

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

July 2020

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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

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

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

Parish Council Representatives

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

Cover: This lovely church hassock was started by Lady Brown 20 years ago and completed by Jane Goddard in 2020. Now added to the colourful church collection. *Photo: Clare BP.*

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. John Anderson	01235 529563	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

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

The Bulletin

Due to issues surrounding delivery and a reduction in the volume of news items, The Bulletin will not be distributed on a house-to-house basis until further notice. However, a link to the electronic version can be found on the Parish Council website (www.great-milton.co.uk): additionally the village shop will stock 50 copies specifically for those unable to access the website. Please contact the Parish Clerk if this raises any concerns.

Parish Council meetings: 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) or via noticeboards.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Draft Parish Notes – July 2020

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. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr George Bennet. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the Agenda.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15th June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the chairman on camera.

Matters to report

Ad hoc updates from the County Councillor and District Council are currently being regularly received: these are being cascaded to residents as a matter of course. A written monthly report from the District Councillor was received by the meeting.

Councillor Newton also reported that SODC will overspend by £500k this year, and there is likely to be an in-year budget in October: however with healthy reserves this is likely to determine how much of these will be used. A council tax increase is unlikely at the moment.

The Examination in Public of SODC's Local Plan has begun. The application for Chalgrove is unlikely to be determined until it has been decided whether or not the site will be in the Local Plan. There is little mention of roads and highway infrastructure in the Chalgrove application: as a result the Planning Committee may refuse it, as OCC cannot support it without consideration of these items.

The potential creation of a unitary authority for Oxfordshire to replace the current two-tier model is under consideration at a high level. Central government favours this approach, the question is more how quickly it could happen (possibly as early as May 2021). Cllr Harrod reported that councillors are working proactively on the matter, and are keen to have an input to the outcome rather than have something imposed upon them.

SODC is looking to return people to work in their offices, prioritising those who are having difficulties working at home. However this is against a backdrop of limited space (of 440 people only 120 can be accommodated with necessary social distancing) and the possible need to leave the Milton Park office due to termination of the lease, with further uncertainties about where the authority could relocate to.

Planning Applications

The following planning application received from SODC was considered:

P20/S2134/O (Chalgrove Airfield Chalgrove OX44 7RJ)

Outline Planning Application for Residential-led mixed use development comprising the following elements with all Matters reserved, except Access, as shown on the Land Use and Access Parameter Plan, Building Heights Parameter Plan and the floorspace outlined on the Parameter Schedule, comprising:

- . 3,000 homes (C3) including up to 300 homes in C2 use;
- . Two 2FE primary schools (D1) on sites each of 2.22 hectares;
- . An 8FE secondary school including a 300 pupil sixth form College (D1) on a site of 10.55 hectares, including formal sports pitches;
- . 5 hectares of land for employment uses within classes B1, B2 and B8, and retention of existing business uses;
- . Partial removal of existing runways and periphery and construction of a single new main runway, associated taxiways and hard standing, arboricultural management



including felling, lopping and pruning of trees; . A Town Centre accommodating uses within classes A1-A5, B1, C2, C3, D1 and D2; . Additional floorspace, outside of the Town Centre, including uses within classes A1-A5, B1, D1 and D2; . At least 30 hectares of public open space, including playing fields, parks and gardens, amenity space, civic space, allotments/community orchards including storage buildings, green corridors, play areas, semi-natural/natural open space and drainage attenuation; . 3 Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and associated hardstanding; . Realignment of the B480 to include formation of new vehicular connections to the existing B480, including alterations to part of the existing B480 to form a green lane.

Councillors expressed concerns about whether Chalgrove not being approved would make development at Harrington more likely. Cllr Harrod believed that Harrington being added to the Local Plan instead of Chalgrove was unlikely at this stage, but that it could potentially be added to a future plan or come forward as a possible development corporation project (though there are no development corporations in this area at present). There are also numerous other sites that could be considered instead, and local opposition to Harrington from John Howell MP.

Concerns were also expressed about the poor quality of road and public transport infrastructure at Chalgrove: although funding has been offered by Homes England for mitigation measures at Stadhampton and Chiselhampton there is nothing proposed for Little Milton or Cuxham, either to deal with construction traffic during the period of development (likely to be 13 years-plus) or the significant number of additional vehicle movements once complete.

It was AGREED that Cllr Harrod would submit a response to the Chalgrove application to SODC on behalf of the Parish Council. Additionally the Parish Council will produce and deliver a leaflet to all homes in the village along with a covering letter, to ensure that all residents are fully informed and able to submit their own responses should they wish to.

No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting, and there were no outstanding planning matters to consider.

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised, with cheques to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to this meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses July and August (no meeting August).
£501.01/£489.89

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production July. £95.80

Green and Growing. Village mowing June. £276

Gillett and Johnston. Annual church clock service. £206.40

SODC dog hygiene 1 April – 30 June. £269.10

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received, signed and approved by the meeting. The reconciled bank balance as at 6 July was £36,449.11. With regard to parish council funds, concerns were raised about the potential for the non-payment of council tax to affect full settlement of the second half of the parish precept. The Clerk has asked Cllr Caroline Newton to look into this.

To note the impending conclusion of the Exercise of Public Rights period (during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined) on Friday 24 July. No requests to view the Parish Council's unaudited accounts or associated documents had been received at the time of writing.

To note the refund of £1140.72 VAT incurred between April 1 2019 and March 31 2020.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

It has been reported that one of the water troughs at the allotment has been slow to fill for some time: the stopcock could not be located, which made it difficult to resolve the issue. A local resident has now located the stopcock and repaired the trough: the Parish Council is grateful for his help.

A Saturday return journey will be added to the 275 bus service timetable from the first weekend in September. Journeys will operate as per the Monday to Friday timetable: this new facility will hopefully be well received and well used.

Tree branches that are fouling telephone lines near the Great House on Church Road and power lines on Lower End/Sworford Lane are due to be trimmed shortly.

Proposed revisions to the Great Milton village website

27 responses from the survey seeking opinions on the Great Milton website have been received. Changes to improve accessibility have also been made: thanks to Carina Martin for orchestrating this.

Cllr Deacon outlined the questions asked in the survey, and the responses received. In summary although many people were appreciative there were some comments about the layout of the site and the currency and nature of the information it carried. The site also currently caters mainly for villagers and should maybe be more inviting to people from outside the village. Many sensible and useful suggestions have been received: they will all be considered as part of the redesign process, along with the layout, content and usability of the site. It was AGREED to further investigate a managed solution for the website with a view to engaging an external provider, and to look to embrace the redesign as part of this process.

The Bulletin: print run and delivery

The potential for resumption of a full print run and door-to-door delivery



of The Bulletin from October was discussed. It was AGREED to defer a decision until the September meeting so that the pandemic situation at the time can be considered.

COVID-19: update on village response/impact

It was AGREED to ring-fence the £500 received from SODC for the village's Covid response for potential future use.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday September 21st starting at 7.30pm. There is no meeting in August but the Parish Clerk remains available to deal with any issues or concerns.

Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Great Milton website: Have Your Say...

The Parish Council is planning revisions to the Great Milton village website to comply with changes to legislation. As part of that process the content and navigation of the site will be reviewed.

We have created a completely anonymised survey to gather your views and opinions on the website and would be very grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete it.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/86VQWRY>

The website can be accessed at www.great-milton.co.uk, from where the survey can also be accessed via the news item on the 'Home' page.

If you wish to comment but can't access the internet or would rather not complete the online survey, please feel free to call Tim Darch, Parish Clerk on 01844 278347.

Many thanks,

Cllr Steve Harrod. On behalf of Great Milton Parish Council

Thames Water

As a provider of life essential supplies, Thames Water work hard to ensure water never stops flowing but from time to time, things can go wrong. In these events, we try to deliver bottled water to people with water-dependent medical conditions (i.e. at-home dialysis) and to those with mobility issues, first of all. As key workers, we support the NHS, the councils, our carers and charities in order meet the needs of our customers in vulnerable circumstances. You can benefit from our free priority services: get in touch by emailing Tania.christie@thameswater.co.uk (or ask a friend to email

for you and we can call you back) - we would like to know that we can add that extra layer of support to help increase your feeling of wellbeing and independence at home knowing that we are here for you when you need us. If you have online access, you can find more about becoming a priority customer and register at thameswater.co.uk/extrasupport. If you have no internet access, we can register you over the phone (0800 009 3652 option 3) or send you a paper application form in the post with a free return envelope.

If you need help with paying your water bills, find out more at <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/my-account/billing-and-payment/help-paying-your-bill>

And last but not least, we developed some fun water testing games to pass the time: <https://youtu.be/oJ5DIE-3SKI> I hope you enjoy them.


Benefice Services August

	Live Service 9:00am	Virtual Service 11:00am
Sunday 2nd <i>Trinity 8</i>	St. Mary's Great Milton Communion BCP	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th <i>Trinity 9</i>	St. Peter's Great Haseley Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th <i>Trinity 10</i>	St. James Little Milton Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 23rd <i>Trinity 11</i>		Invitation to Zoom Communion
Sunday 30th <i>Trinity 12</i>	To Be Agreed	

St Mary's Great Milton Finances

Dear Friends

St Mary's has benefitted greatly over the years from local support, not least financially. I want to thank the Village for it's ongoing generosity and commitment to support the Church in so many ways.

Over the years the Fete has been a significant source of funding. Another source of funding we have benefitted from has been through the events organised by Le Manoir. Because we are not able to have any of these this year we will experience a 

significant financial shortfall.

Some of you have already responded to this and we have been the recipients of some very generous donations, a huge thank you if this has been you. Events to mitigate the situation have been organised, the Plant Sale and the Bric a Brac. However we still have a significant gap to fill in order to get to the end of the year in a financially solvent place. Together with private donations I think so far we have been able to raise about £2800 but there is still a shortfall of over £9000-00. There will be no money coming from other sources, I am afraid it is for the local church to find this.

We realise that we have periodically come to the Village for help, largely for the upkeep of the building. I fully understand that at the moment supporting the Church financially might be hard. In that case, the continued offering of your support and good will is beyond measure. However, if you are able to give financially to help us over this difficulty we would be so grateful. The local church really does need you.

Should you want to respond by arranging or updating a standing order I would be able to provide you with one. If you would like to give a one off donation, again send to me, Simon Cronk at the Rectory Great Milton OX44 7PN and if by cheque payable to Great Milton PCC

May God Bless you and keep you all safe and well.

Simon Cronk on behalf of Great Milton PCC

The Rector's Pint

Whatever the rights or wrongs of it, 'locking down' was easy to do. I don't mean the emotional impact of it all, that has been hard, but having to shut our churches. I always believed that this was an over-reaction and, in common with many of my clergy colleagues, I felt that at least we should have been able to keep the buildings open, at least for a part of the time. I am delighted of course that we have now been able to do this. It's only once a week, but it is a start. We had to organise our churches to do this including putting away all the books, as if they were a major hazard!

The last few months have introduced us to a whole new vocabulary. Lockdown is one word, three other significant terms, Zoom, mute and un-mute! In March I had never even heard of Zoom but it has become the 'go to' resource as we have tried to keep things going. I was the first to be surprised at how successful our weekly Sunday by Zoom service has been. We even managed to have a pets' blessing as a part of the service at the beginning of July.

We are now looking at what the shape of things ahead is likely to be at least for

the rest of the year. I do not foresee that our Zoom presence will stop any time soon. Neither do I see it as a satisfactory long term solution. There is no substitute for actually getting together, worshipping and sharing in one place.

Whatever we begin to offer in church will have to be simple, we will not be able to sing, apparently it increases the risk of contamination and we will have to maintain 'social distancing.' What we are introducing from the start of August, is a simple said Holy Communion service at 9.00am once a week in one of our churches. One of these will be from the Book of Common Prayer. The Holy Communion itself will be carried out safely, and in line with appropriate guidelines.

The revised schedule is above, although this may be subject to revision as circumstance change.

Looking ahead, what about Harvest Festival? I don't predict that traditional harvest services, lunches or suppers will be possible this year. On Remembrance Sunday, acts of remembrance will held outside, in each of the villages, but these are unlikely to be followed by services of remembrance inside the churches.

So uncertainty still dominates. But then faith was never dependent on the certainty of our human structures, but on the goodness and faithfulness of God. We'll get through this.

Simon

To the Wonderful Village Family of Great Milton

Myself and my husband Colin wish to express our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you that have supported our daughter Kelly Wing, her husband Darren and our grandchildren Sophie, Jake, Jess and little Josh at the most painful time of their lives.

Never have we encountered such unbelievable kindness in one small place.

Providing the family with fresh meals, shopping, delicious home made cakes and both cash and donations to the 'Go Fund Me' page set up on line.

The gifts to help memory making such as a photo shoot, animal adoption and even a free holiday are greatly appreciated and mean so much.

With special thanks to Laura for all your arranging. Darren would be delighted and find peace knowing that Great Milton Village has spread its wings open wide to engulf his little Wing family with such protection and care.

We cannot thank you enough.

Paula and Colin

Bus Update

A trial Saturday service will be added to route 275 effective from the first weekend in September 2020, leaving the village and returning from Oxford at the same times as the weekday journeys.

The A40 is closed between Tetsworth and Postcombe for at least 20 weeks. As a result, service 275 will divert via the M40 from Lewknor and will not serve stops in Milton Common east of the A40. A shuttle service is in operation so that passengers from Milton Common can connect with buses at Lewknor.

275S Tetsworth and Postcombe Shuttle - A40 Closure				
Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)		from 22 June 2020 until further notice		
<i>Service Number</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>
MILTON COMMON, Common Cottage	08:48	10:18	11:48	13:21
Tetsworth, The Green	08:52	10:22	11:52	13:25
Postcombe, top of Salt Lane	09:02	10:32	12:02	13:35
Lewknor, Lambert Arms	09:05	10:35	12:05	13:38
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6 (opp. Bus Shelter)	09:06	10:36	12:06	13:39
Connecting 275 bus:				
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6	09:11	10:41	12:11	13:44
HIGH WYCOMBE, Bus Station	09:52	...	12:52	...
OXFORD, Carfax	...	11:19	...	14:24
<i>Service Number</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	<i>275S</i>	
<i>Notes</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>	
Connecting 275 bus:				
OXFORD, Carfax		11:30		
HIGH WYCOMBE, Bus Station		10:00	13:05	
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6		10:41	12:11	13:44
LEWKNOR, M40 Junction 6 (Bus Shelter)	10:46	12:16	13:50	
Lewknor, Lambert Arms	10:47	12:17	13:51	
Postcombe, top of Salt Lane	10:50	12:20	13:54	
Tetsworth, The Green	11:00	12:30	14:04	
MILTON COMMON, Common Cottage	11:04	12:34	14:08	
Note R - Shuttle buses from Lewknor only run if passengers on board. Buses will wait for late running service 275 journeys				
At Lewknor M40 Junction 6:				
For High Wycombe, 275 buses depart from Stop B (the bus shelter side)				
For Oxford, 275 buses depart from Stop C (opposite the bus shelter)				
No Saturday or Sunday service				

Volunteers Make All the Difference in South and Vale

The leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have offered their heartfelt and sincerest thanks to the thousands of volunteers that are helping in their communities.

Within days of lockdown starting, charities and voluntary groups in our districts were helping those in need. As it became clear more support was required hundreds of residents set up informal help groups in their local communities to make sure their most vulnerable and isolated neighbours were able to get help.

They used the powers of social media to recruit other volunteers and to get the message out to those who needed it. They also used more traditional methods to reach people, such as telephone calls, door-knocking and posting home-made leaflets through their neighbours' doors.

There's no doubt these local heroes have saved lives in their communities – they have been the backbone of the country's response to the crisis.

To help coordinate the community response, the district councils set up a community hub, which has helped bring the hundreds of independent groups and individuals into a huge linked network of volunteers responding to requests for help.

Working together with the district councils and others, local volunteer groups have made an enormous difference to people who are having to self-isolate. They're carrying out tasks that in normal circumstances would normally seem simple such as doing the food shopping or picking up people's prescriptions.

More than 30 members of staff at the council have been redeployed to work on a community support helpline to support the coordinated effort across the county. So far, the helpline has referred 910 people onto community groups for ongoing support. The district councils have also created a food hub, which has supplied meals for 783 adults and children.

Cllr Emily Smith, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council said, "I'm extremely proud of the hundreds of local volunteers that have been helping their neighbours and some of our most vulnerable residents. I hope the work that we have been able to do as a council creates a long-lasting legacy of active community groups that support vulnerable and isolated residents far beyond this pandemic to support ever more cohesive and connected communities"

Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council said, "We are so grateful to our local community groups, volunteers and own staff that have stepped up and helped to provide all the extra support. Without them, vulnerable people would have undoubtedly suffered so much more during the pandemic."

Plant Sale and Bric-a-Brac Results

Thank you everyone who helped, donated or bought.

We could not have a Fete this year which leaves a big hole in our Church finances. Thanks to our supportive villagers though, we raised

£735 from the Plant Sale and

£347 from the Bric a Brac Sale.

Let us hope we can enjoy our usual Village Church Fete next year.

Great Milton History

Temporary arrangement

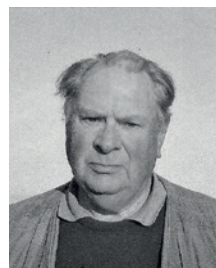
We are trying to gradually open up the History Room on a Wednesday. We will cover from - say 10.0am to 1.0pm. Only one of us will be there at a time, so there would be room for one or two visitors.

Should you wish to come on a different day, please phone either Ian (279489), Geoffrey (279297), Sally (278992) or Pat (279300) and we can open up for you.

GMHistory

View from Velws

“One Swallow doesn’t make a summer” this year it seems that this old saying is right, we noticed a few in April since then none! I understand they all encountered storms in southern Europe during migration in the early spring when many perished, what has happened to the few that did get through is a mystery, on the other hand there are plenty of Swifts. I understand that Cuckoos favour Reed Warbler nests for hatching their eggs, which would explain their song by the river and why every time I go near the River I heard the Warblers in the reeds. I saw my first Kingfisher the other day. The rain I mentioned in my PS last month certainly seems to have saved the day as far as the crops are concerned, every plant seems to have perked up, which is a relief. By the time this is read our one crop I am ashamed of hopefully will be in the barn, this “Oil Seed Rape” (OSR) has suffered many setbacks through its growing period and now has had to put up with the high winds of late which may well have caused the nearly ripe pods, that hold the seeds (like a pea) to shatter, so the OSR saga




continues.

It is good to have a positive comment by our Rambling Rector (thank you Simon) with reference to our flower enriched field margins. This year as the grass suffering from the earlier dry period has allowed the wild flowers a chance, the trouble is that basically grass is very aggressive and will dominate, it takes a number of years to get these delicate plants established. That is why we cut and remove all the cuttings every year thus removing soil nutrients. It has been noticeable this year how different species have done better than others, more Red than White Campion, less Ox Eye Daisies, but many more species like Ladies Bedstraw, Black Medic, Knapweed, Wild Carrot, lots of Vetch, Hawkweed, plus many more that I cannot identify or remember. Certainly there has been an increase in insect activity, which must mean we are having some effect, but it is interesting to note that where there has been human intervention either by walking or the passage of a vehicle there is considerably less of these special plants.

This all proves the point with a little help we can improve our natural environment, but Boris' Build Build Build although needed, we must not forget nature. Do we need 10,000 homes in this area, a distance from any form of public transport. It is not clear where all the water is going to come from, the water authorities have already warned of water shortages, & where all the waste is going to go, all this proposed area drains into the Thame, already on the limit for pollution, it only wants a freak condition and bang all the good work will be undone in a matter of hours. This is especially the case with the Transport hub at Waterstock very near the river and an area that has been designated of special wild life interest, due to the efforts by landowners in the area. With the "New Normal" upon us there are bound to be spare sites and building that could be reused/recycled as businesses fail/take new directions, we must not allow these redundant properties to just become redundant and pulled down only to be rebuilt using vast amounts of our valuable natural resources in the process. We need to stop and think!

Just to add to the above, as per an article in the "Oxford Times" 2 July, the environmental Group Wild Oxfordshire are saying that Oxfordshire needs to double its wildlife land by 2050 to tackle a local emergency, so it is not just me!

I was somewhat dismayed to read in last month's "Little Milton Newsletter" that the footpath over the Thame at the stepping stones was no longer a right of way. I find this extremely hard to understand for several reasons as in all the negotiations I as a previous landowner and whose family had owned land on the west bank for some 250 years was never officially approached to give even an opinion, and on occasion that I had asked for a slight diversion of a foot path been unable to do so. To my knowledge it is, and always was a foot path, as a link between two settlements. Otherwise 

how could the residents of Chippinghurst get to the “Lamb”?

We in the farming industry are hugely relieved that after tremendous campaign supported by the public, the NFU presented a petition signed by over a million people, the have now Government agreed to convene a Trade and Agriculture Commission to enforce our food standards on all imports this is quite a coupe.

Charles Peers



The Maple Tree

Although The Maple Tree remains closed at this moment in time, we are following Government guidance very closely to see when and how we may be able to re-open. At this current time, we are aiming to provide a reduced face to face programme in September.

In the meantime we continue to run a remote programme. Our Facebook page and website are very active and there are lots of fabulous ideas to do at home with your children as well as useful links to other trusted agencies. You will find

cooking videos, gardening videos and much more - <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley/>

We run interactive Facebook Live sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 11am for storytelling and singing (suitable for babies and children). Do join us and request a favourite song or two.

If you or anybody else that you know has given birth during the pandemic, you are welcome to join one of our new virtual baby groups on a Wednesday morning for babies born in Oxfordshire since the 1st March 2020. These groups are very popular and we try to group parents with other parents from the same area - we already have over 80 new parents subscribed. If you would like to join us for the 10am session, email hayley@mapletree.org.uk and we will send you a zoom invite. We are also running one off courses such as Baby Sleep, Introducing Solids as well as taster sessions from Baby Sensory, Baby Sing & Sign and also postnatal fitness.

Appeal for New Trustees


We are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of charity trustees. We are keen to recruit volunteers with a background/expertise in finance and accountancy, premises management and ICT/data collection. However, we also very much welcome trustees from other backgrounds who are able to help us. If you would like more information about the Maple Tree, or a chat about what is involved in becoming a trustee, please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk Or have a look at our website for more information: www.mapletree.org.uk. Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

If you need any kind of support, do contact us either through our facebook page, by emailing Hayley or through our new web-site www.mapletree.org

Hayley Hayle (Coordinator)

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

2020 will undoubtedly be a year to remember with our constant companion, Covid-19. This has given a lot of people much more time at home and, with nowhere to go, more time to garden and to particularly grow vegetables and fruit.

There is no doubt that growing your own food is a rewarding, if time consuming, occupation. You know you are eating produce which is chemical free and very tasty because it is so fresh. Even organic produce can have certain chemicals applied because they are plant based, so is not necessarily as good as you think. You are in 

control of what your home-grown food contains. When I started to write this column a few years ago I practised what I would call balanced gardening with judicious use of pesticides and fungicides occasionally if required. My use of these chemicals has gradually reduced to the stage where I have not used any at all this summer so I am now almost a 'natural' gardener.

I do still use weed killers from time to time as I can't provide the manpower to tackle some weed areas in our meadow. Thistles are pulled rather than sprayed and nettles and docks are either sprayed when very young or have flowering stems removed by hand. The late TV gardener, Geoff Hamilton, used to say that glyphosate was almost organic as it is inactivated when it hits the soil; it may be removed from sale in the near future, like many chemicals, but we will wait and see. We keep a large area of nettles for wildlife in the bottom of the meadow where the slope makes mowing difficult and the whole meadow is cut once a year which keeps weeds down and allows wild flowers to seed, not to mention feeding animals over the winter. This year we have increased amounts of Scabious, Geranium pratense (meadow cranesbill) and the delicately pretty yellow lady's bedstraw. The grass is much longer this year partly because it was not grazed over the winter, partly because our big tractor has a damaged tyre (not a straightforward thing to get fixed) and partly because we have had so much rain this year.

The rain this spring and summer has been fabulous for the garden, although the endless spring rain went on far too long for my liking (never satisfied!). We have had alternating rain and warm sunny periods. This has made caring for the garden much easier than usual and I don't ever remember us having a lovely green lawn at this time of year. I use the term lawn in its broadest sense as an area of mown grass. Even that is not totally accurate as we don't use feed and weed because we don't want to make the grass grow even faster and we rather like all the wild flowers that appear between mowings. Therefore, much of our lawn is not grass and we haven't even touched on the moss content which we also do nothing about!

Enjoy your garden while the borders are full and the weeds are, hopefully swamped.

Liz Moyses

John Howell MP writes...

I want to begin this month with a huge thank you to everyone in our communities who has done so much to help others through the coronavirus crisis. I have been so encouraged by the resourcefulness of communities, the way in which people have

adapted to the circumstances, the support that has been given to the vulnerable, and the resilience shown over so many weeks.

Lockdown has gone on for longer than many of us imagined at first and I know that in some respects the initial community spirit has become jaded by our own weariness and frustrations. Many people are still worried about their health and others are frustrated and worried about their livelihoods whether in their own business or in employment. I am also aware of many concerns over the risks not of the virus but of the vacuum created with life on hold. These include concerns over missed education, missed health treatments, mental health and well-being issues and so much more. It was always going to be easier to go into lockdown than to come out and we need to move out with care for one another. The risk of a second wave of the virus is constant and we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. Yet we must do what we can to return to normal, whatever that will be going forward.

When the prime Minister delivered his speech on recovery I know that the 'Build, build, build' slogan worried some people as they took it to be primarily about house building and were concerned that this might be uncontrolled. It is certainly not about uncontrolled development and indeed is very much wider. It is about rebuilding our collective lives, about investment in infrastructure that has been long called for – in schools, hospitals, and transport, and in turn in creating jobs and rebuilding our economy. There has also been right and proper concern that we take this opportunity to rebuild with the environment in mind, a green recovery as it has been called. I have supported this and was pleased to see this coming through in the Chancellor's mini budget delivered on 8th July.

During this time I have seen the number and variety of issues raised with me grow enormously. Over the last month, with the help of my team, we have dealt with over 3500 emails, this represents over a five-fold increase on more normal months. A large number of these have been helping people on individual issues and problems related to Coronavirus. With other emails it has been interesting to see the wide range of concerns raised. Clearly planning and development concerns and environmental issues remain high on the agenda for constituents.

On many issues I make comment on my website so please do have a look. www.johnhowell.org.uk. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can write to me at my constituency office - PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. My staff all continue to work remotely, and all mail is diverted to my constituency office.

Sergeants at the Bull Inn

By Nick Belcher and Geoffrey Claydon



Who are these guys?

You may have seen this photograph in the Bull. It was taken in early 1944 and features two US Army Air Force Staff Sergeants standing outside The Bull Inn in Great Milton. They were based either at Chalgrove Airfield with the 10th Photo Reconnaissance Group or at Haseley Court with the 9th US Army Air Force Service Command HQ.

Why was Chalgrove important in 1944?

Early January 1944 saw units of the 10th Photo Reconnaissance Group arriving at Chalgrove Airfield. They came with 4 Squadrons of Lockheed F5 (Lightning) and a flight of Douglas F3's for night photography. Their task was to photograph all areas of the occupied countries that were to become potential invasion sites for the D Day landings that took place on 6th June 1944. They were also responsible for recording the results of raids on important targets by the 9th USAAF Tactical Bomber Squadrons. In addition to these, dangerous low level 'Dicing Missions', as they were known, were also flown along the proposed invasion beaches photographing enemy defences.



The 'Yanks' loved our pubs

In those days pubs generally did not open before 6 or 7pm. Beer like petrol was not plentiful and pubs would run out it before the 'Yanks' had quenched their thirst. Corporal Thomas E Pierce of Atlanta had a solution. He plotted the location of pubs within a 10 mile radius. He then recorded the time at which each pub would run out of beer in the evening. His well guarded timetable would provide him with the most refreshment. He became very popular!

Source: 'A Pictorial History of RAF Chalgrove' by John Godfrey

Surprise visitors to The Bull Inn

In 1990 a retired serviceman called in at The Bull to revisit one of his favourite pubs. Janet Smith, our brilliant landlady at the time, remembers his visit. Janet says "I remember an American coming into the pub. He told me he had a photo of



himself and a buddy taken outside the Bull when stationed at Haseley Court" Janet adds "He said next time he was passing he would give her the photo"

He kept his promise. Janet reckons he returned during 1993. This time with his wife and they chatted to Janet about his experiences at Haseley Court and Chalgrove airfield. Just before they said their

farewells he gave Janet the photograph, which she framed and displayed in the bar.

There is no recollection of their names. However, one of our sources of research was Geoffrey's copy of a book called 'A Pictorial History of RAF Chalgrove' by John Godfrey. In it is a photograph of a chap called Joseph Hellberg and his wife on a visit to Chalgrove Airfield in 1993. What a coincidence!

According to Geoffrey's book Joseph Hellberg was a radio operator with the 4th Troop carrier Pathfinder Squadron and he flew supply missions to the beleaguered U.S. Army at Bastogne during the 'Battle of the Bulge'. We can't be totally sure that it is Joseph Hellberg in the photograph but the story does match Janet's recollections.

Haseley Court is part of the story

According to the American Air Museum the HQ of the 9th Air Force Service Command was based here. During WW2 the house was also a POW camp and Canadian field hospital. The guys in the photograph would have easily cycled to the Bull from here.



Bringing the photograph to life



The original photograph retained some detail but because it was small at 2 x 3 inches it lacked clarity when enlarged. When the photograph was originally processed it took on board white spots and areas of over exposure.

I retouched it carefully lifting the highlights, adding contrast and sharpening up the resolution. Then I added a colour wash to the uniforms. I discovered the correct uniform colours for USAAF Staff Sergeants by researching their shoulder badges.

The Great Milton History Society will keep a copy in their archive. Have a look at their website <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~gbg/index.html>

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it up to date
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(carina.martin@gmail.com)



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Our support line is here for you if you need...

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Knock on your neighbours to make a difference

If you're concerned about a neighbour, it's ok to knock on their door to check they're alright.

Just remember:

- To keep a social distance from your neighbour's door after knocking
- They may feel unsure of who you are. Perhaps offer to call a trusted family member or show some ID?
- If they don't want your help but you're still concerned, call **01235 422600** to seek essential support for them in your area.



It's OK to ask for help

If a neighbour comes knocking, it's ok to ask for help.

Just remember:

- To keep a social distance from people on your doorstep
- To ask for reassurance about who the person is if you don't recognise them. Perhaps ask them to call a trusted family member or ask for ID?
- If you feel uncomfortable, you don't have to accept their help. You can always call **01235 422600** to seek essential support in your area.



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.

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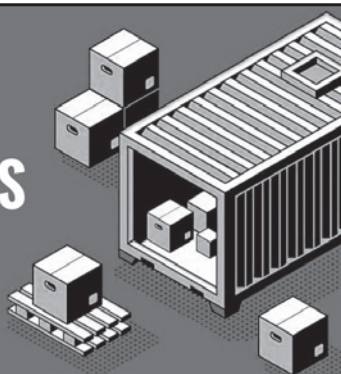
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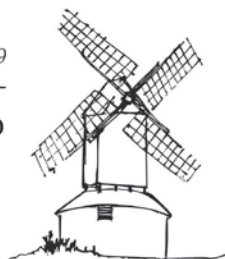
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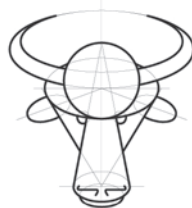
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- Monday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall.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

August

- 1st Sat Yorkshire Day —
- 6th Thurs Cycle to Work Day —
- 8th Sat International Cat Day —
- 13th Thurs National Prosecco Day —
- 31st Mon Bank Holiday —

September

- 21st Mon Parish Council Virtual Meeting 7:30pm

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th September 2020**.

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

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

01844 278347 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

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