

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2020

Published by the Parish Council

No. 552



## **Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme**

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

## **Great Milton Parish Council**

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **Parish Council Representatives**

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

Front cover: Tea at the opening of the Neighbours Hall.  
*Photo: Nick Belcher.*

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

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

### Services

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

### Local information

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

Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

### Transport

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

## **In My Opinion... (Special Edition)!**

We are certainly living in interesting times. Unprecedented in fact, not least in the unprecedented use of the word unprecedented!

It has been heart-warming though to see the response forthcoming from local residents and I take this opportunity to express thanks on behalf of all residents for the initiatives undertaken, especially by Laura Putt with her “Vulnerables’ Packs”, and of course to all those who have volunteered to join the Great Milton Against Coronavirus (GMAC) group. This has been championed magnificently by Jane Jefferis and put into operation by her and Tim Darch who have gone above and beyond expectations in making this happen. In my opinion, a great example of community spirit.

I also need to show our gratitude to Ankit and Vinay for keeping the pub going to the last minute and then keeping it open for take-aways. Although the latest news is that they will have to shut completely, I have it on good authority that planning rules have been modified to allow pubs to operate as take-aways for the next 12 months and these regulations will have been announced by the time you read this, so we hope the Bull Take-Away can continue to provide us with good food during these times.

I am sure we will face many weeks of trying times ahead but I am also sure we will come through it all.

And remember, don't let apathy rule and **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!**

*Steve Harrod, Chairman*

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## **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](http://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

or concerns, whether related to Coronavirus or other matters. Any necessary updates will be relayed via the Parish Council website ([www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)) or via noticeboards.

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

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## **Draft Parish Notes – March 2020**

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th March were Cllr Steve Harrod (Chairman), Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chairman) and C Deacon plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and three members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs G Bennet, M Horsley, P Fewell and P Allen, and Cllr Caroline Newton.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February 2020 were received and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Discussion of items 41/20 and 45/20 was brought forward for the convenience of members of the public who had attended the meeting.

Councillor Deacon declared an interest in Item 36/20, and specifically planning application P20/S0578/FUL (6 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY) as it relates to his own property.

The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly updates were received by the meeting and can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

### **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

An e-mail has been received from a member of the public supporting various initiatives to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the parish, including the suggested footpath along Sworford Lane, making Sworford Lane one-way with one carriageway devoted to pedestrians and cycling (as put to OCC last month), traffic calming on Sworford Lane and a 20mph limit in the village. This communication was considered as part of Item 41/20.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered.

P20/S0598/HH and P20/S0599/LB (1 Monkerly Farm, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PB). Removal of geodesic dome, replacement with car port/store with study in roof. After consultation with neighbours no strong objections were received to this proposal, and it was AGREED that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.

P20/S0773/LB (Monkerly Barn, 1 Monkerly Farm, Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB). Concealment of an opening on the south boundary wall with obscure fixed glass. After consultation with neighbours no strong objections were received to this proposal, and it was AGREED that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.



P20/S0578/FUL (6 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY). New detached dwelling on infill plot next to 6 Thame Road.

Detailed discussions on this application were not possible given insufficient numbers of councillors subsequent to Cllr Deacon's withdrawal.

The following planning decisions received were considered.

P19/S4694/FUL (11, Ashurst Court, London Road Wheatley OX33 1ER). Alterations to building to provide meeting room. Planning permission is GRANTED for the proposed development.

P19/S4092/HH and P19/S4093/LB (Creeper Cottage Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB). Remove existing bay window to rear elevation and replace with oak framed single storey extension with hipped tile roof. New single storey extension to extend existing entrance area and provide new WC facility - remove existing internal flat roof area. (as amended by drawings received 10th February, to reduce the depth and height of the rear garden room). Planning permission is GRANTED for the proposed development.

Planning application for small power generation facility at Wheatley

Planning permission has been granted for a small power generation facility in Wheatley, close to the M40 near to Wheatley Farm Stores. Concerns about lack of consultation or with Great Milton Parish Council (the parish boundary is at Wheatley Bridge) and the risk of this decision setting a precedent for the ongoing application at Lobb Farm have been expressed to SODC, but in response reassurances have been received to the effect that the significant differences in scale and location mean that the two applications are not comparable and will be evaluated on their own merits.

### **Financial Resolutions**

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £434.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £264.50

OALC membership 2020-21. £153.26

PCC annual grass cutting grant 2020-21. £600

ICO data protection fee 2020-21. £40

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were all received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 March was £27,275.88.

### **Other matters**

An update will be sought from the school on the success or otherwise of the parking trial in time for the April meeting. Initial reports are that at least one parent is making use of one of the driveways that have been offered for use.

Cllr Bennet's suggestion to make Sworford Lane one-way in the Wheatley direction,



with the Wheatley-Great Milton carriageway dedicated to pedestrian and cycle use, has been put to Oxfordshire County Council for their feedback. OCC has raised several concerns about the proposal, including whether there is the required road width for a two-way pedestrian/cycle facility while still accommodating larger vehicles on the vehicle carriageway, how segregation would be safely managed (white lines possibly insufficient, white blocks or other more 'invasive' methods possibly not suitable for an unlit road), one-way roads encouraging higher vehicle speeds, along with concerns over management of displaced traffic, length of required diversions and the cost and practicality of modelling the proposal.

A member of the public stated that although a path along Sworford Lane may be too costly, a 20mph limit in the village may be an option, especially in conjunction with a 30mph limit on Sworford Lane. Cllr Harrod stated that an issue with regular excess speeds above 30mph in the village would need to be proven: on Sworford Lane this would need to be proven above 60mph. Cllr Harrod agreed that the formal path idea is too costly to pursue, but that an informal path may be possible if local landowners are happy to mow a strip on the edge of their fields: the member of the public offered to approach landowners to assess their willingness to create permissive paths on their land where they don't already exist alongside Sworford Lane.

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) began serving Great Milton village on Monday 24 February. Initial uptake has been encouraging and positive feedback has been received, but steady usage is required to ensure the viability of the diversion and hopefully encourage enhanced provision.

The litter pick has been confirmed for 10am on Saturday 11 April, to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' event. Please meet outside The Old Garage, where equipment will be distributed: if the event is to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, updates will be transmitted via the village website.

### **Donation requests**

Donation requests were considered from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice, which reportedly advised 47 Great Milton residents in 2018-19, Home Start Southern Oxfordshire, which supports vulnerable families with a child under 5 across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and Cleanslate, which provides long-term emotional support for survivors of abuse in Oxfordshire and aims to encourage individuals to explore their own mental health needs and adopt coping strategies for long term recovery. It was agreed to donate £100 to OSAVCA given its proven benefit to a significant number of Great Milton residents, £50 to Home Start and £50 to Cleanslate.

### **Coronavirus update**

It has been suggested that a means for people to be supported during the current

Coronavirus outbreak should be explored. A database of vulnerable people already exists: this is currently being updated, and it was suggested that the ‘Viral Kindness’ form recently publicised in the national press may be a good device by which to offer assistance. A piece seeking volunteers and explaining the proposed scheme will appear in the April Bulletin.

Procedural amendments are being suggested by local government ‘trade bodies’ at county and national level to ensure that parish council business can carry on when limited numbers of available councillors may ordinarily mean that meetings are not ‘quorate’, and therefore cannot take place. These amendments will mean that essential functions can continue, even without meetings if they are impractical or such gatherings are suspended. The Parish Council will ensure that its statutory duties are fulfilled but the current circumstances may mean that prioritisation is necessary. Any significant changes will be communicated to residents via the usual channels.

It now appears likely that any village events that would have been scheduled for the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th May to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day will not take place.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20 April starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The Annual Parish Meeting is also currently scheduled for this date: this may be rescheduled depending on advice received.

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

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## **Services in Our Benefice**

All services at both St. Mary’s and the Methodist Chapel have been cancelled until further notice.

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## **Easter Story and Activities Morning**

It was with a heavy heart that we decided to cancel this event as we have had so much interest in the morning by both our ‘oldies’ and new folk. Indeed we were fully booked! We will be back with another morning at a later future date. Thank you, everyone, for your interest in, and appreciation of, our Story and Activity Mornings.

*S.A. Dennis, L. Arnold and L. McCaig*



## Ramblings from The Rectory

I have just returned from a 48 hour 'retreat' in Launde Abbey on the Rutland Leicestershire border. It is a beautiful place in a part of the country I do not know at all.

Although the setting is new to me the event is not, an annual get together with two clergy colleagues I trained with.

This year of course things took a dramatically different turn. Were we to have come away a day later we probably would not have done so. We all spent a good deal time emailing and catching up with the latest developments.

I have come home to a changed world it seems, even that 48 hours has made a difference. I called into Asda, fat chance of getting things we actually need although I was able to buy a bottle of gin!!! Last week it was looking bad, now it had got a whole lot worse. I had a brief chat with a member of staff in front of a totally empty milk section and asked if there were any restrictions yet in place? He told me that there are but it seems that some customers are stocking up with what they are allowed and then coming back again later to do the same thing all over again. I thanked him for all he was doing. He beamed. Do that please, thank those who are trying to keep things running. There are shocking stories of staff in supermarkets at the end of abuse from self interested customers. We talk about the Blitz spirit. on the way to Launde I heard that during that terrible time, despite many people coming together there was a darker side, blitzed houses were looted and jewelry was taken from dead bodies. There will always be a nasty self interested element that emerges at a time of crisis.

But I also came home to another story, the villages organising themselves to make sure all are looked after. In one essential way this is not the blitz spirit, The blitz spirit is about bringing people together, now we are being urged to stay apart. We need to be so mindful of that especially for our most lonely and vulnerable and also for our small businesses, our pubs, shops and of course potentially our schools.

We will do all we can in the Churches of course and we now need to update a plan which was put together only last week but is now out of date! Things have now moved on and we have been told to have no more services until further notices, that I am afraid will include Easter. We will make sure that there is continued contact among our congregations and I will put out a weekly 'homily' based on one of our Sunday readings and some prayers perhaps for people to use.

We are allowed to have funerals and weddings, but I am afraid with only a few people in attendance. We have to find out what this will mean for the reading of Banns. I am also afraid that I think for the foreseeable future a baptism is likely to involve only the immediate family. The essential thing for the moment is not to panic.



We will keep people updated of course by any means we can as well as the village publications which I hope will remain.

Here are a couple of prayers which hopefully might help.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
Amen.

*Simon • 01844 278349 • [simon.cronk@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.cronk@btinternet.com)*

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## **Great Milton Bellringers**

*Excerpt from Odd Bob, the newsletter of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers November 2019*

'Sadly, Graham Griffiths from Great Milton Tower passed away in July. Graham began ringing in Great Milton in 1995 and was a founder member of the present band. For the past few years he has been their Tower Captain. Graham was a master at repairing anything mechanical – Little Milton's clock is certainly missing him! He was also the Webmaster for the South Oxon Branch, keeping information bang up

to date. Graham was a whizz with technology, and loved helping everyone with their computers if they had a problem - or even if they did not! Graham is greatly missed by all who rang with him. JW'

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## COVID-19 Parish Support Programme

In the past week or so, there have been many offers of support and good ideas for helping each other during this unprecedented time of uncertainty.

One of these initiatives that you may have seen or heard of is the Kindness Card system. We are adopting this for our Parish and have built up a group of volunteers who will fill out one of these cards and drop it through the letterboxes of their allocated group of houses to advertise their availability to help out. We want to use the Parish Wards as areas and have two people responsible for each of these, with both their names and contact details going on the cards.

**Hello!**    **If you are self-isolating, we can help**

We are your local support team:

.....

We live at: .....

.....

Our phone numbers are: .....

.....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, we can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text one of us and we'll do our best to help you (for free!)  
Coronavirus is contagious so please take every precaution to spread only kindness. Avoid physical contact – keep 2 metres apart. Wash hands regularly. Items will be left on your doorstep.  
This initiative is supported by Great Milton Parish Council

To make this work we need lots of help so if you have not already registered with Jane Jefferis by email, please do so at [janejefferis@btinternet.com](mailto:janejefferis@btinternet.com) and we will be in touch shortly to make arrangements.

Many thanks and don't let apathy get in the way!

*Steve Harrod*

*Chairman*

*Great Milton Parish Council*

# 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.

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## Senior Citizens Annual Party

Scheduled for 18th April.

This event has been postponed.

Hopefully the situation will improve to allow it to be held in late September or early October.

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## Great Milton History




Due to the pandemic there will be no talk on April 22nd. It is hoped that we can re-arrange for the Autumn.

The usual Wednesday meetings in the History/Community Room will also be suspended until further notice.

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## Little Milton WI

In March, we had our AGM followed by a fun game of Scattergories. Thank you to Jane & Lucinda for organising the entertainment and to Cathy for a thorough report as outgoing secretary. Well done to Helen who won the canapé competition. 

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In light of the Corona virus pandemic, all future WI meetings have been postponed until further notice. Look after yourselves and each other in this difficult time. Please phone or email 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, get out the house, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet on the 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/Impinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge)

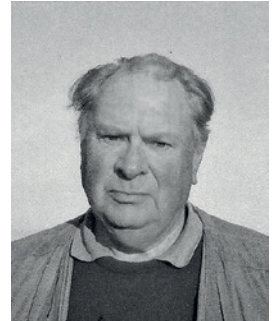
Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 279438 or email [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## View From Views

I would imagine everyone reading this will expect me to mention the weather, so I will not disappoint. It is said that February 2020 was the wettest on record. Well interestingly enough I recorded less rain than I did in 2014, (99.5 mm this year and 163 mm in 2014 add to this from September 2013 to March 2014 I recorded 715 mm during the same period this season I recorded 594 mm) so why is everywhere so wet.



This is very interesting as I have never seen the land so wet before, nor has the road at Cuddesdon Mill been practically impassable more than about 3 or 4 times in the 46 years we have been at Views Farm. This year it has been thus 4 or 5 times so far. Could it possibly be caused by new housing and general development?

As for wild life we seem to have a resident raptor that I cannot identify about the size of a buzzard, white head and undercarriage and white feathery leggings, rest is buzzard colour. Walking one of our wetter fields the other day I put up what I thought to be a Snipe, not unusual with the land in a soggy state, then after a while they appeared to have formed a flock. This led me to think they were Golden Plovers, which used to frequent this particular field on a regular basis, but have not seen them for about 10-15 years. I have also seen what I am sure was another raptor, mainly black with a call a cross between crow & and a kite, smaller & finer than a Buzzard. If anyone can throw any light on these birds please let me know, or even come and look.


As I have mentioned many times before we are likely to be paid for Public Goods, which on the face of it seems to make sense. There has been a suggestion that though



this could be swallowed up by non-farmers, as under the Agriculture bill, a whole range of land managers like the forestry commission, water companies, research institutes, absentee landlords, pension funds, as the main focus of the bill is this delivery of Public Goods, and directed at the land not necessarily

the farmer. There is no mention of the production of food locally or the importance of producing as much as possible (within reason) as I have mentioned many times before, who knows what might happen globally, leaving us without a continual supply of food, the virus is now causing those in authority to question our food supply. Those of us that have lived through the war will know what food rationing is all about, and we forget this at our peril.

I don't want to bore readers yet again about Veganism, but as it has such an important effect on Farming I feel I must just report on a comment made by Minette Batters President of the NFU, at the recent NFU annual conference. She said that comments by Vegan organisations, and celebrities, is not only having an effect on farming businesses, but seriously affecting the mental health of some farmers. Making the point that we are all human beings and this sort of pressure is as unfair as it is of any other form of communication, like social media that we hear so much about. Recently there have been reports by eminent scientists, stating that a plant based diet is not that healthy, and that processed vegan food could be less healthy than processed natural food, and that Vegans were deluding themselves believing it to be a healthy option. Added to this that where saving the planet is concerned, the Vegan demand is just as bad as any other form of food production; our demand for food is the problem and that is down to the problem of overpopulation worldwide.

I thought we lived in a democracy. Recent "Oxford Times" headlines: "Government overrules the council over housing cuts", "Plans for quarry will be scar on the landscape", "Protected trees felled by builders". All these indicate we have to do as government say. SODC was elected on a mandate to alter the local plan, as all this housing is 



deemed necessary, this means of course we will need gravel, and then if trees are in the way of this development they must go. Where trees are concerned you only have to see the destruction that HS2 is causing to them and no matter what we the public feel it all has to go ahead.

The latest Newsletter from the River Thame Conservation Trust is now out <https://riverthame.org/winter-newsletter-19-20> makes a good and interesting read & I would recommend it to all readers.

*Charles Peers*

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## **Dear Editor**

I was surprised to see Charles Peers' articles in the last two magazines and his references to the SODC Local Plan as we discussed this at a recent meeting I held with him and other farmers. As someone who knows and understand the planning system, I was asked by councillors for my advice on this issue. My advice was the same as that given by both the Council's own officers and by officials from the Ministry of Housing. It was that the Council should continue with the Examination-in-public before a Planning Inspector and submit recommendations to him to change the Plan in a way which would reflect their ambitions and make it more 'sound'. It was because they originally refused to do this the Secretary of State approached the County Council to take on this task. It is important not to simply delay the Plan as this would put the whole District at risk of unplanned development. As SODC has now agreed to progress the Plan the Council retains its planning powers. If the intention was to withdraw the Plan at the time of the election it would have been better to have said so explicitly and for residents to have had the chance to understand the implications of such action. You may have noticed that the same approach has also been taken by the Secretary of State with regard to the London Plan.

Best wishes

*John Howell MP*

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## **The Maple Tree**

**Hayley Hayle - Coordinator**

At the time of writing, The Maple Tree are currently running the regular weekly programme, but we appreciate that this may be subject to sudden change. We do

suggest that you check with us that the session is still going ahead before setting out. You can find information on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley>, by subscribing to our Mail Chimp service (email [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk) to register), by emailing [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk) or by checking our brand new website <http://www.mapletree.org.uk/>.

We would like to reassure our users that we are taking this situation very seriously and are following all relevant advice from Public Health, NHS and the Government. Cleaning is taking place on a very regular basis, including the sterilisation of all cups after every session, and regularly wiping down doors and hard surfaces. We do respectfully request that you DO NOT come to the Maple Tree if either you or your child is showing any signs of illness.

### **Session donations**

As we need to raise £60,000 this year to run the Maple Tree, the trustees and staff have been looking hard at how to achieve this. In January we posted a survey asking for views about the level of donation that we ask you to make when you come to a session at the Maple Tree. Currently we ask for a £2 voluntary donation which adds up to about £4,500 a year. We had fifty responses and have used these as the basis for making the following changes from 1st April:

Families will be asked to make a donation of £2.50 if they are able to do so, and to donate more if they can.

Visitors to the centre who are being paid to look after the children that they bring will be asked to pay £2 for each child.

We would like to be clear that no family will be excluded or stigmatised for not paying. We do have the facility for card payments and also for payment by standing order, please ask for more information.

It is anticipated that this increase will raise an additional £1,000 per year.


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

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

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## **Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society**

How different the world is this year with all the norms gone out of the window. It would seem anyone with even a passing interest in gardening is seeing the 

requirement for social distancing as an opportunity to get their garden straight. I feel very blessed to have outside space in which to exercise. It would seem that gardens will look wonderful this year when, sadly there will be no one to see them.

The very wet winter means that quite a bit of our garden is wet and is only this week starting to dry out. The endless wet weather means that the weed growth is spectacular and I have to get it under control while I can still see most of the plants!

My other half has been mending raised beds in the vegetable garden and seed sowing has commenced this week as we feel we must grow as much as we can deal with. If we are growing some fruit and vegetables then there will be more in the shops for other people even if only on a tiny scale.

This week I have been cutting back and repotting plants that have been overwintering in the greenhouse. I am also potting up begonias, dahlias and zantedeschia also in the greenhouse. Outside the greenhouse, I already have quite a lot of plants ready for the church fete and wonder what I will do with them if it is cancelled. It is hard living with uncertainty about absolutely everything, but, I guess, we will all get used to it.

It is time to get ahead on weeding and finish the cutting back perennials and those shrubs requiring pruning now. We have discovered two packs of Anemone coronaria which have not been planted in the autumn as planned. These are lovely, bright showy flowering tubers and I will soak them overnight before getting them in the ground; they should flower about 12 weeks after planting which I will look forward to. I would also plant any other spring flowering bulbs you may have overlooked as long as they have remained firm. I have succeeded with daffodils in this way. There were no flowers the year I put them in, but plenty the next year. I think tulips would be less successful, but I always like to try.

Take the time to enjoy all the new growth this spring while you have time. Look out for wildlife. We have twice this winter seen large herds of deer in the meadow, numbering around 20 or more. They are particularly fond of roses when they get in the garden, but they do not seem to like thistles and nettles! National trust gardens and grounds are open for free so well worth a visit if you need exercise. Check on the website first for details.

*Liz Moses*

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## **News from The Pine Lodge**

The Village hall is remaining open until further notice. We are monitoring the situation daily and this could change at any time.

However please be aware that many organizers of events have cancelled their activities so please check directly with them. Those who bought tickets for the Quiz night that was scheduled for 21st March will be given a refund at the village shop.

If you use the hall it remains your responsibility to ensure the safety of your guest/clients and that of other hall users. Please follow Government guidelines in respect of handwashing, coughing, social distancing etc. Should you become aware that any of your guests/clients have symptoms please inform the Management Committee immediately in order for the hall to be closed and a deep clean performed.

On a more fun note, at this time we are still making plans for VE Day in May. Below is a copy of the currently planned program which as you can see has a lot of activities for which we are really going to need both your help and of course support. To run all of this we will need several additional volunteers on the day, so if you would like to help please contact me (see email below).

### **VE Day Celebration**

14:30	FAMILY SCAVANGER HUNT	
15:00	AFTERNOON PARTY	
	Bouncy Castle	Childrens Activities & Games
	Face painting	WW Rationing and memories
	Dig for Victory	Childrens Performance
	Childrens Tea Party	SOE Station IX - Most Secret
17:30-19:30	PIG ROAST	
19:00	CUTTING EDGE BIG BAND	Doors open
22:00	CLOSE	

For more details about events or the hall please contact [linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com)  
[gilesdenby@yahoo.com](mailto:gilesdenby@yahoo.com)

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## **John Howell MP writes...**

When constituents approach me with individual issues and concerns I always try to get information for them, and when appropriate I raise things directly with Ministers. With the turmoil of last year and ongoing uncertainty it seemed to become increasingly difficult to get responses. Now that the long-anticipated Government reshuffle has been done, and Ministers either confirmed in their posts or new appointments made it seemed we were in for a more stable period with greater opportunity to discuss issues with Ministers. Then Coronavirus hit. It is in the midst of concern over the virus in early March that I write.

There is a fine balance in deciding what best to do in these situations and I 

am pleased that there has been cross-party support for the ways in which the Government has been handling the issue. By the time my newsletter is published the situation will have changed again. I share the concern of many at fake news which adds to unnecessary fear. The panic buying by some has also triggered a concerned response. I can understand that people worry about the virus but, whilst those who can afford to fill their cupboards do so, they add to the vulnerability of those who are unable to shop other than little and often. This is a time for testing our shared compassion.

It was good to hear the Chancellor open his Budget Statement addressing the issue of Coronavirus bringing forward measures to help with economic security and stability. Readers will be familiar with the key funding announcements, so I will not repeat them. Having listened to some specific concerns I was particularly pleased that the Chancellor offered financial support to encourage people to take the necessary time off work should they be advised to stay at home. This is welcome as is the support for small businesses to enable them to pay people for time off due to the virus without having to meet the direct cost themselves. This is especially so in a constituency where small business is the heart of our economy. I do appreciate that there are other issues that our local businesses, and indeed all of us will have to face, but I am sure that working together and accepting some short-term limitations on our usual lifestyle will help us get through this difficult time.

On a more positive note, and for the longer-term, I believe that the overall budget is one which will bring benefit across our national life and I look forward to seeing how the budget announcements are developed in different government departments over the coming months. Within the constituency I have been following up with specific groups to find out how new funding announcements are helping and to identify ongoing issues that may need government attention. I welcome hearing from businesses, schools, and others who have particular thoughts on budget matters. However, I am not seeking to revisit Party political campaign arguments! It might also be worth mentioning here that, along with many colleagues, I do not sign Early Day Motions (EDMs). There is a note on my website explaining more about EDMs.

More generally, and as always, I am interested to know the views of constituents on the various topics as they come up for debate. Whether on a topic before the House or something else, if you have an issue that you would like to raise with me please do email me at [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

# **The Great Milton Spring 2020 Litterpick**



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WHEN...**



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Please visit the website [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org) to join or call 01234 924111 for further information.



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

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

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
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There are endless benefits from using resistance bands, they add an extra challenge to bodyweight exercises but don't put the same sort of pressure on your joints that external weights do. They're also great for targeting smaller stabilizing muscles that you may not typically work and will help with ongoing injuries and imbalances.

**Classes run from:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 9:30 am 10:30 am

**Cost:** £7 per class the class will run for 8 Sessions

Interested in joining the class or need more information please contact me via email: [alycwfw@gmail.com](mailto:alycwfw@gmail.com) or Mobile: 07834233728

Please bring your own exercise mats as only a few will be provided.

I look forward to hearing from you.



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### **April at Waterperry The Big Easter Bunny Hunt 28th March – 21st April**

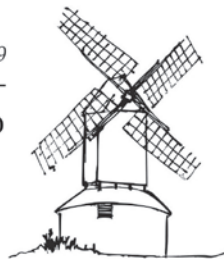
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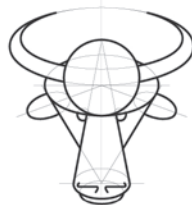
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## Diary

- Monday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday  
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
*or by appointment*
- 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*

## April

- Sat 11th Spring Litterpick – POSTPONED until further notice —
- Sat 18th Senior Citizens Annual Party – POSTPONED until further notice —
- Wed 22nd Great Milton History talk – POSTPONED until further notice

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th April 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](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

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