (don't forget 25mm = 1 inch)

2019

The wettest month was October at 116mm.

The longest period with no rain was 23 days in April.

Total for the year 635mm.

Bird Observations

2018

The first swallows arrived on April 4th, 3 nests and a total of approx. 15 fledged.

2019

The first arrived on April 9th, 4 nests and a total of approx. 24 fledged. The first broods died of hunger due to days of rain so the adults could not feed them. They have been returning to us for about thirty years and always nest in our old workshop.

Birds at the feeder


Woodpecker, daily, Jays 2 to 3 times weekly

Hedge & House sparrows daily, approx. 25, all born in boxes on the house. Long tailed tits, daily and many Robins, Blackbirds, Starlings, Gold Finches and Wrens sometimes. The sparrows have been claiming their boxes already with many arguments taking place! Little owls are also busy calling, usually about 4.30am to 5.30am and it's very nice to hear them.

Les Preston

The Neighbours' Hall

At last it's finished, or at least the major work has been done. Thanks are due to those regular users who put up with disruption and dust throughout the building period and to David Putt and his team for their excellent work and who enabled us to continue using it during that time.

One of the reasons we were given generous funding is because we were able to show that the hall was a major resource for the village. We welcome new ideas as to how it might be used, and would love to work with anyone who has an idea 

which might benefit the village. Some plans that are already being considered are using the rear room as a “joint working space” during part or all of the working week and establishing a small lending library.

Some work still needs to be done: the lavatories and the kitchen require updating, wifi installing, the hedge laying, a couple of trees planting (part of the agreement allowing us to remove the gigantic self seeded sycamore) and the car parking area resurfacing.

A number of people have made suggestions as to what we might call the new rear room: please let a member of the committee know if you have a suggestion. We will conduct a vote if there is no clear preferred proposal.

There are two dates for your diary:

The AGM will be on the Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Neighbours’ Hall

The Official Opening will be a Tea Party on Sunday 8th March 2020 at 3.00 pm - 5.00pm

You are most welcome at both. We do need some more members of the committee, including a new chair woman or man.

Please let any member of the committee know if you plan to come to the opening tea party, so we can have enough tea and cakes for you!

The members of the committee are: Christine Donnelly, Hazel Hand, Yvonne Cartwright, Janet Smith, Minna Nieminen, Michael Robinson, Paul Lawrence, Simon Cronk, Peter Allen, Russell Torrance and Tony Jefferis.

Tony Jefferis

Nine Green Bottles (or 6 Green & 3 Brown To Be Precise)

Shock, Horror, Sensation, Probe! Our alcoholic tosser Old Spot is back in the village littering the verges and hedges with his empties.

My latest litter pick, three weeks after the last one, discovered no less than 9 discarded Port bottles inside 100 yards of the Thame Road evenly spaced amongst the usual detritus including a good dozen Fosters cans. So folks, an investment tip for the New Year; buy Fosters shares! Business must be booming for their Australian owners.

The word on the street is that there is a trail of Old Spots activity leading all the way down Chilworth Lane, not that my informant suggested anything by passing on that observation.

Yes, we have some serious drinkers visiting our lanes and once again their tipple was

mostly bought from Asda, not giving Pat and Christine some valuable business, but then someone dumb enough to lob rubbish out of their car or van window wouldn't have the forethought to see the value of patronising our priceless shop.

If the culprit is reading this or you know who it is tell them to take their rubbish home please, my back is killing me dragging a heavy sack of empty bottles and cans to the bins – and no Pringles to sustain me this time!

R.O.S.Y. – Respite for Oxfordshire's Sick Children

On Saturday 18th January at the Neighbours Hall I ran a Yoga charity Workshop on behalf of R.O.S.Y.

We raised over £450. Thank you ladies for you support!

Vonnie

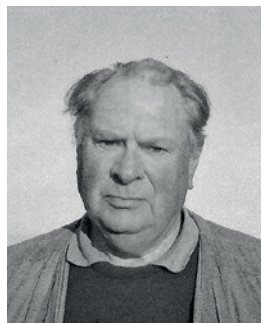


View from Views

Now that things have got back to a more normal footing for the time being anyway, the weather has been very dreary but at least it did stop raining for a short while. Now we have to look forward now to the challenges of 2020 and post Brexit!

In spite of the fact that we had exceptionally wet November and December the total annual rainfall for this area was a lot less than in 2015 (26 inches as opposed to 33) and by the middle of the month things were beginning to dry up, but not for long. Our Winter Wheat seems to have fared well and is looking quite respectable, but our Oil Seed Rape (OSR) still looks very rough in places it is still hard to see if it is there at all. Although the pigeons, who love to graze it (the OSR), seem to think there is something there, they are not flocking in in their normal numbers this year, I would though be foolish to assume they are not doing any damage, they are as can be seen by the nibbled the leaves.

Certainly things have started to move I saw the first Snowdrops here on about the 2nd of January, and most mornings at first light we can hear a song Thrush singing his heart out, anyone would think it was spring. This makes us all hopeful for better weather to come, that is not to say that there is not a lot of evil weather on it's way, we have been let off lightly so far this winter, having said that we could really do



with some proper winter weather, as the days progress any bad weather will in theory not last for so long. I am concerned as I get the impression that the small farmland birds seem to have deserted us I think probably because the hedgerows have less berries than usual at this time of year. Here we are talking about our awful weather just think what it must be like in the Australian fire and heat, not to mention the effect on wildlife, why our Government have not offered any help baffles me the Ausies helped us out through 2 world wars, surely we could help them out in some way or another.

Media reports seem to indicate that there is some blame that this Australian situation, is due to authorities listening to those vociferous minorities who have been saying leave nature to its own devices, do not manage things too much, which is just the same as the management of the heather moors over here, meaning in both cases there is a lot of combustible material left lying around ready to ignite. I realise this is an over simplification of the situation as I too believe we interfere too much in nature, but on the other hand there are those who have been managing these areas for a very long time quite successfully as safely with controlled burning etc, of course Global warming has an effect. This though is one of the big problems facing us these days, not just in Agriculture but right across most areas, and that is that the vociferous minorities getting their message over more lucidly and probably better directed, because they have more money and time to do so, than those who it affects and actually know how these things work.

There are many issues on the horizon that will exercise our minds in Agriculture in the coming months and years, of course Brexit is the big one, (at the moment we can only assume it is going to happen, as I am writing this in advance) I have mentioned before pressure groups, food fashions, trends, & fads, and changes in the way we are supported. Incorporated in this is the various trade deals with not only the EU but the world as a whole, our transition period with the EU, fairness of these deals and the ability of our negotiators to preserve our world status as producing food to the highest of standards, inspite of having lost some principal crop protection products. On top of all this having to take measures to control Climate change and all that goes with that. I was pleased to read, at the time of the "Oxford Farming Conference", that Tony Jupiter, now "Chair of Natural England", complimenting Farmers for what they were doing for the environment. This is somewhat comforting when he in the past has not been all that complimentary to modern farming, this comment coming within a day of some rather discrediting remarks made by George Mombiot about how we are damaging our planet by farming the way we do, On the subject of Climate Change I heard not long ago that there is a food supplement for cattle that will lower the amount of methane produced, the company developing this product was hoping to be able to use this as a

carbon offset. None of these comments really hold much water as it has been proved that Methane is not that much of a problem, it despites in the atmosphere over time anyway. Also at the Farming Conferences Theresa Villiers categorically confirmed that the Government would not allow substandard food products into the UK, we'll see! This has all along been my concern over future trade deals and have mentioned it many times in these columns.

Charles Peers

Wheatley Library 01865 875267

Dates to note:

Wednesday 5th February 10.30-11.30

Author talk: Kate MacFarlane talks about her book "The Secret World of Shlomo Fine: A colonial requiem". Kate grew up in Rhodesia and lived in the grounds of a mental hospital where her father worked as a psychiatrist. This book is a story about an isolated and isolating experience inside one of the largest lunatic asylums built during British colonial rule in Africa.

Saturday 22nd February 9.30-12.30

Jigsaw Swap, puzzles of 500 pieces or larger.

Saturday 29th February 9.30-12.30

Book sale of withdrawn library stock

1st March – 11th April

Oxford reads: Bloomin' Good reads

This is an opportunity to share recommendations to other library users and to have your reading inspired by the new season.

Tuesday 3rd March 10.00-11.00

Mapletree Children's centre hosts Rhymetime in the library

All children welcome and must be accompanied by an adult

Saturday 28th March 9.30-12.30

Book sale of withdrawn library stock

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday craft sessions weekly from 10-12, 2-4pm, and

New: Wednesday evening craft session 7-9pm

Clarinet Players once a month

Best wishes from staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library

Little Milton WI

Thank you to The Crown in Stadhampton for our delicious New Year dinner. Beautiful food, great service and a wonderful group of women.

On Thursday 13th February, we're joining Waterstock & Tiddington WI for their meeting on Donkeys, Dolphins, Foxes & Fish with Kevin Little. We'll be back in the Pine Lodge on March 12th for our AGM and a brand new programme. Visitors £5 or 2020 membership is £43.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

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

The Maple Tree

Hayley Hayle - Coordinator

The Maple Tree – January 2020

Hayley Hayle - Coordinator

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many families who have supported us throughout 2019 including the 200 lucky dippers at Wheatley Christmas Street Fayre, the 50 families who came along to our Christmas crafting event, the 30 families who supported Wheatley Scouts and ourselves by buying Christmas Trees, the congregation of St Bartholomew's Church who arranged a collection for us during their Carol service and the many people who regularly put their loose change into one of our many collection tins scattered around the area.

Since April 2019, we have had 359 unique families through our doors, joining us for universal sessions - 6 of these families are from Great Milton joining us for Well Baby Clinic, Stay & Play sessions, first aid courses, cooking sessions and summer activities. This is a tremendous achievement of which we are very proud. Let's see if we can beat that number in 2020. If you are already a user of The Maple Tree, why not bring a friend along to a session. If you are not currently a user, please do come along and see us, we would love to meet you.

You can also help The Maple Tree continue to be sustainable in one of the following ways:-


- Joining our team of volunteers helping families feel welcome and enriching our play activities
- Offering practical voluntary help or consultancy, such as with fundraising, publicity, grant applications and the upkeep of our building and garden
- Helping to manage The Maple Tree by becoming a Trustee
- Taking part in the SODC So Charitable lottery
- Giving regular financial support through a new Friends of the Maple Tree scheme for a little as £5 a month

Don't forget that you can also arrange to book the Maple Tree Centre for children's birthday parties. We offer use of most equipment, toys and our well stocked kitchen and garden area for a competitive price.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email hayley@mapletree.org.uk

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

When February begins, I always feel that winter is almost done. The days are lengthening and spring bulbs are flowering more prolifically. The pretty, delicate, but totally hardy, Cyclamen coum opens its pink or white flowers. This is an adorable little plant which, once settled, spreads happily by seed. A gardening friend planted just a few under an old flowering cherry some years ago and now has a carpet which is spreading across her lawn. Once the tree canopy closes over, the leaves die back and the tubers rest underground until autumn when the characteristic heart shaped leaves appear (the grass also dies back, but that is another story). Some in my garden have already been flowering for several weeks which is always a cheery sight in the depths of winter. I find the effect is better if the autumn flowering similar plant, Cyclamen hederifolium, is planted separately as its leaves are big and cover over the pretty spring flowers. In my ignorance I mixed them figuring that I would get a longer period of flowering, but I think it was a mistake.

Now is the time to decide on new planting for the spring. The shrub I have enjoyed the most in recent weeks is the evergreen Sarcococca confusa, also known as winter box or sweet box on account of its beautiful scent which fills the air on mild days. We have several which have meshed together to produce a waist high hedge effect. Planting new shrubs or hardy perennials in spring when the soil has started allows time for 

the plant to settle in before the weather becomes too warm and dry. Always water new plants well when planing so that the soil settles around the roots and there are no air pockets and, hopefully, spring rain will take over. Somehow artificial watering is never as good as rain for nurturing plants. Also we, as gardeners, should set a good example by reducing the amount of watering we do and collect as much rain water as possible. Over the years I have got rid of plants that need too much water and replaced them with tougher plants which need less care (this also helps my ageing bones!).

Now is the time to prune roses if you have not already done so. I used to worry about late frosts damaging new shoots if I pruned early, but it seems that if I don't get on with it early, then other tasks take over and suddenly the roses have long new shoots and it is too late unless you are brutal. Even if frost does attack the buds, the rose always flowers in the end, if a little later. The other job that needs doing now is clematis pruning. Often these are associated with roses and if you have sensibly planted Group 3 pruning varieties, then you just cut them back to about 30cm from the ground, ideally just above a healthy looking bud, but I tend to run out of time and simply cut it off in one go; it seems to work fine!

Try to keep up with the weeding as you really will make a difference later if you prevent annual varieties from seeding and perennial ones from spreading their root run. I really enjoy weeding on mild days when the soil is not frozen and the tidiness that follows is very satisfying and makes me feel in control, which, of course, is an illusion.

Liz Moyses

Wheatley Village Archive

The archive team continue to be busy with visitors, research and projects. Have you visited the archive room to find out about your part of the village? Thursday afternoons upstairs in the Merry Bells, 2pm-5pm with disabled access kindly provided through the library and also on the 25th January and 29th February, 10am-noon.

All of our calendars have been sold, thanks to you all, including the local businesses who sponsored it and sold copies. We hope you are enjoying the 'Then and Now' photographs on each page.

The dispensers with leaflets for the Wheatley Heritage Trail have needed to be regularly filled so obviously many of you have enjoyed reading about the village and hopefully following the trail with friends and family especially over the festive period. If you haven't completed the trail yet, kindly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Wheatley WI, then as the days lengthen and, hopefully, warmer weather comes, you'll

have a closer look at many buildings of interest in the village.

The Archive History Group have their next talk on Tuesday, 4th February in the Merry Bells at 8pm. Deborah Hayter will be telling us about some 'Hidden Villages in Oxfordshire' Do come along, whether you're a member of the history group or not. (Members - £3, non-members - £5). Our first self drive outing will be on Monday, 11th May to see the beautiful, medieval wall paintings in St Mary the Virgin Church in Chalgrove. Add the date to your diary.

See you soon.

Steph Cox and the Archive team

News From The Pine Lodge


After several years as a very active member of the Hall Committee, and then as it's Chair for the last year, we want to pass on our best wishes and an enormous thank you to Melanie Kingham who will be moving away from the village next month.

Regular activities at the hall:

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

For more details about events or the hall please contact linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com
gilesdenby@yahoo.com

John Howell MP writes...

This is my first newsletter since the General Election and as I write Parliament is in the midst of debating the Queen's Speech given at the opening of this session of Parliament. The Queen's speech sets out the programme of legislation that the Government intend to pursue in the forthcoming parliamentary session. In the course of the parliamentary session Bills will be brought forward at different times. Members will debate them, committees will scrutinise them, amendments 

will be tabled, the House of Lords will also scrutinise and may suggest amendments, and MPs take a final vote. All this work shapes the Bill at the various stages until following the final vote it is sent to the Queen for Royal Assent and then becomes law.

With a large number of new MPs there will be changes in roles in the coming weeks and months to give people new opportunities. Firstly there were elections for Deputy Speakers with candidates from the main political parties put forward. There will then be elections for people to chair the Select Committees. In the House of Commons there is a Select Committee for each government department. Their work is to examine the work of the Department including spending, policies and administration. There are also Bill Committees set up to scrutinise each new Bill laid before Parliament. There are many other roles to be assigned to MPs and the Prime Minister has also indicated that he is likely to make changes to his Ministerial team in due course.

There is also a range of APPGs - All-Party Parliamentary Groups. These are informal cross-party groups providing for discussions on issues of particular interest to members. These groups are essentially run by and for members of both the Commons and Lords, though most also involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities. Each APPG has to be re-established following a General Election. I follow the work of a number of APPGs and am vice-chairman of several. This month I have been elected as chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the River Thames APPG, the Fusion Energy APPG and the Digital Currencies APPG.

There will be many key issues up for debate over the coming months. As always I am interested to know the views of constituents on the various topics as they come up for debate. Whether on a topic before the House or something else, if you have an issue that you would like to raise with me please do 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) to share your views. 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. You will also find more about my work on my website which is regularly updated.



Unfinished projects or new resolutions? Join us at the

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Photo by Ron Milsom

After a sold-out trio album launch show in Germany and winning 'best music' award at Italy's biggest world music festival, Elliott Morris is back in town.

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up to date so please could you
advise Carina Martin of any
updates that need to be made
(carina.martin@gmail.com)

The Three Villages Car Service

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

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**



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around the gardens to see these little
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Free guided tours at 11am, 12.30pm and
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**DIARY DATE: not forgetting Mum's get
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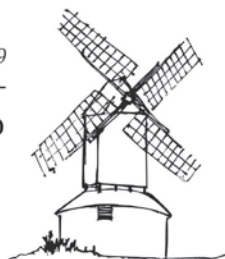
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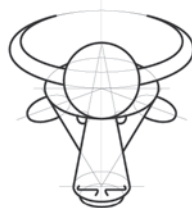
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Diary

- Monday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm
contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday
 GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 281345*

February

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| Wed 12th | Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel | 10:00am |
| Mon 17th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Wed 19th | Neighbours Hall Committee AGM in the Hall | 7:30pm |

March

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------|
| Sat 7th | Elliott Morris Live in Concert at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:00pm |
| Sun 8th | Neighbours Hall Official Opening Tea Party | 3:00pm |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th February 2020.**

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

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

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