

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2022

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 279242
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

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

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Nethercleft, Dan Bennett, Sarah MacMahon
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak, Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson

Cover: The Great Milton Singers on May Morning.

Photo: Paul Wakefield.

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South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
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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

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Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
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Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	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...

I wish to formally distance myself from comments by residents which have appeared in various national media outlets over recent days. A small yet vitriolic cabal have weaponised the legitimate mowing of a field to reinforce their objections to what is undoubtedly a major boon to the local economy, especially of this village, in the shape of the proposed expansion of the Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons (LMQS).

Since its inception over 30 years ago, the centre of excellence represented by Raymond Blanc's establishment has been nothing but beneficial to the residents of this village, enjoying increased tourist revenue, rental income, world-recognition, stimulated house prices, support for the village shop and pub, and improved employment prospects to name but a few. On top of this, M Blanc's reputation as a champion of ecologically sustainable food sources and the correct use of seasonal produce have placed him at the forefront of the hospitality industry. To accuse him now of "vandalism" is not merely an insult to a long-term benefactor, but also undermines his life's work, totally unjustifiably. Whilst the mowing of a field has nothing whatsoever to do with the planning application in question, it seems some people in the village are trying to use this as a lever to prevent the proposed expansion.

A local resident and self-appointed spokesman states that "everyone in the village is very disappointed" and talks of how this "gives an insight into Belmond's attitude to the environment and sustainability". Despite these assertions, this view does not represent those of the village. Out of 350 plus households, there are indeed some (less than 5%) who have negative views of the proposals (and they are entitled to their opinions, although they have no mandate) whilst we must assume that the silent majority either support, or are not concerned with, the development. Furthermore, the insight that this gives into Belmond's attitude is in fact that they are careful custodians of their land, which like any other does require maintenance, and which is proposed to return to its historical agricultural use should planning permission be granted. This is a field; it is not a wildlife sanctuary!

It is also worth pointing out that at the height of Covid lockdowns, when LMQS was closed to the public, the vegetables produced in their grounds were donated to the very villagers who are now up in arms! Many of those who are so opposed to the development have long benefitted from M Blanc's generous donations of prizes for charitable events and are more than happy when he agrees to open the village fete or judge the cake stalls.

It is of course understandable that a development of this nature in a village like Great Milton has raised concerns locally. However, in my opinion, using the maintenance

of this field to try to derail the attempts of a world-renowned business to evolve and thrive is wholly unacceptable. I am fully supportive of the proposed developments at LMQS and welcome the planned investment in our village by one of the leading lights of the global hospitality industry.

Not letting apathy rule is one thing, but anarchy is an entirely different matter...

Steve Harrod

Draft Parish Notes – May 2022

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held at the Pavilion on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs W Fox, P Allen, C Deacon, D Harms and M Horsley. Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs S Harrod, G Bennet and Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo. Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Niall Kingston (General Manager, LMQS) and 19 members of the public.

Election of Chair

After a unanimous vote Cllr Steve Harrod was elected unopposed in his absence as Chair of Great Milton Parish Council for the coming year, with the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed as soon as is practical either at his home address or at the next meeting.

Election of Vice-Chair

After a unanimous vote Cllr Bill Fox was elected unopposed as Vice-Chair of Great Milton Parish Council for the coming year, and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Review of existing Committees

The membership of the various committees affiliated to the Parish Council was reviewed, and their representatives confirmed as follows:

- The Sheppard Trust – Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
- The Hard Surface Play Area Committee –
Mark Nethercleft (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer)
- Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee –
James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
- Neighbourhood Watch – Jola Miziniak, Rod Snowdon
- The Kent & Couling Charity – Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
- The Old Field Charity – Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory

(Treasurer)



- Neighbours Hall – Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC), Cllrs Stephen Harrod and G Bennet. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

Declarations of members' interests

Cllr Fox advised that he and Cllr Harrod are Chair and Vice-Chair of the Great Milton Community Pub Limited respectively, as well as being shareholders in the pub along with the majority of councillors, Belmond Group and Raymond Blanc. Following advice received from the District Monitoring Officer when the Manoir planning application was first considered, a declaration of pecuniary interest is not required for councillors who hold shares in the pub, but this is mentioned here for full transparency.

Matters to report

Monthly reports were received from the County and District Councillor, along with Cllr Caroline Newton's delayed annual District Council report. These are available on the Parish Council website. In addition, Cllr Newton noted that a consultation on the Local Plan 2041 (for adoption in 2024) is under way: comments are welcomed. Additionally proposed changes to the planning process were shelved in the Queen's Speech: any revisions will be much less dramatic than those originally planned. Finally, Cllr Newton was pleased to report that South Oxfordshire has welcomed one of the largest volumes of Ukrainian refugees in the country, with 400 children arriving in the district, plus their families.

Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received which is not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S0343/FUL and P21/S0428/LB (Belmond Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons Church Road Great Milton). Amended plans and additional information received 12 April 2022. This application was discussed at length by attendees and councillors. The key points are summarised below.

Architects' model

Concerns were repeated regarding the ongoing absence of an architects' model of the development to ease understanding of the scale and nature of the proposal, and also possibly improving engagement. It was felt that artists' impressions were not a suitable substitute, gave an inaccurate impression of scale, and that the volume of plans on the SODC website was daunting and extremely difficult to navigate. Several attendees felt that the Parish Council should not have supported the development without the

provision of a model: Cllr Allen responded by stating that the Parish Council had requested a model but that it was made clear by Lichfields and Belmond at an early stage that this would not be pursued.

Scale of development

Several attendees commented on the scale of development relative to the size of Great Milton, and Le Manoir's situation on a relatively small plot of land very close to the heart of the village. Similar spa offerings are more generally surrounded by large expanses of open land, with dedicated accesses and long drives which minimise traffic impacts and potential road safety issues on nearby communities (with Soho Farmhouse referenced). Clarification was sought on why the development needed to be as large as is planned, and why a spa, gym, wellness centre and cookery school were required as well as the increased number of restaurant covers and rooms to ensure future viability. Cllr Fox responded by saying that the development would 'futureproof' Le Manoir, which was a 'force for good' within the village and needed to move with the times, while Niall Kingston added that expansion was necessary to ensure future sustainability, and that the vision for the spa was Raymond Blanc's.

Building footprints

A resident observed that although there were reported reductions in building sizes, there was little evidence of change and that the footprints of buildings had not reduced significantly, if at all. With only three bedrooms, it was questioned whether it was necessary for a building such as the 'Presidential Villa' to be as large as is planned.


Engagement

Opinion was expressed that Belmond's engagement on the amended application was unsatisfactory compared to the initial iteration, when residents were invited to a consultation event where open discussion and explanation of the plans with staff from Lichfields and Belmond/LMQS was facilitated. The absence of this offer with regard to the amendments hindered the necessary understanding of the changes that had been made.

Road access

A comment was received that the junction with the A329 was unsafe, given its proximity to the Church Road junction and Haseley junctions on a 50mph stretch of road. However, Cllr Fox and Niall Kingston responded by saying that the junction design had been approved by OCC as the highway authority, and that as such it was also assumed to be safe and suitable by Belmond/LMQS and the Parish Council.

Traffic

Concerns were raised over the volume of additional traffic through the village, which from certain directions was likely to be routed via Great Milton by sat nav instructions. A parallel was drawn with traffic levels and movements at school times, which 

illustrate the significant impact of additional traffic on the village road network. Concerns were also raised about the road safety implications of people arriving and departing by car in the hours of darkness on unlit and unfamiliar village roads.

Heritage and tradition

One resident expressed the view that the planned redevelopment bore no relation to the intimate country hotel that Raymond Blanc had established in Great Milton, while another could not believe that he was prepared to allow building on the long-established vegetable garden. Niall Kingston responded by reiterating that this was very much Raymond Blanc's vision, and that he is and will always be intrinsic to the business. One attendee also commented that the Parish Council was perhaps placing too much emphasis upon the resolution of Historic England's objections when many residents' concerns (for example with regard to ecology) were not dealt with in the HE response.

Parish council position

A view was expressed that the Parish Council had up to now approved the plans in support of Belmond/LMQS, while not being sympathetic to or reflecting the views of the many residents who had submitted comments on the SODC website and attended the meetings at which the application had been discussed. Cllr Fox responded by stating that the Parish Council's role was not to reflect all views on every detail of the application (which would be impossible given its complexity), but to listen and ultimately make their own decision, adding that there were residents who were supportive of the plans, while others were ambivalent.

The 'Manoir Field'/wildflower meadow

Sadness was expressed by some residents at the loss of biodiversity in the wildflower meadow, not only from the recent mowing but from the change of use that the plans propose, particularly for car parking.

Future development

An attendee commented that the Parish Council approving and not challenging this application may be the signal for further even more significant development in the future.

Drainage

Concerns were reiterated regarding the impact on drainage from the proposed development, and in particular the impact of increases in the amount of water entering drainage channels which due to being silted up may not be able to cope with the resulting influx.

Parish Plan

A comment was received on the relationship between the proposed development and Great Milton's Parish Plan. Cllr Fox responded by stating that the Parish Plan

was somewhat dated (published in 2012): in response it was suggested that perhaps the plan should be revisited given the time that had elapsed since it was drafted, thus allowing the community to have more of a say in the village's future, with particular regard to planning.

SUMMING UP

In summing up, Cllrs Allen, Horsley and Harms agreed that consultation and engagement by Belmond on the amendments had been unsatisfactory, while Cllr Horsley also agreed that the absence of a model had been unhelpful.

VOTE

Of 5 councillors present, 2 voted to support the amendments, 1 voted against, while 2 abstained. Given this outcome and the weight of opinion of attendees, Great Milton Parish Council RESOLVED to respond to SODC detailing the discussion and the outcome of the vote in the absence of a clear position. The Parish Council also RESOLVED to seek clarification from the case officer on whether the planning application would be considered by the Planning Committee, and if not to request this.

P22/S1316/HH (Swarebrook Lower End Great Milton). Construction of new blockwork garden wall faced in natural stone on one side and lime render on the other side. This application was reviewed by Cllr Horsley. A 3-metre wall is proposed, primarily to obscure the view of the carport associated with the 'Glass Onion' from Swarebrook. No adverse comments were received regarding the wall from neighbours on local consultation, though some are noted on the SODC website relating to the height of the wall. After discussion it was AGREED to respond to SODC with a comment to the effect that adjustments to the wall would be appropriate, to a height of 3 metres to obscure the view of the carport from Swarebrook, reducing to 2m where there is an impact on amenity.

P22/S1395/HH (1 Colletts Cottages Thame Road Great Milton). Demolition of detached garage and part previous rear extension to facilitate erection of two storey extension to cottage, plus forming a new additional vehicular access off Thame Road, thereby extinguishing the current pedestrian access. This application was reviewed by Cllr Fox. It is noted that the south-west corner of the new extension is just 1 metre from the boundary fence of the adjacent property ('Crannog'), although there are only small windows to the kitchen and cloakroom along that elevation, minimising any impact from overlooking. Despite proximity to 'Crannog', the neighbours on both sides are supportive of the development, and as result the Parish Council AGREED to respond to SODC with a comment to the effect that the planning authority should consider the impact of the proposed extension on the amenity of the adjoining bungalow to the west.



P22/S1189/HH (7 Thame Road Great Milton). As amended by plans received 22 April 2022 illustrating first floor window. This application was reviewed by Cllr Fox. After brief discussion it was resolved to SUPPORT the amended plans illustrating the first-floor window as submitted.

P22/S1351/PDS (The Penn Thame Road Great Milton). Additional storey to increase the height of the building by 2.3 metres. This application was reviewed by Cllr Bennet outside the meeting, and comments were submitted to SODC on 11 May having been denied an extension and in the context of this being permitted development. One resident was concerned at the prospect of construction here along with possible further building on another nearby site. However, the same respondent also felt that the property will be more aesthetically pleasing than the current bungalow when completed, and was happy that no windows overlooked their property.

Again, mindful of the fact that this is permitted development, Cllr Bennet could find no strong reasons to object to the proposal. It was noted that there are no online comments from neighbours on the consultation page, and with no additional comments of its own, as such the Parish Council therefore agreed to SUPPORT the application.

No planning decisions have been received this month, and there are no outstanding planning matters.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the April meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 19th April 2022, were received, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £557.72

McCracken and Sons. Mowing April. £804

Arthur J Gallagher (Parish Council insurance). £436.99

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production May. £335.20

Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying April. £62.40

Three Villages car scheme insurance. £100

Website support February. £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, reviewed and signed. The bank balance as at 9th May was £47,609.30.

Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

Oxfordshire County Council Highways has been contacted with a view to the supply and installation of highway infrastructure to deter speeding, including Speed Indicator Devices.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

There are no significant issues to report other than those which are receiving national coverage.

20mph zone

There are no further developments to report on progress towards a 20mph zone, other than that Great Milton is in the first batch of 20mph communities in Oxfordshire.

Security in the village

The Neighbourhood Watch team will be present at the Church Fete on 11 June. Discussions continue with a view to investigation of 'Smartwater' as a potential security solution in the village.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be marked with various activities at The Bull spanning the long weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, along with a village 'Jubilee Picnic' at the Recreation Ground on Sunday 5th from 12 to 2pm (weather permitting). Please contact Hazel Hand or Tim Darch if you are able to offer assistance with any aspect of setting up this event.

New Bus Service

As the result of a partnership between Belmond (UK) Ltd (owners of Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons), the Oxford Bus Company and Oxfordshire County Council, service 46 from Oxford to Wheatley will be significantly extended to operate hourly from early till late, seven days a week, between Great Milton, Wheatley, Horspath, Cowley, Florence Park and Oxford from Monday 20th June 2022. Residents are urged to support the service to help to secure its long-term future: the timetable will appear in the next Bulletin, and also appears on the village and Oxford Bus Company websites. The Parish Council wishes to thank Belmond for ensuring the restoration of regular public transport provision to Great Milton.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all of our distributors and collectors in Great Milton, Little Milton and the Haseleys and to each and everyone of you who gave money via the red envelopes this past month in May. The monies will now be added up, the collectors invited to our Annual 'Thankyou party' and the final totals printed in the July Bulletin...

S.A. Dennis

Benefice Services for June

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 19th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am Family Gathering 4:00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9:00am	

Rector's Pint

Once again, with the world as it is, and the huge issues we face I hope you will forgive me if I write about something else.

Has anyone been watching 'Freeze the Fear with Wim Hof' on BBC1? I thought that it would be yet another celebrity sideshow, but it has proved to be surprisingly engaging, as a group of people (the celebrities) take on challenges set by an extraordinary man, Wim Hof, who for years has proclaimed the benefits of the cold and has gone to extreme measures to prove it.

One of the challenges is to take cold showers, and I am having a go! I do start under warm water and then turn it colder, so it is not an instant shock. The experience itself is never easy, but it really does 'kick start' the day. Wim Hof also makes the claim that cold water activates the cardiovascular system and improves its function, and many others have supported the claims that cold showers are good for you.

The key to embracing the cold is focussing on the breath. One of Wim Hof's exercises is all about breath and body control, which I am also trying out. Space here does not allow me to explain exactly what to do. What the exercise does though, is to take the mind to an extraordinarily calm place, and I have found that I have then been able to stay there, whilst focussing on the breath, something I started to learn to do with a course on mindfulness that I attended a few years ago.

I believe that these are spiritually ‘neutral’ exercises, but they can help to nurture the spiritual life. In June we will be celebrating Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. In Hebrew the word is the same for both ‘Spirit’ and ‘Breath’, the wonderful sounding word ‘Ruach.’ There is a long tradition of Christian prayer which begins with cultivating stillness by focussing on the breath. The key emphasis in the Christian tradition though, is not about being ‘emptied’ but ‘filled.’ The creation story in the Bible tells of God’s spirit ‘hovering over the face of the deep’ and then God breathing on Adam, filling him with life. I can testify that the discipline of the breath is a real aid to focussing on prayer. I wish I had discovered this years ago, it is a real gift.

O living Christ, rescue us from foolish passion and still the storms of our self-will: and as you are the anchor to this life, so bring us to the haven you have prepared for us; for your mercy’s sake. (from CofE daily prayer).

An extra brief word...

In June we will be celebrating the platinum jubilee of a remarkable woman who has served us well for so many years. She is human, and has made mistakes, but I am convinced that she has understood the worth and value of the Christ-like virtue of wisdom with gentleness, and behind the scenes, has sought to use it and influence for the good. I really hope some of that might rub off on our present political leaders at this time of crisis. We need it now more than ever. We all wish her well. God save the Queen.

Simon

Church Open Day

We are very excited to let everyone know that there will be a Church Open Day on Saturday 1st October with a broad and interesting programme of events throughout the day. This will include talks, displays, and activities for children, as well as music, singing and refreshments.

We will demonstrate how the proposed new space in the church will look and it's potential to bring benefits to our village community as a flexible space.

We would welcome hearing from any local group that might like to take part or have a display.

More information will be available soon but in the meantime please hold the date.

Thank you.

Mary Wakefield, Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Trudy Timbs, Jane Jefferis, Liz Isherwood



ST MARY'S CHURCH

GREAT MILTON · RESTORATION APPEAL

Conserve, Care, Connect

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

June 2022				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanna Tulloch	
19th	11:00am	St. Mary's	Sue Barratt	
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	

Tale of a 'Newbie' Bellringer

Have you ever thought of trying Bellringing yourself?

I have always enjoyed hearing the Church bells ring – especially on Thursday evenings when I drove past the church on the way home from work during their practice sessions, also on Sunday mornings the sound would drift across the field on a summer's day – how lovely to be able to do that I thought! With encouragement from Pat Cox, one of the bellringers, I started to join the others on practice evenings in the Bell tower about three years ago. So, although I am very much still a 'newbie' – with my 3 years' experience (and that includes lockdown spells with no ringing of course) compared with about 30 years for each of the other members of the bellringing team, I can now ring a small selection of 'methods'. At times I found it quite hard – especially at the beginning when the rope seemed to fly about everywhere! - but with lots of encouragement and support from our trainer and the rest of the friendly team I slowly improved and got more confident and received my bellringing certificate in February 2020. I now join the others for the Sunday morning 'peal' and hope to be able to ring for a wedding maybe this year.

We would love to welcome new ringers to St Mary's Church tower – we have good training for beginners from our Tower Captain, Mark Hunter. Practice sessions are Thursday evening from 7.30pm for about one and a quarter hours, there are no costs involved and there is the opportunity to visit other church towers in the area. Please speak to any of the village bellringers if you would like more information – maybe you could visit the bell tower just to watch and listen first – it's a fascinating skill to learn.

Call me on 01844 279787 if you want to know more.

Hazel

Easter Gardens and Story Morning

April 14th dawned fine and sunny... Quantities of moss, compost, stones, twig crosses, flowers, flower pots and other assorted materials made their way to the Pine Lodge. With the help of a wonderful Benefice team 24 children created amazing Easter Gardens and listened to the Easter Story together... Huge thanks to everyone who collected moss, twigs, stones/rocks and flowers and to those who baked Easter biscuits and chocolate brownies... you know who you are but renewed thanks through each of the Benefice Newsletter/Bulletins to each one.

S.A Dennis



Senior Citizens Party Committee

Annual Seaside Trip

At the recent annual party, the choice of venue for the seaside trip was made – this being Brighton. The date of the trip is 6th August which is PRIDE celebration day in Brighton, which has led to a number of people expressing concern because of the crowds etc.

Barbara Plastow has been in contact with the Brighton Tourist Board and there are certain restrictions in place for coaches – the main one being that, if you do not arrive before 11:00am, the coach will have to ‘park up’ outside the town and passengers will have to walk in.

In view of the situation a decision has been made to change the venue to Eastbourne – this being the second choice in the vote.

Invitations will be delivered in early July.

The Quiz is Back!

To be held on Friday 1st July in the Neighbours Hall at 7:00pm. Teams of up to eight people – tickets £5 each which will include a ploughman’s supper. More details nearer the date.

Ann Price, Secretary



Great News!

We have copies of the Wells book printed and ready for sale at the Fete at a price of £15 each. The book contains details of over 80 village wells and boreholes, and represents three years of research and devotion by Ian Melton. The number could increase – make sure your well is in the records!

Come and see us at the Fete!

GMH

Neighbours' Hall Book Library

We plan to continue our open sessions on the third Friday of the month over the summer from 11am to 12.30pm

The dates for June and July are Friday 17th June and Friday 15th July - all are welcome to come and donate, borrow or take a book or two or jigsaw puzzle - we have quite a good selection of both. We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes to enjoy in the Garden whilst you browse and chat!

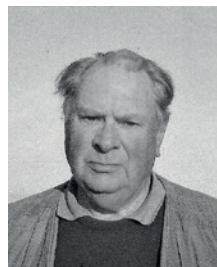
We have limited book shelf space so although donations are always welcome paperbacks only please.

People are welcome to use the Book and Puzzle Library (in the entrance area and hallway) at any time when visiting the Hall - just good to make use of this rather nice community facility.

Barbara and Hazel

View from Views


They say one swallow doesn't make a summer, well, what do no swallows make? By the 8th May only seen 3, a few more in the village; they could of course be the same birds – who knows? By the middle of the month a few more sightings. This is a little worrying, as usually by this time of year our Grain store is alive with the chittering of nesting birds. We must question why, and this time do not blame us farmers; it is much more likely to be something that has happened in their winter quarters. Hopefully by the time this is read they will be around. Many other species



of birds seem to be flourishing and, in spite of all reports, we still are housing as many Sparrows as always.

What extraordinary weather with sudden changes in temperature. I don't think we have had any rain to speak of since I last wrote, with some cold frosty nights and warm sunny days, some very hot, makes me very concerned for the future of our crops. The Rape seems to be holding out and, now the flowers are dropping off, it might survive better as the seed will be set. The Wheat and Barley however (on the 11th May) were just beginning to show signs of drought stress. Just how much the 5mm that fell that day will help remains to be seen, since when there has been a little more. Our spring Barley with the clover was then looking desperate for water; the Clover does not look very happy either. I think actually we gave the Clover too hard a time and should consider a different approach another time. It is though all a learning curve for us.

How the Lupins will survive, just emerging early May will need a drink as well very shortly, showing rows after 10 days of emergence. So far fingers crossed; pigeons do not seem a problem. The plus side of this is that, due to my worries over this pest damage, I have been getting out of bed early and patrolling. Never sure how much good that does but at least it gives me the satisfaction of seeing them off whilst I am in the field, knowing full well they will be back as soon as my back is turned. But what a joy to hear the birds singing when the rest of the world is quiet, particularly the Sky Larks that have been with us all thro' the winter. I can always remember just after WW2 our Cowman who had to have the milking done by 7am when the Milk lorry came to pick up the churns (that we all used in those days) which meant getting the cows in about 5am. When questioned if this worried him, he would say, it's great to be up before anyone else has breathed in the air and coughed it up.

We are all concerned about climate change, except for Russia. I think most of the population of the world are concerned but feel powerless to do anything about it. I do think that Governments could do more to encourage initiatives by making it easier for individuals to do their bit. New housing must have the very best insulation and inspected to this high standard with, where practical, solar panels on the roof. There could be advertising publicity on how to save electricity in the home; simple measures like not leaving light on. If we left a light on when we were young we were jolly soon told about it in no uncertain terms. I know of family-sized cars that will now do 70 miles to the gallon when 20-30 was the norm not that long ago, so manufacturers should be mandated to produce such vehicles. Think what a difference that would make. Public transport should be made more accessible. The idea that fuel is too expensive is a nonsense; the real reason why we use so much fossil fuel is that it is too cheap. If there was more publicity to encourage us to do a little bit along 

these simple lines, plus many other little things that could help, it would surely slow the emissions of greenhouse gases as we will be struggling to meet the target set for 2050. This is a fact of life no matter what the demonstrators say and I do sympathies with them, but it cannot happen overnight. (A wartime slogan; IS YOUR JOURNEY REALLY NECESSARY!)

There has been a lot of publicity about the methane produced by farm animals, with the use of wool being criticized as well. Sheep as grazing animals help to preserve carbon-locking grasslands. It is said that synthetic fibres reliant on oil by-products produce 1.2 million tonnes of carbon. This is more than international aviation and shipping (I assume this is per annum) whereas Wool does not.

Finally I must admit to being a failure in being able to judge a good politician. I always thought our PM would make a good one and the other two how I thought were good, both were good in their support for agriculture, Owen Paterson, & Neil Parish, so in future I think I will not give an opinion.

A big thank you to all who supported us for this year's Tractor Run by donating to the Air Ambulance. After all the wonderful weather we had it had to throw a spanner in the works by raining most of the day. On the other hand I think we probably earned every penny by being drenched. Being assured by the forecast of a fine day, some of us were completely unprepared.

Charles Peers

Governor Vacancies for Great Milton C of E Primary School

Are you interested in helping in the ongoing success of Great Milton C of E Primary School, and its continuing role in the heart of our community?

We currently have 2 vacancies to join our active governing board, these are for a Co-opted Governor and for a Foundation Governor to help preserve and develop the religious character of the school. If you know anyone who would like to join us as a Governor please contact Chair@gmilton.org and to find out more about the Foundation Governor role, please have a chat with Rev Simon Cronk.

The role of the Board of Governors is to set the vision and strategy for the school, provide support and constructive challenge to the Headteacher and their leadership team, and overseeing the financial performance of the school. We are particularly looking for new Governors with the following interests and skills which link with the school's future development plans: an interest in developing the school; an interest in our local community; and links to the church.

Being a Governor is a fulfilling voluntary role that can provide you with broader experience, but it requires a level of commitment of attending 6 full Governors meetings a year. Please do spread the word and if you know of anyone please do contact us or the school.

Haseley Open Gardens

On Saturday July 9th we are organizing an Open Garden event in the Haseleys.

We hope that as many Haseley residents as possible will open their gardens to create a fun, social afternoon, where we can all satisfy our curiosity about our friends' gardens, and see some beautiful plants (and maybe the occasional wonderful weed). We will also be serving teas and delicious cakes in the Great Haseley Village Hall.

Entrance to the participating gardens will be by donation, with all money received for entrance to the gardens and teas going to St Peter's Church, Great Haseley. Residents and friends of Great Milton and Little Milton would be warmly welcomed to join us.

We really hope to see you there,

Judy Alexander, Jane Cannon, Scilla Greenall, Fiona Heyward, Mary Isaac and Marylu Sheehan

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In May, Nollag McGrath, the Practice Manager of Morland House Surgery talked to us about her work and new developments at the practice. We also welcomed new members, Charmaine, Helen & Roz and returning member, Amilia.

At our next meeting on Thursday 9th June at 7.30pm Christine Jeffery will be giving us an introduction to Scottish Country dancing. Everyone welcome - wear comfy shoes. Visitors £5 or join up (2022/23 membership £44).

Other news:

We're busy planning some Summer day trips and outings:

- Tour of the Oxford Botanic Gardens on Thursday 7 July at 2pm
- Calendar Girls at the Oxford Playhouse 11-16 July (date TBA)
- Boat trip on Thursday 11 August

Little Milton Church Fete - Saturday 18 June 2-430pm. I'll be running the Toy Tombola. Come along, say hello & win a toy!

Haseley Open Gardens - Saturday 9 July



Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group. Please email us if you fancy joining WI or need a lift.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 730pm in The Pine Lodge, Little Milton OX44 7PZ

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Wheatley Library

We're looking to start up more groups here at Wheatley library to keep our residents busy during opening hours, so please see the list below for the kinds of things we're looking to get started!

We would love for anyone interested in either leading the groups or simply joining in to let us know, and if we can gather enough interest then it would be great to get them going as soon as possible.

The groups we're currently looking at starting are:

- Creative Writing -- We're happy to have groups for both older and younger users, to provide a space for telling stories of all kinds.
- Games – Again, possibly for both older and younger users, to spend some time having fun. This can be board games, card games, even D&D. Whatever people want!
- Rhyme/Story Time – If singing or reading to children sounds fun, we have just the thing!

We're also looking for Digital Helpers to assist the community with any technological support on a one-to-one basis, so let us know if this is something that interests you. It's a great way to volunteer and gain new skills, while genuinely helping people at the same time. And if you have any suggestions for any other interest/activity groups, please do get in touch! You can ring us on 01865 875267, or email us at wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Charlie Boddington (Wheatley Library Manager)

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall in Wheatley High Street.

Maple Tree Nursery

A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree!

This is a busy time at The Maple Tree – we have sessions daily, lots of fundraising events happening and we are looking for a trustee who is an accountancy whiz – could that be you?

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am (drop in) and Bonding with Baby run by Babies First 1:30-2:30

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am, Baby Massage at 10:30-12:00 and Maple Babies at 1:00-2:00pm

Wednesday: Cruisers and Crawlers at 10:30-11:30am and Maple Babies at 1:00-2:00pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (drop in)

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am 3rd Saturday in month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm (drop in)

Our sessions are bookable through Eventbrite; bit.ly/mapletreeeb. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

Save the Dates:

Saturday 11th June Teddy Bear Toddle

Sunday 26th June Thame 10k

Saturday 2nd July The Maple Tree Magic Show

Saturday 16th July Wheatley Play Day

Friday 19th August Music Event

Friday 23rd Sept Summer Fete and Draw

Check out our Website and Facebook pages for more information about our special events, our summer programme and popular First Aid classes!

We are here to help young families, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

Laura Spencer

The Maple Tree Centre Manager

Morland House Surgery

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Morland House Surgery relies on its PPG to collect and discuss ideas intended to help to maintain and improve the services provided, and this group of volunteers now wants to be able to communicate very occasionally with a wider group of our patients to receive helpful suggestions and very occasionally to provide feedback on the PPG Group's proposals to help the Morland House Surgery. If you are a patient of any age using this Surgery and you are willing to help in this way, and agree to be consulted very occasionally by e-mail, please let the Practice Manager know by sending an e-mail to occg.morland.ppg@nhs.net agreeing for us to contact you. Your own e-mail address will not be published anywhere, and it will be used only for this purpose if you provide it.

NHS App

If you own a smartphone, we strongly recommend you download the NHS App. To use it you should be aged 16 or over and registered with a GP Surgery in England. To find out more please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/> Use the NHS App to:

- Get your NHS COVID Pass
- Get advice about coronavirus
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Book appointments
- Get health advice
- View your health record
- Register your organ donation decision
- Find out how the NHS uses your data
- View your NHS number

After you download the app, you will need to set up an NHS login and prove who you are. The app then securely connects to information from your GP surgery.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 vaccine, and opening hours, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

GREAT MILTON **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Hi, fellow residents, neighbours & friends of Great Milton.

Great Milton Village Fete **Saturday 11th June**

We will be having a stall at this year's Village Fete

with various items of interest including :-

Help and advice on how to increase home & vehicle security
and other crime prevention techniques.

All supported with leaflets, "how-to" guides and other items of interest.

And the return of the Fire Engine!

Our Next Event **Thames Valley Police Event** **The Cricket Pavilion, Saturday 16th July**

Our very own local police officers will be here again to answer any questions, give advice and help support our neighbourhood in becoming safer for everyone.

And yes, by popular demand, the Fire Engine will be there again!!

It would be useful to know what are your greatest areas of concern:

Burglary
Vehicle theft / crime
Anti-social behaviour
Criminal damage
Other issues of concern

To keep updated and to alert others
Our Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp Group is now in operation.

If you would like to be included in the app.

Please contact our two Neighbourhood Watch representatives

Jola Miziniak and Rod Snowdon

Contact numbers on page 3 of the Bulletin

VACANCY

CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Location: home-based

Hours: 10.5 per week

Salary: NJC Scale LC1, scale points 7 to 17 (£10.63 to £12.95 per hour), depending upon experience, CiLCA qualification and transferable skills.

Job Description

The Clerk provides administrative and clerical support to the Council and, as the Responsible Finance Officer, is required to manage the Council's finances. Duties include:

- Managing parish council meetings, including agenda preparation, taking and distributing minutes and ensuring that outcomes are actioned
- Managing the Parish Council's finances, including preparation of accounts and reconciliations, payroll and PAYE, payment of invoices, banking, end of year accounts, submission of accounts for external audit, VAT reclaim, preparing the annual budget and requesting the precept
- Ensuring that planning applications are considered and responses submitted in timely fashion to the District Council
- Dealing with correspondence and enquiries
- Liaison with contractors and other service providers
- Arranging the maintenance of trees and other village assets routinely and as required
- Liaison with village representatives, including the allotment coordinator, Rec Committee, PCC and Neighbourhood Watch group
- Receiving, collating and sending copy and advertisements to the editor of the Great Milton Bulletin, and invoicing for and managing advertising
- Updating the village website with meeting agendas and minutes, news and required financial and governance-related information.
- Other duties as and when required.

Essential criteria

You will be required to attend the monthly parish council meeting, which usually takes place on the third Monday of each month. You must have some administrative experience and be able to maintain accurate financial records. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software (particularly Word and Excel), be capable of working independently and using your initiative, and be able to deal with a range of issues.

Previous experience in local government at any level will be helpful, but is by no means essential.

**For further information and an application form please e-mail
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or call
Tim Darch, current GMPC Clerk/RFO on 01844 278347**

QUIZ NIGHT @ THE BULL

Saturday 25th JUNE 2022

STARTING AT 7:30pm

**Come along, have a fun evening and
test your knowledge of a range of
subjects in a friendly atmosphere**

ENTRY IS BY TICKET ONLY

**These are available at
The Village Shop and cost £10 p.p.**

**This includes a meal
in the half time break.**

**There will be a prize of
a meal for 4 people for the winners.**

**All proceeds are for the
Friends of Great Milton School.**

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

Great Milton Church Fete

11th June 2pm

Recreation Ground

Raymond Blanc
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decorating

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as well as refreshments, plants, tombola, Aunt Sally, books,
toiletries and gifts, bric a brac & children's toys, homemade
cakes and jams and many more....

Balloon Rides subject to weather conditions



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Great Milton

Saturday 4th June

Special Jubilee menu and events at The Bull
from lunch 'til late (including music and an outside bar)

Sunday 5th June

Village Jubilee Picnic on the Rec - 12-2pm

BYO picnic food | drinks | picnic rugs | fold up chairs
Join in and share with friends and neighbours.

There'll be music to sing along to, wave your
flags or simply enjoy. Pavilion toilets will be open.

NB: Weather dependent

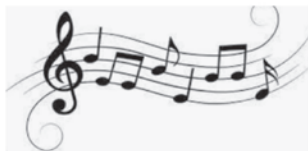
MUSIC AFTER THE FETE

This year we are planning some live music after the fete at The Bull. We'll be hoping to add to the funds raised at the fete in the afternoon.

Saturday 11th June 5pm - 8pm.

If you are a local musician and would like to discuss taking part, please email lucy.darch12@gmail.com

Or just make a note of it in your calendar and come along and enjoy the evening!



LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE

At The Old Vicarage, Church Hill

Saturday 18th June
2 – 4.30pm

Concert Band

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Available for hire by the hour or the day.

Cost for hiring
£15 per hour, £120 for the full day

Please contact our booking secretary

Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details

www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/



Unfinished projects or new resolutions? Join us at the

*Great Milton
Art & Craft Group*

Great Milton Pavilion
6.30-9.00pm
First Monday of the month

No cost. Just bring your own materials

Any questions email:
carina.martin@gmail.com

The Three Villages Car Service

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

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

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

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Full back page colour

£35 or £350 per year

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

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Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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June at Waterperry

Waterperry Gardens – eight acres of inspirational gardens steeped in horticultural history. Choose from a huge range of quality plants, enjoy some retail therapy in the gift barn, gallery and garden shop. Don't miss a visit to our Rural Life Museum, housed in an 18th century granary building it offers visitors a unique and interesting collection of bygone horticultural, agricultural and domestic tools, which give a flavour of life gone by.

Whether you're dropping by or spending the day, looking for a quick cup of coffee and a scone or planning to relax over a leisurely lunch, no visit to Waterperry Gardens is complete without including the Tea Shop.

Waterperry is more than just a beautiful place to come and explore, with year-round events from horticulturally themed days to outdoor opera, theatre, concerts, and arts festivals, there is something for all the family.

The Reluctant Dragon - 5th June

Outdoor performance presented by Quantum Theatre. An enchanting tale of bravery, friendship and derring-do for all the family

Rare Plant Fair - Sunday 12th June

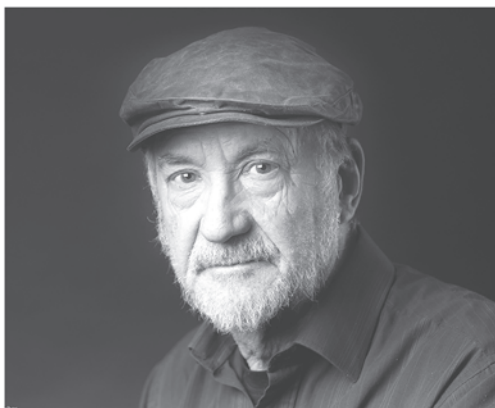
The chance to browse stalls manned by experts specialising in both rare and traditional plants, all in the beautiful setting of the ornamental gardens. Garden entrance fee applies.

Handmade Oxford - 23rd till 26th June

The International Contemporary Arts Festival - a celebration of craft, design, fine art, sculpture, slow living and artisan food.

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Photo: Michael Robinson, Great Milton

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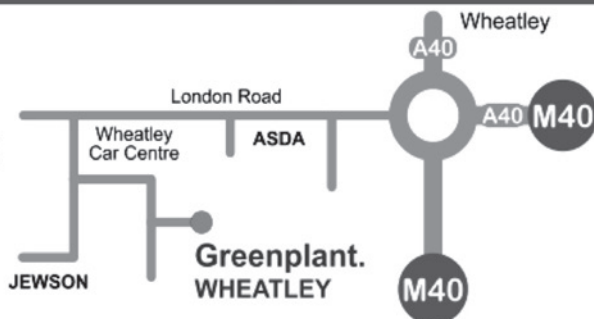
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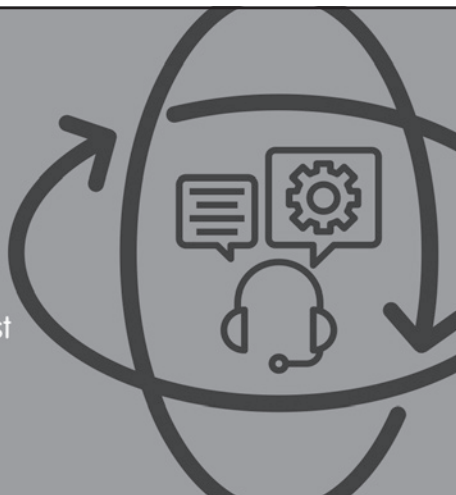
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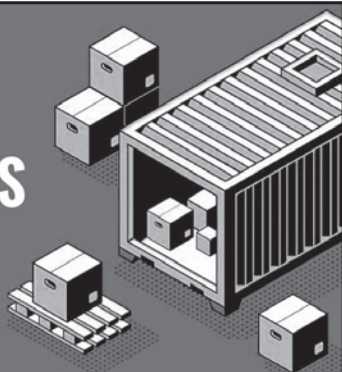
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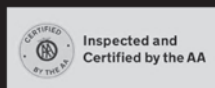
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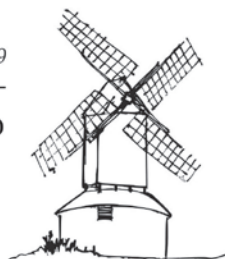


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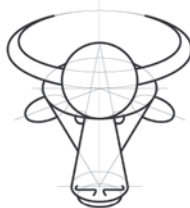
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Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:00am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
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 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

June

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Sat 4th | Jubilee Events at The Bull. Lunch until late. Music and outside bar. | — |
| Sun 5th | Jubilee Picnic on The Recreation Ground (weather allowing) | 12:00pm |
| Sat 11th | Church Fete at The Recreation Ground, along The Green and The Old Barn | 2:00pm |
| | Live Music at The Bull | 5:00pm |
| Fri 17th | Book Library at The Neighbours' Hall | 11:00am |
| Sat 18th | Church Fete at The Old Vicarage, Little Milton | 2:00pm |
| Mon 20th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Sat 25th | Quiz Night at The Bull | 7:30pm |

July

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Fri 1st | Quiz at The Neighbours' Hall | 7:00pm |
| Sat 9th | Open Gardens at The Haseleys | — |
| Fri 15th | Book Library at The Neighbours' Hall | 11:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th June 2022**.

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The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.

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