

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

May 2017

Published by the Parish Council

No. 520



## Great Milton Parish Council

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989**

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

**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

### Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	Michael Robinson, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Lesley Bush, Liz Sands
Kent & Couling Charity:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

### Parish Council Publication Scheme (*Freedom of Information Act*)

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. These records include minutes, financial information, and responses to planning consultations. Applications can be made to the Parish Clerk and documents viewed by appointment. Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

### Front Cover

The recently refurbished tennis court.

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

## In My Opinion...

One of the first memories we have of moving to this village is our first Thursday evening when unexpectedly, at 8pm, the church bells rang, and rang, and rang – unbeknown to us, this was the weekly practice session of the Great Milton Bell Ringers and it was the most wonderful sound – quintessential of an English Village – and has been a joy ever since.

However, as I write this on St George's Day, there are no bells pealing in the background and the air seems strangely bereft of that deep and peaceful sound. Why? There aren't enough bell ringers!

It's that simple – not enough people have been coming forward over the years to partake in this enjoyable pastime and with two or three away or ill, the whole thing stops. In my opinion, this is tantamount to heresy!

Seriously, I have been asked by the Great Milton Tower, a member of the South Oxon Branch of the Oxfordshire Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, to appeal to you all to come forward and join this band of enthusiasts, part of the estimated 40,000 bell ringers across England. Rest assured that it is a safe exercise, despite many bellringers in the Middle Ages being electrocuted as it was believed in those days to ward off thunder!!

Please, if you feel like giving it a go, get in touch with Graham Griffiths, Alan Booker, Pat Cox or any one of the current team (<http://home.freeuk.com/gm-bellringers/>) and you will receive a warm welcome.

### **apathy**

[ap-uh-thee]

*noun*

- absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement.
- lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting.

Don't let apathy rule!

*Stephen Harrod, Chairman*



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## Parish Council Notes

The April meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor) with Cllrs Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell, Bill Fox, and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Malcom Horsley. 

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 15th May at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Please note that approved minutes will be available to view on Great Milton Parish Council website [www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)

### **Planning Applications**

GMPC recommended approval of planning application P17/S0761/LB (Listed Building Consent) received from SODC.

Proposal: Installation of a sunpipe to the main roof to be fixed and installed between the 2 no existing rooflights. This follows pre-application advise and review with the SODC planning team (letter18/05/16)

Address: Kings Head House Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NF

GMPC recommended approval of planning application P17/S1067/FUL (Full Application) received from SODC

Proposal: Erection of six detached and two semi-detached dwellings

Address: The Oxford Belfry Hotel London Road Milton Common OX9 2JW

Planning decision notices received from SODC

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gave notice that outline planning permission is GRANTED - Application No : P17/S0322/O

Application proposal, including any amendments: Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of five detached two storey dwellings with access, parking and amenity space. (As amended by drawing J940-P101A creating a turning area, demonstrating vehicle tracking and adding bin collection points accompanying e-mail from agent received 8 March 2017)

Site Location : Hughendon Motors London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gave notice that planning permission be GRANTED Application No : P16/S4019/HH

Application proposal, including any amendments: Demolition and removal of existing dilapidated garage/storage building and replacement with new garage block. As amended by revised drawings received on 23 February 2017.

Site Location : Monkey Puzzle Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL

### **Parish Council Annual Accounts and Bank Reconciliation**

The Councils accounts and bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved. The bank reconciliation for year-end, 31st March 2017 and amount to be carried forward into the next financial year was £18,917.47

## **Great Milton Parish Council Annual Internal Audit Plan arrangements**

The dates of GMPC Audit activities were agreed:

Internal Audit – Approve at May meeting

Date of meeting to approve section 1 and 2 – May meeting

*Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council*

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## **Oxfordshire County Council Elections**

### **It's a vote for your community**

Oxfordshire County Council provides many of the important services in your community, such as Fire and Rescue, looking after vulnerable children and adults, libraries, roads, waste disposal, school nurses and tackling rogue traders, to name just a few.

The county council elections on Thursday 4th May are your opportunity to directly influence how these services are run in your area.

The councillor elected in your area will be representing you and your community, taking important decisions that affect where you live. They will also be the person you get in touch with if you want to improve services over the next few years.

You can find the full list of candidates standing in your area and your nearest polling station at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections)

The elections take place on Thursday 4 May from 7.00am to 10 pm. The election count takes place on Friday, May 5 in Abingdon. If you care about local services, don't forget to vote and remind your friends and family too!

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## **Christian Aid Week May 14th – 20th**

Once again our Christian Aid Banner and Bunting will be seen fluttering beside the A329.... The theme this year is 'I was a stranger' both topical now and reflective of the fact that Christian Aid has 'been there' for refugees of all faiths and none since 1945. The Christian Aid Week Prayer Booklets for this week will incorporate the tying of knots in red ribbon on each of the seven days as a symbol of solidarity with displaced people and refugees. If you'd like a Prayer Booklet please phone me on 278029. The three Lent Lunches have already raised @£500 and we are on the way to this year's Benefice Collecting total which came last year to £2,273.81 including Gift Aided contributions...

*S. A. Dennis*

## Services in Our Benefice for May

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 7th <i>Easter 4</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 14th <i>Easter 5</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 21st <i>Easter 6</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Thursday 25th <i>Ascension Day</i>	Holy Communion 7:30pm		
Sunday 28th <i>Sunday after Ascension Day</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am		Benefice Rogation Service at Field Farm, Rycote Lane 10:00am

## Services in Our Benefice for June

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 4th <i>Whit Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

## Ramblings from the Rectory

Last year at around this time I wrote a letter about the years we had been to Spring Harvest in Minehead.

We nearly didn't go. I had thought about it when I arrived here, we were still in our first year, and we were on a post Easter break with friends in Scotland. I had talked to a few people about Spring Harvest but so many other things were on my mind. I think I had a bit of a divine boot up the backside, simply, 'do it.' Now anyone who knows me will know that whilst I might have the odd idea or two, actually doing anything administratively is neither my first love nor gifting! However 'do it' it was. Cath joined in of course, she has the eye for small detail that I miss, and I was grateful to Christine Jeffery in Little Milton for keeping me on track. It was the most thrilling thing, six weeks later to confirm a booking. Eleven of us were on our way to Butlins!

For those not in the know. Spring Harvest is an inter-denominational but largely

evangelical christian festival which takes place in the surreal and unlikely venue of Butlins. It was the vision of two men, Clive Calver and Lyndon Bowring, to organise an event that would resource the local church. The first event was held in Prestatyn in North Wales and it has changed from those first beginnings. As we were celebrating with about 4000 other people in Minehead, the same was going on in Skegness. After we left there was a quick turn around in preparation for the second week at both venues. Next year a third venue is being added in Harrogate.

It was a real joy to be there this year with our little group. It was also a little confusing. By good and unplanned fortune on the first evening celebration in the Skyline Pavilion we found ourselves sitting not only among friends from our present parishes, but also from our previous parishes, both Hughenden and Cinderford in the Forest of Dean. I had to remember where each of these wonderful people came from?

The theme this year was 'All for one,' unity in christ. The theme was chosen about three years ago, but it could not have been more timely as we are witnessing a world in which there is a breakdown of unity. The theme was taken from John 17, Jesus' great high priestly prayer as he faced the Cross, for all who would put their trust in him, 'that they may be one.' We had a series of excellent morning Bible readings, from the theologian Krish Kandiah which were engaging, thought provoking and amusing. A whole raft of seminars were on offer as well as the evening celebrations, there were two to chose from. Personally I went for the large event in the Skyline pavilion. Much as I love the small church it is an amazing experience to be with several thousand other worshippers and get to know some music that is less than 10 (let alone 100) years old!

I could go on and on. Spring Harvest is very outward looking, championing social causes in the name of Christ's church. It is an event for all ages which encourages engagement with the world in the name of Christ and his church. We heard from politicians, those working to bring about reconciliation in Rwanda, deeply broken following the genocide. We heard from those working with broken families and those working with Syrian refugees. We were exposed to a range of theological ideas, the nature of personhood, what it means to be human made in the image of God, and throughout the Sun shone!

But the best thing of all, at least for me, was the deepening friendships among the group. It was so great to be with these people. We partied, we shared food and wine, we talked into the early hours (well some of us!), it was FANTASTIC. I was so pleased that I actually listened to the nudge I had in Scotland. Cath and I loved re-connecting with old friends, we love them deeply but we also came away with a sense that for this season in our lives, surrounded by our small group, those who God has put us among are our people. We came home straight into Holy week, another memorable time,

highlights for me must be the Maundy Thursday service at Great Haseley, the Good Friday service at Great Milton and the Good Friday walk around the parishes in the afternoon, and Easter Sunday took me by surprise. I had printed too few service sheets for our 9.30 am and 11.00 am services. O me of little faith!

Back to Spring Harvest though, I came away with several other things. A renewed hope in the essential heart and message of the christian faith, a renewed hope in the one in whom all our hopes ultimately lie. Paradoxically I came away from such a large event with a real sense of the value of the small church and desire to see our small churches thrive as we look for new shoots and ways of being followers of Jesus. I love our villages, I love the small church communities in them that seek to live out their calling as christians. I want us to thrive and not just survive, I believe there is so much more. I also came away with a car covered in seagull poo!

But enough of me - here are some comments from those in our group:

‘Spring Harvest was certainly a culture shock for me, after twenty five years as a member of small rural congregations within the Church of England, with its familiar routines and traditions. Joining with up to 4000 people from different Christian denominations from town, country and overseas was an enlivening experience. The life and energy which radiated from their faith was inspiring. It was a joyous few days, in which we were exposed to stimulating teaching and discussion, impassioned preaching, and a wide range of music from worship through rock to sing-along musicals! There really was something for everyone, from theological argument to dance and singing workshops, films and theatre. A great way to explore and deepen one’s faith.’

‘Sun - sea - sand - and scripture! Spring Harvest really does have something for everyone: inspiring teaching, workshops, dedicated activities for children and young people and spirit-filled worship. And a packed after-hours programme of music and comedy. A time to step back, refresh your soul and learn in the company of friends old and new.’

‘An amazing time with friends to learn more and to renew one’s faith. Strongly recommended!’

‘An Inspirational, heartwarming experience with amazing worship, some wonderful teaching and a truly lovely atmosphere of trust, support and understanding between everyone at the event... We’re coming again next year!’

‘I think I feel that not having any preconceptions about Spring Harvest my experience was a positive one. I was struck by the professionalism of the event and the inspirational speakers. I was moved by being a part of such a large, diverse and committed congregation. I appreciated spending time with fellow parishioners, getting to know one another better and reinforcing our faith.’

‘I enjoyed every minute of Spring Harvest, the Worship, the Speakers, the Freedom,

the Friendship and fun we all had as a group.’

I hope those comments from our group speak for themselves. Here’s the thing, I want to do it all over again next year!

*Simon*

### **Only the Brave - Spring Harvest 2018**

An act of faith perhaps, and of hope, but we have booked places at Spring Harvest Minehead using their new early booking facility for 2018.

We have booked five four birth chalets, each with a double bed and a twin bedded room, shared bathroom and kitchen and lounge.

The theme: ‘Only the Brave, determined discipleship.’ An Exploration of the Epistle of James.

The dates: Sunday 8th to Thursday 12 April, The Sunday after Easter Sunday. This is in the school holidays and after Easter.

The Cost: Adults £200-00 - Children 2-14 £180-00, under 2’s free. (The provision for children is brilliant, ours got so much out of it over the years).

This has been a deposit free booking until 31 May, after which we need to pay a deposit, this will be £40-00 per adult.

We don’t have long to organise this. We can cancel places if they are not taken by 31 May but that would be a missed opportunity. If more want to come we can add them using the regular booking arrangements when the lines open on 21 June. Although the Butlins team will do their best to accommodate at that point, bookings will be on a first come first come first serve basis.

Having read the previous piece, if you are interested to do please talk to me. If you are able to confirm that you would like to come please let me know. To organise properly I will need to know the numbers a few days before 31st, no later than Friday 26th May.

My email is [simon.cronk@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.cronk@btinternet.com) tel 01844278349.

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### **Churchyard Spring Gardening Working Party**

**Saturday 13th May, 10am to 12.30**

On Saturday 13th May, we will have a working party in the churchyard to help with some of the tasks that need doing at this time of year. Helpers of all ages and abilities would be welcomed. Refreshments will be provided. Do come and join us to help keep our churchyard looking good.

*Jane Jefferis*

## **Rogation Sunday Service At Field Farm, 28 May At 10 Am**

Last May the usual Family Service at St Peter's, Great Haseley, was held in a farmyard to mark Rogation Sunday, when we pray for our farming community and for good crops and livestock. This year the three parishes will be joining together for a Benefice Family Rogation Service, to be held again at Field Farm, Rycote Lane (just beyond the Oxfordshire Golf Club: turn left up the drive which has signs for "DB Guns" and "Stuart Barr Joinery"), at the kind invitation of Colin and Suzanne Quartly. All are welcome to join us at 10 am for a short non-Eucharistic service, after which we shall follow the ancient tradition of "beating the bounds" of the parish. Wrap up warmly, and wear boots for walking across the fields. Bring the children - there will be calves to see!

*Toby Garfitt*

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### **A Response to 'Ramblings'**

Sir,

The Ramblings from the Rectory is not correct in its assertion. It accuses the Government of doing a u-turn on a promise to bring 3,000 children to the UK. It has done nothing of the sort. First, the idea that, under what has come to be called the Dubs Amendment, 3,000 children were going to be brought to the UK was defeated in Parliament and an alternative proposed which did not mention any numbers. So, the promise was not to bring a specified number of individuals to the UK under this amendment but it required the Government to consult Local Authorities on how many additional children they could manage. This we have done. Some Local Authorities are struggling to place the children in their care and have to pay for children to be supported in other Local Authority areas. It is right that the Dubs Amendment requires the Government to ask Local authorities how many more children they could safely accept.

Second, the Ramblings implies that the Dubs Amendment is the only means by which unaccompanied children can brought to the UK. It is not. In 2016 we relocated almost as many children from within Europe to the UK as the entire EU's relocation scheme.

Each year some 3,000 children arrive in the UK and claim asylum and we are taking approximately 2,000 – 3,000 each year through various resettlement schemes. All of these children need support and protection. The Dubs amendment was never intended to be an open ended scheme. If we were to continue the scheme indefinitely then that would in a heartless way create an additional pull factor. It is right too that

we prioritise our efforts on those children caught up in the conflict in Syria and the surrounding area – rather than in safe areas of Europe – so that they can come to the UK safely and directly and with their families.

I am committed to supporting, protecting and caring for the most vulnerable asylum-seeking and refugee children and I am pleased that our resettlement programme – which will bring 23,000 vulnerable people to the UK to start new lives by the end of this Parliament, is one of the biggest in Europe. By the end of this Parliament, we will have resettled 20,000 vulnerable Syrian nationals and a further 3,000 of the most vulnerable children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa.

We have pledged over £2.3 billion in aid in response to the events in Syria and the region - our largest ever humanitarian response to a single crisis, and we are one of the few EU countries to meet our commitment to spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on overseas aid. We have also committed over £100m of humanitarian support to help alleviate the Mediterranean migration crisis in Europe and North Africa.

*John Howell OBE MP*

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## **Great Milton Methodist Church Services**

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

<b>May</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Detail</b>
7th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mike Trinder	
14th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Martin Wellings	
21st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanna Tulloch	
28th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion

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## **Great Milton Bellringers**

As all supporters of the Bellringers are aware, we are allowed only one Full Peal per year. This year the band is called Variable Towers – I understand that this a group of top ringers who specialise in ringing Full Peals. A Full Peal takes about 3 hours to complete!

They will be ringing on Saturday 6th May at 10:00am.

You have been warned!

*Pat Cox*

## The Neighbours Club

On the 30th March we had an excellent Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate Fred's 95th birthday. As always the tables were loaded with food both savoury and sweet; also Heather had made him a wonderful chocolate birthday cake with one token candle – there wasn't room for 95!

Last April Trish very bravely went off to China, something she had always wanted to do. At our meeting on the 13th April she brought along all her photographs to show us; there were three tables covered with them and she said that was not all of them. She now has the task of writing on the backs of them all saying where they are and when taken!

We are now looking forward to our outing on Wednesday the when we will spend the morning at Bourton-on-the-Water and have lunch and in the afternoon will go on to North Leach four miles away to the Mechanical Music Museum; a small award-winning museum with three centuries of home entertainment and self-playing instruments.

### Forthcoming Events - May

Thurs 11th: Quizzes - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 17th: Outing to Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

Thurs 25th: The Amazing Amazon - Talk and Slides - John Paine - 2:15pm

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## Great Milton Cricket Club

### Presentation Night held at The Bull

Average winners for season were:

Batting	Ali Noble
Bowling	Ali Noble
Most 6s	Ali Noble
Most Catches	Ali Noble & Jake Barton
Most Ducks	Tim Darch & Jake Barton
Players' Player of the Year	Ali Noble
Fielder of the Year	Jake Barton
Supporter of the Year	Ann Price

You could say it was a NOBLE occasion!

The evening concluded with the demolition of a tasty buffet provided by Tasha and her staff.

## **Fixtures for 2017**

Because of our inability to raise a team on numerous occasions in 2016, only five fixtures have been arranged for this year – between May and July. Great Haseley had the same problem in 2016, so we have arranged fixtures on alternate Sundays in the hope that, between the two clubs, we will be able to fulfil all games.

May 4th – Haddenham – Home

*Ann Price (Secretary)*

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## **Senior Citizens Party Committee**

### **Annual Seaside Outing**

Unfortunately the choice of venue for the annual trip was “overlooked” at the recent party. A “senior moment” on the part of all committee members!

At our meeting in May we will decide the venue – the trip will be on Saturday 5th August – and report in the June Bulletin.

### **Dates for Your Diary**

Quiz – Friday 16th June

Rummage Sale – Saturday 24th June

More details in June Bulletin.

*Ann Price*

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## **Letter**

Dear Great Milton Residents

It is now four months since our local bus service was withdrawn – so difficult for people getting to and from work, shopping and social activities in neighbouring towns and villages.

We are now seeing people trudging along the local roads – often to Wheatley where it is possible to catch a bus or load up with shopping. Then there is the trudge home. It is only a matter of time before there is a nasty accident on busy roads where many drivers are speeding.

Great Milton residents managed to buy the pub when that service was in jeopardy. How about us all having a “whip round” to buy our own bus? Other villages have done it and there must be someone around who can get it organized and knows 

the rules. We need volunteer driver/s cum conductor/s and a set of rules. This Easter weekend we met someone from a West Country village that had a similar problem and they now have their own bus and residents pay a subscription of £25 a year and then a fare of around £2 when they want to use the service – but we could set our own rules. I have also heard that in Chinnor they have bought their own bus and have volunteer drivers but don't know how that has been organized.

Is there anyone out there up to the job and willing to have a go?

Just an idea.

Sincerely

*Carol Ayton*

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## **Dear Editor**

### **'A Village View'**

I could not agree more with the comments in the April bulletin. There are so many things that need attention and action.

Yes, the kerbing which I put in place to protect the corners of our Green has been there since March 2001. It's done its job fairly well, but now looks like a bomb site for nearly 2 years now. It lay on the road for 10 days – I thought someone would make it safe, but it was not to be, so I lifted it on to the side for safety sake. It has been there ever since.

Going on to the one way system, well that is abused daily – an accident waiting to happen. With the cars parked on Edward's corner (Plum Tree Cottage) emergency service traffic like fire services and ambulances would have great difficulty to pass that spot – it's no brainer parking.

As I pass through the village about twice a day, I am dismayed and disappointed to see the carnage and abuse of our registered greens and verges. No one's brought to book to make things good or return. A good example is outside Honeysuckle Cottage, Lower End. When on the PC in the 80s and 90s, it was the councillors job, whoever's ward or patch it was on, to make a personal visit to the person doing extensions etc. or building work to make them aware of their responsibilities should they need to break turf for water drainage or place skips etc. We found personal contact was the best approach. Is this still done today, or by letter?

Parking in the village has always been a problem as I said earlier. I would not say the cars are parked but abandoned in certain places, like at the pinch points round the Green. I met a driver last Christmas, down the No Entry stretch – I said 'Don't you

know this is one way?’, they said ‘I have indicated’ – say no more.

There are white painted hatchings outside the Old Bell. Do folks know what their function is? - to make this dangerous bend safer. It’s a no parking area. The rule of thumb is more paint, more restrictions – so why park on it? (OK if you can park behind it)

One point about signage – the No Entry sign needs lowering and the Halt sign should be returned to remind people to stop at this junction. While on the subject of signs, there are many signs around the parish’s roads that are never picked up when work is done. One, 30 yards from my gate, has been there for 2 years. These signs must be costly to replace.

It would pay to fill in a few potholes, and the others lying in the grass waiting to catch the unwary mower man.

I know our Chairman always says ‘Don’t let apathy rule’ – sad to say, Stephen, it’s ruling very well.

More next month!

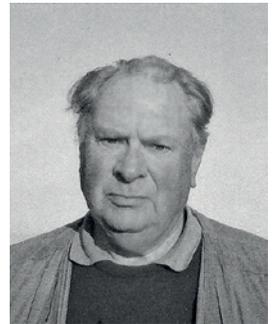
*Les Preston*

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## View From Views

One Swallow does not make a summer, I saw my first one about the 10th April but not seen one since, it also may point to the fact that we had our summer that weekend, I hope by the time this is read the weather will really have cheered up as it is pretty depressing at the moment. If only the weather were to improve with some warmth and dare I say it rain we could then get on and plant our areas of wildlife friendly plots around the farm, some of the land that we have been preparing for this has been so hard that it has been extremely difficult to plough, let alone think of getting a seed bed, especially as these crops require a good fine seed bed, which at the moment is impossible to achieve. The weather continues it’s rather dry and cold pattern although we have had some very warm periods, only lasting for a day or so and then often followed by a frost at night. I just hope that the very warm weather over the weekend of 9th 10th April is not our summer, as has happened before, a hot early part of the year leading to a lousy summer. These periods of dry wet and cold followed by warm and now extremely dry, is reflected in the growth and health of plants, and young animals. This weather pattern has caused our Winter Wheat to show a yellow tin, caused by a lack of



nutrients, stress, and the lack of sun, and proper growing conditions. Rape (OSR) that I thought would be in full flower by the beginning of April was still not in full flower by Easter weekend. On the subject of the OSR it suddenly occurred to me that once it started to show flower buds the attacks by marauding Pigeons practically stopped, this may be normal and it just had not registered with me before, (my agricultural colleagues will be laughing up their sleeves, silly old fool should know that by now), this could be due to several facts, the plant is now growing so fast thus being too tall, or as it matures it is getting more bitter, or now that it is the growing season other plants like clover are more palatable.

Whilst all the above will have an effect on the results of next harvest in whatever crop we like to think of, the dawn chorus seems to grow in crescendo by the day, and all wild life is continuing with their everyday tasks for the time of year, whatever it is, so nature carries on regardless, thank goodness. They will though very shortly be short of drinking water, as all puddles by now dry, with the ponds following suit shortly. In spite of this most of our land drains are still running, I doubt they will be soon, this would indicate that there is still water deep down in the soil, (contradicting all I have said above with reference to crops under stress) which at this time of year can be a good thing, as it will encourage, particularly the younger crops to put down a greater root structure in search for water, which in turn will hold them in good stead during any dry time we may have through the summer, but if we do not soon get some rain I fear some of the spring planted crops will have a job to survive.

Great news! (as a result of my comments last month with reference to Fly tipping) our DEFRA (Department of Environment and Rural Affairs) Minister Angela Leadsom, has announced debates in Westminster on the subject of fly tipping, various proposals for controlling it have been put forward. Proposals are that Councils should not charge for builders/trade waste, and stiffer fines for offenders, these are all very well & good. As I see it this will put more financial pressure on cash strapped Councils, when after all some of the problem stems from the government's imposition of the landfill tax, and how do they think the perpetrators will be caught when they are not able to do so at the moment. The other spot of good news is that Brian May, the Queen Guitarist and ardent animal rights campaigner, up to now ante Farmer and badger cull, has instigated a symposium on the issue of Badgers and the bovine TB connection. This symposium brought together experts from both sides of the argument not sure what the conclusion is or was, but at least this is a positive move rather than the usual farmer bashing and slagging off of either side of the argument, that has been going on with a certain amount of misinformation from both sides, which is not at all helpful, with the effect being very traumatic for those farmers affected.

I mentioned a month or two ago my theories re the trace elements (IE Vitamins) in the plants we eat and how greater productivity, in my mind, must lessen the concentration of these elements in this produce. The subject has had some publicity in the media lately, and becoming more of a discussed issue. There has also been a great deal of publicity and interest in the growing of crops hydroponically, which means grown in water, without the medium of soil, under controlled environmental conditions, probably in a building of sorts with artificial lighting. This method of production is fine as far as producing food, and we need to explore all avenues open to us to do so, with the world population increasing by the day. The problem with it as I see it is, particularly as the sort of crops that will be grown by this method will be manly salad crops, which are looked upon as being very healthy, of course these will be the crops that will be particularly devoid of these valuable trace elements, we cannot get a silk purse out of a sow's ear!

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## **Celebrating National Mills Day at Great Haseley**

This year National Mills Day falls over the weekend of the 13th and 14th May 2017. To celebrate this event, Great Haseley Windmill will be open to the public on both days between 2pm and 4pm. We do hope you will take this opportunity to visit the Mill to have a look at the extensive and beautiful restoration work that has taken place over the past few years.

On Saturday 13th May (ONLY) a team of experts will be attaching the canvas sails to the wooden sail frames and the plan is to turn them, weather permitting, that afternoon. For safety reasons the Mill will be shut whilst the sails are actually turning, however, you will be able to get a wonderful view of the Windmill in action from the surrounding grassland.

If you'd like to make an afternoon of it, teas will also be available on Saturday 13th May, in Great Haseley Village Hall where the Church Fete will be taking place.

We do hope you will come and join us to help celebrate our local treasure.



## Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Computer problems have troubled me while writing this month. I have learned the hard way to check that Word is saving my document as I go along. This morning Word crashed while I was saving the completed article and I was only able to recover part of the article. A second crash lost everything so here is another version of the original article....

This week I have turned my attention to my pots of *Zantedeschia* (common name Calla Lily) which have spent the winter dry under the greenhouse staging. This is a perennial flowering plant which is native to southern Africa. The plants resemble our common 'Lords'n'Ladies' and have colourful flowers. They form a tuber/rhizome (I'm unclear which is the correct botanic name for the structure) underground rather like Begonias. They are commonly sold in garden centres from around this time of year as pot plants suitable for summer bedding out, but can also be purchased as the dry tuber. Having grown these plants for some years now I am always surprised how expensive they are as propagation is easy even for complete beginners.

With the first two plants I grew, when autumn came and the leaves died back, I put the pots under the greenhouse staging for the winter and commenced watering in early spring. This was a mistake as April to May is early enough as there is a risk of rotting the tubers if they sit in wet compost at cold temperatures. I eventually tipped out the pots assuming the plants had died, but, to my surprise, they had not and so I was rewarded with another summer of flowers.

After another couple of years, I tipped the whole lot out prior to watering to replace in fresh compost. I was surprised to see how big the tubers were and how many there were and I have been propagating them ever since. The plants are easy to care for requiring not too much water and just feeding like other summer displays. Overwintering can be done in their dried-out pots or as dry tubers in a frost-free place such as a shed. In spring simply plant the tubers just below the surface of the compost with the smooth surface at the bottom and the points on top and water (sparingly until the shoots show) and wait. Interestingly the thick white roots, rather like shoe laces, grow from the top surface.

I have just potted up several different colours ready for Great Milton Fete. Why not give them a try?

The recent lovely weather seems to have thwarted yet again my attempts at growing plants from seed in my sunny greenhouse. I have one *Cosmos* seedling; when will I learn? This is yet another triumph of hope over bitter experience. I will start again in the house and see if I can do better. On a happier note, last year a gardening friend gave

me some seed from an interesting plant with yellow flowers called *Glaucium flavium* or yellow horned poppy; it grows only at the seaside and is protected, but the seeds can be readily purchased online. I sowed these and nothing happened so I left the pot behind the greenhouse (never be too hasty to empty out seed pots – sometimes seeds take a long time to germinate or need a cold winter to break their dormancy) and was about to empty it yesterday when I noted three seedlings, *glaucus* (greyish) in type so I have three tiny plants that I have to attempt to keep alive. I think neglect and leaving them to nature seems a good plan as that is what I have done so far!

*Liz Moses*

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact Carys Lyndsay who is the new membership secretary.

caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

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## **Little Milton WI**

Thank you to Kate Bodle for a wonderful crafty evening of Stampin' Up! card making and to our new members for the lovely refreshments.

Our next meeting on Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm is a discussion of the two WI resolutions: Plastic Soup - Keep microplastic fibres out of our ocean and Alleviating loneliness, followed by a talk & sale of Philippine woven bags with Analiza Jones.

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.

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

Keep up to date with WI news & events at [www.facebook.com/Impinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge) and at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438*

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## **News from The Pine Lodge**

After a busy few months of concerts, quizzes and games, it's time for a breather to concentrate on the Little Milton Fete preparations. Don't forget to book the fete day in your diary: Saturday 17th June 2-5pm. In May we have our regular Craft Club on Wednesday 17th, WI Resolutions & Philippine woven bags on Thursday 11th, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and 

Fridays at 9.30am, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm.

You have a beautiful venue for weddings, parties, reunions and family gatherings on your doorstep. The hub of Little Milton village life, from parties, theatre and concerts to exercise classes, children's clubs, crafts, games evenings and quiz nights. We have space in the diary to welcome you this year. Contact us for more information at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk) and book a celebration to remember.

Keep up to date with news & events at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge) and at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*

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

In opening this month I would like to pay tribute to those who helped us in the terrorist attack at Westminster and especially to add my condolences at the untimely death of PC Keith Palmer. I also send my deepest sympathies to the families of the others who died or were injured as a result of this attack; all innocent people simply living life. I join the Prime Minister in paying tribute to our emergency services who dealt so bravely and professionally with the situation. Of course we have since seen a series of attacks in different countries and each brings huge sadness. These attacks are attacks on freedom, human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In protection of our values and in honour of those who have died in these attacks we will continue to defend these values - not giving in to terror or allowing voices of hate and evil to rule. We must echo mutual respect and understanding as best we can in our own dealings at home and abroad, in matters large and small.

In the context of this I have been pleased to spend the Easter Parliamentary Recess which is now coming to an end meeting with people around the constituency. In this two week break from the usual Parliamentary activities in Westminster there is an opportunity to meet with groups within the constituency especially some that meet mid-week. I am often asked to attend events or meetings during the week. However when Parliament is sitting this is not usually possible as, together with other MPs, I am required to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday. Those who follow my regular reports back will know that I am occasionally away in my role as a Parliamentary Representative on the Council of Europe or in my role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria. For these I have to get special permission to be absent from Westminster. After the Easter weekend parliament resumes and it will be

back to the usual routine.

One issue that is often raised with me is that of litter around the area, especially on the roadsides. It certainly blights our local environment and the task of clearing falls to local councils at a considerable cost. The Government has announced a new Litter Strategy which sets out plans to help to tackle this anti-social behaviour. As part of the first national Litter Strategy litter louts could be hit with £150 fines. This will build on measures to better distribute public bins, making it easier to throw away rubbish, and the recommendation that offenders on community service sentences help to clear up fly-tipped waste. I am sure that this will be welcome across the constituency and trust that our local councils will engage fully with the initiative.

Another hot topic is broadband. There is no doubt that our digital infrastructure is critical for our economy as well as our daily living and looking at national figures coverage is now high. However there are still rural areas without provision and pockets in South Oxfordshire are among them. The County Council roll out for faster broadband is gradually covering more and more local areas and I am delighted at self-help local initiatives over and above this. Working with Village Networks, a group in the middle of the constituency has been using wireless technology to connect communities. They are being helped by Thames Valley Police who have given permission to use some of their masts for the necessary equipment. A huge thanks to all involved with this innovative scheme.

Whether Parliament is sitting or in recess there are always issues of concern, national, local and those of specific interest to particular groups. I am always interested to learn of these and do my best to respond where they are parliamentary matters or where I can have influence. Many of the issues raised with me are on subjects over which I have no jurisdiction but in such cases will try to give an appropriate steer to those who contact me. On a regular basis lobby groups or specific organisations launch email, postcard and letter campaigns to MPs on a wide range of subjects. In common with many other MPs I place my responses to this campaign correspondence on my website. This enables me to make my responses available to everyone in a timely manner.

If you would like to know more about my work you may like to be on the circulation list for my regular e-newsletter and special briefings sent on an occasional basis on specific issues. To be added to the list please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com).

For more information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/@johnhowellmp) or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](https://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)

## **Great Milton Neighbours' Club Outings 2017**

All outings are on Wednesday except August

### **May 17th**

**The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley.** '300 years of history in 26 acre open-air museum – experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the past. A whole day of interest.' £25 (entrance £10, coach £15).

### **June 14th**

Morning and lunch in **Worcester**. Afternoon at **Spetchley Park** nearby. 'Wondrous display of plants, shrubs and trees planted over 400 years. Tree peonys, irises, herbaceous borders'. 'A peaceful garden.' £21 (entrance £6, coach £15).

### **July 12th**

Morning and lunch at **Winchester**. On to **Mottisfont Abbey** house and gardens – a National Trust property £25 (entrance £10, coach £15). **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.**

### **August 10th (Thursday)**

Morning and lunch at **Leamington Spa**. Afternoon at the **Guide Dogs for the Blind Training School**. An interesting 2-hour interactive presentation which has been recommended. Cost coach only £15.

### **September 6th**

**Newbury** in the morning and lunch at Toby's Carvery. Afternoon on the **Horse-Drawn Boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal**. 2-hour trip, refreshments available on board, starting from Kintbury. Cost £25 (boat £10, coach £15).

### **October 18th**

A 2-hour morning visit to **Viridor Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley, near Bicester**. Greeted with tea/coffee, introduction and tour. Highly recommended as being interesting (can be noisy). Hot lunch at Weston-on-the-Green W.I. Afternoon at Wyevale Garden Centre, Bicester Avenue if wanted. Cost £23 (lunch £8, coach £15).

### **November 29th**

Lunch (to be arranged). Afternoon at **Waddesdon Manor for Christmas Lights and Market**.

**If interested, ring Celia Cope – 01844 279459.**



## TENNIS MEMBERSHIP 2017

This is to invite you to join or renew your annual subscription to Great Milton Tennis Club.

Renewal takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 and cost of subscription is £30 per annum for adult / family membership or £10 per annum for sole child membership.

To renew your subscription to the club please complete the form below and send with your payment in cash or cheque (chq payable to **Great Milton HSPA**) to Nollag McGrath, 6 Colletts Cottages, Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7NX. Payment can now be made electronically – BACS details are: Great Milton HSPA, 206521, 80147559. Please quote your surname as a reference and email your completed form to [tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com](mailto:tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com).

Membership permits you to use the tennis court outside of school hours. More detailed terms and conditions, together with the code to the gate lock, and access to the club diary will be emailed to you on receipt of payment.

If you are interested in joining in any of our coaching sessions then please let us know.

Look forward to seeing you on court!!

Queries? Please contact 01844 278663 / 07903 182668 or email [tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com](mailto:tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com)

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## TENNIS SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL 2017

<b>Name</b>	
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<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Fee Paid</b>	
<b>Date Paid</b>	



Join us for The **Dog Show, Village Sports,**  
**Grand Raffle** with prizes including  
**2 places in Raymond Blanc's Cookery School**

as well as refreshments, plants, tombola, Aunt Sally, shooting,  
books, crafts, toiletries and gifts, bric a brac & children's toys,  
homemade jam and cake stalls and many more....

## **Great Milton Church Fete**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2pm  
Recreation Ground



# Local Plan 2033 Public Meeting

*7.30 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Great Haseley Village Hall*

## ***New Towns on our Doorstep?***

The recently published update to SODC's Local Plan Preferred Options, whilst containing many positive elements, continues to include a strategic development of 3,000 houses on Chalgrove Airfield.

Meanwhile, the promoters of the Harrington Site are aggressively working to persuade SODC to include their site in the Local Plan. This would create a town of 6,500 homes next to J7 on the M40.

Haseley Brook Action Group is opposed to developments in the open countryside and, with its legal and planning advisors, is pressing SODC to focus developments on sites closer to the main centres of employment. **But we need your help:** SODC is asking for feedback on their latest proposal by 17<sup>th</sup> May and we need as many people as possible to give them their frank and honest views.

The public meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May aims to help you understand what is being proposed, the potential impact on our rural communities and the best way to provide feedback. Please make every possible effort to attend.

Haseley Brook Action Group  
[www.savehaseleybrook.com](http://www.savehaseleybrook.com)

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**6th May  
8:00 to 11:30pm  
Neighbours Hall**

**In Aid of the Methodist Church &  
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Admittance £10 - by Ticket Only Available from  
Vonnie on 01844 279205 or from the Great Milton  
Village Shop

**Wine, Beer & Soft Drinks available**



# Haseley Church Spring Fair

Saturday 13th May

Great Haseley Village Hall

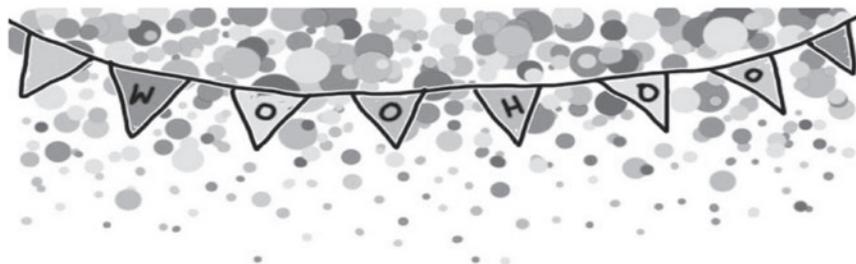
14:30—16:30

Raffle with excellent prizes, children's  
entertainer, plants, cakes, toys, teas, bottle  
tombola, children's tombola

Great Haseley Windmill open to celebrate  
National Windmill Weekend

Donations for stalls gratefully received  
(please leave in Church Farm porch)





# Spring Fair

**Great Milton CofE Primary School**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
11am-1pm**

**Authors, illustrator, raffle, tombola,  
tattoos, food and refreshments, activities,  
Competitions, and much more.....!**

EVENTS AT THE PINE LODGE

## CRAFT CLUB

Wednesday 17th May

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Meet local crafters, make new friends  
Come and continue a work in progress  
Get advice, learn a new skill  
Start a new project

All for only £4 including refreshments  
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## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7th June 7:30pm

Come and learn about your  
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\* near the church

# All Together Different Artweeks Exhibition

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

11 – 6 daily

**Pettit's House The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT**

Caroline Meynell *painting*  
Wren Hughes *sculpture*  
Leonie Bennet *jewellery*

Elisabeth Balkwill *jewellery*  
Tam Frishberg *pottery*  
Wendy Newhofer *glass*

Open studio   Sculpture & glass in the garden   Refreshments

Come & browse   Everyone welcome   Free entry

## **Great Milton Website**

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it up to date so please could you advise Carina Martin of any updates that need to be made ([carina.martin@gmail.com](mailto: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 – 01844 278479.

## **Neighbours Hall**

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Free use of tables, chairs and kitchen equipment

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For more details please contact:  
Secretary, Ann Price 01844 279 474

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Table and chair hire also available

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Facebook: JSC Fun Clubs

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**01844 279 989 [enquiries@theorchardpreschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theorchardpreschool.co.uk)**

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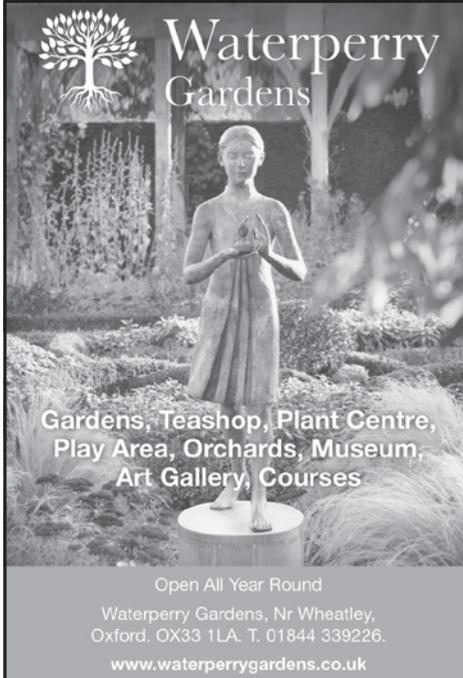
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### **Cancer Research Walk Sunday 21st May**

Make the most of a spring day out and raise money for Cancer Research UK at the same time with our sponsored walk. You can take as long or as short a time as you want covering the route around the Waterperry estate and gardens. For more information or a sponsorship form call Jenny Braithwaite on 01844 208073.

### **Gnometastic**

**27th May – 4th June**

Half term fun in the gardens. Help the gnomes in the gardens who have forgotten their names. Find all eight gnomes to claim your prize. £2 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

## Thame Therapy Clinic

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info@thametherapyclinic.co.uk

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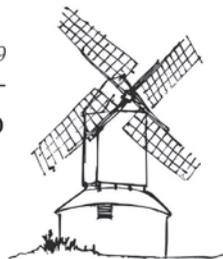
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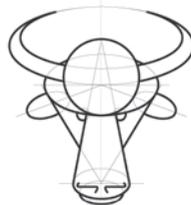
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## Diary

- Monday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays.  
*contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com*
- Saturday Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm  
*contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637*  
Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

## May

- |      |       |   |         |
|------|-------|---|---------|
| 3rd  | Wed   | Local Plan 2033 Public Meeting at Gt. Haseley Village Hall    | 7:30pm  |
| 6th  | Sat   | 'Variable Towers' ring a Full Peal at St. Mary's Tower        | 10:00am |
|      |       | Hippy Haze Band at The Neighbours Hall                        | 8:00pm  |
| 11th | Thurs | Neighbours Club: Quizzes                                      | 2:15pm  |
|      |       | Little Milton W.I. meeting at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton   | 7:30pm  |
| 13th | Sat   | Churchyard Spring Gardening Working Party                     | 10:00am |
|      |       | Haseley Church Spring Fair at Great Haseley Village Hall      | —       |
| 15th | Mon   | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                        | 7:30pm  |
| 17th | Wed   | Neighbours Club Outing to Black Country Living Museum, Dudley | —       |
| 20th | Sat   | Spring Fair at Gt. Milton Primary School                      | 11:00am |
| 25th | Thurs | Neighbours Club: 'The Amazing Amazon' with John Paine         | 2:15pm  |

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th May 2017**.

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

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Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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