

Little Milton *Newsletter*

August 23

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: AUGUST 2023

Tues	1st	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	2nd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	3rd	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	4th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	6th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion: St James’
Mon.	7th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	8th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	9th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	10 th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting Pine Lodge
Frid.	11th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	13th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James’
Mon	14th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	15th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	16th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening: Pine Lodge
Thurs	17th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	18th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Mon	21st	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	22nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	23rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	24th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	25th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	27th	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	BCP Communion – St James’ Rycote Chapel
Mon	28th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	29th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	30th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group – Check with Sally Ann
Thurs	31st	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
	Sept		
Frid	1st	9.30 – 10..a.m.	Pilates – Pine Lodge
Sun	3rd	10.30 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 12th JULY 2023

Below is a summary of some of the topics and discussions which took place at the Parish Council meeting held in July,

Report by District Councillor

District Cllr Georgina Heritage had circulated her report and highlighted the District Councillor Community Grant Scheme was now open. Each District Councillor had £5k to distribute throughout their ward. Cllr Heritage also highlighted District Planning Surgeries are available to Parish Councils seeking informal planning advice.

Planning

P23/S1772/HH – The Plough, Stadhampton Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QD

Amendment No. 1

Proposed two-storey rear extensions to The Plough House, proposed one and a half storey outbuilding, repairs to existing garage, alterations to site boundary walls and site access. (As amplified by tree survey report and plan dated 27 June 2023).

Resolved No Strong Views

The Parish Council had received a request from the District Street Naming Officer for street name suggestions for the road on the new Milton House development. It was **Resolved** to put forward the following names for consideration - Elizabeth Close, Home Oak Close, Pepper Pot Drive.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Spaces

Cllr Harrison will purchase a post and strap to stabilise the new oak trees which need extra support following the high winds. The verges were cut on 1st July and are due to be cut again in October, weather dependant.

Damage occurred to the telephone box on Haseley Road Green and to the window of Hill View House. BT have agreed to repair the glass to the telephone box in the next five days. Cllr Harrison is in communication with the contractor and the owner of Hill View House.

The planters and Millennium flower beds continue to thrive providing a colourful addition to the village.

Councillors raised concern about hedges overhanging pavements making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. It was agreed the clerk will draft a letter and circulate to Councillors for comment before sending.

Communications

Cllr Horwell has spoken to the Village Footpath Warden (who is a member of the local Ramblers Association) re the footpath at Warren Farm Barn. Evidence has been gathered confirming the path has been used for several years. It was agreed Cllr Horwell will complete and circulate a draft application to Councillors for comment before submission to the County Council.

Utilities and Highways

Cllr Sheppard tabled two quotations from a supplier to purchase speed indicator devices (SIDs). Two signs = £4,500 (excl. VAT), three signs = £6,600 (excl. VAT) plus cost of installation by an accredited OCC highways contractor. An alternative might be to pay

for the installation at two or three sites and purchase one SID sign which can be moved between sites. Cllr Sheppard will speak with the OCC highways representative tomorrow.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th September 2023**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

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 Ed Horwell	tbc
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 Georgina Heritage	georgina.heritage@southoxon.gov.uk

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 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.

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – AUGUST

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
1st August	No	Yes	No	Yes
8th August	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
15th August	No	Yes	No	Yes
22nd August	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
30th August ++	No	Yes	No	Yes

++ Change due to Bank Holiday

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT -GEORGINA HERITAGE

South Oxfordshire Bathing Water Status

Organisations across South Oxfordshire are planning to apply for bathing water status on the River Thames at Wallingford and Henley, which, if awarded, should result in a safer, less polluted environment for swimmers, river users and wildlife. Although not in our own ward, this would have a hugely positive impact for so many of us locally.

SODC is aiming to work with Wallingford Town Council to make a joint application to the government department responsible for granting bathing water status – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It is also supporting a bid for bathing water status being made by Henley Town Council. Both applications will be supported by environmental charity Thames21.

Thames21 will use data gathered from the 2023 bathing season in the applications. This will include the numbers of those using the river as well as water samples taken by Thames21 and local trained volunteers. Thames21 plan to publicise the water quality data on an online story map on their web- site during the bathing season

If bathing water status is awarded, Thames Water would be legally required to treat waste outflows to a much higher standard, meaning they could not release water into the river without ensuring the removal of bacteria which is harmful to the health of people and wildlife.

It would also mean that during the bathing season, from May to September each year, the Environment Agency would be required to monitor the water quality and publicise the results.

SODC and Wallingford Town Council applied for bathing water status at Wallingford Beach in November 2022, supported by Thames21 but that application was turned down. In a letter to councillors, the Minister for environmental quality and resilience, explained that the Wallingford application was rejected because too few bathers use the area.

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Make a Splash at Riverside

More Wallingford water news, because I'm aware that families all over Haseley Brook and South Oxfordshire will be excited about this project as summer approaches! The newly refurbished splash pad at Riverside Park and Pools in Wallingford will be ready to welcome visitors from Saturday 8th

July. Opening times are 9am to 6pm, and it is free to use with no bookings required.

The refurbishment work, which started in May, has introduced lots of new and exciting features including:

- Water arches
- Raised features
- Tap Tap activators children can use to trigger water sequences
- Play zones for children of different ages and abilities
- A whoosh shower
- Sky drenchers... and more!

As well as the bright and colourful new features, the council has focused on the health and safety of children and families in the design of the splash pad. Uneven paving slabs have been removed, re-pairs have been carried out on the promenade and perimeter area of the site and a new disabled access pathway has been installed from the splash pad to the car park to make access easier for those in wheelchairs and those using buggies and pushchairs. The new surface of the splash pad is made of a rubber crumb with UV protection to prevent algae forming which will reduce the chances of slips and falls when children are running around. The splash pads, which will use water from the river and rainfall, will also minimise water and power use, which will also mean it reduces its carbon emissions.

South Oxfordshire District Council, which owns the site, used £296,450 of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money, which comes from developer contributions to the local area to finance the project.

Rubbish Updates!

It's important that residents are aware that if they have problems with waste not being collected, or if they notice situations whereby Biffa operatives are putting electrical recycling into general waste trucks (for example), please report directly to Biffa, either by phone on 03000 610610, or at ad.min.southoxford.biffa.co.uk. They can then investigate and resolve for you. If you have already done this and the issue continues, please escalate to the Council's waste team at waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk, or by calling 01235 422146.

Parishes may also be aware that a man has been ordered to pay more than £1,400 after garden waste was found dumped near Great Haseley.

Magistrates heard how, in January 2022, the resident had carried out work at a property in Great Haseley and had been paid £150 to remove four bulk bags full of garden waste. However, he failed to ensure that the waste was disposed of properly and it was then found dumped on the side of the road along the A329.

The resident claimed that he didn't have enough space in his vehicle to take the waste away himself and so had paid a scrap metal collector to do it for him. However, he didn't know who the person was and failed to provide any evidence of this arrangement. He was fined £200 and was also ordered to pay full prosecution costs of £1,247 and a £34 victim surcharge.

Anyone producing or transporting controlled waste must ensure it is disposed of legally and that a record is kept of what the waste is and where it's going. It would be helpful if we could remind our residents of this responsibility in parish magazines/communications, with the advice that if you see a fly-tip or suspect that someone is involved in fly-tipping, please report via southoxon.gov.uk/flytip or call 03000 610610.



LITTLE MILTON FETE NEEDS YOU!

After successfully running the Little Milton Church Fete at The Old Vicarage for several years, Lindsay Heath (co-ordinator), Paul Jeffery (site manager) and Joyce & George Inge (hosts) have decided to step down.

We now need new volunteers to take up the baton, and a new location. The roles can be split and made your own. New ideas very welcome.

Vacancies:

Venue: Large garden with room for stalls, games, a band & cafe

Co-ordinator - organising the committee & the day,
booking services & entertainment

Site manager - organising fete signage, car
parking, set-up and break down,
site planning

Can you help keep the fete tradition alive?

Contact: Lindsay 07967452817 or Kath 07866108110

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2023

Sunday 6th August

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Lammas Service	Peggs Farm, Great Haseley

Sunday 13th August

9.00	Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 20th August

9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
10.30	Family Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 27th August

9.00	BCP Holy Communion	St James Little Milton
10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Ryecote Chapel

RECTOR'S PINT

After my last letter I wrote about 'wilding' a part of our lawn. 'No-mow May' is a grand idea, but as far as garden lawns are concerned, moving into 'no-mow June', and then onto 'no-mow July', was not, perhaps, such a grand idea! I fully appreciated that this wouldn't be an instant wildflower meadow, and that creating such areas are hard, but worthy work. After just over two months, I was mindful of the story of the vicar admiring the old gardener's wonderfully kept garden, his prize-winning Dahlias and his abundant and beautiful vegetable plot. Ever the one to use his encounters with his parishioners as an opportunity, the vicar remarked, 'My, what a sight, we really must thank the Good Lord for all the abundance he provides for us'. The gardener replied, "Ah that be true. Mind you vicar, you should have seen the state of his place when it was left to the keeping of the Good Lord and before I got my hands on it!" As I said in my last letter, our churchyards are wonderful spaces in which we can manage 'wilder' areas. It is clear now that the wild spaces that I have allowed to develop in my garden also now need managing. Stewardship does not imply neglect!

So, my grass had to be cut, and it became a metaphor. The day after I started tidying up, I read Psalm 90. It's not a comfortable read, as it talks about the transience of all life:

"For a thousand years in your sight are as but yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night. You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes: in the evening it is dried up and withered."

I really appreciate the Psalms; there is an honesty in those writings which reflects the full experience of life, and not just the good bits. Whenever I read them, I will now also read an accompanying meditation from the Christian writer, thinker, poet and priest, Malcolm Guite. The rest of this reflection will be his hope-filled meditation on that Psalm.

A cosy comforter, a lucky charm?

Not with this psalmist, for he praises God
From everlasting ages, in his psalm.

A God of refuge - yes - and yet a God
Who knows the death that comes before each birth,
Who sees each generation die, a God

Before whom all the ages of the earth

Are like a passing day, like the cut grass
In Larkin's limpid verse: 'brief is the breath

Mown stalks exhale'. So we and all things pass,
And God endures beyond us. Yet he cares
For our brief lives, his loving tenderness
Extends to all his creatures, our swift years
Are precious in his sight. In Christ he shares
Our grief and he will wipe away our tears.

(From David's Crown 2021)

Simon

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: AUGUST 2023

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
6th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Malcolm Dodds	
13th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Rosentall	
20th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
27th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Sue Barratt	

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR AUGUST

W/E 6th August	—	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 13th August	—	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 20th August	—	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 27th August	—	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 3rd September	—	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth

Sally Ann Dennis

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR AUGUST

W/E 6th August	-	Cathy Hughes D'Aeth
W/E 13th August	-	Cathy Hughes D'Aeth
W/E 20th August	-	Sally Anne Dennis
W/E 27th August	-	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 3rd September	-	Sally Ann Dennis

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

July

1st	No 27	Gordon Smith	£9.00
2nd	No 6	Amanda Bourne	£7.00
3rd	No 11	Jean Preece	£5.00

Diane Austin



RIDE AND STRIDE 9th SEPTEMBER

Do you enjoy cycling? Or walking? Horse-riding? Ride and Stride presents the perfect opportunity to get out and about by visiting our beautiful Oxfordshire Churches, whilst raising funds via sponsorship.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, an organisation that makes grants to churches across the county for everything from essential repairs to projects to make your local church a building that can be of use to the whole community, invites you to join in our Ride+Stride Event on 9th September.

Half the monies raised are used by the Trusts to make grants and half remains in each participating local community to be used to maintain these beautiful historic buildings that are so much part of our landscape. To find out more visit the website on www.ohct.org.uk

**To find out more, please contact
Jo Preston on jo@coopers-cottage.com**

SEWING GROUP

The date and venue of the next meeting is unavailable going to press and if you require information please contact Sally Ann on 01844 278029.

Sally Ann Dennis



YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE SO CHARITABLE LOTTERY

The Village Shop and Post Office are recognised by most in the village as vital community assets. This is particularly relevant to the Post Office as High Street Bank branches close.

The challenges facing the shop and small businesses have always existed but the recent energy crisis and inflationary increases has raised the challenge to a new level.

The question we are posing to residents is **HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR SHOP AND POST OFFICE?**

We could ask that more residents find time to buy the goods and services on offer on a regular basis. However it is recognised that this is not possible for all.

BUT

A very simple way is to participate in the SO Charitable Lottery. You will have received a leaflet with this newsletter explaining how to register. If you participate you will directly support the shop and give yourself the opportunity to win a cash prize or special prizes on offer from time to time

We appreciate all those who already do participate but would ask all our residents to take this opportunity

AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**THANK YOU
LITTLE MILTON SHOP COMMITTEE**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

We are looking for an enthusiastic **gardener** to maintain the flower beds in front of the Hall and village Shop. You will be paid for your services, so if there is anyone interested please contact Linda Lovegrove.

An advanced date for your diary for the autumn with our next **Quiz night** on **30th September**.

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

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

It seems so hard to believe that we've only got one more week left of this academic year. The summer term always seems to accelerate the passing of time, and managing to find the time for everything that we have planned seems an impossibility.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Prayer Space back into school on Tuesday. They did an impressive job of transforming our nurture room into a magical subsurface scene for the 'Under the Sea' themed workshops. The themes of this year's sessions focused on what we are grateful for: 'fizzy' forgiveness, how to find an anchor when our boat is rocking in the storm and that we are all precious treasure.

We also proudly presented our class assemblies this week. These are a fantastic opportunity to showcase the incredible work that the children have produced over the term, and for parents to spend time in classrooms looking at books and discussing learning. Please take a look at our school twitter account for photographs of these assemblies.

Our Maypole Evening took place in the Pine Lodge and, despite the weather, a fantastic time was had by all. The children had worked hard to put on a great show and were very appreciative of the generous support shown by family, friends and villagers. We would

like to say a huge thank you to The Friends who provided a fabulous feast for this important annual celebration for the whole community.

The most important event next week is the Leavers' assembly, a celebration of everything the year 6 children have achieved and an opportunity to wish them well as they begin their exciting secondary school journeys. Many of these children have been in our care for 7 years and both parents and teachers will have feelings of sadness, nostalgia and pride as we say our farewells. We've watched the children flourish, make progress in a whole variety of ways, make mistakes and learn from those mistakes and, most importantly, grow into the wonderful young people that we are so proud of. They will always be part of the Little Milton Community and we look forward to keeping in touch.

As this will be our last newsletter until the new academic year we would like to say, on behalf of all the staff, a huge thank you to our parents and the village for your continued support. It's the community as a whole that makes our school such a unique setting, and we look forward to working with you again next year. We would also like to thank our amazing staff for their hard work and support over the last year. Everyone gives maximum effort to support the school and we are very lucky to have such a strong staff team. Governors, too, have been working extremely hard and are an incredible support to the school - both in governance but also in daily activities such as accompanying trips or working with children. Finally, we would like to thank our incredible 'Friends of Little Milton School', who have been working really hard to raise money for the school, which is vital in supporting our provision for the children. They are very resourceful and their vital fundraising has also added to our school's social calendar throughout the year.

We hope you have a wonderful summer, whatever your plans

Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Headteachers

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In July, Paul Jeffery took us on a short walk to Wells Farm BBOWT nature reserve, where he showed us the amazing oasis for wildlife on our doorstep. We learnt all about the farm, the livestock and wildlife that live there, how to identify animals from bones or footprints and what we can do to help keep it a safe haven for all (www.bbowl.org.uk).

We also went on a day trip to Reading Museum to see Britain's Bayeux tapestry, with more trips planned to Warwick, the National Trust and a guided walk around BBOWT. Everyone welcome, contact us if you'd like to come along.

In August we go on a day trip, this year to the **Old Chapel Textile Centre** in Newbury on **Thursday 10 August**. There's an exhibition, shop, a talk on the Country Wife mural from 1951 and tea & cake. See www.nationalneedleworkarchive.org.uk for more info.

Come and meet us at the **Great Haseley & District Horticultural Show** at the Pine Lodge on **Saturday 26 August 2pm** where we'll be running the cake stall. Any helpers, cake donations or customers welcome.

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 OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm (unless we're out!)

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

LITTLE MILTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE REVISED SATURDAY

Commencing in May and ending in September 2023 the Shop and Post Office **opening hours on a Saturday will be 10:00am until 2pm.**

Kevin Hunt Chairman

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

I managed to dodge the rain showers and breezy periods in July to do the mid-month butterfly survey at Wells Farm. Recording fluctuations in populations and presence/absence is really important to help understand what is being affected by climate changes. I do believe that wildlife, particularly insects do shift their emergence with the changes in weather patterns and also the flowering of key plants such as bramble and knapweed. Species seen a numbers one year may not be as abundant the next as they showed up earlier or maybe haven't yet appeared. I will leave that analysis to the experts. So the results:

There were more Small and Essex Skippers – these are little orange delta winged butterflies. The difference is mainly the undersides of their antennae being orange or black! Also many more Whites, particularly Small Whites. Very few were seen in June so they must have delayed their imago stage. More Comma butterflies. There is a particular spot in the north east corner of the reserve where there are brambles under the young oaks. Lots there. I also recorded the highest ever number of Red Admiral butterflies. These are strong fliers, mainly black but with red and white bars on the tips of their wings. These I saw less of include Gatekeepers – orange and brown markings with small eyes on the wings that tend to bask on the hedgerow leaves. Ringlets (small gold ringlets on dark brown wings) were also lower in number. The last survey this year will be the end of August.

We have less sheep this month as a few have been sold and have literally gone to pastures new!

Lastly, the falling trees saga... I do hope by the time you read this SSEN have managed to sort themselves out, remove the trees and make things safe. As I write, they had stated the 22nd is D-Day and there will be a power outage, yet no letters have been received by residents nor anything on Powertrack for planned outages. Trees on reserves do need to be managed and BBOWT have to spend a significant amount of money on maintenance and felling where necessary to keep things safe and keep the remaining trees healthy. But sometimes, when power lines are near SSEN have to deal with them.

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

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

74th Annual Show



**Saturday 26th August 2022
2.00 p.m.**

The Pine Lodge, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Of course it is far too early to make any predictions but at the time of writing I am fairly optimistic, as early harvest reports are of record breaking yields, also all fruit bearing trees and bushes are covered in ripening produce. The next Newsletter in 2 months' time we will have a better idea. This is probably due to the right amount of rain at, roughly, the right time. In spite of all the talk of drought conditions, all our ditches and ponds still have water in them, which is not usually the case at this time of year. As harvest starts to get into full swing, we are continually reminded that safety must be a priority. Farm safety is becoming more and more an issue, farming being one of the most dangerous places of work. Mainly due to the pressures put on us to improve productivity and, tighter time scales having to be adhered to, which of course is causing many mental problems for those who are susceptible, a number that is worryingly on the increase.

We are constantly being reminded of the decline of certain species with all sorts of spurious reasons by those who have a point to make depending on which axe they wish to grind, at the time. This year my observations are that I have only heard the Cuckoo twice once early in the season and once just a few weeks ago, Yellow Hammers that we had in profusion, have all but disappeared, on the hand Sky Larks and Buntings seem to be flourishing, along with some other species, Dragon flies not many sited, but plenty of Damsel flies, and plenty of Grass hoppers in the river meadows.

When it comes to emissions from farming there have been some recent developments. We are constantly told we must stop cows belching, well apparently if they are fed with a chemical extracted from daffodils, belching can be reduced, whatever next. Also, it has been discovered that a gas (Di-methylsulphate DMS not sure of the spelling or it's actual name but rest assured it is something like that) produced by ripening cereal crops can form a barrier (cloud) that will reduce the effect of global warming. George Monbiot continually says these sorts of initiative only scratch the surface, this of course is true but it has to be right to keep looking at all aspects that could make a difference, in the hopes that one day we will be able to crack it.

With reference to the current discussion over the right to roam policies, there was an article in the farming press and, I quote "Increasing public access to the countryside needs to be a grown-up discussion, with fears the policy is at the centre of a political battleground. Livestock attacks, wildfires caused by open campfires (disposable barbecues) and fly-tipping incidents, have thrown right to roam back into the spotlight with debate ignited once again on how the policy will play out in the countryside". This was accompanied by a picture of cattle trying to eat or play with a tent that somebody had left for someone else to clear up, this could easily have been a Deer, Badger, or any other wild animal. This in a way illustrates the points I have been making many times before that, due to the density of our population now we have to restrict access if we are to preserve any form of nature.

Rural crime is becoming more and more of a problem, highlighted recently when a local farmer hit the national press having had £100k's equipment taken from his yard. Having made that point it is reassuring to read that the Kent Police announced that their "Rural Police Task Force had made 34 arrests, 35 stop& searches, 506 vehicle stop checks and, completion of 75 investigations. A total of 112 vehicles were seized and 97 traffic offence reports been issued". Added to this they had recorded 182 wildlife related incidents and 146 poaching reports. This would indicate to me that at last the Police are taking note of what we have had to put up with over the last few years.

Over the last 3-4 years we formed a couple of farm clusters to cover the upper and lower parts of the "River Thames". The idea is that we work together to make more of an impact on the natural world (of our area based on the River Thames) by working collectively on various initiatives. Having had a run-in period we have decided that we should both pool our resources and work as one cluster, so "Thame Catchment Farm Cluster" (TCFC) has been formed. This will enable us to for instance initiate things like, wildlife corridors along the length of the river, produce soil analyses so as to identify areas of risk for pollution, analyse carbon release or sequestration and, create greater conservation schemes. We are lucky that this cluster is being supported by the "River Thames Conservation Trust" by providing personnel with the necessary knowledge, to kick start our organisation. Being such a group enables us access to funding, from both Government and wildlife organisations. This is all very exciting which could produce a lot of benefits for nature, in our special area whilst not ignoring the fact that our primary aim in life is to produce food.

Charles Peers

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Well the occasional downpours have really made it easier with the watering this year! Beans and squashes are doing really well along with a bumper crop of raspberries. I had planned to cut the nettles down at the bottom of the plots but a load of peacock butterfly caterpillars stopped me from doing so. Grasses and brambles are growing like crazy but will hopefully be able to do some tidying this month. When picking raspberries this year I discovered small pieces of the fruit had been removed from the tips of some of them. This is either the wasps cutting a chunk off to take back to a nest or maybe there is a harvest mouse about! The resident badgers, deer and rabbits don't seem to be doing any damage. I think there is too much food about on the reserve for them at this time of year.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)



Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for
pre-booked telephone consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of
the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by
phoning 111

Dispensary is open during these hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to
6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning.

Please visit www.morland-house.co.uk for a wealth of information and
guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and
treatment e.g.

1. 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'.
2. 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.
3. Up to date information on current news items including:
 - Staying safe in the hot weather
 - Prescribing policy for patients travelling abroad
 - Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre – X-Rays, blood tests,
ultrasounds, CTs and more
- Information on the NHS 111 online service which is available 24/7



A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree!

Our fabulous Children's Centre needs a special trustee. Do you have some time to spare and a background in finances. Are you able to join our small but lovely group of trustees? We are looking for someone to grow and improve our services to all the families in Wheatley and the surrounding villages.

We are open all summer and have some special sessions suitable for younger children and siblings up to age 8 or so.

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

Tuesdays: A nature walk, Pirate's Day, Sport's Day and Ready for School sessions at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Focus on Healthy Eating and Terrific Teeth at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at The Maple Tree and our local villages at 10:00-11:30am (Horspath, Holton, Little Milton and Great Milton)

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

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

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details about our summer programme. For details, please go to www.mapletree.org.uk

Please also have a look at our Maple Tree Market page on Facebook or just come to The Maple Tree for a browse! We have some wonderful children's clothes, baby essentials, toys, and games available. This aids the environment by recycling, helps families during these difficult financial times and helps to sustain our charity when families are able to make a small donation.

We are here to help 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 The Maple Tree Centre Manager

Walks Programme August 2023

- Wednesday 2nd 6pm** Meet at the Clifden Arms PH, Worminghall, for a leisurely 3 mile walk, followed by optional supper at the pub.
- Thursday 3rd** Meet at Swyncombe church for an undulating 9 mile walk with great views. Bring a picnic.
- Tuesday 8th 10:30am** Leisurely 2½ mile walk from Oxfordshire Golf Club via Rycote Chapel, starting with coffee in the Spike Bar.
- Friday 11th** Leisurely 4½ mile figure of eight walk from Marsh Baldon ending at The Seven Stars PH for an optional lunch/coffee if open.
- Sunday 13th** Meet at Ludgershall, on the High Street close to the village hall, for a flat 6½ mile walk via Wootton Underwood.
- Thursday 17th** Undemanding 7½ mile walk starting at Warborough, going via Shillingford Bridge to Wittenham Woods. Return via Day's Lock and the Thames Path.
- Wednesday 23rd** Meet at Watlington, recreation ground car park, for a 6½ mile walk via Christmas Common. Lovely views.
- Thursday 24th** Leisurely 5 mile walk from Chalgrove via Berwick Salome. Optional lunch at Red Lion PH at finish.
- Tuesday 29th** Meet by Queen's Lane Coffee House, Oxford, for a 5½ mile inner city walk via parks and rivers. Wide choice of eateries at end of walk.
- Thursday 31st** 5 mile scenic walk from Great Kimble (off B4009) via Chequers Knap and Buckmoorend. Optional lunch at Swan PH at the end.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Please check the website to confirm details as the programme is subject to change:

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

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can be found on the website.



John Howell MP writes

July 2023

Population growth and new housing bring many changes and challenges to our communities as we well know. One change brought about is the review of representation in Parliament. Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 the Boundary Commission is required to review the parliamentary constituencies in England every 5 years. This is to ensure that MPs represent roughly the same number of people and therefore have around the same number of people eligible to vote for them. Another key factor of a review is that boundaries respect local links between areas. Constituency names can also be changed to reflect growth. I am writing about this as there will be changes coming forward which will affect this constituency, not least that the name will change from the Henley Constituency to the Henley and Thame Constituency. This reflects the growth of Thame and the fact that it is now a larger town than Henley and indeed the largest in the constituency. It is also geographically more central to the constituency. There will be more significant change for residents to the north and west of the constituency as they will be moved to a different constituency altogether.

All of the villages which come under Cherwell District Council will come out of this constituency and be part of a new constituency which will be known as the Bicester and Woodstock Constituency. This will affect residents in Bletchington, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott & Murcott, Hampton Gay & Poyle, Heathfield, Horton-cum-Studley, Kirtlington, Islip, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp, and Weston-on-the-Green. To the West of the constituency all of those currently in the Sandford and Wittenhams Ward will move to the renamed Didcot and Wantage Constituency. This affects residents in Clifton Hampden, Culham, Marsh Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford on Thames, and Toot Baldon.

And now to something much more local and immediate, I am sure that the news that the upper limits for Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly tipping have been increased will be welcome. I know that environmental crimes like these are of concern to many. I hope that we can get wide publicity of the increased fines to deter more people from such damage. The increases come into effect from the end of this month. The upper limit of fixed penalty notices for littering, graffiti and fly-posting offences will increase from £150 to £500; for household waste duty of care offences from £400 to £600; and for fly-tipping offences from £400 to £1,000. This is part of the Prime Minister's Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan which was launched in March. The Government is also looking at ring-fencing the money raised from these fines for enforcement and clean up activity.

Parliament will soon be going into the summer recess, but work continues. 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 **September 2023** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th August**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are publish

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: Paul Jeffery