

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

May 2016

Published by the Parish Council

No. 509



Great Milton Parish Council

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

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

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

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.

Front Cover

The results of the Litter Pick paint a somewhat troubling picture.

If you have any photos of the village or events, we would love to include them!

In My Opinion...

Thanks to all those who turned out for the litterpick which generated a huge pile of rubbish. Does anyone have any bright ideas as to how to educate people to NOT dump all this stuff in the first place?? Answers on a postcard...

The issue of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is still on the agenda and we need to seriously consider undertaking this exercise. The adoption of a NP will give us far more control over the use of land in terms of what sort of development we want and where, so it is a somewhat important issue. This is not something that the Parish Council can undertake as it really needs to be driven by an independent group. It will take a bit of time out of your life over a 12 to 18 month period but will be highly rewarding and in a very good cause. If the idea has any appeal to you, please drop an email to Helen Cherry on contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or to me on stephen@wildhorn.co.uk and we can discuss this further. In my opinion, this is an important issue which needs strong support from our community.

Despite my previous appeals, we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor so if this is of interest to you please contact either Helen or me as above.

In the meantime, don't let apathy creep in!

Stephen Harrod, Chairman



Parish Council Notes

The April meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Peter Fewell (vice-chair) with Cllrs Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Bill Fox and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and three members of the public. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday 16th May starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Planning Applications

There were no Planning Applications to review.

SODC granted planning permission for:

P16/S0475/HH – Crofts Furlong Farm Lower End

Application proposal, including any amendments: Additional bay extension to outbuilding

Police Report – Neighbourhood Policing (extract from April 2016 Newsletter)

Here is the latest Wheatley/Chalgrove Sector neighbourhood update from PCSO

Ryan Dollery.

Local priorities

Traffic/parking issues: During January and February we received several reports from residents in the Holton Village area of students from Oxford Brookes University parking on the poorly visible double yellow lines in the village. The Highways agency has re-painted the lines and the parking issue has been resolved. There has been no further complaints and no vehicles seen parking on the new lines.

Theft from vehicles: We had three thefts from motor vehicles reported to us at the Oxford Services on the Waterperry Road. All three vehicles had valuable computers stolen and none of the vehicles had any damage or a clear method of entry left behind by the offender(s). We have been patrolling the area and educating motorists using the service station not to leave any valuables in their vehicles.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): Overnight on Saturday 12 March several vehicles in Wheatley and Garsington had eggs thrown at them. One of the vehicles suffered paintwork damage. ASB involving young people has also been reported to us around the youth club/car parking area in Chalgrove, particularly at the weekends. We are making enquiries into who the offender(s) may be and are increasing our high visibility presence by patrolling those areas targeted and engaging with the young people. We encourage any victims of ASB or criminal damage to report it to us by calling 101.

Good News: On Tuesday 1 March we received a report of donkeys walking in the road in Cuxham. Officers attended and managed to trick the donkeys into following them by putting gravel into a wheelie bin leading the donkeys to think it was feed. The donkeys were quickly and safely reunited with their owner.

Correspondence and Public Discussion

The council were notified of motorbikes speeding along the A329. Though the matter has been reported to police it was suggested that the Clerk of GMPC also write a letter to the police regarding this matter.

It was questioned if it was possible to erect "Take Your Litter Home" signs along Swarford Lane. The Clerk agreed to look into costings before a decision is made.

GMPC were asked if the council would support a bus service from Great Milton to ASDA, once the new reduced bus time table comes into effect. This item will be discussed in more detail at a future Council meeting, as at present there were no clarification of what sort of support would be required.

Financial Resolutions

Parish Council Annual Accounts and Bank Reconciliation

The Parish Council Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended 31st March 2016 was approved.

Income for 2015/16 financial year amounted to £19,676.03 (The opening cashbook balance was £14,857.91). Total expenditure was £17,025.47.

Great Milton Parish Council Internal Audit Plan

The Internal Audit Plan was approved.

Activity	Date Arranged
Internal Audit	May 2016
Date of meeting to Approve section 1&2	20th June 2016
Exercise of public rights commences on	1st July 2016
Ends on	11 August 2016
Send Annual return	21st June 2016

The Annual Parish meeting followed the GMPC meeting.

The Annual Reports of the Parish council and the Parish Council Observations on its Finances were received.

Annual Reports and Financial Statements were received from:- Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee; The Hard Surface Play Area Committee; Old Field Charity and Sheppard Charitable Trust.

Once these reports have been approved at the next meeting they will be available to view on Great Milton Parish Council website:-www.great-milton.co.uk

Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

May				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mike Trinder	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jennifer Thompson	
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	

Services in Our Benefice for May

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Easter 6</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Thursday 5th <i>Ascension Day</i>			Holy Communion 7:30pm
Sunday 8th <i>Sunday after Ascension Day</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd <i>Trinity Sunday</i>		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am	
Sunday 29th <i>Trinity 1</i>			Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am

Services in Our Benefice for June

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th <i>Trinity 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

From the Rectory

I have blundered badly in my planning. I will be in Scotland when I should be here for Ascension day. Ascension used to be one of the biggies of the Christian year, now for many if not most, it has become relegated to a sideline, and unwittingly this year by me!

I look forward though to the week after Ascension when little Milton school will be having their special Ascension service at St James, (I am so glad it has been planned for when I am around) followed by their annual picnic at the Rectory, weather permitting. I'll have to make sure the grass is cut!

In May 2010 I was fortunate to be able to begin a three month sabbatical break from parish duties. Parish ministry can take its toll with so much giving out and the opportunity to 'take in' was relished. I didn't do anything particularly worthy like writing a book or engaging in some deep theological research. Instead, I decided in part to retrace my steps, to visit people and places that had been influential both in my life and faith, and also to branch out and explore a few new places and open myself to some new experiences and people. So the sabbatical took the form of a tour around parts of Britain using my dependable old BMW motorbike to get me about. I called the trip 'rev'd up Britain!' Amazingly the Diocese bought the idea and so I was off. I toured down to the West Country to visit family and friends, to Wales, where among other things I visited a bikers church in Swansea (yes indeed). I also headed north to spend time with a christian community in Northumbria. I also spent time in a monastery near Nunraw just to the south of the Firth of Forth before heading off for some walking and amazing biking in Wester Ross. I spent time with a friend of mine who was an orthodox priest in Lincolnshire and also stayed at a friends cottage near the North Norfolk coast. The cottage is few miles from Walsingham, a centre of pilgrimage for Christians, though probably of rather more catholic persuasion than me. I thought that I had better go and have a look but I came away with very mixed feelings. There are actually two centres of pilgrimage, the Roman Catholic Shrine just outside the village and the Anglican shrine in the village itself. I think the Catholic shrine is far better, it has an air of peace and prayer and worship. What though can one say about Anglican shrine? At every turn it seems intent on out catholic-ing the catholics! At the centre of the complex is the most extraordinary church filled with little individual chapels, one of the was chapel of the Ascension. I had heard about this and wanted see it for myself and yes what I had heard was perfectly true. On the ceiling of the chapel were a couple of plaster feet with nail marks, in relief, sticking through a paster cloud. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Is that how this thing the ascension of Jesus is seen? A couple of feet sticking out of a cloud as he went ballistic? I don't want to trample on sensitivities here (I expect I will!) but I really can't get my head around why some people seem to believe that bad taste religious tat is reverential, it was all just too much.

But it was a stab at depicting the un-depictable. The account of Jesus' ascension like so many things about Jesus is shrouded in mystery. We read in the Acts of the Apostles

that Jesus was ‘taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight’. What though might the Ascension might mean for christians?

In John’s gospel in chapt 14 Jesus promised that though he was going away he would not in fact leave his disciples alone, “if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” I love that image. The Ascension looks forward to the next great christian festival, pentecost, the promise of what christians have called the Holy Spirit. In other words when Jesus promised the Spirit to his disciples he was actually saying to them that he would be with them in a whole new way.

What Ascension points us to is not a physical absence but a beginning of a new presence, available to his followers to carry on the work that was begun when Jesus was physically with them. That is actually what the Church is primarily about. No, we can’t see or touch but for now we don’t need to. I don’t think that a plaster relief in ceiling is at all helpful. I am sorry to say that have not found the great works of art that have sought to depict the Ascension helpful either, they just gives us the idea that Jesus has transported somewhere else and is separated from us. The Ascension of Jesus points us to a different possibility, that he has become available to us in whole new way, as close as breath itself.

On a couple of other matters. I very look forward to the first of the three annual village fetes. The first of these, the Great Haseley Spring Fair I believe takes a different format from previous years and is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th May, beginning at 2.30. This year it is being organised entirely by the Church. They are scraping the barrel somewhat though as I have been asked to open it!

Finally... The new diocesan bishop of Oxford is to be the Rt Reverend Steven Croft, presently bishop of Sheffield. This is good news for the Diocese and it shows that those who were responsible for the appointments listened to what was wanted. Bishop Steven I think will carry on the direction set by our last diocesan bishop John Pritchard, encouraging all churches to look at how they can engage more effectively with their communities with the Christian message. For those not in the know. Oxford Diocese is split into areas, we are in the Dorchester area and are ably looked after by one of the assistant bishops, Colin Fletcher. There are also two other assistant bishops, of Buckingham and Reading, at the centre of it all though is the Diocesan bishop. Bishop Steven will take up his appointment in the Autumn.

Simon

The Neighbours Club

On 31st March it was time for Yvonne to come to us again with her exercise class designed to try and get us fit for the coming summer after the excesses of Christmas etc.

Liz Woodley, a new lady to us, came to Club on the 14th April to talk and show slides about "Beer, Sausages and Marmalade". This was a fascinating talk about the businesses that used to take place in Oxford. The Beer part of her talk was about the breweries in Oxford of which there were many in years gone by. We then moved on to the Sausages which concentrated on the many private butchers in the City, lots in the covered market, all making there speciality sausages. We then heard about the Marmalade made in Oxford in the old marmalade factory in Park End Street and saw slides on the long gone shops like Grimley Hughes in Cornmarket which many of us remember. An extremely interesting afternoon.

Forthcoming Events - May

Thurs 12th: Bring and Share Lunch – 1:00pm

Wed 18th: Outing to Bristol

Thurs 26th: Meeting in Fullers Field – 2:15pm

Volunteers needed!

Your local athletics club is looking for volunteers. Can you help?

Perhaps you were or are a runner yourself, or perhaps you just like the idea of helping out your local community, helping to get kids out in the fresh air and keep fit? Either way we would love to hear from you.

Great Milton Athletics Club meets most Wednesday and Saturdays and runs sessions for children aged 8 years and over. The club is affiliated with England Athletics and part of the Oxfordshire Athletics Association. As well as training for fun and fitness, we also compete in Cross Country competitions in the winter as well as Track and Field events in the summer.

We would be grateful for any offers of help but are looking particularly for anyone who would be willing to attend some Summer Track and Field events with the club and act as a marshall. We can provide all the necessary training, insurance and checks required for volunteers who work with children and young people so don't let this stop you!

If you think you can help in anyway, please contact us. You can email via enquiries. gmac@gmail.com, phone Emily on 01844 278388 or look at our website at <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/activities/athletics-club>



Heyfordian Travel Limited
Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxford

18th April 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

EXTENSION OF SERVICE ROUTES 103-108-118

We have carefully considered what alternative solutions are available to us to attempt to run a commercially viable service over the 103, 108 and 118 routes. We feel the solution with the most reasonable chance of success is to amalgamate the 3 service runs into one which would then be operated by one bus 6 days per week with one extra bus serving peak times only Monday to Friday. It would obviously have a lower frequency rate but would at least provide a form of transport for the outlying parishes into Oxford [see Planned Timetable attached].

This service will be operated on a 6 month trial basis from 21st July 2016, namely the day after the County Council subsidies are withdrawn.

As you will understand the success of this service is wholly dependent on the number of passengers that are carried. We sincerely hope that this service is commercially viable and it is our intention to continue it past the trial period if at all possible. As such, may we request that you relay this message to your parishioners through a suitable forum and encourage them to use the service whenever they can in an effort that we may be successful in running it and continue to support the local villages in to the future.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Hawkins".

John Hawkins
Operations Manager

118 - Bicester to Headington

BICESTER.....	06:48
BOARSTALL.....	07:00
HORTON CUM STUDLEY.....	07:08
WOODPERRY.....	07:12
FOREST HILL.....	07:17
STANTON ST JOHN.....	07:20
BECKLEY.....	07:25
HEADINGTON.....	07:38

118 - Oxford City Centre to Bicester

OXFORD CITY CENTRE.....	16:15
HEADINGTON.....	16:30
BECKLEY.....	16:48
STANTON ST JOHN.....	16:43
FOREST HILL.....	16:40
WOODPERRY.....	16:51
HORTON CUM STUDLEY.....	16:53
BOARSTALL.....	17:01
BICESTER.....	17:10

108 - Oxford Forest Hill Circular

	MWTH	TU FR	SAT
OXFORD CITY.....	09:30	09:30	09:30
HEADINGTON.....	09:45	09:45	09:45
BECKLEY.....	09:51		09:50
HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY.....		09:55	09:55
STANTON ST JOHN.....	09:56	10:05	10:05
FOREST HILL.....	09:58	10:07	10:07
WHEATLEY ASDA.....	10:05	10:14	10:14
WHEATLEY CHURCH.....	10:10	10:19	10:19
LITTLEWORTH.....	10:15	10:24	10:24
HORSPATH GREEN.....	10:19	10:29	10:29
COWLEY CENTRE.....	10:29	10:45	10:45
OXFORD CITY.....	10:43	10:59	10:59

108 - Oxford Forest Hill Circular

	MWTH	TU FR	SAT
OXFORD CITY.....	13:00	13:00	13:00
COWLEY CENTRE.....	13:15	13:15	13:15
HORSPATH GREEN.....	13:23	13:23	13:23
LITTLEWORTH.....	13:28	13:28	13:28
WHEATLEY CHURCH.....	13:31	13:31	13:31
WHEATLEY ASDA.....	13:35	13:35	13:35
FOREST HILL.....	13:45	13:45	13:45
STANTON ST JOHN.....	13:48	13:48	13:48
HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY.....		14:00	14:00
BECKLEY.....	13:52		14:05
HEADINGTON.....	14:05	14:15	14:15
OXFORD CITY.....	14:15	14:25	14:25

103 - Little Milton to Oxford

	N/S	N/S
LITTLE MILTON.....	06:48	08:30
LITTLE HASELEY.....	06:52	08:34
GREAT HASELEY.....	06:56	08:39
GREAT MILTON.....	07:00	08:44
WHEATLEY CHURCH.....	07:08	08:53
LITTLEWORTH.....	07:11	08:58
HORSPATH GREEN.....	07:16	09:03
COWLEY CENTRE.....		09:11
OXFORD CITY.....	17:30	09:25

103 - Oxford City to Little Milton

	N/S	N/S
OXFORD CITY.....	07:50	11:00
COWLEY CENTRE.....		11:15
HORSPATH GREEN.....	08:10	11:23
LITTLEWORTH.....	08:13	11:26
WHEATLEY CHURCH.....	08:16	11:29
GREAT MILTON.....	08:22	11:35
GREAT HASELEY.....	↓	↓
LITTLE HASELEY.....	↓	↓
LITTLE MILTON.....	08:29	11:40

Notes

- ↓ Passengers for Haseleys stay on bus
- N/S Not Saturdays
- TU FR Tuesday and Friday
- MWTH Monday Wednesday and Thursday only
- SAT Saturday

Heyfordian

Great Milton Church Fete

In Honour of her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday, June 11th 2016

Dear Villagers

We hope you are gearing up for Great Milton Church Fete. This year we will also be celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday so feel free to come in your red white and blue!

We have lots of stalls and activities planned. To kick off proceedings, there will be the best dressed crown competition so get your creative thoughts together. There will also be an opportunity for children (and adults!) to make crowns, after the competition, at our new craft stall. Children might like to get themselves into teams for the children's tug of war and dog owners start preparing your dog for showing off in the dog show.

We need everyone to help make this a success so if you can help, or provide items for the stalls, please get in touch with the stall holders below.

Plants - Liz Moyses (279875)

Cakes - Barbara Leigh-Cattrall (if you are not a cook, she would love ingredients) (278570)

Bric-a brac - Yvonne Cartright (please bring donations on the day if possible).

Toiletries and gifts - Jane Jefferis (278743)

Tombola - Chris Kitashima (279976)

Books - Ian Melton (janandian@jimelton.plus.com), Sue Barratt, Amanda Garrett

Hoopla - the Block family (278233)

Jams - Rosamund Griffin (279359), Mary Wakefield

Crafts (new stall with fabric lengths and craft items) - Minna Neiminen (07836763848)

Teas - Alex Kirkman(alexlkirkman@googlemail.com)

Our Grand Raffle has 19 amazing prizes so it would definitely be worth investing in tickets. Also, keep a look out for the programmes. As well as info about the day, the programme provides you with a chance to win a Sunday Lunch for 2 at The Bull.

Most importantly, please can as many of you as possible come at 9.30 to help set up and help us clear up at the end. Many hands make light work.

There will be a meeting of stall holders and activity organisers to share final details on Sunday, May 22, 18.00 in The Bull, so please put the date in your diary. The Bull is opening specially for us!

Thank you everyone for your help.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips and Alex Kirkman

Books for the Church Fete

Any donations of books for this year's Church Fete on June 11th will be welcome. Please contact Ian Melton on 279489 or Sue Barratt on 279214. After May 22nd. Thank you.

A Village Appreciation

Rachel Hood was a truly exceptional lady. She loved Great Milton and was involved in all aspects of the Village throughout her life here.

Many have benefitted from her kindness – remember the little basket she carried with pots of jam, books, flowers, home made lemonade? – she always knew who was ill or unhappy, and would call with a present.

Rachel loved her garden – her horticultural knowledge was extensive, especially of her beloved peony collection.

At her funeral, someone quietly said that she was welcome at every door in the Village – and she was – a highly respected and much loved lady.



Old Field AGM and Dates for Your Diary!

We announce the AGM for "Old Field" on 18th May 2016, 7:30pm Community Room at the Bull, Great Milton. All are welcome.

BBQ and "Open Saturday" 9th July. The Field is open all day every day, but each year we have a BBQ and get together to allow everyone to share the work we are doing and explore the field with us. With some craft activities for children. Put the date in your diary now.

Every 2nd Saturday of the month 10.15am. Come and join us in the field to see what nature is up to! Also on offer: good company, usually good weather, and a chance to do some leisurely field maintenance including bulb planting, litter picking or tree planting.

Please contact Alex Kirkman alexlkirkman@gmail.com for any further information.

Senior Citizens Party

Many thanks to all concerned for making this year's party another roaring success.

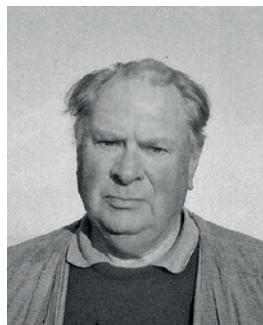


View from Views

It seems to me that yet again as we are waiting for the better weather to appear that the wait is far longer than we would wish in fact after a somewhat mild winter spring seems to be late, everything is just waiting for some warmer weather. On the very rare warm days most plants put on a vain attempt to burst into life then stop when it gets cold again, this is not to mention the rain that never seems to be able to let things dry up. I think now the days are getting warmer, which should buck things up a bit. Spring Barley planted early March took 3 to 4 weeks to show thro' the ground, in very warm times can be as little as 10 days, which illustrates how cold the average temperatures have been. I have though heard it said this is not a bad thing as the longer it takes to show through the ground the more roots it is putting down which has to be a good thing.

By the time you read this I think probably the Daffodils will have eventually stopped flowering, just amazing what nature will do under extreme conditions, who would have thought they could bloom for practically 5 months, not a bad showing. In spite of everything said spring is not far away and things must surely start to warm up, we saw our first Swallows on the 13th April. Spring also brings my annual Tractor run (15th May) through the Chilterns for which I hope all readers will sponsor me, last year we managed to raise just under £1,000 for the Air Ambulance, let's try and make that a little more this year. I am proposing to drive there and back in the day, as Fingest is some 25 miles from here and the course is 25 miles makes 75 miles all told, a long way if it is a cold wet day, and on a bone shaker to boot. I hope there will soon be a sponsorship form in both Little & Great Milton post offices, as they say please give generously, with gift aid as well.

Most wildlife seems to have come through the winter well which, (apart from the "B" Pigeons) a good thing for them. I think the feeding of the small Farmland birds has proved the point, as the result seems to be more of them around and I believe it has been noticed in the village as. Let's not count our small birds before their hatched, as it could be due to the



mild winter. We had a walk around the RSPB Otmoor reserve a few weeks ago and that seems to have been a great success apart from a wonderful place to walk around, there is a great variety of species to be seen. Not sure how many in Great Milton are aware of a slight connection between us and there. In the late 60's this area was purchased as a farm, at that time the purchaser was paid by the Government (you and I) to drain the moor and bring it in to Agricultural production, about 10 years ago his son one Austin Righton (of the "Bull") was paid to turn off the pumps, wonderful how things and thoughts change. I can remember his father Harold being very proud of what he had done and that we all thought how innovative it was, we'd not dream of doing now.

As we get to the middle of April the Oil Seed Rape is just starting to flower, this is rather late, it is often in full flower by the end of March, and even earlier some years, just how much difference this makes remains to be seen, I always reckon the longer it is in flower the more seed it will produce. This lack of growth is particularly worrying in the case of Rape as allows the marauding Pigeons easy access to hold it back even more. There has been some criticism in the Gt Milton Bulletin about bangers, I have to say first not guilty "m'lud", we only put out bangers on a daily basis and not every day, as we are not sure how effective they really are. It must be hard for those not involved to understand how frustrating it is to watch your livelihood disappear up the beak of a pigeon, and in the desperately feeling the need to do something to deter them, there is though an NFU code of practice which members are encouraged to follow. Not an easy problem to tackle but if there are complaints would it not be a good idea for the Parish Councils to write in the new year to local Farmers asking them to consider the NFU code.

Still concerned that we have not got anywhere with having some sensible discussion about the bus service, I had hoped the Parish Councils might have done more about this but I guess this is because like me most Councillors have their own transport are perhaps not aware how important it is to maintain a reasonable service. I think it is very hard for those of us with our own transport to understand how difficult it is to get about without a bus, for instance how do we get to the Doctors and back again without having to wait hours for a return bus, and many other likewise instances. I did attend a meeting that was arranged by Wheatley PC this was very disappointing as there were far too many present to have a sensible discussion the result being that we were presented with a new Timetable take it or leave it. I have made certain mad cap suggestions to try and encourage a discussion but nothing, This I know has no easy answers but surely we needed to have a reasoned discussion amongst ourselves, as our needs are different to those in Wheatley.

Enjoy your May as summer is a' comin'

Charles Peers

From The Old 'Un

Jean and Her Trees

As readers over the past two months will have seen I have already illustrated Jean's interest in specific trees, namely the silver birch, Peter's horse chestnut, the monkey puzzles and the ginkgo. What follows is the final instalment referring in particular to the 'toffee-affal' apple tree and the walnut tree.

Tree Number 5 – The “Toffee-Affal” Apple Tree

One early autumn afternoon in about 1964 the whole family was engaged in landscaping an area behind the house. We were creating a sloping lawn, a small copse and a flat area for a tennis lawn. It was very warm and suddenly an elderly gentleman came through the gate pushing an ancient bicycle with two big canvas bags on the handlebars. He looked absolutely exhausted and said “good ‘arternoon, ma’am, good ‘arternoon, sir, could I have a drop of that there spring water?”. Jean said, “I am sorry but the spring is not being used now but we have some nice water in the tap”. He said that will do and she fetched him a big tankard of cold tap water which he drank down in one big gulp. After getting his breath back he said “that were good but not as good as that there spring water”. After explaining what we were doing we asked what we could do for him. His response was “I come for me ‘toffee-affal’ apples”. I said “I am sorry I do not understand what you are saying”. He pointed to the apple tree in the corner and said “they apples there is what I wants for me ‘toffee-affal’ apples for ‘orspath Feast. I makes ‘toffee-affal’ apples every year; they keeps the church going ‘cos they’s the best apples in Oxfordshire on yon tree”. We had just realised that the apples were bright yellow when they were ripe and they were very nice to eat just before they were ripe and this of course was what he was looking for. The children helped him to pick two big bags of apples and he set off on his way with a promise from us to visit Horspath Feast to try out his ‘toffee-affal’ apples the next week. Sadly we never got round to keeping our promise but every year at the same time Jean would say “I wonder if we are going to see the “toffee-affal” apple man again but we never did. She also remembered when the tree came into bloom every spring. It still produces masses of bloom and masses of fruit and is the only remaining tree from an orchard which was just existing when we came here and must have been 200 years old then. With any luck the “toffee-affal” apple tree will be in bloom again in a few weeks’ time.

Tree Number 6 – The Walnut Tree

Within a few yards of the “toffee-affal” apple tree stands a walnut tree which was planted by Jean in strange circumstances very close to our neighbour's garden. In the clearance work I had dug up the remains of a BSA motorcycle and the hole was still

open. Jean had just been given a self-sown walnut tree about three feet tall which we hurriedly planted to replace the BSA motorcycle. It too liked Great Milton because in no time at all it was producing lots of small walnuts which brought in masses of squirrels, jackdaws and rooks as well as many other species. Jean particularly enjoyed watching the multitude of small birds which fed off purchased food within a few feet of her window seat. Unfortunately, the walnut tree is far too close to our neighbour's little garden so it's days have got to be numbered but we have never had the courage to cut it down.

There are a few other trees worth mentioning including young oaks grown from acorns gifted to us by the children of Pat and Morris Dawson. The best one is in Jean's Copse but can only be seen by making a special visit.

I do hope you have enjoyed sharing with me one of Jean's secret hobbies.

John Davis

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

There has been a definite feel of spring in the air in recent days. Having had a mild winter, it has been unseasonably cold, windy and damp in recent weeks so I have found that some plants seem to be very late in coming in to flower. Particularly noticeable have been the various Osmanthus plants. If you are not familiar with these, they are small leaved evergreen shrubs which can grow surprisingly big over time and have beautiful fragrant white flowers in March; these have only appeared in the last week or so being around a month late in our garden. In recent years we have started to cloud prune the two largest specimens to give interesting shaped plants. However this has been a compromise of pruning and flowering as the plants currently look rather shaggy. We will prune them back to 'clouds' after flowering has finished to give a well shaped plant for the next few weeks; the problem is that really to get a good shape this pruning needs to be repeated during the summer, but that would remove the wood which will carry next year's flowers.

The first florets of Wisteria are just opening alongside the outlet from the central heating - these are always the first bits to open as they are kept so much warmer. We also have an olive growing there and any branches which extend close to the outlet get scorched while branches extending too far from the house or too high are frosted. We therefore prune the olive to a spherical shape and are astonished at its ability to survive in the Oxfordshire cold and wet; this is due to the poor, free-draining soil it is growing in and the micro-climate produced by the house and the surrounding walls

in that area.

If you have a greenhouse it is definitely time to be growing on plants to fill your summer pots and hanging baskets. You could also do this on a sunny windowsill as long as you turn the plants daily to encourage even growth. Do not be tempted to buy tender plants from garden centres if you have no way of protecting them. I have noticed over the last couple of weeks that such plants are widely for sale and mostly without warning to keep them frost free, although in one garden centre a member of staff did warn me as I picked up some tiny marguerites. If in doubt then ask. I do not have hanging baskets as I find they get progressively more difficult to water as the season goes on and the basket becomes a mass of roots; the water tends to just run through. Using pots if I have difficulty wetting the compost I sit them in saucers from which they can soak up water. This problem can be reduced by having an irrigation system, of which there are a number for sale, or by including water retaining granules in the compost; these little grains absorb an amazing amount of water and become gelatinous masses from which the plant roots can extract moisture. My experience with them has been mixed so I no longer use them; I think there is the potential for keeping the root environment too wet and producing rot. Do try it for yourself.

Liz Moyses, Membership secretary

liz@moyeses.org • 01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year.

John Howell MP writes...

It is almost impossible to be unaware of the forthcoming referendum on our membership of the EU. It is perhaps much more possible to have entirely missed the fact that our Police and Crime Commissioners are up for election on 5th May and in some parts of the constituency there are local council elections too.

Many people have written to me on the EU Referendum wanting me to vote in line with their preference. Given that there are only two options I am destined to have to disagree with a proportion of those voting. However to even suggest that I need to vote the same way as another is to entirely miss the difference between a referendum and an election or indeed a Parliamentary vote.

A referendum is a direct vote in which everyone who is registered to vote can have their say on whether to accept or reject the proposal or question before them. In this case it is a question of whether or not each individual voter wishes to remain a member

of the EU. My vote is just one vote and counts for no more and no less than the vote of every other person who exercises their right to vote.

An election is a process by which voters elect someone to be their representative to a particular body and the person who gets the most votes wins. In the case of the forthcoming elections we will elect the person to be our Police and Crime Commissioner or our local Councillor where council elections are being held. Once a person is elected they then fulfil the role as they have set out to do so in their election manifesto and use their skills, experience and judgement to do so in the years of their term of office.

The most important thing in any election is that those who are entitled to vote exercise that right. Only when we get a good turnout at elections can we really know the mind of the population as a whole. The biggest news item following the last Police and Crime Commissioner elections was not the result but the fact that the number of people who turned out to vote was disappointingly low.

I would expect that the turnout for the referendum will be high. I would also encourage voters to exercise their right in the election on 5th May. Our Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for our policing which I know is important to many people. Their task is to cut crime and deliver an effective police force for the area they represent. I hope that all those who are eligible will exercise their democratic right and vote both in the upcoming elections and the referendum. Trends show that younger people often do not exercise their right to vote. I hope that we can all encourage them to see the importance of doing so and to make their voices heard alongside all other generations in these forthcoming elections.

To receive my regular e-newsletters and briefings please email me to be added to the circulation list at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com.

From the Archives



The Great Milton Night School

It is proposed to start the Night School on Monday, the 5th instant, in the Boy's School room. The School will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, between the hours of 7 and half past 8 at night. A charge of a penny per week will be made, and the first payment will be due on the first Monday night.

The Milton Magazine, November 1866

Haseley Church Spring Fair



Great Haseley Village Hall
Saturday 14th May
Doors open 2:30pm
Raffle to be drawn at
4:30pm



Raffle with prizes including dinner for 2 at Le Manoir aux
Quat'Saisons with wine, champagne and petit fours

Silent auction of top ballet tickets for the English National
Ballet's Swan Lake at the Royal Albert Hall

Variety of stalls and refreshments

Children's entertainer and face-painting

See the English National Ballet perform Swan Lake at the Royal Albert Hall!

Silent auction of 3 excellent seats (RRP £60 each) for
Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7:30pm

Bids by email at great.haseley.silent.auction@gmail.com
or on the day at Haseley Church Spring Fair





SAVE THE DATE

LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE

At The Old Vicarage, Church Hill

Saturday 18th June

2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

OPENED BY JOHN HOWELL M.P.

Concert Band, Dancing, Cakes, Plants,
Sweetie Shop, Falconry, Tombola, Toys,
Children's activities & entertainment,
Children's Forest arts, Bric-a-Brac, Books
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Raffle, Refreshments, Pimms
and much more...

Go Active Gold
Tai Chi for the over 60's



Tai Chi for the over 60's will be taking place in **Great Milton Sports Pavilion**. Tai Chi is a form of gentle exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance. Tai Chi has often been described as "meditation in motion", but it might well be called "medication in motion".

Starts: 15 June 2016

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Price: £5

Where: Great Milton Sports Pavilion

Go Active Gold

Go Active Gold is a project funded by Sport England to support people in rural villages with a capacity of 500-3,000 residents to increase physical activity levels, with a focus on social and mental well-being too. Therefore we invite the people of Great Milton and surrounding villages to get involved in this project.

What other activities would you like to see in Great Milton?

Walking Football for 60+. A great social activity with many benefits including an improvement in aerobic fitness, co-ordination, balance and strength.

Senior Circuits. Improves strength, flexibility, balance, co-ordination, bone density and aerobic fitness. The class will involve doing a circuit of exercises which will involve music and a social aspect to enjoying exercise.

If you would like to register your interest

Email: Cecile.Grogan@southandvale.gov.uk

Number: 07717 326660

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**14th May
8:00 to 11:30pm
Neighbours Hall**

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Admittance £10 - by Ticket Only

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Vonnie 01844 279205, Jennie 339359 or Heather

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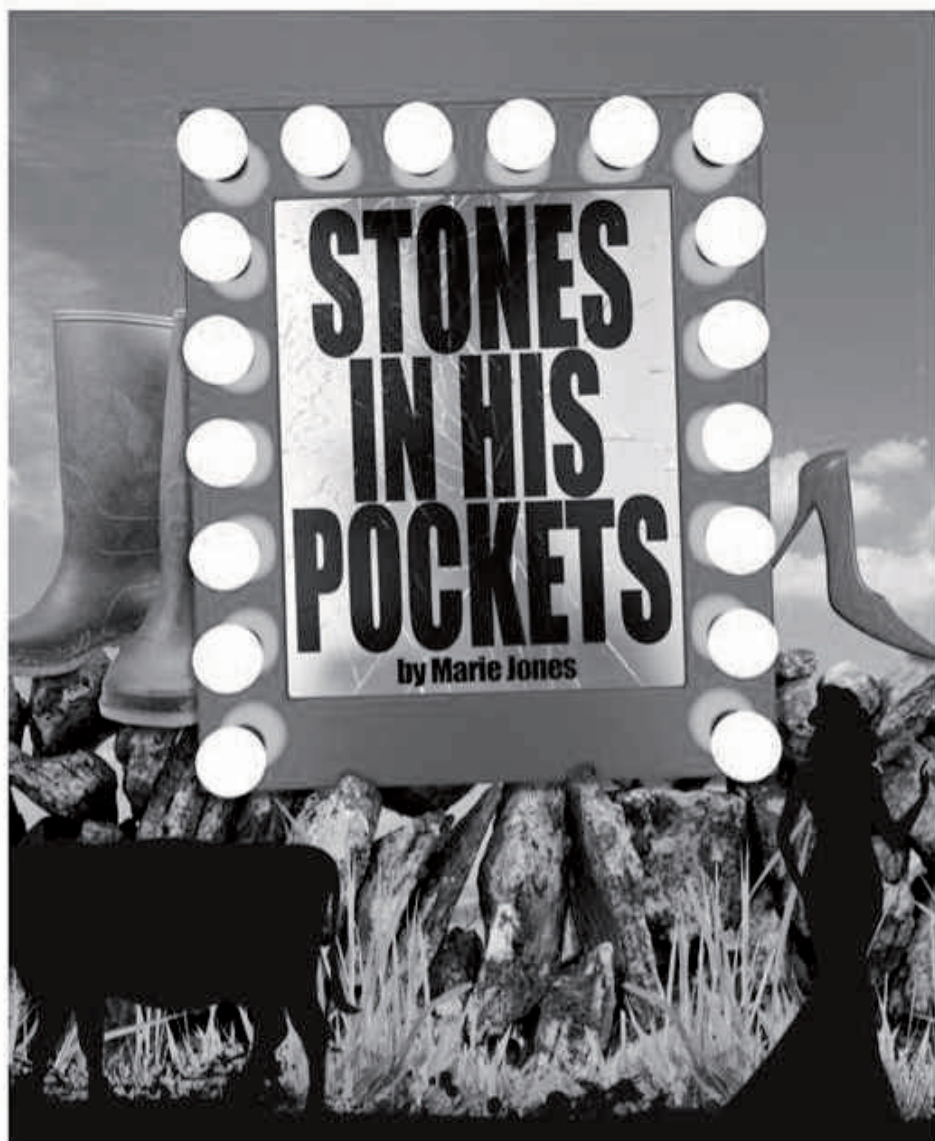
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For a full job description please contact vacancies@theorchardpreschool.co.uk



THE NEIGHBOURS' HALL, GREAT MILTON

Thurs 26th May, 7.45pm

Tickets: £10 / £8 conc / £20 family ticket

To book: 01844 279474 | www.wegotickets.com

The Neighbours' Hall, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7NZ



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

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**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

At the Pine Lodge, Little Milton

CRAFT CLUB

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18th May

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on

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7:30pm

at The Pine Lodge

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& contribute your ideas

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- 1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm) £10 or £100 per year**
- Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**
- Full back page colour £35 or £350 per year •**

Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

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28th May – 5th June

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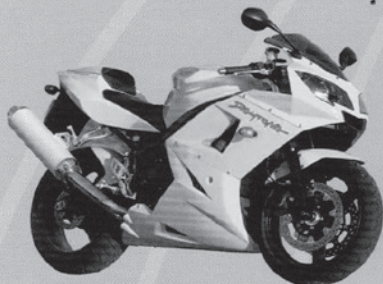
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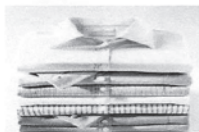
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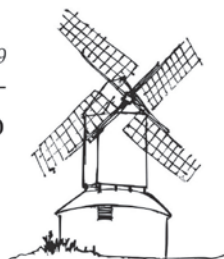
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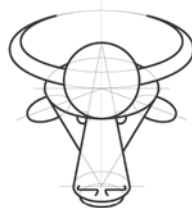
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Diary

- Monday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm
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 – oliviajhill@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*

May

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| 1st Sun | Great Milton Singers on St. Mary's tower | 7:30am |
| 12th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Bring & Share Lunch | 1:00pm |
| 14th Sat | Haseley Church Spring Fair in Great Haseley Village Hall | 2:30pm |
| | 60s Dance at The Neighbours Hall | 8:00pm |
| 16th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 18th Wed | Neighbours Club Outing to Bristol | — |
| 26th Thur | Neighbours Club Meeting in Fullers Field | 2:15pm |
| | 'Stones in His Pockets' by Marie Jones at the Neighbours Hall | 7:45pm |

June

- 11th Sat Great Milton Church Fete in The Recreation Ground

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th May 2016**.

Adverts to **Helen Cherry** 21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

07554 516989 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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

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