

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

May 2021

Published by the Parish Council

No. 564



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

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

## **Great Milton Parish Council**

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

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

## **Parish Council Representatives**

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

Cover: A selection of the beautiful cards, painted by Jane Goddard, which will be available at this year's Street Fayre.

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

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

### Services

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

### Local information

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

## Parish Council meetings: UPDATE

Due to restrictions currently imposed by UK Government on indoor gatherings of more than two people, Parish Council meetings are being held virtually until further notice. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month as usual, via a virtual meeting platform. The agenda is published on the Great Milton village website no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, along with an access code for the meeting. Business is conducted broadly as per a standard meeting, with one or two small variations (cheques require two signatures so are approved at the meeting and signed the next day). All are welcome to participate in the virtual meetings: if you have any issues with access please contact Tim Darch (Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council) on 01844 278347.

The Clerk is always available should you have any queries or concerns, whether related to Coronavirus or other matters. Any necessary updates will be relayed via the Parish Council website ([www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)) or via noticeboards.

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

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## Draft Parish Notes – April 2021

### Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

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

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

All parish councillors were present, with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Tim Darch (Clerk) and James Cunningham (Chair, Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee) in attendance.

The meeting opened with a commemoration and minute's silence in tribute to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh following his death on Friday 9 April 2021.

No resolutions were discussed at this meeting.

The Chairman of the Parish Council's Annual Report was received and reviewed. No questions or comments were received.

The District Councillor's annual report was received and reviewed, along with her additional observations as follows:

Work on the Local Plan 2041 has now commenced, for potential adoption in 2024: this will not change what is already in place, but may add a further quantum

of housing. This may be influenced by the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which may then influence what the Growth Board asks for, then the Local Plan. A requirement for additional housing may have implications as regards potential development at the Harrington site and its possible inclusion in the 2041 plan.

SODC as an authority is aiming to go 'zero carbon' by 2025, and the District as a whole by 2030.

The County Councillor's observations on the previous year were received and reviewed. No questions or comments were received.

The Parish Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 were received and reviewed. The Parish Council's reserves are healthy and heading towards the recommended limit of double the precept, but significant expenditure is expected in 2021-22, which may well impact on the level of reserves.

The Parish Council's observations on its finances were received and reviewed.

Annual reports and financial statements were received from:

- Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee
- Old Field Charity
- Kent and Couling Charity
- Sheppard Charitable Trust
- Neighbours Hall Committee
- The Hard Surface Play Area Committee

No comments were received on any of the above.

The minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 were reviewed and approved in May 2019.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.

A combined reports pack is available on the Great Milton Parish Council website.


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

## **Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council**

Held virtually via video conference on Monday 26th April 2021 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

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

All parish councillors were present, with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Tim Darch (Clerk) and James Cunningham (Chair, Great Milton Recreation )

Ground Committee) in attendance. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda, and no declarations of interest were necessary with regard to the matters under consideration.

### **Matters to Report**

Regular updates are being received from OCC and SODC and continue to be communicated to residents via the available channels as appropriate. Cllr Caroline Newton's monthly report is available on the Great Milton website:

<https://www.great-milton.co.uk/shared/attachments.asp?f=c1cf0a8d%2D4b51%2D426f%2Db1db%2D277bfbb78dec%2Epdf&xo=SODC%2Dreport%2DApril%2D21%2Epdf>

Councillor Newton provided a brief update on the Dodswell Farm solar farm planning application near Milton Common, which is currently at scoping report stage. The application is significantly larger than the other two proposed solar farms in the area (Harlesford and Cornwell). The case officer has confirmed that he is likely to be seeking a substantial Environmental Impact Assessment on account of the sensitivity both of the site (landscape, archaeology, trees etc) and of the cabling etc. necessary to connect up to the National Grid. This latter element is considered no less significant than the environmental impact of the site itself. In the EIA, the applicants would also need to take into account the cumulative effect of the Dodswell Farm site and the proposed solar farms at Harlesford and Cornwell.

Councillor Harrod noted that all three potential sites lie adjacent to the Harrington site boundary. Although there is nothing to be concerned about regarding Harrington at the moment: the issues that have been raised before regarding public transport connectivity remain but the Parish Council and District Council will keep a close watch on developments.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S0903/HH and P21/S0904/LB (The Old Stores The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT). Proposed alterations to the existing rear extension, the intended proposed works are: a new side dormer window to the rear extension together with first floor bathroom wall replacement and refurbishment to first floor bathrooms and a new rear roof light to the main roof. Replacement of non-original side and rear casement windows and doors.

Local consultation yielded no adverse comments about the proposals. To meet the deadline for responses in light of the later-than-usual meeting date an informal response has been provided to the case officer on this basis: the Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.



P21/S1059/LB and P21/S1392/HH (The Priory Church Road Great Milton). Internal alterations and repairs (partial conversion of stable building to ancillary accommodation and erection of replacement plant building serving the pool).

Local consultation yielded no adverse comments about the proposals. After brief review and discussion the Parish Council agreed to SUPPORT this application.

P21/S0989/DIS (6 Thame Road Great Milton). Discharge of condition 8 (BMES) on application P20/S0578/FUL. (New detached dwelling on infill plot next to 6 Thame Road). No consultation on Discharge of Conditions: for information only.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were reviewed.

P21/S0656/HH (Cotswold House Lower End Great Milton). Single storey extensions to side and rear. Planning permission is GRANTED for the development outlined above.

### **Update on Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons planning application.**

Caroline Newton (District Councillor) has advised the Parish Council that planning officers at SODC have expressed a number of concerns to the applicant about the plans for expansion at Le Manoir Aux

Quat' Saisons, with particular regard to the scale of the proposed building and its impact on a sensitive site, on the Green Belt, and on a historic building.

The applicant has been advised of these concerns, and it is now for them to come back with proposals that will be acceptable. This is likely to happen within the next couple of weeks, after which the plans will be subject to wider consultation.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15th March 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial Resolutions**

A) The following cheques were authorised and invoices signed by the Chair and Vice Chair subsequent to the meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £619.95

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production April. £243.20

Website hosting (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

Maple Tree annual grant. £500

Three Villages car scheme insurance. £72

OCC speed monitoring. £180

Oxford Green Belt Network membership. £15

SODC dog hygiene Jan-March 21. £269.10

McCracken and Son. March mowing. £402

Jenks Group. Tree maintenance. £1314.

B) The final bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement for the financial year 2020-21 were received, reviewed and approved.

C) To note that given expenditure and income of less than £25,000 in the financial year 2020-21, the Parish Council wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review. The Chairman duly signed the Certificate of Exemption.

D) The following proposed dates for Great Milton Parish Council's internal/external audit activities were reviewed and subsequently agreed:

- Internal Audit (commenced April 2021)
- Signing of Certificate of Exemption (AGAR Part 2): Monday 26 April 2021
- Exemption Certificate to be with Moore Stephens by 30 June
- Approval of AGAR Part 2 (including Internal Audit, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements): PC meeting in May or June 2021
- Exercise of public rights – Tuesday 22 June to Tuesday 3 August 2021
- All required information to be displayed on website by 1 July

E) Submission of the Parish Council's VAT reclaim for the year 2020-21, for the sum of £1416.68, was noted.

F) Amendment to bank signatories

The removal of Peter Fewell as a signatory to the Parish Council bank account in light of his resignation at the March meeting was authorised. The necessary documentation to be signed as required in person by the remaining signatories.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

A new scheme has been launched this month with a view to rural communities being equipped with 'full fibre' ultrafast broadband, potentially giving speeds of up to 1000mbps versus superfast broadband which offers speeds of up to around 80mbps. Superfast broadband is already available to around 90% of properties in the parish. The scheme is somewhat complicated, but essentially stage 1 is to seek expressions of interest from residents in upgrading to full fibre. Each property looking to go full fibre is allocated a notional 'voucher' which goes towards the cost of installation: there will be no cost to individual households for the installation of the infrastructure, only for the service once installed. Essentially, the more that want it, the more likely it is to happen. The Parish Council will be looking at ways to proactively encourage widespread adoption of Ultrafast broadband.

SODC has decided that the proposed felling of the sycamore trees adjacent to Romeyns Court is not justified as they are a significant village asset and their condition does not give cause for concern. Although contrary to previous advice received from a tree specialist, the Parish Council is obviously delighted to hear that the trees pose



no danger to the houses opposite and can remain. Some maintenance work may be required: discussions are ongoing between the District Council and the chosen contractor as to what is appropriate, if anything.

### **COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

There were no significant local developments to report with regard to the current pandemic.

### **Village mowing**

The new contractor began mowing the verges and Recreation Ground at the end of March. Please let the Clerk know if there are any issues: a few minor glitches can probably be expected in the first few months of the contract but all those spoken to have been very positive about McCracken and Son's first visit.

### **New dog waste collection contractor**

A private contractor has now taken over emptying of the village dog bins. Please let the Clerk know if there are any issues relating to the bins, which should be emptied every Monday. The first collection appears to have been performed flawlessly. SODC continues to be responsible for the bin on the Grove footpath which has recently been replaced.

### **Community Resilience and Community Emergency Plan**

A 4x4 driver has been lost from the plan with the departure of the previous residents of The Priory. The Clerk will ask the new residents of The Priory if their 4x4 can be made available and their details included in the plan.

### **School parking**

There have been several further reports of inconsiderate and unsafe parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. The school has been contacted, and the Neighbourhood Policing team has made an initial enforcement visit. All parties will continue to liaise to hopefully help improve matters in the long-term.

### **Excess speeds in Milton Common (A40 east of A329)**

Speed monitoring by Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed an issue with excess vehicle speeds on the A40 east of the A329 in Milton Common. The Parish Council is investigating the purchase of electronic signage to notify motorists of their speed, and Thames Valley Police is looking to include this location on its camera van rota. A meeting is scheduled with OCC Highways' local representative with a view to discussing potential measures on the highway that will hopefully help to reduce average speeds.

### **Suggested proposals for village event on Saturday June 12th**

The Parish Council has expressed concerns to the organisers regarding the event planned for Saturday June 12th, particularly over the chosen date and measures to

ensure that it is 'Covid secure'. However discussions have allayed these concerns and the Parish Council is delighted to support the event which will involve stalls, entertainment and children's activities largely on the village green areas. Further details and publicity will follow in due course.

### **Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

Having notified SODC of the casual vacancy following the resignation of Peter Fewell the Parish Council has now been advised that it can look to fill the position by co-option. A candidate has expressed an interest and the Parish Council is following up on this.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Due to the conclusion on 7 May of the regulations which allow virtual meetings, the next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held earlier in the month than usual, on Wednesday 5 May 2021 and immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will start at 7pm. All are welcome to attend via the published Zoom link.

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

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## **His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh**

We were deeply saddened to learn that His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh passed away peacefully on Friday morning at Windsor Castle.

On behalf of Great Milton Parish Council and its residents we offer our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to all members of the Royal Family.

We extend those condolences to everybody touched by this sad and solemn occasion and we join the people of the United Kingdom in this period of mourning.

His Royal Highness was a great statesman, husband, father and grandfather and all round gentleman. His absence will be felt by many people across the country.

During the pandemic, we cannot host and open physical books of condolence as it is not safe to do so. We would encourage those who would like to share a message to sign Buckingham Palace's online book of condolence at [royal.uk](http://royal.uk). This will close at 5pm on the day after the funeral. It is not live yet.

We join our residents and the nation in mourning.

With deepest sympathy,

*Stephen Harrod*

*Chairman*

*Great Milton Parish Council*

# Benefice Services May

|   | Live Service<br>9:00am             | Virtual Zoom Service<br>11:00am |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday 2nd<br><i>Easter 5</i>                   |                                    | Morning Prayer<br>11:00am       |
| Sunday 9th<br><i>Easter 6</i>                   |                                    | Morning Prayer<br>11:00am       |
| Sunday 16th<br><i>Easter 7</i>                  |                                    | Morning Prayer<br>11:00am       |
| Sunday 23rd<br><i>Pentecost Whit<br/>Sunday</i> | St. James's<br>Communion<br>9:00am | Morning Prayer<br>11:00am       |
| Sunday 30th<br><i>Trinity Sunday</i>            | St. Mary's<br>Communion<br>9:00am  | Morning Prayer<br>11:00am       |

## From the Rectory

Easter Sunday this year, held as it was in the Churchyard of St Peter’s in Great Haseley, was I think, one that I will remember for years to come. It helped that the weather was kind to us, bright and clear, and not too cold. It was memorable also, that for all of us it was the first time since Christmas, when we had an equally memorable Christmas day service in Great Milton, that we were able to be together in one group, and to sing! Those three months have felt like such a long time, and it was a real joy.

It occurred to me that, of course, we were celebrating that first Easter which also took place in a graveyard, a ‘garden of tombs’. There was something really poignant about standing in another graveyard, a place where the dead are remembered and commemorated, to proclaim the great news of the Resurrection. “Alleluia, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia.”

During my address I said something which I really stand by. I do what I do, because I believe that Christ rose from the dead. There could be no Christian faith unless those who wrote the documents we now know as the New Testament believed it to have happened. I am not going to attempt to outline the reasons why I believe here, but I think there is credible evidence to lead us to a place of faith and trust.

There was another reason why it was memorable. It was an extraordinary occasion at an extraordinary time. It represented a moment of hope after a significant



time of trial, and so proclaiming Resurrection could not have been more apt. This has been a time when we have been reminded that it is so easy to take things for granted. For me, I have really missed the loss of social contact and gatherings, and the freedom of movement and travel. I have also hated the sinister looking masks! Perhaps it has also been a lesson for some of us that the restrictions are, in fact, daily and ongoing realities for others, and for them some form of “lockdown” will remain.

One of the things that has been striking in the last year is how our villages have risen to the challenge of caring for one another. The churches have had a part to play in this, but not exclusively so, and that is as it should be. As we cautiously, but hopefully, celebrate a return to something that begins to look like normal, I am sure that we will continue to care for those for whom an emergence out of lockdown will not, in fact, bring significant change.

But I come back to that beautiful occasion in our own garden graveyard, a moment of beauty and an affirmation of hope, a coming together to proclaim something extraordinary, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

*Simon*

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## Christian Aid Lent Coffee Mornings

Thank you, Simon, for arranging and hosting these, together with Tony Jefferis. They were very enjoyable and stimulated some lovely chats!! The total monies raised by these mornings are:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Donations             | £440.00 |
| Gift Aid on donations | £ 80.00 |
|                       | £520.00 |

An amazing start to Christian Aid Week this year! Thank you everyone.

*Sally Ann Dennis*

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## Great Milton FC

Great Milton Football Club would like to thank the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust for their kind support in the revival of the village football team.

If anyone reading is interested in joining for the upcoming season, or is able to support the team through sponsorship, then please get in contact with us at [greatmiltonfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:greatmiltonfootballclub@gmail.com).

## Great Milton Street Fayre, June 12th, 2pm-4pm

We always have our Church Fete on the second Saturday in June so it was disappointing not to be able to hold it last year. This year we are having a Street Fayre instead, which we believe will comply with the current guidance and will be local with no external entertainment.

It will be held throughout the village between Pitts Green, along the village Green to the pub and down Church road to the Church.

There will be a map and a quiz trail to guide you. The following stall holders will be delighted to receive good quality donations from now on.

### Stalls

Books - Sue Barrett and Pippa Read (paperbacks and children's books to be delivered from May 24th and preferably on the day)

Bric a brac - Dee and Alan Pickett (on the morning of the day)

Gifts and toiletries - Carolyn Meynell and Sarah MacMahon

Accessories (jewellery, bags, scarves etc) - Clare B-P

Jams and produce - Evelyn Joslin and Rosamund Griffin

Cakes - Laura Putt

Cakes and biscuits for teas - Margaret Rogers

Toys - Alex Kirkman, from June 5th, ideally on the day

Hoopla - Bottles/Jars/Tins - Michele Block

Plants - Liz Moyses and Helga Dowie

There will be a raffle, beer stall, games and local entertainers. Please let us know if you would like to be included as a performer!

Competitions – cake competition and painting competition with the theme being “My Village”. The winning painting will be made into a card for selling to raise funds for the church. Also, a prize for the best dressed dog!

We need helpers so get in contact if you can help with a stall for a short while or help set up and down.

We look forward to seeing you on June 12th!

*Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Celina Bernstrom, Rachel Hutton and Alex Kirkman*

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## Love to Sing Course – June 2021

Do you love to sing? Would you like to try something new this year?

Harmony InSpires, the all-female a Cappella chorus based in Marcham (near Abingdon, Oxfordshire) invites women of all ages and all levels of experience to join a FREE online 'Love to Sing' course over three evenings on 2nd, 9th and 16th June. No need to read music as we provide teach tracks to help you learn as you sing along!

For more details email [lovetosing@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:lovetosing@harmonyinspires.org)

or visit [www.harmonyinspires.org](http://www.harmonyinspires.org)

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## Book Review

Andrew Meynell's little book 'St Mary's and Great Milton' is a delight from start to finish. Filled with fascinating details, it chronicles the history of both church and village, spanning over 1,000 years. We learn, among other things, of the power of medieval saints' relics to resolve 11th century boundary disputes, of the architectural effects of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, and of the parish's support for enterprising villagers emigrating to live in Canada in the 19th century.

It is the kind of story told in thousands of villages across the country, but here given a specific historical context rooted in the lives of the men and women for whom Great Milton and its church encompassed their whole world, from baptism in the church font to burial in the churchyard.

It is also written with an eye for deeper, spiritual realities, for the author is no mere dry historian. He sees in the church a source of 'Living Water', and counsels us to be still within its walls and so be 'in touch with the deepest parts of ourselves' in the midst of a busy and noisy world.

So this is the story of a village, but it is also more than that. For it is a story grounded in a faith given form in the stained glass, monuments and architecture of its church building. Indeed, with the proceeds of the book sales going towards the St Mary's Development Project, it also provides a means of ensuring that this vital part of village life will continue to live on for many generations to come.

Jim Godfrey

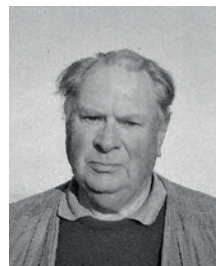
Christ Church Verger, local historian and author

Andrew Meynell's book is on sale at Great Milton Post Office and will be on sale at the Fete on 12th June, OX44 7NF. Or it can be ordered online from Andrew. [Meynell@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:Meynell@oxford.anglican.org). £6 + £1 postage.



## Views from Views

“Barley’s up”! Referring to our recently planted Spring Barley, a common phrase to say that a crop of Barley recently planted is not only showing through the ground but is actually growing, this often comes with great relief that the first hurdle of growing a crop has been successfully accomplished. This is especially the case this season as some of the autumn sown crops seem to have succumbed to the rigours of the recent winter, although up to the beginning of the year they looked quite respectable, unfortunately since the cold spell in February they appear to have gone to Australia, not sure why two theories one during that cold spell due to the ground being so waterlogged that the roots froze, or the more scientific suggestion that it has suffered from Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus, better known as BYDV, caused by aphids carried over from the previous crop. So we can only wait and see what happens but I expect another disappointing crop and as it represents about a 1/3 of our total area not a very good prospect.



The Government recently announced a wish to ban hunting/shooting Hares during the breeding season, I don’t believe many were ever hunted during this time, certainly not recently. Hares are so scarce now, this is nothing to do with shooting/hunting, all down to predation, an increase in Buzzards, Red Kites, and illegal coursing, so a seasonal ban will make practically no difference. In spite of me thinking that there were very few Rabbits on the farm, I now see them on a regular basis, probably not enough to be a nuisance which is fine. Nice to think summer is on its way with winter migratory birds returning, at the time of writing we have had Chiff Chaffs, Warblers to name but a few, surely a sign of better things to come in more ways than one this year. Many years ago during the winter months we used to see a flock of Golden Plovers, always in the same part of the farm, now again this year I have noticed what I think to be them flying overhead.

There are moves afoot that in future we may be able to trade our environmental actions with businesses who are producing climate change pollutants, (things like being paid by a firm that is emitting carbon into the atmosphere to plant trees to mitigate what they are producing), to me this is not the right direction to be taking as it means we will be able to pay our way out of polluting and not actually doing anything about it. The mention of trees, we are led to believe that by planting trees we are solving the problem, I would suggest there is more at stake than planting trees as they are not the answer, the right trees in the right place is ok. The problem is they are not the solution on their own.



The results of some research carried out by the “Game & Wildlife Trust” (GWCT) has illustrated once again the conundrums that face us in making decisions connected with Climate Change. Our industry body (NFU), has committed agriculture to be carbon free by 2040, a goal that basically we are pretty well in agreement with, however it is not as simple as that as you might guess. This research, is about cultivations, has shown that whereas hitherto we had thought that the technique of no soil movement at all will release least CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, this is fine and a practice a lot of us are trying to perfect. Of course this is all very well but where the soil gets compacted, through continual passes with traffic as in harvest time, if this land is not moved, then during a wet period it will release far more nitrous oxide which is far more polluting than CO<sub>2</sub>, we have already saved. So this is something else we have to content with.

I think many producers will be worried by the announcement, that the new owners of Asda are committed to equal or better the prices that the German discounters offer. This maybe fine for the consumer, but as they are saying this will be achieved by encouraging lower producer prices, which will in affect start another price war resulting in yet more lowering of standards something we as Farmers with the support of the Great British public have been striving for. It seems we cannot win.

As we, hopefully regain our freedom the pressure on our countryside is becoming greater with more people staying at home, this we welcome but do ask people to respect the country that we try and look after as best we can. It is horrifying to see pictures of the litter left behind in some public parks, also with greater dog ownership many more instances of livestock worrying are being reported, what is not quantifiable is the effect on wildlife. However docile a pet may seem they are natural hunters and will at a moment's notice dart off, especially at this time of year, with birds nesting, they must at all times be on a lead on open land.

First swallow sighted 9th April don't forget “1” Swallow doesn't make a summer.

*Charles Peers*

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

Finally, it has stopped raining and the weather has suddenly improved markedly. The soil has dried out and plants are mostly doing well, but we are well behind last year for plant development. The recent frosts have done much damage, particularly to Magnolias which is particularly sad given their once a year big bang performance. I'm relieved I had not cut all the Fuchsias down very low as several of them have frost damage, but I'm sure they will come back.

We used to have alpacas on the meadow for the autumn and winter, but, sadly no longer. Really a meadow needs animals in the winter to keep the grass short and tread in the shed seed so germination takes place while the ground is wet and after the long period of cold overwinter. This year has been particularly difficult as the ground has been very wet and the water meadow was under water for much of the winter. While the meadow is too large an area to cut the whole of it using a garden tractor, we have been keeping one small area cut shorter. This gives the flowers less competition and we are able to micro-manage that area. Unfortunately, we had at least two consecutive months when we couldn't get the mower out of its shed without it getting stuck in mud. The grass across the whole of the meadow is therefore far too long and I think it unlikely that the show of flowers will be very good this year. Every year is different.

This time last year, we had roses in flower, but this year there is no sign of the main rose display, although Canary Bird has buds. This is a lovely rose with small yellow flowers which generally flowers in April, but it looks like it will be May this year. I would definitely recommend this rose for its health and vigour and for its very early display.

Peonies are growing strongly and I do enjoy their red shoots and leaves. Some of them are growing alongside cowslips which is a very pleasing sight.

We are working hard in the vegetable garden; the potatoes are in and our greenhouse sowing of climbing French beans have germinated, along with rocket. This year I bought new indoor cucumber seed as last year the stored seed failed to germinate at all. This has paid off and I have four healthy plants ready to go in the greenhouse (not that we need that many plants, but best to have a surplus when you are trying to get early crops). All our grandchildren love cucumber and the three-year-old will simply eat the whole thing like a fruit. Home grown ones are so sweet and well worth the effort. Try to find time to make the effort to grow herbs and salad as it is lovely to pick them fresh.

Onions and garlic are growing strongly, but the weed growth that accompanies the rainy weather threatens to engulf them on a regular basis. I find a hoe is the best tool as it is quick and, in this lovely sunny weather, the weeds quickly dry up.


Enjoy the lovely weather while it lasts!

*Liz Moses*

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## Little Milton WI

In April, we had a fascinating talk by David Lee who told us about the time he'd spent on the British Antarctic Survey base at Rothera. Other local WIs, villagers and relatives joined us as we learnt about the native wildlife, living conditions, 

transport, the science and a VIP visit from the Princess Royal, all illustrated with stunning photos of the icy landscape.

Thank you to all the customers who supported us at the Little Milton Spring Fayre, and helped us raise funds for the School and the Orchard.

Our next meeting on Thursday 13th May is 'From Farm to Fork' with Lois Selmes from the Waterperry Farm Shop.

We'll be online from 7pm, with the talk to start at 730pm. Contact me if you'd like to join us. Everyone welcome, the more the merrier!

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. Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI.

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

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

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

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## **Morland House Surgery – 20th April 2021**

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update**

Morland House is continuing to invite patients to have their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We are currently inviting patients aged 45 – 19 (priority group 10), and those in priority groups 1 – 9 who are still to have their first or second dose.

Please do not contact us about vaccination appointments. We will send out invitations to book appointments when the vaccine becomes available. Patients outside these groups are asked to wait until their priority group is released nationally.

If you are aged 45 or over and you have not yet been contacted for your first vaccination, you may also book your vaccine online through this website [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by phoning 119.

For up-to-date information please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Building Works at Morland House**

Building works continue at Morland House, converting and extending the Barn into a space for Morland Healthcare Pharmacy to move into.

Morland Healthcare Pharmacy is a joint venture between the partners of Morland

House Surgery and pharmacist Jagtar Gill, who bought the Wheatley branch of Co-op Midcounties Pharmacy from the group last year. The pharmacy will run alongside our dispensary, finally allowing our non-dispensing patients to pick up their medication on site.

While there should be no disruption to our services, access to our dispensary via the dispensary (glass) door has been suspended for the next few weeks. Access to our dispensary will be via the main surgery entrance door. We have installed a traffic light system and would ask that patients coming to pick up their medication to please read the signs and follow the instructions.

### **New Care Home in Wheatley**

A new 65-bed care home is currently being constructed at Park Hill roundabout across the road from the Morland House surgery. The care home will be managed by The Order of St John Trust and is scheduled to open in late 2022. There have already been many discussions on the impact that catering for the complex needs of such an establishment will inevitably have on the Morland House clinician team's ability to provide the high quality of patient care that our patient population currently enjoys. The PPG along with the Morland House clinician team are holding meetings with the Order of St John management team to facilitate a safe and collaborative approach to ensure the continued high level of patient care.

### **Visit Morland House Website**

For up-to-date information on everything from our opening hours to our services, please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)


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## **Wheatley Library**

### **Pandemic Year Summary**

We are in the business of books and words. Have you noticed how these new words have entered our frequent, if not daily, wordscape? Some have acquired an intensity of new meaning: social distancing, restrictions, face masks, rule of 6, working from home, must, support bubble, tiers, stay, protect, safe.... to name a few.

From the stressful period, for everyone, of those first few weeks the library leadership faced the magnitude of putting a library service of 44 libraries and over 250 staff 'to bed', branch staff suddenly found their purpose and roles put on ice, librarians switched much of their work to delivering an online library and many of us worked from home.

Since then, we have all got a story to tell about what we did last year and how we fared. While we are still working many things out as guidance changes and government information grows, we have kept the library service going. It remains meaningful 

to our residents and has evolved well in some surprising ways.

*Jane Mason, Operations Manager for Library Leadership Team*

For information about the following topics

- Bookstart
- Home Library Service
- Reading Groups
- Click and Collect

during the pandemic year of 2020 please see the Friends of Wheatley Library Facebook page, or [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries), or follow Oxfordshire Libraries on Facebook or @Oxonlibraries on Twitter

The Wheatley library staff hope that the rates of covid infections will stay low enough for us to be able to re-open our doors in April in line with government guidance but until we see you again, we hope you keep safe.

*Wendy Stanton, Wheatley Library Manager*

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## Dinner at The Bull

Back in the day, forty years ago or so, I used to live in a barn conversion in Great Haseley, and would often visit The Bull in Great Milton, in the company of Tim Rice among other locals.

So it was good to return to the pretty village last night, to have dinner at the just reopened Bull. I wanted to write this recommendation because it was a really happy and successful evening. My wife Cathy had come prepared for any dodgy weather, and even had a blanket stashed in the back of the car. Unnecessary. The friendly and welcoming staff had prepared a lovely table, under cover and under a heater - and served us excellent food from an imaginative menu. We stayed on for naughty puds and coffee, while I reminisced about the Great Milton Fêtes of years gone by, when Sir Tim twisted the arms of stars of stage and screen (including Elaine Paige) to come along and open them.

Tired but happy, as they say in all good books, we went home feeling great about our decision to try the new and updated Bull. It was a lovely place to be, and we enjoyed every minute.

The Bull is a charming village pub, bowing to tradition, and adding the very best of what the modern punters expect - friendliness, interesting food and a great atmosphere.

So get along there Great Miltonites!

*Robert Duncan*



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Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based - share your life, change a life - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers)

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### John Howell MP writes...

A year after the first lockdown many people reflected on what has happened during the last year and how they have dealt with the situation. As with all places of work, in an MP's office changes have had to be made. Working with my team we have written a shared view of our situation. The full article is available on my website with extracts shared below. I hope it will be of interest.

We agreed that whilst working from home has some up-sides it does have several down sides. Despite the use of online communications there has been much less general sharing of ideas and conversation that cements relationships and builds the team. The feeling of remoteness and isolation is strong. In addition to the isolation the scope of the work has narrowed to mainly involve responding to emails. In the period from the start of the first lockdown to March 2021 we received over 30,000 emails from constituents, this was more than double the usual and in addition to internal emails and those from other organisations with which we work.

The nature of the constituent emails has been in two key categories. Many emails raised concerns about personal issues and problems relating to COVID-19. There was also a huge increase in standard campaign emails. With the personal concerns the team did all we could to help but sometimes there was nothing that we could do. The reaction to this largely fell into two extremes – those who were grateful for our efforts despite the outcome and those who blamed us for the situation. Dealing with people shouting down the phone at you because you cannot change a situation is difficult.

Campaigning organisations quickly realised that people had time on their hands and were at home by their computers. Campaigning organisations can do a very good job but when the same email is received dozens of times over with exactly the same wording the message starts to lose something. We also noticed an increased aggression in the tone of some of these emails.

Although the House authorities and the Speaker's Office found ways of keeping Parliament in operation it has not been completely satisfactory. In some ways the democratic process has been stifled. The lack of Westminster Hall debates for a long time took away the opportunity for MPs to raise and discuss a whole range of issues. The remote operation of the Chamber reduced the number of speakers possible in any one debate and also removed the opportunity for quick exchanges, by way of interventions, which are an important part of the process of debate. As a result we saw a series of set pieces from those selected to speak in a debate rather than robust debate between MPs and the ability to challenge Ministers in quite the same way as usual greatly suppressed.

This piece is just a short part of the whole. If you would like to read the full article or find information on other issues please visit my website [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk)



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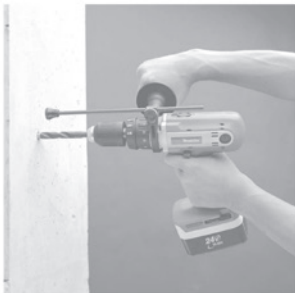
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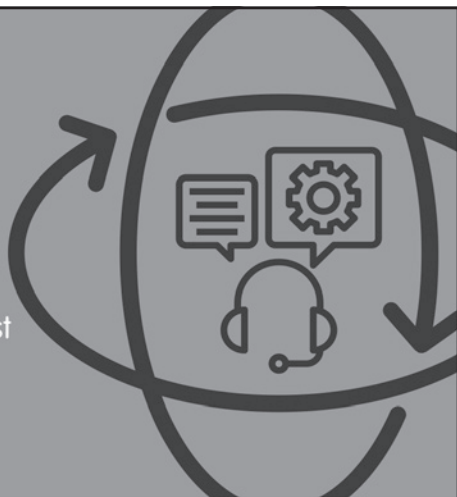


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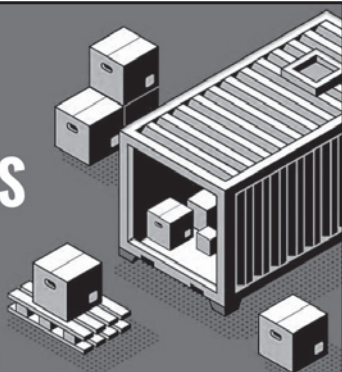
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For more information contact:

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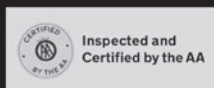
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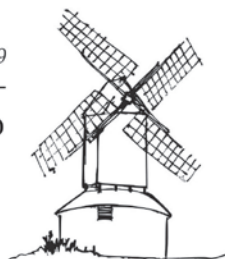
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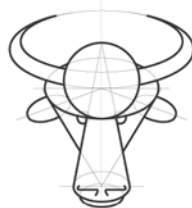
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# Diary

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am<br><i>contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk</i><br>Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm<br><i>contact carina.martin@gmail.com</i><br>Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm<br><i>contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205</i>   |
| Tuesday   | Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.<br><i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i><br>Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm<br><i>contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk</i><br>Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Ann Price – 01844 279474</i>  |
| Wednesday | Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday<br>GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm<br><i>or by appointment</i>  |
| Thursday  | Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm<br>Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm<br><i>contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk</i><br>The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. <i>contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432</i><br>Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.<br><i>contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net</i><br>Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.<br><i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i><br>Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm<br><i>contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198</i><br>Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm<br><i>contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com</i> |
| Friday    | Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am<br><i>For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490</i>   |
| Saturday  | Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.<br><i>Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090</i><br>Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact David Spiers – 01844 281345</i>  |

## May

|           |  |        |
|-----------|--|--------|
| 3rd Mon   | May day Bank Holiday                                     | —      |
| 4th Tue   | Star Wars Day!   | —      |
| 5th Wed   | Virtual Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting | 7:00pm |
| 12th Wed  | Internaional Nurses Day                                  | —      |
| 25th Tues | Towel Day (mostly harmless)                              | —      |

## June

|          |                           |        |
|----------|---------------------------|--------|
| 12th Sat | Great Milton Street Fayre | 2:00pm |
|----------|---------------------------|--------|

## July

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| 3rd Sat | Back to the Future – Post Pandemic Party – Views Farm | tba |
|---------|---|-----|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th May 2021**.

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

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

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The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.

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



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