

LITTLE MILTON NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: MAY 2016

Sun	1st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon	2nd	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	3rd	6.30 -7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Zumba Dancing- Pine Lodge Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	4th	9.45 a.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Gt. Haseley
Thurs	5th	9.45 a.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton
Sun	8th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service- St James'
Mon	9th	10.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: Spring and Well Cott.
Tues	10th	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	11th	9.45 a.m. 11.55–12.10p.m 12.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m. 8.15 p.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Gt. Haseley Mobile Library: Old Field Village Lunch- The Lamb Annual Parish Meeting- Pine Lodge Parish Council – Pine Lodge
Thurs	12th	9.45 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton WI – Pine Lodge
Sun	15th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP– St James'
Mon	16th	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	17th	6.30 -7.30 p.m. 7.30 – 9.00 p.m.	Zumba Dancing- Pine Lodge Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	18th	9.45 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Gt. Haseley Craft Club- Pine Lodge
Thurs	19th	9.45 a.m. 8.00 p.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton Cinema Club – Pine Lodge
Sat	21st	7.00 p.m.	Quiz Night – Pine Lodge
Sun	22nd	10.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion – St James'
Mon	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	24th	7.30 -9.00 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	25th	9.45 a.m. 11.55–12.10p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Gt. Haseley Mobile Library: Old Field Village Hall AGM Village Hall – Pine Lodge
Thurs	26th	9.45 a.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton
Sun	29th	10.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion CW - St Peter's
Mon	30th	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	31st	6.30 -7.30 p.m. 7.30 – 9.00 p.m.	Zumba Dancing- Pine Lodge Bell Ringing Practice – St James'

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 13th APRIL 2016

The Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th April was attended by five Council members, the County/District Councillor and the Clerk. There were three members of the public present.

BT pole transfer

The Clerk was delighted to report that the last remaining duplicate power pole was removed by SSE on April 1st 2016. He stated that it had been an exercise in persistence and patience and after about the three years he was happy the pole transfer project was completed.

Millennium Bench

The Clerk reported that he expected work to start at the end of the month on the replacement of the two wooden benches adjacent to the Millennium pump.

Community Transport

The Chairman stated that the new arrangements for Community Transport would start in late July after the schools broke up after the summer term. He emphasised that it was important that the new arrangements were supported as the service was now on a commercial basis and would reviewed after six months.

Kerbing: Haseley Road

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a further quote for three sections of kerbing on the Haseley Road. The quote received was more expensive than that received from the County Council. The Clerk reminded the Council that it had **RESOLVED** at its meeting in December 2015 that it would need to establish a criteria for prioritising any highway work in the village before any decision to fund future highway maintenance. However the Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should request that the County Council re-assess the HAMP that it conducted in 2015 as Cllr. Kate Daunt was concerned with the risk to pedestrians due to the erosion of the grass verges.

Gainsbridge Brook

The Chairman referred to the meeting held with Thames Water on 23rd March. He stated there was a discussion on the proposed de-silting of the Gainsbridge Book adjacent to the pumping station. This prompted an inspection of the location and it became apparent that there was a need to progress the work on the culvert that fed into the brook at the same time as the de-silting work. The Thames Water representative took the initiative and liaised with the OCC Highways and agreed that the work would be co-ordinated. The Chairman expressed his delight that this ongoing issue was now being dealt with in a co-ordinated way between Thames Water and OCC Highways and was a major step forward.

Preliminary Investigation into replacement of current playground

The Chairman thanked the Playground Working Party for issuing a document for Council members to consider. The Chairman stated that there a number of key questions to be decided but it was not the purpose of the meeting tonight to attempt to decide on any specific detail. The Chairman expressed the view that in a climate where grants could be available it appeared the right time to be considering replacing the existing playground. The Chairman directed the Council to the key questions raised by the Working Party.

After some deliberation on the status of the existing equipment the Council **RESOLVED** that it should consider progressing the replacement of the current facility by conducting a consultation with the village now with a view to pursuing grant funding opportunities.

The Council RESOLVED to fund a questionnaire that would be distributed to the village at the beginning of May.

The Council RESOLVED that the MUGA and tennis courts would not be considered as part of the project.

The Council discussed the possibility of increasing the existing footprint of the playground and RESOLVED that a new playground could be larger. However any proposals would need to satisfy the Council that the requirements of other user groups had not been compromised and that the impact on the residents of Cremar Cottages had been fully considered. It was also the view of the Council that any new facility should be fenced.

The Council RESOLVED that the consultation should consider providing adult exercise equipment but its exact location was not agreed.

The Council RESOLVED that it did not support the introduction any water features as it considered them to add a degree of complexity that it felt was not supportable.

The Council RESOLVED that the height of any equipment should be within that which does not require planning permission.

The Chairman highlighted that a condition of the grant from WREN was the need for third party funding of £5,375 (10.75% of the total amount applied for). There was a discussion on future fund-raising activities as a way to contribute to this sum. The Council RESOLVED that it would, if necessary, underwrite the 10.75% for third party funding. The Clerk stated that the purpose of any fund-raising required some flexibility to allow for the monies raised to be spend on other amenities in the event that the grants for the project were unsuccessful. The Council RESOLVED that it would not seek to borrow any shortfall in grants but would seek to review the scope of the project.

Cllr. Elizabeth Collison explained that it was hoped to have a display at the village fete in June where illustrations of possible equipment could be viewed. The Council RESOLVED to fund any printing costs for the display.

Planning

P16/S0624/HH: Orchard House, Windmill Hill: Single-Storey front and rear extensions

Mrs Stevenson gave a brief planning history of the site and explained the rationale for the current application relative to the two Lawful Development approvals already granted. The Council considered that the new application was a better overall design that appeared to meet the needs of the applicant. The Council RESOLVED to recommend that the application should be approved by the District Council.

The application made no reference as to the status of the approved Lawful Development already approved if this application was approved not only for the current applicant but any future owners of the property. The Parish Council would seek specific clarification in respect of the approved Lawful Developments from the Planning Department if they decided to grant planning approval.

P16/S0822/HH & P16/S0823/LB: Wells Farmhouse Haseley Road: Proposed single storey extension and internal/external alterations

Mrs Jo Gaillard explained that the current application was a scaled down version of an existing Planning Application that had been approved. The Parish Council considered the application at its meeting on 13th April 2016. The Council RESOLVED to recommend that the application should be approved by the District Council.

Defibrillators

The Chairman confirmed that the 50% grant had been granted by OCC and the Clerk had placed an order for one defibrillator for the Pine Lodge. He stated that an AED training session was being held in the Pine Lodge on Thursday 21st April 2016. There was a brief discussion on the use of any funds in excess of the planned project for the installation of three defibrillators. The Clerk stated that any excess funds would be used to cover any future maintenance or replacement of component parts of the equipment.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 8.15p.m. in the Pine Lodge.**

Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme on 1st January 2009. A version of the Publication Scheme will be available on the Council Website www.littlemilton.org.uk Residents can see the 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.

Current Council members

Councillor Barry Coward (Chairman)	01844 278970
Councillor Alison Shelton (Vice Chair)	01844 278144
Councillor Elizabeth Swabey-Collison	01844 278566
Councillor Bertie Bright	01844 279131
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Councillor Kate Daunt	01844 279151
Parish Clerk Raymond Fergusson	01844 279150 Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com
District/County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – MAY 2016

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
4th May **	No	Yes	No	Yes
10th May	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
17th May	No	Yes	No	Yes
24th May	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
1st June **	No	Yes	No	Yes

** Change of day due to Bank Holiday

The Oxfordshire County Council Waste Recycling Centres at Redbridge, Drayton (near Abingdon) and Oakley Wood are open seven days a week including Bank Holidays from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT









For a charge of £71 residents can arrange for their unwanted vehicle to be collected from within the District and a charge of £23 for up to a maximum of six items e.g. fridge furniture etc. and a further £7.00 for each additional item. To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01491 823416 or print a copy of the form from the Council's website www.southoxon.gov.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 11th MAY 2016

The Annual Parish meeting will take place in the **Pine Lodge on Wednesday 11th May 2016, commencing at 7.00p.m.** This meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting at which the Council and other relevant organisations report on their activities during the past year. It also allows villagers to raise any matters for discussion. The Parish Council cannot be bound by any decision of the meeting but would need to take note of the comments. This is a good opportunity to hear what has been happening in the village from traffic, planning, finance etc. Please come along and enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Raymond Fergusson Parish Clerk

TIMTABLE FOR 103 SERVICE Effective from 21st July 2016

			N/S			
Oxford City		07.50	11.00	14.30	16.15	18.30
Cowley Centre			11.15	14.45	16.30	18.45
Horspath Green		08.10	11.23	14.53	16.38	18.53
Littleworth		08.13	11.26	14.58	16.43	18.58
Wheatley Church		08.16	11.29	15.01	16.46	19.01
Great Milton		08.22	11.35	15.07	16.52	19.07
Great Haseley						19.11
Little Haseley						19.15
Little Milton		08.29	11.40	15.13	16.58	19.23
			N/S	N/S		
Little Milton	06.48	08.30	11.40	15.13	17.45	
Little Haseley	06.52	08.34	12.04	15.17	17.49	
Great Haseley	06.56	08.39	12.09	15.23	17.53	
Great Milton	07.00	08.44	12.14	15.28	17.59	
Wheatley Church	07.08	08.53	12.23	15.37	18.06	
Littleworth	07.11	08.58	12.28	15.42	18.11	
Horspath Green	07.16	09.03	12.33	15.47	18.15	
Cowley Centre		09.11	12.41	15.55		
Oxford City	07.30	09.25	12.56	16.10	18.28	

N/S = NOT SATURDAY



Passengers for Haseley stay on the bus

FROM HEYFORDIAN

“As you will understand the success of this service is wholly dependent on the number of passengers that are carried. We sincerely hope that this service is commercially viable and it is our intention to continue it past the trial period if at all possible.”

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

As reported last month, without consulting the public or the County Council, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of the County Council and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils, to include parts of Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. (A unitary council combines the functions of a county council and a district council into one body.) In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with the County Council, such as social care and major road projects. So, this would mean four councils spread across three counties, plus an over-arching unelected quango.

The Districts are now in the process of commissioning management consultants to produce a report to evaluate their proposals. Initially their brief to consultants stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary is best would not be approved.

The Oxfordshire County Council view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered (along with the Districts' proposal and other options for two or three unitary councils), and had thus been forced to begin the process of commissioning a separate management consultant's report.

As a result of County and public pressure, District Council leaders have now agreed to commission a report covering all the options, although it still states that the objective is “to test the proposal for four Unitary Councils with a Combined Authority” and suggests that two alternative proposals for a dual- and single-unitary authority be used as a benchmark, rather than as real, viable options. It would appear that Council-Tax payers might now have to fund two separate reports, in order to obtain an open-minded, unbiased and transparent view of all the options open to the residents of the county.

RECYCLING CENTRES TO OPEN LATE ON THURSDAYS

Opening hours on Thursdays at OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be extended from 7 April to 29 September. The sites will be open until 8pm on Thursdays in addition to the normal hours of 8am-5pm every day (including Sundays). The Household Waste Recycling Centres can accept a wide range of materials for recycling including garden waste, textiles and electrical items. Food waste should always be placed in the food caddies provided by the district council and collected as part of the kerbside collection scheme. More information about the sites, including layout and a full guide to what can be recycled can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

KEEPING HGVS MOVING WHILE REDUCING THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

A free online mapping tool has been launched to help freight and logistics companies plan their routes through the county. Oxfordshire Freight Gateway is linked to the National Freight Journey Planner and is designed to help logistics managers and drivers of large goods vehicles to select the most appropriate routes for their journeys in Oxfordshire. A suitable route is provided based on the vehicle's weight and dimensions

and journey details. Details here: <http://freightgateway.co.uk/oxfordshire/>

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It's official - South is best for rural dwellers!

South Oxfordshire has topped a list of the best places to live in the UK countryside.

According to a survey produced by the Halifax, South Oxfordshire has the highest living standards, with happy residents, high levels of satisfaction and low levels of anxiety.

We also scored highly for health and employment, with 97 per cent of adults saying they were in good health and 81 per cent in jobs.

What's more, we were pleased to find that the vast majority of South Oxfordshire residents are satisfied with how the district council runs things.

Just over 80 per cent said also that the council offered good quality services, and two thirds of residents agreed that they provided good value for money – the best result since surveys began in 2005.

Oxfordshire Vision

The seven Councils involved continue to work on our Devolution Bid for a better way for Local Government, and recently the Oxfordshire Growth Board urged our friends in the County Council to join our independent consultation on how this may look. More information is available on the website. <http://www.oxfordshire.vision/>

Planning and Development

Since the last report, we have received two decisions on planning appeals, that for the Chinnor Gladman Appeal and the Wallingford Wates Appeal. It is disappointing to note that these two appeals have been up-held, and our Planning Team are reviewing the Inspectors' reports to determine what we will do about these decisions.

There are plans for major development at Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire, which will doubtless have a knock-on effect on our communities, mainly in the Thame and Chinnor areas, and we are pleased to report that whilst this falls within the remit of Wycombe District Council, SODC has been consulted. Our District's response has been sent in and we now await developments.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MAY

W/E 7th May	–	Mrs Alison Blagg/Mrs Hil Pennick
W/E 14th May	–	Mrs M. Davies/Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 21st May	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove/ Mrs C Coward
W/E 28th May	–	Mrs A Jones/ Mrs S Holifield
W/E 4th June	–	Mrs A. Hawkins/Mrs E Summers

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY

W/E 1st May	–	Chris Coward
W/E 8th May	–	Chris Coward
W/E 15th May	–	Jane Willis
W/E 22nd May	–	Teresa Qusted
W/E 29th May	–	Anne Hawkins

BELL RINGING PRACTICE DURING MAY

Tuesday 3rd May	-	7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Sunday 8th May	-	10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 10th May	-	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Tuesday 17th May	-	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Sunday 22nd May	-	9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday 24th May	-	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Tuesday 31st May	-	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

GRASS CUTTING ROTA FOR MAY

W/E 7th May	-	David Hawkins
W/E 14th May	-	Miles Swabey-Collison
W/E 21st May	-	Raymond Fergusson
W/E 28th May	-	Dave Arnold
W/E 4th June	-	Peter Wheal- Jones

If you would like to volunteer to cut the church grass or do other work in the churchyard please contact Raymond Fergusson 279150.

BENEFICE SERVICES MAY/JUNE (Partial) 2016

	GREAT MILTON St Mary's	LITTLE MILTON St James'	GREAT HASELEY St Peter's
Sunday 1st May Easter 6	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.
Thursday 5th May Ascension Day			Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 8th May Sunday after Ascension Day	Holy Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.
Sunday 15th May Day of Pentecost	Family Service 11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 22nd May Trinity Sunday		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10.00 a.m.	
Sunday 29th May Trinity 1			Benefice Holy Communion CW 10.00 a.m.
Sunday 5th June Trinity 2	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Service</u>
1st May	11.00 a.m.	Local Arrangement	
8th May	11.00 a.m.	Mike Trinder	
15th May	11.00 a.m.	Revd. Adam Stevenson	Communion Service
22nd May	11.00 a.m.	Jennifer Thompson	
29th May	11.00 a.m.	Leslie Marsh	

For further info. Please contact Revd. Adam Stevenson 01491 613223

FROM THE RECTORY

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

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

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

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

But it was a stab at depicting the ‘un-depictable’. The account of Jesus’ Ascension like so many things about Jesus is shrouded in mystery. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus was ‘taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight’. What though might the Ascension might mean for Christians?

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

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

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

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

Simon

FROM THE REGISTERS

On the 14th April 2016 we laid to rest in our Churchyard the cremated remains of Lily Gunstone who died on 17th December 2015

CHRISTIAN AID

This month will again see the Christian Aid Banner and Bunting fluttering beside the A329.... The theme this year is ‘Who is my neighbour?’ The story of Feroza living on low-lying islands in Bangladesh will be shared with the children at a special Assembly and there will be house to house collections in Little Milton and Great Milton. This year we welcome Annie onto the team of Little Milton collectors whilst we remember with warmth and grateful thanks all that Marjorie did for Christian Aid. The three Lent lunches held earlier this year have raised £421 so we are on the way already!

S.A. Dennis



SAVE THE DATE

LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE

At The Old Vicarage, Church Hill

Saturday 18th June

2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

OPENED BY JOHN HOWELL M.P.

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

LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE **SATURDAY 18th JUNE 2.00 p.m.**

The traditional annual Church Fete here in Little Milton is being planned and the final details put in place. We are very grateful to Joyce and George Inge hosting the fete in the beautiful settings of The Old Vicarage. It promises, as always, to provide entertainment and something for all ages. This year the fete will be opened by our MP John Howell.

We are dependent on the support of the villagers to run this very special event and there are amazing individuals who relentlessly work year after year to make the Fete what it isspectacular.

However, we always need more help and anyone willing to help in any way with as little or as much time and energy to spare will be made very welcome it really is good fun. **Please give Teresa a ring on 278922** if you can assist whether waitressing, helping set up/ take down, collect items for stallholders, leaflet distribution, working on stalls the list is endless.

We also are now collecting various items for stalls the contacts are:

Stall	Contact	Phone No	Items needed
Teas and Refreshments	Teresa Quested	278922	Waitresses Helpers Cakes & Bakes
Cakes, Jam & Preserves	Christine Jeffery Angie Jones Alison Blagg	278424 278772 278927	Cakes Bakes Savouries, Jams, preserves
Bric a Brac	Annie Collier Kay & Guy Ward	278207 278186	Good quality items E.g. pictures, crocery, pottery etc.
Tombola	Sally & Ian Dennis Jessica & David Hamilton	278029	Unwanted gifts Toiletries Chocolates etc.
Bottles	Jo Preston & Chris Preston	279788	Bottles ranging from ketchup to champagne!
Books /CD's and DVD's	Shirley Leach Eleanor Summers	278169	Books CDs and DVD's
Plants	Joyce Inge	279538	Plants of various kinds ½ & litre plant pots
Children's Tombola	Lucinda Arnold	278135	Toys Puzzles
Children's Forest Arts	Melanie Kingham	278774	Shells, buttons, Coloured stones, wooden beads
Set Up/car park/fete notices	Paul Jeffery	278424	Help to set up, manage car parking, put up notices to the event, clearing up the site

Please note that Bric a Brac and books can be stored at Joyce Inge after 14th June so we would be grateful if you could keep hold of them until then! Thank You

Raymond Fergusson

MAUREEN ROBERTSON

It has been a great shock to learn of the sudden passing of Maureen Robertson, dear wife of Stan who died on Thursday 14th April. I have had the pleasure of knowing them for over twenty years and as fellow Scots we were always up for a bit of a chat. Maureen liked nothing better than telling you stories. She was devoted to Stan and likewise Stan to Maureen. They had been friends from their school days in Glasgow and partners for forty seven years. Our thoughts are with Stan at this time.

Stan has been very appreciative of all the expressions of support and sympathy that he has received and would like to thank everyone for their kindness. The funeral service will take place at East Kilbride, Glasgow on Friday 29th April 2016.

Raymond Fergusson

60's DANCE - IN AID OF THE METHODIST CHURCH RENOVATIONS

By popular demand we are holding the 60's DANCE again in the Neighbours Hall on Saturday 14th May, Hippy Haze band will be performing. Watch this space in the next Bulletin/Newsletter for more details but if you would like to reserve tickets please call me on 01844 279205.

LITTLE MILTON WI

Thank you to Kashmira & Sandhya Patel for a wonderful Indian cookery demo in April. We all enjoyed learning how to make veg & paneer curry, spinach moong dal and veg pancakes and of course eating it!

Our next meeting on **12th May** is a discussion of the two 2016 WI resolutions

Dementia Care in Hospitals & Food Waste and Poverty

Followed by Cheese & Wine

Visitors welcome, only £3

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.

No need to be shy, contact me for more information.

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

Annual membership (£37.50) includes 12 meetings per year with refreshments, 10 Oxfordshire newsletters, 8 National magazines called WI Life, organised outings and discounted courses at Denman College.

Keep up to date with WI news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Kath Stacey 279438

RAFFLE - CHURCH FETE, SATURDAY 18TH JUNE

We have had an idea - can you help? To supplement sales of raffle tickets door to door in the village, would you be prepared to sell two books of tickets to family, friends or work colleagues?

Each book contains five £1 tickets. So just 20 people selling two books each will raise £200, which will make a big difference.

Tickets for both the general and golf raffles will be available from early May. Please contact me if you are able to help.

Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth279965 or cathy.hd@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL 200 CLUB

APRIL 2016

1st Prize	No 8	Val Coates	£15.00
2nd Prize	No 36	Sue West	£10.00
3rd Prize	No 25	The Nixey family	£5.00

SEWING GROUP

Thank you to both Teresa and Gill last month for catering/hosting the sewing group.... This month in May we're meeting on Monday May 9th from 11.00 onwards at Spring and Well Cottage in the Haseley Road, the home of Mary Davies. Please do telephone Mary on 279471 a couple of days before so that enough food can be provided for lunch!

The sewing group was 'founded' 14 years ago as a result of mending the existing and then creating the new Saint James' Banner and we meet monthly. We meet in a different home each month and always welcome new members so if you're thinking of joining us and/or hesitating don't hesitate a moment longer just give us a ring and come along! Some folk quilt, some do tapestry, some do mending, some embroider, some knit and some – shhhh – just chat!!

Sally Ann

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Last month I attended a Bumble Bee identification course in order to get a better idea of the species of bumble bees we have on the reserve. At first glance you would think it would be easy to work out, but actually this is not the case at all. Looking at the yellow bands and the red, white or buff tails is no guarantee of identification for most of the 25 species or so we have. So here are some quick facts: Bumble bees prefer cool weather and not really hot days. The males have no sting! Females have 12 segmented antennae but males have 13. There are cuckoo bees which take over the nest of other species. These have hairy thighs (not shiny) as they don't collect pollen. They tend to nest underground except for the tree bumble bees which are often found nesting in the roof of a house. And lastly, they are all pretty harmless and rarely sting.

The ponies should now be at Sydlings Copse and more sheep will have returned briefly for sheering during one of the days of the first week of May. No date is confirmed as it is weather dependant.

Last month we managed to take a look in the pond in the farmyard. We found 12 smooth newts of which two were adult male, 2 were immature (still with gills) and 8 were female. There were also larvae of dragon flies, damselflies and caddisflies as well as various water beetles and tiny daphnia. As we move into May the larvae will grow considerably, many preparing to turn in to their flying versions (Imago) in June and July.

I plan to do another Pond Dipping session on **Sunday 5th June from 2pm**, again meeting by the pond in the farmyard. If you want to come along please do. All ages welcome.

Paul Jeffery (paulj201@hotmail.com)

NEWS FROM THE PINE LODGE

It's great to welcome Stuart McGill back onto the Village Hall Management Committee as representative for the school. Stuart was on the committee for many years – he was much involved in the replacement of the old Village Hall by the Pine Lodge over 10 years ago – and it's good to have him back. Several village organisations – the Junior School, the Orchard Pre-School, the Parish Council, the Women's Institute, the Parochial

Church Council and the Little Milton Music Group – can appoint representatives to the Village Hall Management Committee and it helps greatly with the running of the Hall and coordination between the various village organisations that they do. Since the committee structure was set up the old Music Group has ceased to exist, but its seat remains ready for any new one.

The hearing loop system at the Pine Lodge is to be replaced – a more powerful loop amplifier and new loop cable has been ordered. This should be an improvement on the old system, which was always a bit intermittent and has now stopped working completely. The Hall also now has a new good quality hand-held radio microphone system and microphone stand. The aim is to provide sound reinforcement and a loop system without too much set-up complexity and without any trailing wires.

We are also upgrading the lavender plants in the garden outside the Pine Lodge this spring. The existing ones have done great service but have got rather large.

Dave Ponting 278187 dave.ponting@tiscali.co.uk

VIEW FROM VIEWS

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

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

Most wildlife seems to have come through the winter well which, (apart from the "B" Pigeons) a good thing for them. I think the feeding of the small Farmland birds has proved the point, as the result seems to be more of them around and I believe it has been noticed in the village as. Let's not count our small birds before their hatched, as it could be due to the mild winter. We had a walk around the RSPB Otmoor reserve a few weeks ago and that seems to have been a great success apart from a wonderful place to walk around, there is a great variety of species to be seen. Not sure how many in Great Milton are aware of a slight connection between us and there. In the late 60's this area was purchased as a farm, at that time the purchaser was paid by the Government (you and I) to drain the moor and bring it in to Agricultural production, about 10 years ago his son one Austin Righton (of the "Bull") was paid to turn off the pumps, wonderful how things

**LITTLE MILTON
VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

Invite you to our

Annual General Meeting

on

**Wednesday 25th May
7.30pm**

at the Pine Lodge

Come and learn about
your community hall, our future plans
& contribute your ideas

Free drinks & nibbles

Everyone welcome

and thoughts change. I can remember his father Harold being very proud of what he had done and that we all thought how innovative it was, we'd not dream of doing now.

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



Who is this man?

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

needed to have a reasoned discussion amongst ourselves, as our needs are different to those in Wheatley.

Enjoy your May as summer is a' comin'

Charles Peers

LITTLE MILTON ALLOTMENTS

Those April showers and the ground warming up seemed to have got things bursting into life on the allotment. Now that May has arrived there are only about seven weeks to the longest day of the year, so the priority this week should be to get your remaining seeds into the soil and growing as soon as possible. Most seeds take from one to three weeks to germinate, so those sown the first week of May might still be caught by one of these late frosts, whereas seeds sown the second week should still be safely under the soil until all danger of frost is past. It is better to wait until mid-May before planting out beans, sweet corn, celery, less hardy cauliflowers or any plant of the marrow family.

Now is the time to earth up any potatoes that have shoots appearing above the surface. The main purpose of this is to produce a heavier crop and to prevent the new tubers breaking the surface and becoming green. If the plants are kept well earthed-up, with only the very tips exposed, a frost may blacken the tips, but the plants will recover after about three weeks.

By the end of May the tomatoes and cucumbers will be growing strongly in the greenhouse and should be kept well-watered and well fed. Give tomatoes enough water without overwatering; just enough to keep the top inch or so of soil moist, but not more. As the flowers open, spray them with water two or three times a day to help pollination (in an ideal world). I have to say most of my tomatoes and cucumbers are grown outdoors and seem to do as well as those in the greenhouse. They can take a bit of a battering if it is windy but should be safe if they are well staked.

In general the rule is never to allow any plant to be hampered by lack of water. However you must avoid overdoing the watering with certain plants. If growing in fine soil, parsnips and main crop carrots will probably do better without extra water. They will then send down long roots to find whatever moisture there is deep in the soil, and long roots are what you want in parsnips and carrots. "Cucurbits" such as cucumbers, marrows and courgettes require plenty of water at the roots, but not on the leaves.

If you fancy producing your vegetables for consumption later this year whilst getting some exercise in the fresh air then why not apply for a plot at Little Milton Allotments. You can contact me by email or phone for further details.

We are hoping to hold a BBQ up at the allotments in May, if you are interested you are very welcome to join us. The date has yet to be confirmed but if you would like to come then drop me a note or call me to find out the finalised date.

Let's hope that May will bring plenty of sunshine and enough rain (preferably overnight) to boost our crops. Talking of the wet stuff, when does it rain money? When there is "change" in the weather of course.

Kay Ward

VILLAGE LUNCH AT THE LAMB

Our next lunch will be on Wednesday **11th May 2016**. Everyone is welcome including visitors to the Village so do try and come along. Please give Ian or Des a ring at the Lamb on 01844 279527

THAME & WHEATLEY RAMBLERS – MAY 2016

Monday 2nd Meet at Kings Hotel, Stokenchurch at 10am for a 6½ mile undulating walk. 01844 208517.

Sunday 8th Meet at Village Hall car park Kingston Blount at 10am for an 8 mile walk via Sydenham. Bring a picnic. Sorry, walk not suitable for dogs. 07767 647714.

Tuesday 10th Meet at Watlington Hill NT car park, Christmas Common at 10am for a 4 mile walk with a pub stop at the end. Sorry, walk not suitable for dogs. 01844 215624.

Thursday 12th Meet at the Church Lane, Horton-cum-Studley at 10am for a leisurely 6 mile walk to Otmoor via Beckley. Sorry, walk not suitable for dogs. 01865 358905.

Sunday 15th Meet at Wheatley (car park at rear of the King & Queen PH) at 10am for a 9 mile walk via Garsington and Shotover. Bring a picnic. 01865 708736 / 07986 189081.

Friday 20th Meet at Tiddington Village Hall at 6:30pm for a leisurely 4½ mile linear walk to Thame with a pub stop at the end. 01844 213467 / 07796 661449.

Wednesday 25th Meet at Watlington (recreation ground car park) at 10am for a 6½ mile walk via Christmas Common and Watlington Park. 01865 890829 / 07554 069406.

LITTLE MILTON VILLAGE SHOP LTD

The shop committee is now meeting monthly and making good progress on a new plan for the business. Several members recently met with a representative of Post Office Limited to discuss the options open to us and the support that they can provide in reconfiguring our business. An outline business plan has been prepared by the Business Planning work group and this was approved unanimously by the shop committee. Work will now commence on detailed planning and budgeting.

We are always seeking new shareholders from the Village and if you are interested please have a word with Sarah Wakeling or Alison Shelton at the shop.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday 25th May.

Simon Oddie

NEIGHBOURS CLUB

On the 31st March it was time for Yvonne to come to us again with her exercise class designed to try and get us fit for the coming summer after the excesses of Christmas etc. Liz Woodley, a new lady to us, came to Club on the 14th April to talk and show slides about "Beer, Sausages and Marmalade". This was a fascinating talk about the businesses that used to take place in Oxford. The Beer part of her talk was about the breweries in Oxford of which there were many in years gone by. We then moved on to the Sausages which concentrated on the many private butchers in the City, lots in the covered market, all making their speciality sausages. We then heard about the Marmalade made in Oxford in the old marmalade factory in Park End Street, and saw slides on the long gone shops like Grimley Hughes in Cornmarket which many of us remember. An extremely interesting afternoon.

Forthcoming Events - May

Thurs 12th - Bring and Share Lunch - 1.00 p.m.

Wed 18th - Outing to Bristol

Thurs 26th - Meeting in Fullers Field - 2.15 p.m.

Join us at the Little Milton 80s
themed party
Saturday the 14th of May 2016



Ticket will include a complementary cocktail on admission with
all proceeds going towards defibrillators for the village
Tickets cost £10 in advance or £15 on the door

Venue: Little Milton village hall
Time: 8PM - 12AM

Optional 80s
dress

To purchase tickets call:
Call/text Sophie on 07971 379 102 or
Jo Gaillard on 07584 905 905
or purchase tickets straight from the village shop



At the Pine Lodge, Little Milton

CRAFT CLUB

18th May

7.30-10pm

All crafts and crafters welcome

£2 per session

CINEMA CLUB

Every 3rd Thursday of the month

19th May 8pm

Enjoy a film on the big screen, without the
hassle & cost of going to the cinema

Plus licenced bar

For further details & news visit us at:

www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

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

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

Liz Moyses Membership secretary

liz@moyses.org 01844 279875

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

GREAT MILTON NEIGHBOURS' HALL STONES IN HIS POCKET

Thursday 26th May 2016 Doors open 7.00 p.m. Curtain up 7.45 p.m.

A tale of Hollywood excess in the Irish countryside

From Chipping Norton Theatre: Suitable for ages 12+

£8 concession; £20 family ticket; Tickets 01844 279474 or www.wegotickets.com



As part of the 2016 Oxfordshire Art Weeks Festival, in South Oxfordshire, from **14-22 May**. There will be several art and craft exhibitions and open studios in and around the Wheatley area:

- Jane Hanson & Alison Court, Waterstock near Wheatley: *Pottery, Textiles*
- Rosie Endors & Eirian Griffiths, Cuddesdon: *Mixed media, Painting*
- Artists at Rectory House, Wheatley: *Various*
- Patrick Jeffs, Wheatley: *Painting*
- Jackie Birchall, Holton: *Glass*
- Christine Bainbridge, Holton: *Painting*
- Melissa Orrom Swan, Horspath: *Various*
- Jeanne Jackson, Horspath: *Ceramics*
- Oxfordshire Craft Guild, Horspath: *Various*
- J B Lowe, Garsington: *Painting*

Visitors welcome! For more details and opening times for each venue see www.artweeks.org



Two Local Artists

Rosie Endors & Eirian Griffiths

Invite you to an

ART EXHIBITION

In Gillie's Barn*, 12 The Green, Cuddesdon

14-22 May 12-6 pm daily

Watercolour Landscapes, Seascapes, Flowers, and Mixed media abstracts.

Cards also for sale.

Free Entry – All Welcome

* near the church

THE LAMB

QUIZ NIGHT ON THURSDAY 5th MAY

This is a fun quiz, **commencing at 8.00 pm**, comprising 5 rounds

General Knowledge TV & Films

Sports

Picture Quiz

Music

Cost per person is £2, which will all go to prizes and teams are from 1 to 6 people.

Haseley Church Spring Fair



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



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

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

Variety of stalls and refreshments

Children's entertainer and face-painting

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

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

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



Your community

.... your shop!

- Wines & Beers
- Greetings Cards
- Dry Cleaning Services



- Post Office Services
- Fresh Bread & Cakes
- Convenience Groceries



Your Village Shop



Lets make it a
great social meeting point!



◇◇◇◇
**Which coffee
will you choose?**



You simply
**can't say no to our
very tempting cakes!**



◇◇◇◇
"Want cash? Use your local ATM at the Post Office"

Sending birthday gifts, etc? Use Royal Mail;
second class small packet rate only £2.85 up to 2Kg and 45 x 35 x 16cm max size.

Spring cleaning? Use our convenient dry cleaning service;
drop off / pick up Tuesdays and Fridays.

Join our enthusiastic volunteer team.

Call into the Shop or just phone 01844 279978 to talk about how you might be able to help.



Follow us on FACEBOOK

To see what the shop is up to just go to "The Village Shop Little Milton" and Like us!

Opening Hours	Shop	Post Office
Weekdays	8:30am to 6:00pm	8:45am to 5:30pm (1:00pm Wed.)
Saturdays	9:00am to 2:00pm	9:00am to 12:30pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays	Closed	Closed

Remember, your village shop will use any surplus profits to support your village projects.

VISIT STONOR PARK THIS SPRING



Tulip and Spring Flower Festival 30th April - 2nd May

See the historic family home of the Stonor family filled with Tulips and seasonal spring flowers. Watch Jonathan Moseley, floral expert and host of the BBCs *Big Allotment Challenge* present his Tulipmania Demonstration. Reserve tickets at www.seetickets.com/go/stonorpark

The Great Antique and Vintage Car Boot Fair Sunday 29th May

Whether you are selling or looking for hidden treasure this is sure to be a fun day out.

Food and Beverages are available at each event. For opening times and full details of all forthcoming events visit www.stonor.com

Stonor Park
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire, RG9 6HF

t 01491 638 587
e enquiries@stonor.com
www.stonor.com



STONOR





John Howell MP writes...

Mid-April

It is almost impossible to be unaware of the forthcoming referendum on our membership of the EU which will take place on 23rd June. It is perhaps much more possible to have entirely missed the fact that our Police and Crime Commissioners are up for election on 5th May and in some parts of the constituency there are local council elections too.

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

A referendum is a direct vote in which everyone who is registered to vote can have their say on whether to accept or reject the proposal or question before them. In this case it is a question of whether or not each individual voter wishes to remain a member of the EU. My vote is just one vote and counts for no more and no less than the vote of every other person who exercises their right to vote.

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

The decision on who is elected to take up a role is made for a 4 or 5 year term of office and if the candidate chosen turns out not to perform as voters had hoped there is a chance to elect a different person next time around. With a referendum the decision itself will have long-term influence on the future and the key question is perhaps more critical. Whatever decision is made in June it will be set in our country's history and will influence our future. We do indeed need to be informed but it will be almost impossible for each of us to work through the nuance of every argument that is being put forward. In the end I suspect we will make our decision on how to vote based on a more simple view of how we want to see our relationship with Europe in the future and what matters in our individual or family lives.

The most important thing in any election is that those who are entitled to vote exercise that right. Only when we get a good turnout at elections can we really know the mind of the population as a whole. The biggest news item following the last (and first) Police and Crime Commissioner elections was not the actual results but the fact that the number of people who turned out to vote was disappointingly low. Overall only about 15% of those registered to vote did so.

I would expect that the turnout for the referendum will be high and for my part I am doing my best to steer people to robust information on the issues to help them decide how to cast their vote. I would similarly encourage voters to exercise their right in the election on 5th May. Our Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for our policing which I know is important to many people. Their task is to cut crime and deliver an effective police force for the area they represent. They do not get involved in the operational independence of the force but do work to ensure that the force work in an effective and efficient way. If the Chief Constable does not perform well the Commissioner can remove them from post.

I hope that all those who are eligible will exercise their democratic right and vote both in the upcoming elections and the referendum. Trends show that younger people often do not exercise their right to vote. I hope that we can all encourage them to see the importance of doing so and to make their voices heard alongside all other generations in these forthcoming elections.

To receive my regular e-newsletters and briefings please email me to be added to the circulation list at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. For more information about my work please do visit my website www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp



THE ORCHARD

Financial Administrator required, circa 6 hours per week (term time only)

The Orchard Pre-school in Little Milton is a high quality pre-school, located in a peaceful village setting. We are actively looking for a Financial Administrator to join our friendly team on a permanent basis. The role will be required for circa 6 hours per week, which can be worked flexibly.

The successful applicant will have:

- An understanding of bookkeeping, invoicing, reconciliations and journals
- Knowledge of administrative processes and procedures
- Strong IT skills and be confident using computerised systems
- Previous proven experience as either an administrator or within a finance function
- Good communication skills- good command of spoken and written English.

In return you will gain;

- Competitive salary with training opportunities
- An excellent working environment in a well-resourced pre-school working with a dedicated staff team.

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

DEADLINE REMINDER – Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the **18th of the month** (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the **June 2016** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th May**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published

Please note earlier submission date

THAME THEATRE

See How They Run: By Philip King

Tuesday 3rd May to Saturday 7th May at 7.45pm

Thame Players proudly present *See How They Run*. A farce set towards the end of the Second World War, in the living room of the vicarage in the village of Merton-cum-Middlewick.

Penelope Toop, former actress is now happily married to the local vicar, the Rev. Lionel Toop, where she lives a life of married bliss, or would do if it wasn't for the interfering Miss Skillon, churchgoer of the parish and gossip...

Tickets: £9 (concessions £8)

Viva Neil Diamond

Friday 13th May at 7.45pm

We welcome the return of Bob Drury performing his show *Viva Neil Diamond* which celebrates 50 years of hits by the iconic and legendary Diamond.

Tickets: £12

Doomed Women: By Joan Greening

Friday 20th May at 7.45pm

This is a double bill of fascinating one-act plays. Following excellent reviews and sell out shows in Edinburgh last year, the five -star rated company *A Drunken Sailor* are touring *Doomed Women* nationally in 2016.

Five women set on a course to death or self-destruction. Who survives?

Two shows: one evening of brilliant drama and entertainment.

Tickets: £10

Dung Beatles

Friday 27th May at 7.45pm

The Dung Beatles return with another feast of the best music from The Beatles, including a special tribute to the wonderful musical arrangements of the late great Sir George Martin, which featured prominently in their later albums.

Tickets: £12 (concessions £10)

Tickets online from www.thameplayers.co.uk (10% booking fee applies) or Spear Travels, Greyhound Walk, Thame 01844 217228

COFFEE MORNING AT 3 CHILTERN VIEW

My son Gareth has been working hard over the last year to raise funds to go on a World Challenge expedition to Ecuador this summer. Some of you may have your newspapers delivered by him, others may have seen him on Sundays working in the Crazy Bear Farm Shop. He has almost reached his target but has a couple of hundred pounds still to go.

In order to complete his fund raising we are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 14th May between 10am and midday at 3 Chiltern View.

We hope you will come and join us for coffee and homemade cake, and find out about his planned adventures.

Lucinda Arnold

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age Concern	01844 279238	Janet Betts
Citizens Advice Bureau	01844 214827	Thame & District
Church: St James	01844 278349	Revd. Simon Cronk
Doctors	01865 872448 111 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery Out of Hours Service NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 279978	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	A J Woods Ltd
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278970 01844 279150	Barry Coward (Chair) Raymond Fergusson (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278922 01844 279535 0870 770 6880	Teresa Quested (Chair) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
Police	101	Thames Valley Police (Non-emergency)
Post Office	01844 279001	Annie Rogers (Postmistress)
Public Transport	01869 241500 01296 399500 0870 6082 608	Heyfordian Travel Red Rose Travel Arriva
SODC	01491 823000	All enquiries
Southern Electric	0845 770 8090	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0845 9200 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ian & Des
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

For all other numbers go to website www.littlemilton.org.uk