

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2020

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	Michael Robinson, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

I took this picture to acknowledge the absolutely wonderful job Chris and Pat are doing during lockdown. Their tireless efforts and those of Sharon, Kieran and Lauren are much appreciated. Nick Belcher

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

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

Transport

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

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

Sent to his staff by a friend of ours who works in hospitals and labs, Professor of Microbiology/Virology at Warwick. Feel free to pass on.

It is clear that we are all going to be exposed to the new Coronavirus called SARS-Cov-19. What we can do is slow the rate of infection so that no organisation is overwhelmed by staff being sick and diminishing the chances of adequate treatment for those seriously affected.

The following precautions are generally seen to be a way of reducing virus spread and contagion:

- 1) Avoid handshaking, kissing as greeting! Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc.
- 2) Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches, lift buttons, etc. If you go for petrol lift the fuel nozzle with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.
- 3) Open public doors with your closed fist, clothed arm or hip. Do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on lavatory and post office/commercial doors.
- 4) Use disinfectant wipes or gloves in supermarkets to wipe handles on trolleys or baskets, including the handle and child seat in supermarket trolleys.
- 5) Wash your hands with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.
- 6) Keep a bottle of 60% alcohol hand gel available at each entrance to your home AND in your car for use after getting petrol or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands.
- 7) If you cough or sneeze use a disposable tissue and discard carefully. Use your elbow to catch sneezing or coughing as a last resort. The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for a number of days (presently unknown).

Stock that may be useful to you:

Latex or thin polythene gloves for use when going shopping, using a garage forecourt pump, and all other outside activity when you come in contact with contaminated areas.

Stock up with at least 60% alcohol-based gels.

Remember that your credit/debit card will be handled by others unless you have a touch card for payments.

This virus is spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing. This means that the air will not infect you but the virus will remain viable on surfaces for up to a week — everything that is associated with infected people will be contaminated and potentially infectious. The virus is on surfaces and you will not be infected unless your unprotected face is directly coughed or sneezed upon.

This virus only has cell receptors for the lungs. The only way for the virus to infect you is through your nose or mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneeze onto or into your nose or mouth. Remember to avoid putting your unwashed hands near your face.

Masks do little if anything to stop cross-infection but they stop you putting your hands onto your nose or mouth.

There is some limited evidence that zinc lozenges will stop virus replication in the mouth and nose.

The Bulletin

Due to issues surrounding delivery and a reduction in the volume of news items, The Bulletin will not be distributed on a house-to-house basis until further notice. However, a link to the electronic version can be found on the Parish Council website (www.great-milton.co.uk): additionally the village shop will stock 50 copies specifically for those unable to access the website. Please contact the Parish Clerk if this raises any concerns.

Parish Council Meetings

Due to restrictions currently imposed by UK Government on gatherings of more than two people, Parish Council meetings are suspended until further notice. Routine business (mainly payments, administrative necessities and evaluation of planning applications) will continue, and the Clerk is always available should you have any queries

In My Opinion

Whereas as a delivery man for the Bulletin I was more than relieved when the PC decided not to issue it on a door to door basis I sincerely hope that this will not now be considered as the norm for the future. Maybe this will mean that the PC will have to rely on persons, such as myself, who may be at risk, for these deliveries. I fear 

that some of the very important local news that these village news sheets cover would not be seen if it was always online. The other parishes that I write for have continued the door to door delivery feeling, as I do, that it is important to keep this line of communication open. I hope all are keeping well and I personally would like once again like to thank those in the Village thinking of us older ones.

Draft Parish Notes – May 2020

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Fewell in advance of the meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 20th April 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings, and were physically signed during the meeting.

Ad hoc updates from the County Council and District Council are currently being received regularly in lieu of monthly reports. These are being cascaded to residents as a matter of course.

Ad hoc updates from the County Council and District Council are currently being received regularly in lieu of monthly reports. These are being cascaded to residents as a matter of course. The county councillor's Annual Report was received by the meeting.

Cllr Steve Harrod reported that OCC's household waste sites have reopened, staffed by some OCC employees from other departments including libraries and highways. 110 miles of roads have been surface-dressed while the roads have been quieter, and £2m has been allocated to the funding of PPE. Money has been requested from central government to supplement lost earnings from local authorities, but cuts are unfortunately inevitable in future to help to balance the books.

Cllr Caroline Newton stated that she had written to the Prime Minister voicing her concerns about the imminent planning application for 6,500 houses at the Harrington site. The site was a potential option in the SODC Local Plan but was not favoured due to lack of sustainability and poor access to local road network. This is unlikely to be easily addressed, which counts against it as an attractive option. The applicants are trying to get Harrington included in the Local Plan in lieu of other site(s): Cllr Newton's opinion was that this will be an uphill battle and that officers and the

Planning Inspector are likely to support the existing selection of sites: however even if not included, it still could be considered as a conventional planning application.

The application for a power generation facility at Lobb Farm has been rejected once again. Applications for two solar farms between Great Haseley and Tetsworth with over 130 hectares of panels are at an early stage. Concerns were raised over the size of these proposals, and that the additional power capacity available may have a positive bearing on the other large applications in the vicinity. There was also speculation about potential linkages between the solar farm and Harrington applications (though this has been denied), but it was agreed that green energy generation that could benefit local communities was a potential positive outcome.

The application for 500 houses at the Oxford Brookes site in Wheatley has been allowed on appeal, largely because the current Local Plan is out of date in planning terms. As a result it offers little or no defence, which Cllr Newton stated raises concerns about speculative applications until the new Local Plan is agreed and in place.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P20/S1261/SC (Land at Junction 7 of the M40: Harrington). A formal request for an EIA scoping opinion of South Oxfordshire District Council in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for the proposed new settlement at Harrington.

This application is for the submission of a report to SODC by the applicant: the report would set out the scope of a proposed Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement, and is assumed that it would precede submission of a full planning application later in the year. The Chairman of the Parish Council has responded to SODC as follows:

‘I am strongly opposed to this planning application as a whole, as are all residents in the vicinity, except the landowners concerned. This settlement will not be sustainable due to the lack of infrastructure serving the proposed site, lack of public transport, lack of access to railways which lie the other side of the motorway from the proposed site, and many others.

The proposed housing numbers are far in excess of those required in the current Local Plan and are likely to attract commuters from as far as London and Birmingham, rather than providing homes for local residents. The site is also far from the major employment sites in the area, namely in Oxford itself.

I trust any EIA will show up the shortcomings of this proposal’

Additionally the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council has been advised of the Parish Council’s strong opposition to the proposed development, along with Mr Robert

Jenrick, Housing Minister. The County Council continues to be less than enthusiastic about the site from a sustainability perspective given poor linkages to rail services and proximity to the M40, which may encourage car-based commuting to London and Birmingham.

P20/S0929/FUL (Oxen Field, Thame Road, Great Milton). Amendment as per additional information received 7 May 2020. This amendment deals only with planting and landscaping and raises no concerns from the Parish Council: it was AGREED to fully support the application.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered:

The Parish Council has been made aware of screening opinions being sought for solar photovoltaic farms adjacent to the proposed Harrington site (P20/S1346/SCR & P20/S1483/SCR). These applications are not for public consultation at this stage, but a preliminary discussion has taken place between the applicant and the Chairman of the Parish Council. A full planning application will eventually be submitted.

P19/S2685/FUL (Lobb Farm, Access Road To Lobb Farm Tetsworth South OX9 7BE). Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility with the ability to generate up to 49.99 MW of electricity. (As clarified by additional information submitted 10 September 2019, 12 September 2019 and 22 October 2019, 30 October 2019, 19 November 2019, 21 November 2019 and 12 February 2020, and amended by ownership certificate received 5 February 2020). Planning permission is REFUSED for the development described above.

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised. Cheques were necessarily signed for subsequent to the virtual meeting, along with associated invoices:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £434.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production May. £88.60

Parish Council insurance premium. £338.40

Green and Growing. Village mowing. £372

Great Milton Against Coronavirus volunteer effort (Laura Putt). Grant received from SODC towards food parcels as per minute 54/20. £500.

The internal audit report was received from Matthew Hale (Internal Auditor), who had also signed and returned the Internal Auditor's section of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The internal audit report raised no concerns or issues for action.

Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and Section 2 (Annual Accounting Statements) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending

31st March 2020 were reviewed and agreed, then signed in sequence by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO as required in advance of publication and the Exercise of Public Rights period (which is currently scheduled for 15 June to 24 July 2020).

The intention to submit an application for the refund of £1140.72 VAT incurred between April 1 2019 and March 31 2020 was agreed and noted.

The receipt of £500 from Cllr Caroline Newton's COVID-19 councillor fund was noted. Thanks were extended to Cllr Newton and SODC for this valuable contribution, which will be directed to the village's volunteer response and specifically to Laura Putt to help fund continued provision of her care packages for vulnerable residents.

The Clerk/RFO's salary and allowances were reviewed. After discussion it was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP12 (£11.22 per hour, from £10.37 per hour) and to increase the home working allowance from £2 per week to £6 per week in line with HMRC guidance.

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were all received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 7 May was £38,497.28.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

The large and precarious loose branch has been removed from a tree in front of the Priory. Thanks to neighbours and to the new residents for their help in resolving this issue.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

A financial contribution from the Parish Council towards the village's COVID-19 volunteer effort was discussed. After discussions it was agreed to make a further donation of £500 from Parish Council funds to the local volunteer effort at the June meeting, with a further review of the situation in July.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

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

Tim Darch – Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Ramblings from The Rectory

I suspect the question we are all asking is “when will this end?”

I believe in resurrection, that is why I do what I do! Resurrection is a message of hope. For all the talk of ‘blessing’ in the middle of lockdown, of taking time out to re-assess things and appreciating the beauty of the world, we know that people are suffering. Alongside the obvious health issues and the tragedy of people dying with or from this virus, people are taking a severe economic battering. I am well aware 

that there are those in our villages for whom the future looks bleak with little or no prospect of an immediate economic bounce-back. I am aware of that, yet I hold to the belief in resurrection, the belief in hope.

That has not removed serious thinking about the way forward for our churches. I have been agonising about what to do about money? The Church is one among many institutions whose income stream has been affected. Whatever ideas people have about the local church having access to untold funds (a view I have written to correct before) the fact remains that the local church can only continue because of the generosity of local people.

This is not however a plea for you to give, although I think the fact has to be stated about our ongoing financial reality alongside the struggles that others will also be facing.

Having to shut our church buildings was a bit dramatic I don't think church buildings have been closed like this for eight hundred years. The buildings might be shut, however the Church in so many ways remain open. If I am honest in a way I feel liberated by this as it has forced me to return to essentials, what really matters? We've never been in this situation before in any of our lifetimes. It raises questions about our vulnerability and our mortality. This leads to questions about God and eternity. In our culture we have more or less written God off. I hope, as I wrote last month that this will be a *Selah* moment, a pause for thought.

I have been grateful for technology. In no time at all we have all discovered Zoom, and we host an online 'live' service every week from the Rectory. The numbers 'attending' far exceed anything that we do on a Sunday in all of our buildings combined! I also ring people every week to keep in touch.

There is no question that things are going to return to anything like 'normal' in a hurry. It is too early to say what we will be doing when things begin to ease off. Even when we can open our churches and begin to have services in them, there will need to be 'social distancing' (how I have come to hate that phrase). I would also imagine that access to Zoom services will need to remain for quite some time.

I muse and ponder, and pray and think, with some worry I have to confess about the way forward. But personally at the heart of all of this is the question of what really matters as I try to stumble forward as a follower of Jesus. What really matters? I was reading the daily Psalm the other day and this spoke to me:

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord, And he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37: 3-4)

And anyway. I believe that after death, there is resurrection.

Simon

Margaret Webb

Margaret Webb was a marvellous positive person to have in your life. Cheery and energised, you would see her bowling down the village on her bicycle. She wore crochet tops and swing skirts that reflected her outgoing personality. She was immensely resilient - 'bullet proof' indeed - and a stalwart, perceptive friend.

Margaret's first marriage was to Jim who died of cancer. Margaret was 40 when she married Reginald Webb, then 42, in 1971. Nathan, their son, came along, and Margaret's granddaughter Rebecca was born to Nathan and Sue in 2004. After a long and happy marriage, Reg died in August 2004 and Margaret then had 16 years as a widow.

Margaret herself grew up in Malmesbury whereas the Webbs are a Great Milton family, Reg having been a blacksmith alongside his father. Margaret had 4 siblings, Bill, Ivor, Cathleen and Dorothy.

Margaret was both sociable and self-sufficient. She loved to go to the fete, and the Neighbours Club. At the fete, she won a cooking course at the Manoir which she thoroughly enjoyed. Earlier in life she loved caravan holidays and both she and Reg particularly loved Devon.

Margaret appeared to power through the event of having new knees. When her ability to take the bus down Cowley diminished, she was stoical. Those Cowley trips were taken often with May and Queenie Webb, her sisters-in-law, of whom she was very fond. I can also remember them all in the Old Vicarage garden on an occasion when my Mum got out her best tea-set, a mark of respect.

Margaret worked variously for the Slingsbys, the Yanagases, the Shutters and the Hoods, and brought a vibrant, positive energy into those homes. Margaret was a highly intelligent woman, and a witty funny one too. She was always curious to keep up with what was going on in the families she knew, as well as in the village at large, and would sometimes blindside you with an unexpected observation on your doings. She gave lovely gifts that showed how well she knew and understood you.

As Margaret's social life diminished, she told me she did not mind her own company. We admired her resilience. We imagine her well and happy, bowling along in heaven on her bicycle, and finding out the doings of the angels and the saints.

Dictynna Hood

Old Field

Villagers are enjoying the open space, wildlife and nature at Old Field - the paths are well marked with increased use, the pond is looking good and the hedgerow blossom has been beautiful this year. Take a walk up there yourself (top of Thame Road on the right) to enjoy this wildlife recreational area that belongs to the village.



Photo: Hazel Hand



Photo: Hazel Hand



Photo: Hazel Hand



Photo: Yvonne Cartwright

What's the story behind the photograph?

By Nick Belcher and Geoffrey Claydon

When was it taken?

To answer this question we set about researching old census records. It was a bit of a mystery at first but we knew it was taken around the turn of the last century. Pinning it down

to a year presented a challenge. A good source of information came from the Great Milton History Society booklet called 'Bells, Boilers and Beef'. In it there is an entry dated August and September 1902 recording the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

Imagine the scene in Great Milton. Festivities started in the village at 6.00 am with a choir singing the National Anthem on top of St Mary's tower. At 11.30 am villagers assembled on the village green and outside the Bull Inn before heading off to church. Activities continued and at 1.30 pm lunch was served in a large barn to 400 parishioners. Afterwards there were sporting events, a cricket match and festivities ended in the evening with a display of fireworks.

Below is a sepia photograph of the gathering outside the Bull Inn and it features the Stanton St John Brass Band with the Banners of Great Milton Friendly Society and Foresters.



Also, have a look at the brewery sign to the left of the photograph. Difficult to read but it looks like Wells of Wallingford. This was one of the oldest breweries in the northern part of the county, founded in 1720 by Edward Wells, and located in Wallingford High Street. The brewery lasted for over 200 years until acquisition by Ushers in 1928 with 77 houses.

So it seemed likely that the date of the photograph was 1902.

Hold on! - there is another possibility. It could be the year 1900 when the photograph was taken because many in the village celebrated the centenary. Following this line of enquiry led us to Mr Alfred Burrows who was a pioneering photographer in Great Milton around 1896. We have proof of this by way of an old photograph showing Alfred's business stamp on the back of it.

So we can speculate that as part of the 1900 centenary celebrations Alfred persuaded villagers to gather around the Bull Inn so he could take a photograph to mark the occasion. We think that's why everyone in the photograph is smartly dressed.

We cannot be one hundred percent sure whether the photograph was taken in 1900 for centenary celebrations or in 1902 for coronation festivities. Both stories are equally compelling.

Now let's move on because there was more to discover about the people in the photograph.



Who were these characters?

Identifying these characters has proved a difficult business. Thankfully, Geoffrey has shed some light on the matter. Geoffrey's family has lived in the village for generations and he spotted two fascinating family connections in the photograph.

You'll see the sign above the pub entrance naming Joseph Wilson as the licensed Victualler. We can assume Joseph and his family are standing in the entrance. It's unclear which lady is Joseph's wife but we do know that her name was Sarah.

Joseph's first wife, Mary Anne Wilson, died in 1894 and soon afterwards he married Sarah. Not a great surprise really because Sarah worked at the Bull Inn as a barmaid and got to know Joseph pretty well. Joseph and Sarah's marriage didn't last long because according to burial records he died in 1906 aged 61. How do we know this? Sarah is Sarah Claydon, Geoffrey's Great Aunt. That's the first connection.

Here is the second one. See the old man with an eye patch standing by his wife? His name was 'Shocky' Beckett and he knew Geoffrey Claydon's Great Grand Father, George. If you look carefully you can see him nervously fiddling with a waistcoat button.

There is a story behind why he was called Shocky. He was a farm labourer with a special skill of cutting corn by hand and bundling several sheaves together to form an upright bale called a Shock like this one below.

Usually a baling machine did this work but parts of the field would be inaccessible to it and that's when 'Shocky' came in. He would get his stick and cajole a few corn stems together, cut them at the base, tie them together to form sheaves and then place a few upright to form a shock ready to dry out. He was paid on a piece rate and Geoffrey reckons he would be paid by



the 'Chain', roughly the size of a cricket pitch. Just in case you didn't know, a chain is 4 rods, there are 10 chains in a furlong, and 80 chains in one statute mile. An acre is the area of 10 square chains.

By all accounts Shocky was quite a character and he loved a pint or two after a hard days work. According to Geoffrey's Great Grand Father he was renowned for his pub crawls in the village. His first stop would be the Bell, then onwards to the Red Lion and finally to the Bull Inn. This is where he would often enjoy a few too many pints of beer and rely on his mates to carry him home.

Bringing the photograph to life

In those days photography was a new technology, so you can imagine that taking a photograph in the village would cause quite a stir. We know for sure that around 1900 Alfred Burrows took several photographs and some can be seen in the Bull Inn or in the archives of the Great Milton History Society. Alfred was a Great Milton man and the son of the Saddlery store opposite the Bull Inn.

As you can see the original photograph below was in poor shape and needed sprucing up.

It was a sepia print and over exposed in many areas especially around the children. Nick retouched it to reduce highlights, lift shadows and sharpen faces. He added a gentle colour wash to clothing, which brought life to the picture in a subtle way.

In addition to the group shot at the top of the page I also produced four close ups of each group of people revealing more detail in their faces. (See below). Through their expressions I can glimpse what they might be thinking. I hope you can too.

It's been a privilege to work on Alfred's photographs, they are a wonderful record of past times in Great Milton. I hope that if he was alive today he would see that his revived photographs encourages more people to look at them.



Christian Aid Week 2020 May 10th -16th

Due to the Coronavirus all door to door collections were cancelled this year, but we had already hosted two Lent lunches and I received some additional contributions so the total raised this year is £488.75, which includes £68.75 in Gift Aided contributions. When I spoke to the staff and Christian Aid H.Q. in London they had received £1.1 million in donations as at 19-5-20, so the final total will be higher than this figure this year.

Thankyou to everyone who contributed online via the website or by telephone following the details printed in the May Newsletter and Bulletins and also to the prospective collectors, including our newest recruits!

You can still contribute if you have not already had a chance to do so, via the Christian Aid website on:

www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation

or by telephoning 010 7523 2269.

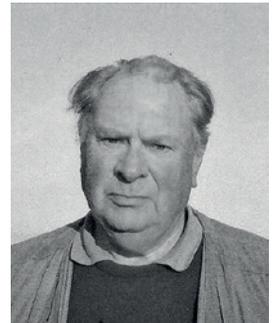
S.A. Dennis

View from Views

“Oak before the Ash we’re in for a splash”. Still the dry weather continues! And this saying may well be proved right.

What a shame we were unable to celebrate VE day such a momentous occasion for those of use who can remember it I have a few memories, I thought I would bore you with some. Being a youngish boy at the time, the one thing I actually remember of the day was, (being then as now keen on motor cars) was being taken to the local bonfire in a ROLLS ROYCE! To have the war over was a feeling of great relief, I can remember always being in a state of fear of those horrible Germans. This was quite different to our current position as we were free to come and go, but of course food was very short. Some of my other recollections far too many to mention here; I could not believe what the papers would have to write about now it was all over, having German POWs working on the farm and being normal human beings and actually quite nice people, watching the bombers landing at Harwell when passing on the A34, plus the continual sound of aeroplanes in the sky, buses with wooden seats, going down to our cellar as an air aid shelter, and of course at the start of the war gasmasks.

During these strange times agriculture and nature continue unabated, and as



farmers we have to keep abreast of all this come what may, otherwise we would all starve. Our Winter wheat continues to look very promising, although on the whole I think growth is somewhat slow this year, I think this is a quirk of this year as generally growth in all areas is slow. The Oil Seed Rape that I was in despair of has suddenly come to life with phenomenal growth it will never be a decent crop but certainly a good deal better than I was predicting last month. The spring Barley that we planted under dubious conditions was a little slow to start off with but now it's roots seem to have got down to where the real moisture is beginning to grow well. Who would have thought the ground could be so dry after such a wet winter, the problem now is that it is very dry and hard on the top and wet down-under, I also think the ground is still cold, causing this slow growth

We saw our first Swallows on the 18th April and heard the first Cuckoo on the 2nd May. I think everyone will have noticed how clear the air is, in spite of Agriculture continuing as in a normal year, this would suggest to me that the pollution attributed to Agriculture is as a well-known leader would say "Fake News", or dare I say it a chance to have a go at Farmers! What is distressing is that with very little traffic about at the moment, the fact we still seem to be picking up litter. The other day when I saw some and bent down to pick it up it occurred to me no, it may be infected so left it until I had protection, when I did I found that it was wrapping that had contained a take away meal of some sort, presumably a wild animal had carried it to where it was. This made me think if the virus came from animals in the first place, surely it could infect wildlife, just shows how careful we need to be

It is easy from an armchair to criticize the Government for the measures they have put in place to keep us safe, whatever they had done would have been wrong in some eyes. However there are a few questions that I would like to know the answers to; why could the testing not been carried out by our own GP's surgeries? why have we never enforced a 2 week quarantine for anyone entering the country from early February as we did for the cruise liners? why do we as a rich country have to rely on other less well-off countries to supply us with PPE? (is this really the Governments responsibility) and why are there reports of companies in this country offering to make them not being approached? Now we are going back to work albeit slowly and advised not to use public transport perhaps we do not need HS2 or the third runway at Heathrow, and give more money to the NHS. Also we pride ourselves in, and often we are, better informed and able to cope with situations why is it we were not prepared for this when there was plenty of warning.

It will not be long before our floristically enhanced grass margins will hopefully be bearing fruit and we will have a show of wild flowers that is if the Rabbits, 

and humans leave them alone. I will explain this winter and spring there seems to be a sudden expansion of the rabbit population, in the last 5 to 10 years they have not been a problem but if this situation continues we will be overrun with them again, they are beginning to do some damage. I mention humans as I am distressed to see that my plea footpath between Great Milton and the Cuddesdon turn, asking walkers to keep to the mown grass close to the hedge, to allow the flowers to flourish, seems to have been ignored. We are trying to do our bit for the environment it is rather distressing to find others not caring.

Stay Well & Alert

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

Last month we had a very successful online Zoom WI meeting to get together and make face-masks. It was lovely to catch up with everyone and a few of us even did some sewing.

Our next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 11th June at 730pm. Let me know if you'd like to join us and I'll send you the joining instructions. The clap for key-workers is at 8pm so some may pop out for 2mins at 8pm or we can clap together online!

In light of the Corona virus pandemic, all physical WI meetings have been postponed until further notice. Look after yourselves and each other in this difficult time. Please phone, email or join us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat or need help.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

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

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The lockdown continues, but the garden centres are starting to open, albeit with safe distancing. The weather has been overall very kind to us and, as I write, the heat is building again and the good weather looks set to continue next week when home

schooling takes a break for the half term.

While many plants such as roses and irises are well ahead of usual, the recent frosts which were quite severe and have damaged a lot of plants, most noticeably newly opened tree leaves. Our neighbours have a beautiful beech hedge which was caught just fully opened and the top is badly frosted. Hopefully, it will not be too long before new growth covers the damage. The most noticeable smaller plant to succumb to the frost is *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* which has had all its leaves turned to brown mush; this is something I have never seen before. A few years ago, we moved a piece from its sheltered home to a much more exposed site and we have paid the price. This plant is hardy and has beautiful blue flowers in the autumn and the leaves turn red as temperatures drop so I am hopeful it will grow new stems and leaves soon. It is always tempting in mid-May, when the weather is good, to start to plant out greenhouse-grown plants and seedlings, but it is usually best to wait until early June with the more tender plants such as French bean seedlings. We have been tempted on too many occasions to plant them out in May and have had them killed by frost. We now do not even put a bean seed in the ground outside before 1st June and this means that the plants establish more quickly without the setback of resowing.

However, I am now going to start moving plants outside the greenhouse during the day, returning them at night before the temperature starts to drop. If you repeat this for about 10 days, most plants are good to go outside for the summer. If plants get too cold, they are 'shocked' and simply stop growing. I have done that too many times to count! If you do not have enough space in your greenhouse, then putting plants alongside the house and covering in horticultural fleece is generally successful. My sister lives in Dundee and is still fleecing greenhouse plants and seedlings even within her greenhouse if frost is forecast and will not be planting out until well into June. The season in the North of Scotland is much shorter, but much more intense so Scotland is a wonderful place to visit gardens in the summer (preferably on the east coast if, like me, you are sensitive to midge bites!).

in the man-greenhouse, the tomatoes have two trusses of fruit set, there are tiny beans on the climbing French beans and the cucumbers are progressing well. Outside on the veg plot, the potatoes were saved from frost by some judicious use of shading net, while potato plants appearing where potatoes were accidentally left in last year, were cut to the ground. The best way to protect potato plants is to earth them up so soil covers the growth, but we didn't have time to do that. We have failed totally to germinate any basil seed from several sowings so I will need to buy new seed; the seed we used has been going for a good few years now so I think it is dead. I am very pleased with the success of the *Tithonia* seedlings (a beautiful orange daisy 

from Mexico usually seen in a local garden and enjoyed by me every time I drive past – thank you!), but the Cosmos is a total failure. All in all, I would say I have far more success from cuttings than seed. I think part of it is that my greenhouse is in full sun, but maybe I am not careful enough with seed! I really don't know. The important thing is to keep trying.

Liz Moyses

Wheatley Library Newsletter

To discover the extraordinary online materials offered by the library service go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Scroll down and select

“More Libraries”

To fully appreciate everything on offer you need to be a library member but that is a simple online form and you will receive your borrower number via email within 3 working days. The link to join is on the same page.

Digital Offers

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There are over 20 000 ebooks and over 3500 eAudio books available to borrow.

News, magazines and research

Here is just a small sample of the over 6000 publications available through the library subscription

Newspapers: Metro, the Sun, Daily Mail, Evening Standard, Daily Mirror, The Times (from Newsbank), The Daily Telegraph, Daily Express, I, Financial Times, The Guardian.

Magazines: Good Housekeeping, OK!, Stylist, The Week, TV Times, The People's Friend, Woman's Own, Cosmopolitan, New Scientist, Wired UK, Woman's Health, Men's Health, Amateur Photography

Music streaming service Naxos Music Library

Access to over 2 million tracks (more than 150,538 discs) of classical music with an exceptionally wide range of standard and rare repertoire – content from over 940 labels (major and independent).

Summer Reading Challenge 2020 ‘Silly Squad’

The annual Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 years old is on the horizon and it's going to be different! It's going online this year and the plan is to extend the length of the Summer Reading Challenge by a few weeks either side of the

usual school holiday but dates are yet to be confirmed.

The 2020 theme is 'Silly Squad': a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter, featuring artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson.

We're posting more and more on Facebook and Twitter where we host book discussions every Thursday, a regular nursery rhyme spot and you can even puzzle over our #MixUpMonday anagrams.

Website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Facebook: Oxfordshire Libraries

Facebook: Friends of Wheatley Library

Twitter: @oxonlibraries

Recycling Centres Open on 18 May for Essential Use

Oxfordshire County Council will re-open Household Waste Recycling Centres on 18 May, for essential use. Essential use means waste that cannot be stored at home, or would cause harm to health if stored.

There will be new site rules to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents and site staff. This includes reducing opening hours to 8am – 4pm to allow for cleaning, limiting the number and size of vehicles coming in and contactless payments only.

Queues are likely, so if it can wait, please do. If it's waste that can be disposed of legally and responsibly in another way, such as weekly kerbside collections or district council collection services, please do that.

Full information about the changes to recycling centre rules can be found on their website - www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions

John Howell MP writes...

A few weeks ago Ministers were working flat out to bring forward measures to try to keep us all safe and to help people in the very many different situations faced with the onset of COVID-19 in the UK. The initial raft of measures was a blunt instrument which had to be refined to meet ever more detailed concerns that had fallen through the net. The Chancellor acknowledged that, in the end, there may be some people we would not be able to help, so many and varied are the lifestyles and circumstances of people across our country.

Whilst it seems that the media have worked harder than ever to try to find holes in what the Government has done there has been a general cross-Party consensus on the actions as the Prime Minister has worked to keep an open dialogue.

Now the challenge is to chart our recovery strategy, and this will almost certainly be much harder than setting out the survival measures. If I simply take my own correspondence as a measure, I know that people are either afraid or frustrated; some people feel both. The Government is working hard to be guided by the science but inevitably there are conflicting scientific reports. Across the world there are different studies and, of course, variations in the different national demographics, cultures and overall health have to be taken into account when interpreting findings.

We now have the benefit of hindsight on which we can build and with which many criticise. It is easy to be wise after the event. As we try to move forward there are those who would prefer us to slow down and those who would like us to speed up. There are those fearful for their physical health, those fearful for their mental health, those fearful for their livelihoods and so much more. No strategy is going to satisfy everyone, and I await the inevitable attack on our Prime Minister and other Government Ministers.

The Prime Minister has set out a general direction of travel, the stages through which we might move and the precautions that we will take. As before it will take time to refine the details and help us all to return to our new normal. The experience has inevitably led to questions about our previous ways of doing things, in our national life and in our personal lives. There will be debates about how we can learn from the experience, there may be permanent changes, and doubtless there will be a raft of PhDs gained from research into this situation.

Technology has been invaluable in helping us through. It has enabled us to maintain some sort of contact with our family and friends, it has helped us in education and in business, it has helped us in Parliament to find new ways to hold the Government to account and to pursue enquiries. But we are social beings and the one thing so many people tell me they long for is the opportunity to meet face to face again. Our non-verbal behaviour is such an important part of our communications and it is just not possible to read the nuances as clearly online.

As we move forward together we will have different strongly held views and our needs may be very different. None of us can really know the toll that this situation has taken on the other so I hope that we can show a generosity of understanding.

Parliament is already picking up the agenda on other Bills making their way through the system. As always I welcome the views of constituents on the various topics and issues before us. Whether on a topic due to come before the House or something else, if you have an issue that you would like to raise with me please email me at

john.howell.mp@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.

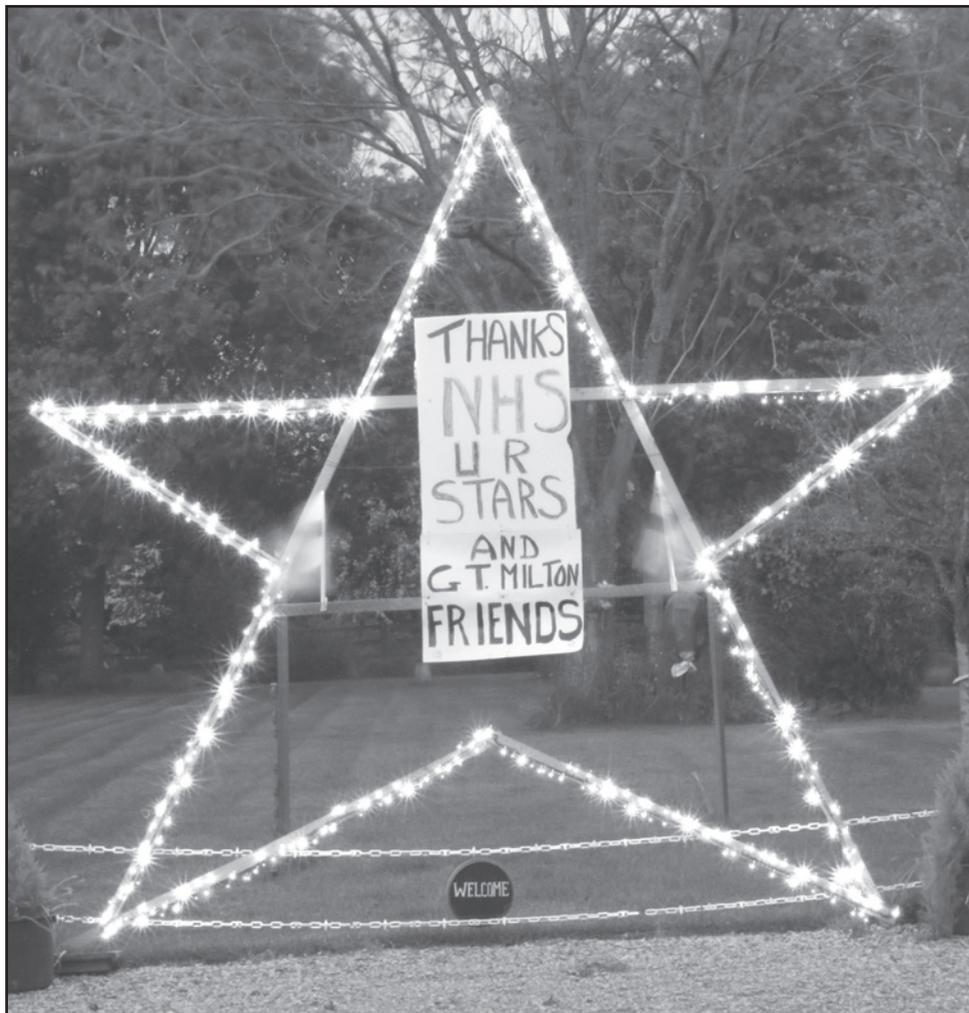


Photo: Manny Stone

Full-Fibre Broadband for Rural Communities Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme



The Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme is available to residents and business in rural areas and offers voucher values of £3,500 for SMEs and £1,500 for residential premises. Please see the link below to access the full details and conditions.

In summary, these vouchers can be used when the location is **rural** and the existing **available speed is below 100Mb/s**.

The online tool automatically determines if the postcode entered qualifies for the rural voucher scheme. **An application may only be made when there is more than one premise listed in the application.**



The voucher scheme is funded by the DCMS Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme.

For further information regarding the Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme, please visit:

'Broadband for Rural Communities'
<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural>

To find out if you are eligible, use the postcode search on the website (<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural>), which will advise of your eligibility; list suppliers that are active in your area and guide you through the process.

Full-fibre broadband is a fibre-optic cable directly to your premise from the telephone exchange, which is future proof and will offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available of 1 gigabit; that's the same as 1,000 megabits!

Please contact the Digital Infrastructure Team should you have any further questions about the scheme: broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

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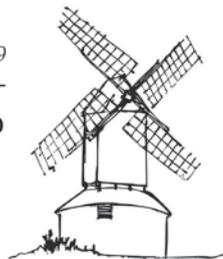
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Sadly, the Gardens, Teashop, Gallery, Museum, House and Gift-barn all remain closed, in line with official guidance. Keep an eye on our website for further updates.

We hope to see you again very soon!

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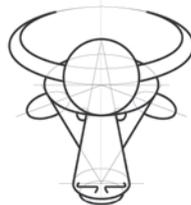
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JONNY@ORODRUI.CO.UK

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
- Thursday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
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*

June

- Sat 13th The Queen's Official Birthday
- Mon 15th Parish Council Virtual Meeting 7:30pm
- Fri 19th Wallace & Gromit's Wrong Trousers Day (it's true!)
- Sat 20th The Longest Day
- Sun 21st Father's Day
- Mon 22nd Windrush Day
- Wed 24th Midsummer Day

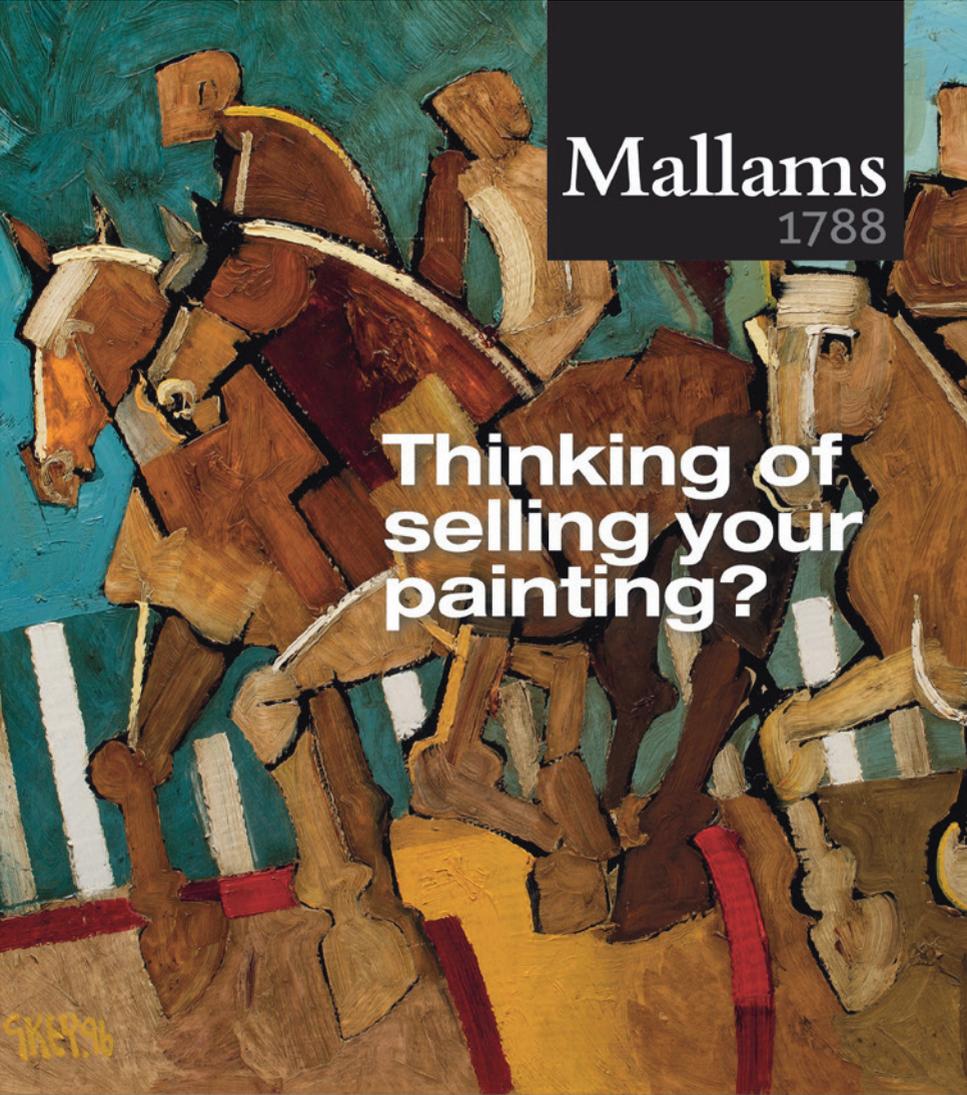
All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th June 2020**.

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

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

01844 278347 • contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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