

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2017

Published by the Parish Council

No. 529



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

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

### **Great Milton Parish Council**

|                       |  |                     |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Chairman:</b>      | <b>Stephen Harrod</b>                                | <b>01844 278068</b> |
| Ward:                 | Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory              |                     |
| <b>Vice Chairman:</b> | <b>Bill Fox</b>                                      | <b>01844 279716</b> |
| Ward:                 | Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings    |                     |
| <b>Councillor:</b>    | <b>Peter Fewell</b>                                  | <b>01844 279400</b> |
| Ward:                 | The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood         |                     |
| <b>Councillor:</b>    | <b>Clyde Deacon</b>                                  | <b>01844 278554</b> |
| Ward:                 | High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage |                     |
| <b>Councillor:</b>    | <b>George Bennett</b>                                | <b>07482 339905</b> |
| Ward:                 | Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329              |                     |
| <b>Councillor:</b>    | <b>Gwen Harris</b>                                   | <b>07401 399489</b> |
| Ward:                 | Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary      |                     |
| <b>Councillor:</b>    | <b>Peter Allen</b>                                   | <b>01844 278334</b> |
| Ward:                 | Milton Common  |                     |

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

### **Parish Council Representatives**

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

### **Front Cover**

Old Field volunteers enjoying a breather after their hard graft. See page 14.

## In My Opinion...

To start with, I would like to echo Simon's words in the last Bulletin regarding litter. Totally agree!

I would also like to add my thanks to the team from Greenford who did such a sterling job on Sworford Lane recently, though it is sadly already building up again.

### Dictionary definition:

litterbug

Noun informal

noun: litterbug; plural noun: litterbugs; noun: litter lout; plural noun: litter louts  
a person who carelessly drops litter in a public place.



Or, in my opinion, an anti-social, thoughtless, uncaring and self-centered lout who should be hung up by their thumbs and pelted with their own litter!

Moving on....

You will read in this edition of the PC's intention to ask for an 'opt-in' to continue to receive a printed copy of the Bulletin. Please respond to this so we can get a proper indication of the number of people who need a paper copy, as opposed to an email version, so we can, if practical, reduce our print run and thus costs.

We also need to increase our advertising revenue and Tim Darch will be addressing this so if you can think of anyone who may be interested in advertising in the Bulletin, but currently is not, please let Tim know.

Briefly back to the litter issue, our litter pick on 3 March needs as much support as possible. I will sadly be unable to join in this year, but it is a real case of "the more the merrier", so please join in if you can.


And don't let apathy rule!

*Stephen Harrod, Chairman*

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## Draft Parish Notes

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bill Fox, George Bennet and Clyde Deacon. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th January were signed and duly approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Non-pecuniary interest was declared by Cllrs S. Harrod and W. Fox regarding the planning applications under consideration for renovation works at The Bull 

## Key Contacts:

|  |               |                                      |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Oxfordshire County Council                             | 01865 792422  | Oxfordshire.gov.uk                   |
| South Oxfordshire District Council                     | 01235 422422  | Southoxon.gov.uk                     |
| County Councillor: Stephen Harrod                      | 01844 278068  | Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk      |
| District Councillor: Caroline Newton                   | 07951 477144  | caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk     |
| Great Milton Parish Council                            | 01844 278068  |                                      |
| Stephen Harrod (Chair)                                 | 01844 278347  | contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk       |
| Tim Darch (Clerk)                                      |               |                                      |
| 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

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 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  | mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk                              |
| Great Milton Neighbours Hall              | 01844 279474  |  |
| Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground | 01844 278116  |  |
| Great Milton Website                      |               | Carina.martin@gmail.com<br>http://www.greatmilton.co.uk    |
| Great Milton Bulletin                     | 07554 516989  | contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk<br>gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk |
| Great Milton Primary School               | 01844 279388  | gmilton.org  |
| Wheatley Park School                      | 01865 872441  | www.wheatleypark.org                                       |

## Transport

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

public house. Given the status of these councillors as committee members of The Great Milton Community Pub Limited, the Parish Council has RESOLVED to abstain from comment on the planning applications relating to The Bull to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

### **Planning Applications**

P18/S0273/HH and P18/S2074/LB (new detached garage. 5-6 Priory Bank Church Road Great Milton, OX44 7PA). The Council RESOLVED that it held no strong views on this application, although the owner of the neighbouring property's concerns over the height of the structure and the potential for conversion for use as accommodation were acknowledged.

P18/S0194/HH (Rear single storey extension. Rylands Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL). The Council RESOLVED to recommend approval of this application. No objections were received from neighbouring residents.

P18/S0169/FUL and P18/S0170/LB (Provision of new open fire, fire hood, chimney lining system and rebuilt stack; installation of kitchen extractor system. The Bull, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NS). Given that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are also on the Committee of The Great Milton Community Pub Company Limited, the Parish Council RESOLVED not to comment on these applications to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

P17/S3337/FUL and P17/S3338/LB (dining room extension together with provision of external staircase to first floor flat and all associated works. The Bull, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NS). Given that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are also on the Committee of The Great Milton Community Pub Company Limited, the Parish Council RESOLVED not to comment on these applications to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

P18/S0047/FUL (Change of use of redundant community room to a one-bed affordable older persons bungalow. Community Room Fullers Field Great Milton OX44 7PJ). Ian Melton commented that the community room was in occasional use. The Chairman stated that alternative venues are available in the village, and on this basis the Council RESOLVED that it held no strong views on this application but urged the Neighbours Club and other potential users that may wish to comment on the application to contact SODC immediately.

P18/S0180/DIS (Discharge of condition 3 - Protect hedges during development operations on application ref. P17/S3081/FUL Construction of private tennis court. Crofts Furlong Farm, Lower End, Great Milton). No comments were made on this application, of which the meeting was advised for information only.





Decisions have been made by SODC on the following applications:

P17/S3619/FUL: The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JW. Retention of Staff Accommodation Static Caravans. Planning permission was granted for this application by SODC's Planning Committee on Tuesday 16th January.

P17/S4021/HH: The Annexe at Sands Cottage Stadhampton Road Great Milton OXFORD OX44 7PE. Extension to The Annexe at Sands Cottage, and internal remodel of Sands Cottage. Planning permission has been granted for this application.

P17/S4227/O: Land on the South Side of London Road Adjacent to Great Expectations Milton Common. Erection of up to eight dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space. Planning permission has been granted for this application.

P17/S4260/LDE: Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock. Installation of DNO-standard GRP housing. Planning permission has been refused for this application.

Appeal Ref: APP/Q3115/W/17/3186899 London Road, Milton Common, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 2RW. The application Ref P17/S2433/PAR, dated 30 June 2017, was refused by notice dated 25 August 2017. The development proposed is conversion of vacant agricultural buildings to two dwelling houses. The appeal was dismissed.

### **Financial Resolutions**

The following payments were authorised:

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £538.29

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production, February: £226

Green and Growing. Various village maintenance jobs: £726

SODC dog bin emptying: £62.80

Jenks Tree Services (removal of dangerous tree near school): £864

Note: these works were necessary as a matter of urgency given the danger to passing parents and children walking to the Primary School. The Chairman's approval was sought by e-mail prior to commitment to the expenditure.

SLCC/ALCC membership renewal: £100/£30

OCC 'Comet' bus hire for November: £315

A full bank reconciliation was received and the latest bank statement was signed. The bank balance as at 6 February was £22,564.07.

### **Requests for funding**

A request for a further funding contribution for 2018/19 has been received from the Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley. Chris Sewell (Trustee and Vice Chair) addressed the meeting and outlined the improved facilities at The Maple Tree, while noting that this alongside the expanded programme will generate increased costs, notably for staffing and cleaning. The Parish Council RESOLVED to contribute at

least £500 towards the Maple Tree's ongoing costs in the next financial year, while commenting that given the Centre's location potential contributions from Wheatley's county councillor and other local funding sources should be explored.

- Green and Growing has undertaken many jobs around the village, including removal of the collapsed ivy on the path between Fullers Field/The Green and digging out of 'grips' to improve roadside drainage.

- A letter has been received from a resident of Milton Common regarding the condition of land at the junction of the A40 and A329 and urging action by the Parish Council. The Parish Council wishes to protect this area and allow it to recover, but has limited funds available. Following a site meeting, discussions have begun with the County Council (which owns the land) with regard to a possible funding partnership for the erection of fencing: a response is awaited from OCC.

- The pothole/collapsed drainage pipe outside 6 Priory Bank has been temporarily repaired with a view to more substantial remedial work in the next financial year.

- In response to last month's e-mail to Royal Mail it has been confirmed that there are currently no plans to revise the village postal arrangements.

- The salt bin in Fullers Field has now been refilled.

- This Bulletin contains a piece requesting that residents wishing to continue to receive a printed copy of the magazine should 'opt in'. Currently it is anticipated that electronic copies will be e-mailed to those who do not do this: the Bulletin will also continue to appear on the Great Milton Parish Council website as now. The Parish Council is mindful of the importance of the Bulletin as an outlet for news and information and will ensure continued access to it for all residents via their chosen method.

- The litter pick will take place on Saturday 3 March starting at 1000 at the Old Garage.

- Thanks were placed on record to Greenford Ltd, whose staff did an excellent job of clearing litter from Sworford Lane earlier in the month despite appalling weather conditions, and also for the prompt repair to the culvert and gully at the entrance to The Yard, which was seriously damaged by a vehicle driving over it in mid-January.

- The meeting closed at 8:35.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th March 2018 starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

*Tim Darch, Parish Clerk*

# Great Milton Bulletin to Go Paperless

As many of you may be aware, Council services have come under increasing financial pressure in recent years, and the Parish Council is no exception. As a result, we have to carefully plan how the local precept (our proportion of your Council Tax) is spent, whether to increase what you pay, and which services may have to be reduced.

Over the last couple of years we have seen that one of our biggest expenditures is the village bulletin. As advertising revenue is not what it used to be, and given the fact that the bulletin is also published monthly on the village website ([www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)), printing and distributing a paper copy to each household is no longer financially viable. Therefore, as of April this year the bulletin will go online only and will be available at <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/great-milton-bulletin/bulletins-2018/> .

We do however realise that there are some residents of the village who may not have access to the internet but who will still wish to receive the bulletin's information. Therefore, we will run limited print copies on an 'opt in' basis.

**If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the bulletin, please could you complete the form below and either drop it off at Shepherd Cottage or the post office by 25th March 2018.**

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## Village Bulletin paper copy Opt-in Form

I wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the  
Great Milton Bulletin after 1st April 2018

Name .....

Address .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



## Services in Our Benefice for March

|   | <b>St. Mary the Virgin<br/>Great Milton</b>  | <b>St. James's<br/>Little Milton</b> | <b>St. Peter's<br/>Great Haseley</b> |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4th<br><i>Lent 3</i>                             | Holy Communion BCP<br>8:00am                 | Holy Communion CW<br>9:30am          | Family Service<br>11:00am            |
| Wednesday 7th   |  |                                      | Compline<br>7:30pm                   |
| Sunday 11th<br><i>Lent 4</i><br><i>Mothering Sunday</i> | Benefice Mothering<br>Day Service<br>10:00am |                                      | Holy Communion BCP<br>8:00am         |
| Wednesday 14th  | Compline<br>7:30pm                           |                                      |                                      |
| Sunday 18th<br><i>Lent 5</i>                            | Family Service<br>11:00am                    | Holy Communion BCP<br>8:00am         | Holy Communion CW<br>9:30am          |
| Wednesday 21st  |  | Compline<br>7:30pm                   |                                      |
| Sunday 25th<br><i>Palm Sunday</i>                       | Benefice Communion<br>10:00am                |                                      |                                      |
| Thursday 29th<br><i>Maundy Thursday</i>                 | Holy Communion<br>7:30pm                     |                                      |                                      |
| Friday 30th<br><i>Good Friday</i>                       |  | Service of Reflection<br>11:00am     |                                      |

## Services in Our Benefice for April

|                             | <b>St. Mary the Virgin<br/>Great Milton</b> | <b>St. James's<br/>Little Milton</b> | <b>St. Peter's<br/>Great Haseley</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 1st<br><i>Easter</i> | Holy Communion CW<br>11:00am                | Holy Communion CW<br>9:30am          | Holy Communion BCP<br>8:00am         |

## Ramblings from the Rectory

Temptation is a clear and present danger. You don't have to be a christian or a person of any faith to know this, and you might not call it temptation; but we all know the human propensity to mess things up, to go down roadways of behaviour that are damaging for ourselves and for others. We all know at the simplest level how



hard it is to control even our most basic bodily appetites. As I write I am yet again engaged in the annual struggle to lose a few pounds, why did I put it on in the first place? Because I like my bread and beer!

Temptation can have a far greater and more devastating impact than personal weight gain. The big temptations are basically all down to three things, money, sex and power. The Bible is filled with warnings about the corrosive power of money. Jesus warned us that we cannot serve both God and money (Matthew 6: 24) In St Paul's first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:10) he writes: 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil'. Please note he doesn't say that money itself is the root of all kinds of evil, money is neutral, it can after all be used for all kinds of good; rather it is love of money Paul talks about. This isn't just a personal problem, we all know the financial chaos that can result because behind the veneer of respectable looking financial institutions can lie a culture of uncontrolled greed. Then there is sex; how much damage has been done by unfettered appetites for sex, lust and adultery? Finally, power. Again we have all seen what the human lust for power can do and the devastation for millions that can result when powerful men become dictatorial in their ambitions.

The power of temptation is real, we might disagree about the causes but I think we are morally blind if we can't see the consequences that result when people fall to it's corrosive power. If in doubt about this, look at the world, actually don't look at the world, just look at yourself and ask the question: 'when was it that I gave into a thought and did something I really really know I shouldn't have? When did I last give in to a thought and say something know I really really shouldn't have?

Lent is all about the reality of temptation, and finding the resources to resist it. It always starts with the story of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days being tempted. Most will know the story of course and so I won't go into length here repeating it; you can read it for yourself in Matthew 4: 1-11, and Luke 4: 1-13. Mark's gospel also tells of the temptation but in a much shorter account which doesn't actually mention what the temptations were.

Jesus' temptation were particular to him and had to do with the love of power, doing sensational and spectacular things which would enable him to fast track to glory and take the easy way out. However, he had come for a very different purpose and that was all to do with the power of love. His life, teachings, miracles, and ultimately his death, all of these pointed to the love of God to restore and heal that which is broken and lost. It involved Jesus in complete self giving sacrifice for those he had come to rescue and save, not in self elevation and power, there was nothing less looking like power than the Cross.

We will have temptations particular to us, things that we know mess us up, or

worse mess others up when we fall to them. As a christian, I take this seriously and the battle as a human being that I know is in me which involves rather more than bread and beer! I believe that we have spiritual resources at our disposal. It is significant that when tempted Jesus always countered with 'it is written'; He used the scriptures he knew so well, not as a collection of occasional comforting thoughts but as a weapon to counter and resist the forces of evil that assaulted him. There is a lovely phrase at the end of Mark's short account of Jesus' temptation: 'And he was with the wild beasts; and angles waited on him.' I believe that the reality of temptation, for all the human and psychological causes (which I do not deny) also has a spiritual cause and we are involved in the battle. However we don't have to do this alone.

Of course there is the christian tradition of giving things up for lent. Personally I think this only has spiritual value if we then take something positive up as well. The tradition of the fast was always meant to be about showing us just how much we are victims of our most basic appetites and then aligning ourselves with the presence of God to overcome these. This year for Lent I have actually been trying to cultivate more an attitude of thanksgiving. So through Lent, and then hopefully beyond I am finding at least five things every day when I go to bed to positively say thank you to God for. This is not something I have necessarily been good at.

*Simon*

### **Lent Lunches for Christian Aid**

I have been bemused for the last two years when I have been to these lunches, rather than a lenten fast it has proved to be a bit of a feast! This year, Le Manoir has kindly once again offered to provide us with their delicious breads, so there goes my resolve! There will be equally delicious homemade soup and usually there is cheese as well as fruit. There is a voluntary donation, with the money going to Christian Aid.

All the lunches will take place between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm

This year our lunches will be:

Thursday March 1st: Little Haseley, hosted by Scilla Greenall - 01844 279350

Thursday March 8th: Orpswood Cottage, Thame Road, hosted by Trudy Timbs  
01844 279380

Thursday March 15th: Spring Cottage, Haseley Road, Little Milton, hosted by Sally-Anne and Ian Dennis. 01844278029

### **From the registers:**

#### **RIP:**

Frederick Smith. Date of death 28th December 2017. Funeral and burial at St

Mary's 9th January 2018.

Colin Thomas West. Date of death 24th December 2017. Funeral and burial at St Mary's 10th January 2017.

### **Advance notice Holy week and Easter**

March 29th 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service at St Mary's Great Milton.

March 30th - Good Friday

11:00am Service of reflection for Good Friday at St James Little Milton.

2:30pm 'Pilgrimage' walk around the Benefice. All are welcome, especially our four footed friends! The walk is about five miles, beginning and ending at the Plough at Great Haseley and taking in Little Milton and Great Milton, with a brief reading and prayer for Good Friday at each village.

Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion St Peter's Great Haseley

9:30 am Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

11:00am Family Communion St Mary's Great Milton

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## **Great Milton Methodist Church Services**

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

| <b>March</b> |             |               |                  |                |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Time</b> | <b>Church</b> | <b>Preacher</b>  | <b>Detail</b>  |
| 4th          | 11:00am     | Gt. Milton    | David Harper     |                |
| 11th         | 11:00am     | Gt. Milton    | Alistair Jackson |                |
| 18th         | 11:00am     | Gt. Milton    | Adam Stevenson   | Holy Communion |
| 25th         | 11:00am     | Gt. Milton    | Joanna Tulloch   |                |
| 30th         | 7:30pm      | Gt. Milton    | Adam Stevenson   |                |

## **The Neighbours Club**

A group of members and friends set off on Wednesday evening the 24th January to go to the pantomime Cinderella at The Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent show very much enjoyed by all who went (very much better than last year).

We were delighted to receive a grant from the Sheppard Trust again this year, half of which will go towards our outings and half for the Christmas Lunch. It was agreed

to hold a meeting at Fullers Field on Monday, the 29th January at 2.30 p.m. to discuss suggestions for our outings and Celia is now drawing up a programme.

At our meeting on the 1st February the two ladies from the County Museum came along to give a talk on Reminiscence and this time their subject was "My First Job". We had an extremely interesting afternoon and quite a few laughs when we recalled some of the jobs done by members in their early days (one lucky lady worked in a sweet shop).

At our meeting on the 15th February sadly we were told that Margaret is not at all well and it was agreed by all that we should send her a card with our get well wishes and thanking her for all the help she has given the club over the years.

*JCP*

### **Forthcoming Events - February**

Wed 28th - Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe

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## **The Great Milton Bellringers**

On the 15th of February 2018 we dedicated the evenings practice to Stefan D'Anger.

He was accompanied by his Wife Sally and the Rector. We all wish him well when they move to their new home in Cornwall.



**Photo left to right: Alan Booker, Pat Cox, Paul Simms, Ian Melton, Sally D'Anger, Stefan D'Anger, Patricia Walker, Graham Griffiths, Mark Hunter, Ray Fergusson, Simon Cronk, Pat Hingley.**

## A Daring Elephant

Some twenty years ago, a elephant belonging to a travelling circus broke out of its stable, and burst open the door of a cottage in a country lane. It opened the cupboard and devoured the contents of a dozen pots of jam, a gallon of pickled onions, a quantity of fruit and meat, and some sweets. It also swallowed the window plants, and removed the chimney-piece ornaments, and carefully laid them on the sofa, and then laid itself down to sleep.

*(from 'The Parish Magazine' Great Haseley, Little Milton, Great Milton September 1907 Price 1d 'The Young Folks Page')*

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## Old Field

Old Field volunteers completed maintenance work along the hedge in Thame Road during their February get together. Erecting a new fence and planting shrubs which will eventually blend in with the existing hedge.

Old Field Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10:15am in Old Field. New volunteers of all ages are always welcome, the work is generally quite light and usually ends with a chat over a tea or coffee.





# Senior Citizens Party Committee

## Annual Party

The date of the Party this year is 7th April at The Neighbours Hall at 4:00pm. Invitations will be delivered in early March. If you are “newly qualified” this year and are not known to us and would like to come, please ring me.

To qualify you need to be in one of the following categories:

- a) Married Couple. If either spouse is over 65, the partner is invited regardless of age.
- b) Single Lady aged 60 or over.
- c) Single Man aged 65 or over.
- d) Widows or Widowers regardless of age.

*Ann Price, Treasurer – 01844 279474*

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## Entente Cordiale – celebrating over 100 years of Franco-British unity

11th Century: Harold, William... ..the Bayeux Tapestry

12th Century: Henry II demands English students return from France (Oxford University est.)

19th Century: Waterloo

21st Century: Stade de France, March 10th??

We’ve not always been the best of neighbours. And we can put on a good show of nationalistic fervour when we want to. But, since 1904, France and the UK have officially been BFFs (“best friends forever”). And the Great Milton Singers are going to celebrate this uniquely close relationship with their Spring Concert at St Mary’s on April 14th (7:30pm).

Centred around the hauntingly beautiful Requiem by C20 Frenchman, Maurice Duruflé, the choir and soloists – favourites Shelley Cox and Steven Henderson – will offer a mix of music originating in, or relating to, both countries. As well as music from other composers who came from further afield, fell in love with (or in!) Paris or London and settled there.

Whether or not the weather’s kind on that date, you can be assured of a bright and beautiful evening, enhanced by wine from either side of the Channel. And we can celebrate (or drown our sorrows over) the results of the Six Nations.

A bientôt. See you there.

## View from Views

As D Day for Brexit draws nearer we are, both us farmers, as well as the general public, equally in the dark, as to what is going to happen, as there are so many mixed messages, far too many to mention, so my comments are restricted to farming matters and the very limited knowledge that I have. A proper policy for farming must be a balance between preserving the environment and encouraging food production, as these are subjects that our Environment minister has been highlighting, what we don't know is when and if he will change his mind. The countryside is not an "eco-museum" but a place of work. Our much-loved landscape is a product of the different types of farming, from the sheep-grazed uplands of Wales and Yorkshire, to the lush dairy farms of Devon, and arable areas of the Eastern counties. Recently our esteemed PM has been, we are told, brokering deals with China and although I am pleased to hear that this has included to a large extent agricultural products, particularly beef which was banned at the time of BSE, and malting Barley, the fear with any deal of this sort may well have repercussions on the home market as we will have to take their products as well. We then have to ask, are their production costs lower than our, will this compete fairly with our own market, can we survive on an even lower produce price, do we fix tariffs to protect our home producers, or will we be able to say our standards are so high that our food is worth the price we expect? Also we have to factor in what the Supermarkets have to say on this as they have to compete with each other, by cutting their prices, which does us no favours, so quality suffers in the long term. It is all still very much up in the air, so the questions continue.

Now the weather is still dull chilly and wet, or at least it is as I write this, in spite of what we may think January proved not to be that wet although we did have our fair amount of flooding, in fact this year the river has been a bit like a yo-yo in and out all the time. I get the impression that these floods seem to take a long time to recede not sure why, the river seems to be acting in different ways all the time. Whilst on the subject of the river I would like to draw reader's attention to the recent "River Thame Conservation Trust" (RTCT) newsletter which really is worth a read and can be found <http://riverthame.org/rtct-january-2018-newsletter/> where you will see that through their work with Thames Water they have received some funding. Also you will note that they have had a recent litter pick illustrating the vast amount of plastic picked, this problem has been made quite an issue in the national press lately, as well as my remarks in this previously, remarks by our county councillor, and Vicar, I also attach (if it is reprinted) a picture showing the amount of litter we have picked along our road to Great Milton, not a mile, this is over and above what others say they have picked, it shows

what there is about. We all need to play our part by helping the litter pick weekend 3 & 4 March in Little and Great Milton be nice to think this was a thing of the past!

By the time this is read Spring should be just around the corner, the birds are already starting



to make a song and dance about it anyway, and Partridges, plus other birds I guess have paired up for the production of young. I must say that the prospect of some warmer and cheerful is appealing at the moment. This year it seems that the small birds are appreciative of the feeding I am carrying out on our margins as on certain days great flocks of them appear as you walk past, not sure what they are but it seems like Greenfinches, and chaffinches, and various other finches plus many tits, there have also been a lot Field Fares around this time. Whilst on the subject of birds one day round about the end of January driving towards Stadhampton I could not believe that there was an Egret feeding in the ditch right by the road at the bottom end of Little Milton, just by the Chicane, must be a first.

Picking up on my remarks previously with reference to the re-introduction of wild species Beavers and the like, I read in the press that the Scottish Government are not going to encourage this activity as they have seen the damage the Beavers have done to the river banks, and the effect they are having on Agriculture. On the subject of river banks I think I read that the Environment Agency (EA) plan to increase, exponentially, the licence fee to anyone wishing to do any works on rivers, meaning I assume removing fallen trees fish passes and the like, this will severely restrict works that the river trusts wish to do to enhance the rivers and also the land owners who are now responsible for removing trees, the net result will be less work done and more flooding plus a lot of other issues. These of course are all tasks that were traditionally carried out by the EA, or its predecessors.

*Charles Peers*

## **Morland House Surgery has started a Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

The overall aim of our group is to develop a positive and constructive relationship between patients, the practice and the community it serves, ensuring the practice remains responsive to all its patient's needs.

### **Our Aims:**

- To facilitate good relations between the GP practice and patients by communicating patient experience, interests and concerns and providing feedback to the practice on current procedures and proposed new developments.
- To bring a sense of partnership between the practice and patients.
- Provide an avenue for patient's input in the way facilities and services are planned and executed.
- To provide a forum to voice community needs, positive suggestions and interests.
- Collect patient opinions and experiences to help the practice to evaluate its services.
- To help disseminate within the practice community and/or wider community information about the practice.
- Assisting the practice in promoting good health and self-care.

We are interested in hearing your views so please feel free to contact us by writing to us c/o Morland House Surgery, London Road, Wheatley OX33 1YJ or send an email to [morland.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:morland.ppg@nhs.net)

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## **Fix My Street and Safety Defects**

Members of the public are rightly concerned about the state of the roads in Oxfordshire and January has seen a dramatic increase in the number of Fix My Street (FMS) reports being registered on the system due to the severe weather events in December 2017 and January 2018, where repeated freeze, thaw and snow has caused considerable damage to the road network.

The average January sees nearly 2000 reports coming in whilst January 2018 has seen over 7000 reports. The vast majority of these reports relate to safety defects on the highway, potholes, potential flooding issues and tree damage. We anticipate that the February and March figures will also rise well above average as a result of the bad weather. An additional £1m to fund highway repairs has been received from Central Government and it could not have come at a better time.

To deal with the issues the Area Operations Teams are prioritising potholes, flood

sites and vegetation issues blocking the highway in the first instance. To do this we are drafting in additional staff, extending overtime and working weekends where necessary. In addition, our contractor, Skanska, is looking to recruit additional teams to deal with the increasing number of defects that are being listed for repair. Other, non-safety, issues will unfortunately need to be deferred in the short term. These issues will not be forgotten and will be addressed when we have dealt with the current problems on the network. We will be updating our web pages to reflect this change in priority.

The rise in the number of Fix My Street shows how well the public are supporting the Fix My Street system and we are keen to ensure that we respond to issues as quickly as we can. Any assistance that the public can give in providing photos of the sites would be very helpful as we may be able to prioritise work from the photos rather than visit each site individually. Please do not compromise your own safety by taking photos if it is not safe to do so. If a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report.

**What you will see:**

- More inspectors on the network to prioritise work and deal with short term safety issues
- More defect gangs fixing these potholes.
- An increase in structural patching and minor patching programmes to deal with sites with large clusters of pothole during the late winter and early spring period. These repairs last longer but take time to arrange.
- An additional Dragon Patcher on the network from mid-February operating as “Inspect and Fix” on the rural network.

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

I overwinter many plants in my greenhouse, particularly tender perennials, both as mature plants and as cuttings. I visited a garden a couple of years ago where the owner said she always took cuttings in September as she went away for August. My experience this year has been that rooting of the cuttings was good and they survived well over the winter within an unheated propagator. At the end of January, I potted up all the well-rooted cuttings into individual pots and covered them in fleece. Sadly, there has been a higher rate of loss than I anticipated. I think this is probably due to the low temperature in the greenhouse; I aim to keep the temperature just above zero which, combined with keeping the plants very dry, works well at keeping most tender perennials alive and well. Clearly this approach does not apply to cuttings as,

on potting up, I had to water them in so they were wetter than I would have liked; I should have taken them indoors! I will try again this year. Last month I wrote that I had made efforts to label cuttings, but, unfortunately, I did not label the only one I can't remember the name of! This plant was a new acquisition late last summer and I didn't know if the cuttings would work, but they did and I have two unknown small plants as well as the original (in the garden and unlabeled too!). Some internet research is required, I think.

The curse of the spring gardener hit me this year when I woke up one morning with a bad back; the result has been no gardening for the last two weeks. I am just starting to gently garden, but fear I am be well behind, particularly with weeding. I am fortunate that my other half has battled on alone with the clearing and rose pruning. He is very good at pruning (rather better than I am) so I am happy with that. Do keep up with the weeding as much as possible; I am in total agreement with the old adage that "one year's seeds are seven years' weeds", although some of the weed problems are blown in with the wind or come in with introduced plants.

The lack of gardening activity has meant more time available to walk around and simply enjoy the garden and see what needs doing. I have been able to enjoy the early spring flowers and the lovely scent from various plants, especially on mild sunny days; I do think that, despite the weather often being very bad in February, that this month definitely signals the start of spring; by the time you are reading this, it will be March and the days will be getting rapidly longer and brighter. Do take the time to go outside and simply look at the plants you have and look at their new growth. The spring garden is so full of promise.

I have also been looking at the various plants I have received as gifts over the years from various gardening friends past and present. I have developed a habit of calling plants by the name of the donor so I always think about that person when I look at the plant. Unfortunately, this also increases the guilt if one of those plants dies.

Our biggest garden problem at the moment, is a persistent mole which is quite literally destroying our lawn. It (or its friend) just keeps returning after supposed treatment and over the last week it has dug bigger and bigger hills; I fear one of them is a birthing chamber which will multiply the problem. Oh, no!

It was brought to my attention, that I failed to sign my article last month. I also apologise for the grammar last month which was a result of writing the article on my iPad; Pages is not a patch on Word!

*Liz Moyses*

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay – [caryselindsay@gmail.com](mailto:caryselindsay@gmail.com) – 07984250752



## News from The Pine Lodge

We have a busy few months coming up with the last two Quizzes of the season on 17th March and 28th April, Craft Club on 3rd Wednesday of the month, new Games Evenings on 4th Thursday of the month and the regular Yoga & Fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am.

On 19th May, we welcome back the guitarist, Elliott Morris, combining elements of folk, roots, jazz and country music. Embracing the traditional and the contemporary – this is folk music for the 21st century. Tickets available at the Village Shop and online at [www.wegotickets.com/event/429202](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/429202).

We're also celebrating the Royal Wedding with a Village Party on Sunday 20th May. The Parish Council are funding a pig roast and there'll be a bring & share buffet, children's activities, music and licensed bar.

Like us at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*

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## Little Milton WI

In February, we decided to stay in and play board games, a good taster session for the restart of the village hall games evenings (every 4th Thursday of the month).

The next meeting on Thursday 8th March is our AGM, come and learn all about Little Milton WI, meet the members and see our new 2018/19 programme, followed by food and drinks.

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

The 2018 membership is £41, which includes the monthly meeting, a National and Oxfordshire magazine, organised events, trips and talks and discounted courses at Denman College.

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

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

Like us at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 or email [kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)*

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

Morning craft sessions weekly

New: Evening craft sessions weekly

Drawing group sessions weekly during term time

Digital Helper sessions fortnightly

Talks with coffee every 3 months

If you or someone you know is housebound and would still like to borrow books from the library speak to staff about the Home Library Service.

For help with:

- Overcoming your fear of the internet and devices
- Using a tablet or smartphone
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- Taking and sharing photos
- Skype made easy

consider booking a Digital Helper session. Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

**LITTLE MILTON PARISH COUNCIL  
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Location: Home based and Little Milton Village Hall  
Hours: 260 hours per annum on a flexible basis  
Salary Range: SCP 22 to 26 (£10.739 to £12.161 per hour)

The Parish Council wish to appoint a new Parish Clerk and RFO on the retirement of the current Clerk. The hours will be mainly worked at home plus regular monthly council meetings. The ability to administer council business including a budget of £20,000 and to work on one's own initiative are essential.

The role is varied and interesting. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be proficient in Word and Excel, be capable of working independently and have the ability to deal with a wide range of issues.

Previous experience in a similar role would be beneficial.

Access to transport and an internet connection (preferably high speed) are necessary.

A computer and printer will be provided if required.

For more information and application procedures, contact the present Parish Clerk by post at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, Oxford OX44 7QP, by phone 01844 279150 or by email [Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com)

Closing date for applications: 28 March 2018. Interviews week beginning 23 April 2018

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**ONLY RE-USEABLE/USEFUL ITEMS NO JUNK**

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advertising board for these items.**

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THE PINE LODGE, LITTLE MILTON  
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Saturday 17th March 7:00pm

**CRAFT CLUB**

Wednesday 21st March 7:30pm

**GAMES EVENING**

Thursday 22nd March 7:30pm

**ELLIOTT MORRIS CONCERT**

Saturday 19th May 7:00pm

[www.wegotickets.com/event/429202](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/429202)

**VILLAGE PARTY**

Sunday 20th May 3:30pm – 10:00pm

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[www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

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## **The Three Villages Car Service**

The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
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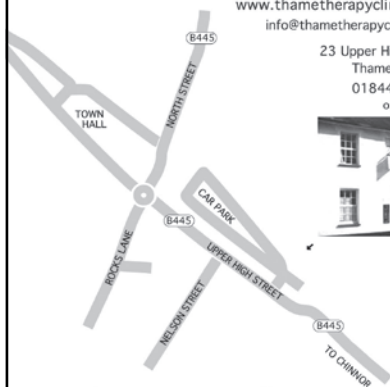
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## **March at Waterperry**

### **Easter Bunny Hunt**

**24th March – 15th April**

Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt around the gardens and claim your special Easter prize! £2 per child, children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the normal garden entrance fee applies

### **Saxifrage Day**

**24th March**

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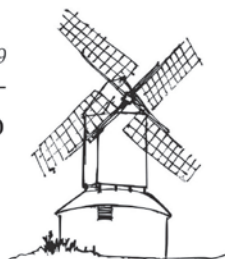
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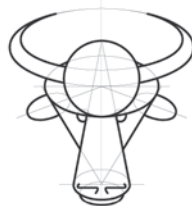
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## Diary

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

## March

- |            |  |         |
|------------|--|---------|
| 3rd Sat    | Litterpick starting at The Old Garage                            | 10:00am |
| 11th Sun   | Mothering Sunday   | —       |
| 17th Sat   | Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton                      | 7:00pm  |
| 19th Mon   | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                           | 7:30pm  |
| 21st Wed   | Craft Club at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton                      | 7:30pm  |
| 22nd Thurs | Games Evening at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton                   |         |
| 24th Sat   | Freecycle at The Pavilion  | 10:00am |
| 28th Wed   | Neighbours Club: Lunch & Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe | —       |

## April

- |         |            |   |
|---------|------------|---|
| 1st Sun | Easter Day | — |
|---------|------------|---|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th March 2017**.  
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