

Published by Little Milton Parish Council

www.littlemilton.org.uk



Little Milton Newsletter

APRIL 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: APRIL

Sun	2nd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion: St James'
Mon.	3rd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	4th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	5th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	6th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid.	7th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	9th	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion St James
Mon	10th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	11th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	12th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	13th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	14th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Mon	17th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	18th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	19th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council Meeting – Pine Lodge
Thurs	20th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting Pine Lodge
Frid	21st	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Communion- St James'
Mon	24th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	25th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	26th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: Silverdale
Thurs	27th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	28th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	30th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St James'

PLEASE NOTE If in doubt please check with the event organiser that the event is still taking place at the date and time stated.

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023

A summary of some of the topics and discussions that took place at the Parish Council meeting held in March.

Planning

There were no applications to consider.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

31 mixed species bushes have been planted on the western boundary of the recreation ground. The wildflower seed will be sown when the weather improves. Extra daffodil bulbs have been planted in the planter on Haseley Road Green. Further spring planting will take place when the daffodils have flowered. Planters on the corner of Haseley Road and A329 have been planted with annual and perennials.

The Parish Council has been successful in its application to the District Councillor Community Grant scheme and awarded £1,000 towards the cost of replacement lighting at the MUGA.

It was noted that the roots of two trees close to the MUGA were impacting on the football pitch.

MUGA – initial investigation work has taken place related to resurfacing the MUGA, quotations range between £30k-£90k dependent on the type of surface. The indicative quotations provide a starting point for further discussion. A spreadsheet detailing possible grant funding streams has been compiled. It was agreed to scope the project for presentation to a future meeting.

In its current state the MUGA surface can be slippery in cold / wet weather. It was agreed to display signage advising that the MUGA should not be used in such conditions and that of people do it is at their own risk.

Utilities and Highways

Cllr van der Merwe has contacted the Digital Team at Oxfordshire County Council regarding new Government funding intended for hard to reach areas and areas not covered by faster broadband.

Cllr Sheppard reported that 20mph signs have been painted on the road at one end of the village. 20mph speed signs are in place but ‘greyed out’ until the scheme is implemented.

Mobile patching unit is to repair potholes on Haseley Road and the High Street.

Village Hall, Shop, School, Nursery and St James’ Church

The village hall committee is considering paving the external area immediately to the rear of the village hall. It was agreed the village hall committee will draw up plans to present to a future meeting.

Cllr Denby to ask the school if pupils could design a sign(s) drawing motorist’s attention to the new 20mph speed limit.

Playground

A new accessible bench has been installed in the play area. A new seat has been fitted to the aerial runway.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th April 2023**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm. Note change of date to third Wednesday due to Easter Bank Holidays

Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings.

Andrea Oughton Parish Clerk

Current Council members

Councillor Francois Van Der Merwe (Chairman)	07740438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Steve Sidhu (Vice Chairman)	01844 279448
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438 freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Caroline Newton	07951 477144

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £4 for up to 3 items and £9 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress counts as 2 items and a three piece suite (consisting of 1 settee and 2 chairs) counts as 3 items.

Before you contact us to book your bulky waste collection, have a good think about whether you have any other big items to dispose of. Once we have processed your booking, we are unable to make any alterations or add any other items – even if you have only booked one or two items.

To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01235 422406 or book on line from the Council's website www.southoxon.gov.uk

Give your furniture to a good home

Have you considered donating your furniture to charity or a good home? Emmaus is an Oxford based charity that will come out to all areas of the county and collect unwanted furniture free of charge. For legal or practical reasons this does not include soft furnishings without a fire label, safety items, or any item that is not in a saleable condition. Please [visit the Emmaus website](#) for more details.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

People planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres next month are being warned about a series of short closures to enable essential work to be carried out.

For safety reasons, Oxfordshire County Council will be shutting each of its centres for two days – although never at the same time – to allow for deep cleaning and essential maintenance to take place. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, as well as other general work to improve the customer experience.

The closing dates are:

- Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April
- Redbridge, Oxford: Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 April

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – APRIL

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
4th April	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12th April ++	No	Yes	No	Yes
18th April **	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
25th April	No	Yes	No	Yes
3rd May ++1	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

++ Change of date re Bank Holiday

** Extra Waste Collection

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR APRIL 2023

Sunday 2nd April (Palm Sunday)

9.00 Holy Communion

St James' Little Milton

10.30 Family Worship

St Peter's Great Haseley

Thursday 6th April (Maundy Thursday)

7.00 p.m. Holy Communion

St Mary's Great Milton

Friday 7th April (Good Friday)

11.00 a.m. Reflection

St Peter's Great Haseley

Good Friday Walk to start at Pine Lodge Little Milton at 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday)

9.00 Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Family Worship

St James' Little Milton

Sunday 16th April

9.00 Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Family Worship

St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 23rd April

9.00 BCP Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion

St James' Little Milton

4.00 p.m. Family Gathering

St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 30th April

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 7th May

9.00 Holy Communion

St James' Little Milton

CHURCHYARD SPRING TIDY OR EASTER

The churchyard needs a bit of a tidy ready for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours to trim round the graves, cut the grass, tidy the graves, prune back a few branches and anything else that would look good your help would be very much appreciated. Meet at the churchyard from **10am on Saturday 1st April**, probably finishing by 1pm.

Paul Jeffery (Tel: 278 424 Email: Paulj201@hotmail.com)

SEWING GROUP

This will take place on Wednesday April 26th from 11.00 at Kath Stacey, Silverdale on the Haseley Road

Sally Ann Dennis

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: APRIL 2023

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
2nd April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Miriam Hood	
9 th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
16 th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Michael Sawyer	Mi/Holy Communion
23 rd April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	David Matthews	
30 th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
7 th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion

RECTOR'S PINT

A recent news article captured my attention. The headline read: What can you say when a Ukrainian Bishop in Kyiv asks 'Has God forgotten us'?

The Bishop is Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Head of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. He said this after the Russian withdrawal from Bucha, "I saw so many dead people in the street, so many men and women in mass graves".

It is a fair question, and I cannot judge the Bishop for asking it. I can only imagine what witnessing the aftermath of such an atrocity must be like, or how terrible it must be to live in the ruins of war.

It would be foolish to attempt to offer a neat explanation to the reality of suffering. So much cannot be explained. War though does have causes. Subsequent historical reflection can try and make sense of the politics, the hunger for resources, geo-political meddling and personal egos which all have their part to play - in other words, human sin! However, understanding the causes will not take away the terrible toll on life. 'Has God forgotten us'? Is a very understandable question to ask.

It is that very question though that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus on the Cross, the man Christians believe is God as man, cried out in his physical and spiritual agony "Eli Eli Lama Sabachthani, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Christians proclaim that Jesus died for the sins of the world. The terrible truth behind that is the possibility for humans to come to a state of 'God forsakenness', and we need saving from that. For those who object to this insight, we need to look again at the account of Jesus' death when he experienced what being cut off and deaf to the goodness and grace of God was like. It was for him, a personal hell. The paradox of the Cross, however, is that in Jesus, God has taken on the full reality of human sin, failing and suffering, God in Christ has taken it all. The depth of that experience led him to utter that terrible desolate cry.

We want the world to be comfortable and good, but it is not entirely like that, and the Christian faith is honest with us about that truth. This is, of course the first part of the great story that leads us on to Easter Sunday, to the resurrection, the great Christian hope, and one we hold onto in the difficult times as well as celebrate in the good. We need to remember that God has not forgotten the pain, the suffering, and the desolation that is a part of our world, God in Christ has been to the very heart of it, but was not

overcome by it so that we will be able to cry on Easter Sunday, 'Alleluia! Christ is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia'.

Simon

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR APRIL

W/E 2nd April	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 9th April	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 16th April	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 23rd April	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 30th April	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

S.A. Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

A reminder that we will be repainting the inside of the Hall on **1st and 2nd April** starting at 10:00...if you have a couple of hours free please come and join us to lend a hand. There will be unlimited tea and coffee, plus maybe something alcoholic.

A date for your diary for the **Kings Coronation**. We are planning to host a village picnic at the Hall on **Sunday 7th May beginning at 13:00**. We will have tables laid out in the Hall with BBQ pits available, plus a bar for extra drinks if you need them. There will be a free glass of Fizz to toast the new King and ice cream for the children.

To promote the Hall as a venue for weddings we will be holding a **Wedding Open Day** on Saturday **13th May**. The hall will be decked out as if it was hosting a celebration and there will be several companies that provide services including organisers, florist, etc. So if you or one of your family has a big day on the horizon but has not yet chosen a venue, please come along and have a look and a chat.

Regular activities in the Hall include:

Mondays at 10.30 am **Yoga & Fitness** with Yvonne (y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, and **Thursdays** at 18.30 **Keep Fit** on with Alyce (alycefwf@gmail.com)

Wednesday 9:30 am **Advanced Textile** on workshop with Amargeet (amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Friday 9:30 am **Yoga and Pilates** with Lee (lee@grahamcaulfield.co.uk)

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 19:30 contact Kath Stacy (kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 19:00 contact Kath Stacy (kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday 19th April. For further details contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at www.littlemilton.org.uk, or contact **Linda Lovegrove** linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

MEETING OUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

Monday 3 April 2023 14:00 – 15:00 “Have your Say” Come and meet to share your insights, observations and concerns with our local **Police Community Support Officer** (Thames Valley Police). This is a multi-village gathering to be held at Little Milton Village Hall with invitations to participate extended to Great Milton, the Haseleys, and Stadhampton. All welcome

Giles Denby

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

March

1st	No 14	Raymond Fergusson	£9.00
2nd	No 22	Mrs Smith	£7.00
3rd	No 42	Gordon Smith	£5.00

Diane Austin

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

At the time of writing, we have reached the end term three. It's been a short term, but, once again, we've managed to pack in a huge amount of learning and some fantastic events. We've also welcomed several new children to our community, and it's been a great pleasure watching them settle and make new friends.

The final week has been another busy one, especially for the children in Rowan Class. On Wednesday afternoon they were transported to Wheatley Park to take part in the Local School Partnership Indoor Athletics Competition. This is a favourite on our calendar of fixtures, and we were so pleased to see it reinstated after a two-year break during the pandemic. This event is very much a celebration of participation rather than the winning, and we were so pleased that every child in Rowan participated in at least one event. The greatest success of the day, however, was observing the transition from fear and reluctance to uncontrollable determination to participate in as many events as possible. This, ultimately, is why these events are so important, and we will continue to try and ensure our participation in all upcoming partnership sports events.

On Thursday it was the turn of Rowan Class to head into the woods for their much-loved Forest School session. There had been quite a change in temperature overnight and the children spent the first part of the session gathered around the fire to consider what might be influencing the change in temperature and listening in silence to the sounds around them. We also spent some time discussing the catastrophic events unfolding in the wake of the powerful earthquake impacting Turkey and Syria. The children were encouraged to consider some of the aspects of their lives for which they have gratitude - family, health and friends were the most referenced of these. We wondered whether we might consider organising an event to try and raise funds for the rescue operation currently underway. We'll keep you updated as these plans become firmer.

So, with our attention now turning to next term, we are looking forward to the exciting events already planned. On Tuesday 21st the Maples class will be 'Zooming through History' with a virtual visit to Hampton Court. Then, the following week, we will be celebrating 'Book Week' 2023, with plenty more fun events and activities designed to nurture a fondness for reading.

But, for now, we would like to celebrate all the successes and achievements of the fantastic children in our school and look forward to a well-earned break over half term.

Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Headteachers

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

We had a lively AGM where we unveiled the 2023/24 programme, full of talks, crafts, flowers, music and outings. This was followed by, a last minute speaker, Emma from Asylum Welcome. They provide help to refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Oxfordshire (www.asylum-welcome.org). We are hoping to get together in

the future with the local families and welcome them to our community. We also welcomed new member, Karen.

At our next meeting on **Thursday 13th April at 7.30pm**, Christine Green is going to talk about **Bust the rules and get creative - a different approach to patchwork** with lots of example quilts.

Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or become a member for £46.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

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

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

The hedgerow buds are opening and the thorns are flowering. Spring must really be upon us now. There have been lots of baby bunnies along the bridle path in evenings in March so the rabbits are ready for Easter! You may even come across a badger or a fox on your walks. Fox cubs will be growing fast and Mum in particular will have to find enough food to keep her well enough to feed the youngsters. Look out for animal tracks on your walks. A useful rule of thumb (or finger is that a muntjac print is about the length of the tip of your forefinger to the first joint. A roe deer down to the next segment or knuckle. A Fallow deer about the length of the finger.

There are still dog owners allowing their dogs to run around the woods in the north east corner. Next winter the hedgerow will probably be laid to make a better barrier. There are ash trees with ash dieback in the wood as well and the ones that could fall on the path will be cut down, possibly this month if they have not already been done.

There is a good amount of water in the farmyard pond but the grass and surrounding vegetation needs a tidy up so this will be the task for the next work party. Please come along. You might also spot some newts or toads or even some tadpoles! Bring your kids too if they want to see what is there. I might be able to get a couple of nets and a tray too. We meet at **10am on Sunday April 2nd** by the barn. Secateurs and gloves a good idea. Look out for further information on the village face book group.

Paul Jeffery (Tel: 278 424 Email: Paulj201@hotmail.com)

VIEW FROM VIEWS (Charles Peers)

"February Fill Dike", (I recorded 4mm rainfall with an average of 55 over the last 11 years), then "March in like a Lamb out like a Lion", both common sayings the first certainly wrong this year, the second as I write will mean that as you read this you may well be clearing up after a storm, "who knows". As we entered March we were hoping for a nice warm rain, as things were beginning to dry up, in fact what we got was plenty of rain but, cold frosty weather now, after about 15mm rain the floods are out again, unbelievable it just illustrates the limitation of the usefulness of the meadows to produce anything in the way of food. We will all be glad to see the back of this winter, although I think the longish frosty periods will have done some good, killing some nasties that have built up over the last few years. Most wildlife has survived fairly well. It is amazing

how the long periods of cold weather have affected the undergrowth opening up areas that we may not have seen for years. I just hope these conditions will not affect ground nesting birds, plus there would be I imagine less natural feed around with the countryside as bare as I can ever remember, save 1963. I cannot make up my mind whether I should up the rate of the wild bird seed we feed at this time of year.

March is the time for March Hares to go mad and, Views Farm is no exception as there has been an explosion in their population over the last year, it has become a daily entertainment to watch them, what a pleasure, also a bird I have not mentioned before is the Sky Lark we have always had plenty, this year being no exception, I am reliably informed that the first of our summer visitors has returned, the Chiff Caff, so once Blackthorn Winter has passed we should be able to enjoy better weather, just as long as we get plenty of rain as well. Most crops seem to have wintered well but just need to start growing now as time is getting on, except for the Rape that has suffered badly from hungry Pigeons. I guess we will soon be thinking most are now backward for the time of year, due to the early march snow.

There has been much criticism in this parish about the expansion of “le Manoir Quat Seasons”, all I can say is the quality of the preparatory work done so far is a sight for sore eyes, the craftsmanship of the hedge laying is unbelievable, I do a little bit but, nothing to their standard, it is exceptional. The rest is beyond comment as, it seems to me that Raymond is about to allow his favoured and, developed garden to be destroyed.

Jeremy Clarkson’s Farming programme seems to be getting a lot of publicity, not a programme I have watched personally but, from what I hear his comments will not have done our industry any harm. He has illustrated all sorts of issues that are being thrust at us, too numerous for me to mention or even annotate, even if I knew what they were all about. This of course includes planning, how the planners in this area seem to have a different view to those in other areas of the country. This is also the case on various measures that the County Council seems to be adopting, Vegan food and traffic restrictions, without any consultation with the public or local businesses that they may affect. It does not seem to worry them if they are throttling local businesses who, after all support the local economy, these provide all the necessities of life, at the same time it is important we do not forget the issues of nature and, pollution. This is all a question of balance, I believe also there is something in the budget regarding nutrient neutrality, for development, too early for me to comment yet, as I have not seen it mentioned as yet, so perhaps another time. Regular readers will be sick and tired of me continually harping on about food security and other issues connected, well the “Hens have come home to Roost!” as, the lack of some vegetables illustrates this fact. We now have a situation where the shelves of supermarkets are empty of these items, the weather is blamed, and this is not strictly the case. Suppliers are favouring those retailers that are prepared to offer sensible remuneration to the supplier which, it seems the British Supermarkets are not, so our national growers have either cut back on producing when costs peek or, gone out of business. I understand that other retailers in the EU are paying their suppliers as much as twice than they can get here you cannot “Have your Cake and Eat it”. We tend use the smaller, local retailers and farm shops so have not found shortages a problem.

21st May sees us once again partaking in the Chiltern Vintage Tractor run in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, I would hope, as always you will feel able to support us again this year, we are entering 3 Tractors. I will leave a sponsorship form in the Post Office in Great Milton for anyone wishing to donate that way, I also have a just giving page: [justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5).



*Village celebration picnic
Little Milton village hall
Sunday 7th May
beginning 13:00*

*Free glass of Fizz and BBQ's
available.*

*Ice cream and games for the
children*



Can You Help Your Community Grow?



Make a real difference to where we live

Buy A Lottery Ticket & Support Us From £1 A Week

- By giving a little you will help out a lot!
- £1 a week means our cause keeps going
- Buy a chance at a prize and know you're making a difference
- Win by helping us to drive change in our community

Support & Buy Tickets Here

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older *See website for Terms and conditions.

HOW THE LOTTERY WORKS

Playing the lottery

SO Charitable Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in South Oxfordshire. All good causes supported by the lottery will benefit South Oxfordshire and its residents.

Play the lottery, support South Oxfordshire - it's that simple!

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 a week. Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery.

Each ticket has six numbers and each number is between 0 and 9. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a six digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2 to 6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all six and you win the jackpot!

A full list of prizes below:

Number of matches	Prize	Matching patterns	Odds
6	£25,000		1,000,000:1
5	£2,000		55,556:1
4	£250		5,556:1
3	£25		556:1
2	3 extra tickets		56:1

Your local good causes

The lottery and its prizes are our way of putting the fun in fundraising. The real winners are the good causes. From every £1 ticket sold 60p will go to good causes in South Oxfordshire. To put this in perspective when you play the National Lottery 25% goes to good causes – we've more than doubled the ticket percentage that goes to good causes.

Even better, you can choose which good cause gets 50p of the 60p (the remaining 10p will be distributed to other local good causes).

HELLO FROM MAPLE TREE!

We celebrated International Woman's Day in March

If you haven't already attended one of our sessions, please do come along for a cuppa and enjoy some of our amazing activities with your child or grandchild. All welcome!

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesday: Baby Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

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

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am

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

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm.

There is a suggested donation of £3.00 per family per session.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more information about our special events, our programmes, and popular our First Aid classes!

For details, please go to www.mapletree.org.uk

We are here to help young families, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249 Email: info@mapletree.org.uk Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley Instagram:

@themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer

Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30 p.m.
Saturday Mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekend) 8am to 10.30am
For **pre-booked** telephone consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team for more information.

The dispensary is open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 6.30 pm (closing 1-2pm every day) Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8.30am to 10.30am.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by **phoning 111**. For further information please see our website

www.morland-house.co.uk

Or contact our reception team on 01865 872448

MORLAND HOUSE – MARCH 2023

Visit Morland House Website

In addition to providing a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit the Morland House Surgery website www.morland-house.co.uk for:

1. Up-to-date information about surgery opening hours and the wide range of services provided, including new dispensary hours.
2. A link to the electronic consulting service eConsult. Use eConsult to ask about your health symptoms, conditions, or treatment. You can even request things like sick notes and GP letters. From the home page click on ‘Contact your GP practice Online’
3. A link to the NHS App. Download the App, or open the NHS website in a web browser, to set up and log in to your NHS Account. Owned and run by the NHS, your NHS Account is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services online.
4. Up to date information on current news items including:
 - Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre – X-Rays, blood tests, ultrasounds, CTs and more
 - Information on the NHS 111 online service which is available 24/7
 - Advice on how to stay healthy and well
 - COVID-19 and flu vaccine updates
 - Looking after your mental health
 - Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS)
 - Group A strep and scarlet fever, advice for parents and guardians
 - Discontinuation of blister pack recycling
 - 24/7 breastfeeding support

Expansion of bowel cancer screening programme

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

It was great to see some of the allotment holders last month at the informal AGM. The pump does indeed have a second problem which Graham is looking in to. It relates to a “flapper valve” at the base of the pump so not easy to get to. Whilst we do not have a supplier for well-rotted manure we have had a delivery of fresh horse manure which has been dropped by the old pile. When the cover was lifted a gorgeous grass snake was found curled up and enjoying the warmth. Might be a few more so be careful with the cover. The contracts have been issued so please don’t forget to pay the small annual amount.

It does appear that there are a couple of dog walkers using the allotments as a cut through. It is not a right of way. The signs clearly show this. Please use Blenheim Road which is the designated path. Thank you.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

Walks Programme April 2023

Saturday 1st	6 mile walk from Tetsworth.
Thursday 6th	Undulating 6½ mile walk from Nettlebed.
Sunday 9th	Meet at Wheatley (car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH) for a 7½ mile walk.
Thursday 13th	8½ mile walk from Crowell
Saturday 15th	7 mile walk from Nettlebed.
Thursday 20th	7 mile walk in Oxford.
Sunday 23rd	Meet at Cadmore End, for a hilly 7½ mile walk via Ibstone and Turville Heath. Bring a picnic to eat at Fingest church where the Walkers café will be open for tea and cakes.
Friday 28th	Meet at Stokenchurch for a 5 mile walk in the area.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Please check the website to confirm details and find additional information and more walks as the programme is subject to change:

www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and whether walks are suitable for dogs can also be found on the website.

YOUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY FACILITIES

I am sure that we are all appreciative of the facilities that our community offers. This may be the Village Hall, the Shop and Post Office, the local parish church or a thriving Parish Council. The common factor that makes them successful is the willingness of villagers to volunteer some of their time.

I have lived in the village for forty years and have seen in particular our village hall and recreation ground change beyond recognition. The hall and playground facilities are excellent and our Parish Council has invested in maintaining the open green space. The Village Hall is a registered Charity that each year seeks new members. You might think that the AGM would attract a great deal of interest by villagers keen to hear the work that is being done and more importantly offering themselves to seek election to the committee or offer support. Sadly that is not the case as the meeting struggles to have sufficient attendees to be quorate. The AGM is held in June and details will be published in the newsletter. I would urge that you attend the meeting to show your support and gratitude of the work that is done on your behalf and to seriously think what direct support you could offer.

The Shop and Post Office may be a low priority to some villagers and perhaps a bit quaint. The Village fought very hard to maintain a Post Office facility in late nineties when it was threatened with closure. In 2010 the existing facility was established adjacent to the village hall. It is registered as a Community Benefit Society. During Covid it played a vital role within the community as travelling outside the village was discouraged. In recent years the traditional High Street banking has been significantly reduced and the role of our Village Post Office significantly enhanced as it provides a wide range of traditional banking services. With the exception of the Post Office services the shop and café are provided by volunteers. I am sure that you all recognise the excellent work that is being done. However there is a need for more volunteers as without an upturn the facility will be at risk. This may sound dramatic but sadly it is a fact. Kevin Hunt, Chairman of the Shop Committee would be very happy to have an informal chat with anyone who could offer any time to work in the shop. The hours would fit around the individual and could be as little as an hour a week. The most important thing is to increase the level of volunteers. You could also speak with Alison Shelton the Shop manager.

As someone who wants our village to sustain itself over the next forty years I recognise the need to remind our community that volunteering some of its time will be essential to achieve that objective. I recognise that the thought can be daunting and best left to somebody else. You all have an opportunity to make a difference, as small as it may be, to the organisations that have served this village over many years.

I urge you to respond to the challenge.

Raymond Fergusson (Editor)



John Howell MP writes

March 2023

In order to meet the copy deadlines for many of the parish magazines published in communities across the constituency I have to write in the first part of the month. This month my deadline comes ahead of the Spring Budget which I know many await, hoping that some of the Government support towards the cost of living will continue. Much is widely heralded, and I have no advanced insights beyond those already published in the

media. However I am optimistic that the energy support will be extended to get us through the rest of the colder months this year.

Most people will have received the energy support automatically through their energy provider. However there are a number of households not on mainstream supply or who have other specific arrangements, such as Park Homes. In February the alternative scheme to ensure that support is available to such households went live for everyone and applications for support to the Alternative Energy Support Scheme can be made online.

With the coming of Spring we are perhaps a little more aware of the countryside around us and in recent weeks I have had a number of people contact me to comment on the litter that we see on verges and in other public places. I agree that this is an eyesore and we need to keep drawing attention to the need for people to take their rubbish home or use the bins provided. In recognition of the problem the Government published its National Litter Strategy in 2017 which set out a number of ways to tackle the problem. This has been regularly reviewed and initiatives such as The Great British Beach Clean and the Great British Spring Clean have been well supported by volunteers across the country. This year the Great British Spring Clean will take place between Friday 17th March and Sunday 2nd April. Our District Councils take the lead on this and will publish full details on their respective websites.

Thankfully most of our children progress through mainstream education with little problem. However there are some children who have special educational needs and I know that accessing this is not always easy. The delays can cause considerable stress for children and their families and the time lost can be critical. This is not just a local problem, and the Department for Education has been looking to see what changes need to be made to improve the system. Following consultation the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan has just been published with the aim of ensuring that the right support is given at the right time and in the right place. It is backed with substantial funding and oversight of reform will be provided through a new national special educational needs and disabilities and alternative provision implementation board, chaired by senior ministers.

If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. My contact details are on my website - www.johnhowell.org.uk.

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

DEADLINE REMINDER –

Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of the month (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the **May 2023** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th April**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published.

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age UK	01865 890879	Naheed Qureshi
Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7907	Thame & District
Church: St James	01844 278349	Rev. Simon Cronk
Doctors	01865 872448 111 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery Out of Hours Service NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 278175	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Little Milton School	01844 279310	Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Head Teachers
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	A J Woods Ltd
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter	01844 279468 01844 279150	Mark Willis Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180 01844 875635	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278605 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Steve Willis (Chairman) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
Police	101	Thames Valley Police (Non-emergency)
Post Office	01844 279001	Alison Shelton (Postmistress)
Public Transport	01865 323201	Comet
SODC	01235 422422	All enquiries
Southern Electric	0800 0727 282	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0800 3169 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ben & Charmain
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

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

Front Cover: Thank you to Paul Jeffery