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Little Milton Newsletter



JANUARY 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: JANUARY

Sun	1st	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion: St James
Mon.	2nd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	3rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	4th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	5th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting: Pine Lodge
Frid.	6th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	8th		No Service in St James’
Mon	9th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	10th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	11th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council Meeting Pine Lodge
Thurs	12th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Annual Dinner
Frid	13th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	15th		No Service in St James’
Mon	16th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	17th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	18th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening: Pine Lodge
Thurs	19th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	20th	9.30 –10.30 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge Pop Up Bar in Pine lodge with Pub games
Sun	22nd	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion; St James’
Mon	23rd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	24th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	25th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	26th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	27th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sat	28th	7.00 p.m.	Quiz in Pine Lodge
Sun	29th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Communion St Mary’s Great Milton

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

EDITORIAL

I would like to wish all our readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In my editorial in January 2020 I wrote “**. Who can predict what lies ahead both for our community and our nation?**” I was referring to Covid and as we entered 2022 there was a similar cloud hanging over us. As we enter 2023 the country Covid appears to have receded but we are faced with an unprecedented Cost of Living crisis and wide scale industrial action in key sectors of our public services. It begs the question what is normality and when will it return

Last year I started my editorial with some quotes that I thought might inspire you and here are some more to make 2023 the best year yet

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For old lang syne.

~ **Robert Burns**

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one!

~ **Brad Paisley**

Here's to the bright New Year
And a fond farewell to the old;
Here's to the things that are yet to come
And to the memories that we hold.

~ **Anon**

May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door.

~ **Irish Blessing**

In the New Year, never forget to thank to your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!

~ **Mehmet Murat Ildan**

And now we welcome the New Year. Full of things that have never been.

~ **Rainer Maria Rilke**

The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change.

~ **Maya Angelou**

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every New Year find you a better person.

~ **Benjamin Franklin**

We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives, not looking for flaws, but for potential.

~ **Ellen Goodman**

I would like to reflect on your behalf what has been happening within the organisations that impact on our lives within Little Milton

The Parish Council has continued to represent our community and plays an important role in influencing various Partners in Local Government. In May this year the community will have the opportunity of electing a new Council as all the Councillors stand down. This is an opportunity for all residents to consider putting themselves forward for election to serve their community. It is the start of a four year term of office. Our new Clerk Andrea Oughton has now become a key member of the Council and is not affected by the election process.

I can say from experience that all our organisations are heavily dependent on volunteers who will at some stage wish to relinquish their roles or find themselves unable to carry on in them. This presents a real challenge for each organisation to develop a succession plan. We need to generate the interest and hopefully the enthusiasm for villagers to consider putting themselves forward in the future but the work starts now. I would like to thank on behalf of all our organisations the generosity of our residents in supporting their hard work and dedication.

The Village Hall have served the community with a Jubilee celebration that was well organised and supported by the community and all of the regular events and bookings are now happening. Once again. The Committee perform an excellent job but will always welcome new committee members

Our Village Shop and Post Office is a very important asset to our village Our Post Office provides a very important service and one that has gone from strength to strength. The Shop and Post Office played a key role during 2020/2021 and boosted its sales. As it returns to pre-Covid trading levels it is faced with potentially higher levels of energy costs that could threaten its longer term viability. Our Shop/Post Office is a vital community asset that we must protect. This leads me into thanking on your behalf the excellent work done by Kevin and the Shop Committee, Alison, Clare and all the volunteers. (More are always required)

We are fortunate to have an excellent school that is supported by hardworking staff and governors as well as a community that values their efforts. We should all recognise that it is not without challenges as roll numbers are at present lower than would be desired

Ian and Des went off to pastures new in 2022 after serving our community well over many years and we wished them well. We welcome the new owners Ben and Charmain and wish them every success in keeping this prized asset alive in our community

St James' has a dedicated PCC and a number of volunteers who clean the church, decorate the church with flowers and maintain the churchyard and I thank them for their hard work. This year the annual village fete returned to its spiritual home of the Old Vicarage and we appreciate the support of George and Joyce. A big thank you goes to Lindsay Heath and the fete committee and to the support of our community... The maintenance of the building with a possible cost in excess of £100K still remains a significant challenge. The Church is a key cornerstone of our community and I am sure that sentiment is supported by both church and non- church members of our village.

The publication and distribution of our Newsletter is something that happens each month and I am sure that the Village would like to say thank you to all who are

involved. I would like to thank Keith Hodges at Colourplus for his excellent service and support to me as editor as well as the distributors who diligently deliver a newsletter to each house. As editor I appreciate the excellent photographs that I receive from some of the village photographers and most importantly to all the correspondents who submit their articles each month.

Finally on your behalf I would like to thank Mr Freddie van der Mierlo our County Councillor and Caroline Newton our District Councillor for all their support.

2023 will continue to challenge our community and those involved in the day to day running of the various organisations that we all use and value. Let us all believe that 2023 will return to normal and we can start to rebuild confidence in our lives that has suffered so much over the last three years. Let us all carry the torch of hope with us.

Let us all make every effort to ensure that Little Milton continues to be a great place to live and keep a watchful eye for your neighbours.

SUMMARY FROM THE DECEMBERH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2022

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

Planning

P22/S3964/HH – Hillview Cottage, High Street, Little Milton, OX44 7PU

Front extension to existing detached garage/home office, to provide additional open bay covered parking (As accompanied by additional arboricultural information received 2022-11-17).

The Parish Council **Resolved** a recommendation of **No Strong Views** for this application

P22/S1241/FUL – The Site of Milton House, Gold Street, Little Milton, OX44

Amendment No. 5

Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide 4 dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access (As amplified by Preliminary Ecological Appraisal received 29 March 2022 and energy information received 25 July 2022 and Services Plan received 27 July 2022, Drainage Information received 6 October 2022 and as amended by drawings received 13 July 2022 reduction in height of houses, alteration in garages and materials, layout, ecological and landscape information received 21 November 2022 and images received 29 November 2022).

The Parish Council **Resolved** a recommendation of **No Strong Views** for this application.

The Council acknowledges the developer has listened to the comments and points raised by Councillors at the Parish Council meetings held on 11th May 2022 and 10th August 2022 and has made steps toward mitigation of the concerns.

In making a recommendation of No Strong Views the Parish Council recognises:

- Everything has been done to discourage pedestrian access to and from the site through the Pepper Pots and there will be no vehicle access via this route.
- The Construction Traffic Management Plan must ensure traffic does not enter the site during school drop off and pick up times, all traffic associated with

the site must park on site and vehicles leaving the site must ensure that their wheels are washed to ensure minimal transfer of mud, etc., off site.

- Materials – the developer has committed to using stone which is in keeping with other dwellings in this part of the village. They will build a sample wall prior to construction for approval by SODC to ensure the stone is suitable.

P22/S4228/T28 – Nr 5 Ditchend Farm Cottages, Rofford Lane, and opposite Lark Rise, Blenheim Lane, Little Milton, OX44 7QG

Intention to install 3 x 9m wooden light poles and 1 x 11m wooden light pole.

This application was noted at the meeting.

It was further noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following application:

P22/S2896/HH - The Bridle Path, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PP

Side extension to replace conservatory, rear dressing room extension, upgrading and rendering exterior walls and replacing windows. (As amplified by amended plans and information received 2022-10-18, 2022-10-26, 2022-11-16, 2022-11-18, 2022-11-22 and 2022-11-30).

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

No further grass cuts are planned for the Recreation Ground or verges until Spring 2023.

A meeting is planned with a member of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways team next week to discuss the process of placing an approved barrier along the slip road to allow parking but protect further erosion of the bank in Gold Street. A formal application and quotation will be brought to a future meeting of the council.

OCC have granted permission for two planters to be placed at the corner of Haseley Road and the A329 as street furniture, to act as a traffic calming measure and to restrict parking on the wide piece of pavement.

Thames Valley Neighbourhood Police Team

A useful meeting has taken place with a member of the Neighbourhood Police Team at which a number of issues were raised. The Neighbourhood Police Officer provided advice, agreed to add Little Milton to regular patrols and will maintain regular contact with the council.

Utilities and Highways

The problems associated with the layby on the A329; antisocial behaviour, littering, etc., have been reported to the Neighbourhood Police Team. Little Milton's application for a 20mph speed limit will be discussed by OCC Cabinet in January and provided it is approved the scheme is expected to be implemented by March 2023.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th January 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 Steve Sidhu (Vice Chairman)	01844 279448
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438 freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Caroline Newton	07951 477144

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £40 for up to 3 items and £8 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 – JANUARY 2023

	Brown	Black	Green	Food
5th January ++	No	Yes	No	Yes
11th January ++	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
17th January	No	Yes	No	Yes
24th January	No	No	Yes	Yes
31st January	No	Yes	No	Yes

++ Change of date due to Christmas

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Oxford traffic filters special: Q&A

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance has taken a bold step to reduce congestion in and around Oxford with [traffic filters](#). It's an issue many residents want to know more about – so below are a few common questions about the plan

What are traffic filters?

During the times they are operating, traffic filters prohibit private motor vehicles without a filter pass from going through them. Oxfordshire County Council has approved a plan to introduce six filters across Oxford, including at St Cross Road, Thames Street, Hythe Bridge Street, St Clements, Marston Ferry Road, and Hollow Way.

Why is Oxfordshire County Council doing this?

Car use in Oxford has doubled in the last 20 years and is likely to get considerably worse with further housing developments. Road space has not doubled, resulting in high levels of congestion and bus routes becoming unsustainable. Traffic filters are a congestion measure, aimed at reducing the number of private car journeys to free up space for buses. The benefits will include faster bus journeys and faster journeys for anyone using a filter pass.

Does this stop me from driving to Oxford?

No. Everywhere you can currently reach by car in Oxford can still be reached by private motor vehicle. Households outside the city will also get up to 50 filter passes per year (25 per person/vehicle) to go through the filters with their private car. Exemptions also exist for e.g., blue badge holders and carers.

Can I still drive to the Westgate or John Radcliffe hospital?

Yes. Everywhere in Oxford will still be accessible by car. For example, residents that currently drive to and park at the Westgate via Abingdon Road, would need to continue on the ring road and approach via Botley Road. In most cases journey times are likely to only take an additional 5-15 minutes. The filters will make using the Redbridge Park and ride much more attractive due to faster buses from Redbridge into the centre.

When will this happen?

Due to the closure of Botley Road in 2023 for work by Network Rail, the measure won't come into place until January 2024.

Adult social care in the news:

The Lib Dem led administration continues to make adult social care and children's services a priority, where over half of county expenditure takes place. The Oxfordshire Way – a new approach by the council's adult social care team – aims to support people to live well and independently, within their own communities, for as long as possible. Oxfordshire County Council is providing funding for a 'Community Catalyst' programme to support local residents to set up care companies or centres and provide care in the community. A 2022-3 [Live Well Oxfordshire Care Guide](#) has also been published with lots of great information on how to find community support and access adult social care. Free copies of the guide: 0345 050 7666.

Education commission launched: OCC has launched an independent 'Education Commission', tasked with improving educational outcomes for all children and young people. A key goal of the commission will be to look at reducing the gap in educational attainment for disadvantaged children and children with special educational needs and disabilities. The commission will speak to all interested parties about what a world class education system might look like for Oxfordshire and what needs to change. The commission will be independently chaired and

made up of members representing educational settings, establishments, and key stakeholder groups across Oxfordshire.

Budget setting process kicked off: The process of setting OCC's annual budget has been kicked off with a public consultation. Within the context of rising inflation and rising demand for OCC's services (e.g. adult social care, SEND), the administration is seeking to create a balanced and fair budget that protects our most vulnerable residents. Since the government has not provided funding to meet the costs of inflation, OCC has been required to make savings of £44m of real-terms savings. However, the administration has sought to protect budgets impacting vulnerable residents, with particular emphasis on children with special education needs and disability. The [consultation](#) closes on 19 December.

Plan to rationalise OCC property portfolio: Oxfordshire County Council owns a whopping 905 sites around the county, including 13 offices. Led by finance cabinet member Cllr Calum Miller, OCC is being instructed to [rationalise](#) its property portfolio to realise savings by giving up leased buildings and deliver on climate goals.

20mph scheme: Progress!

Rollout of the county's 20mph scheme is continuing for villages that applied. Some have already been installed, while others are in [consultation](#) or awaiting decision by the cabinet member. Once cabinet approval is given, installation can happen shortly after.

Village	Consultation Closes	Decision Date by Cabinet
Berrick Salome	30 th December	26 th January
Britwell Salome	Closed	8 th December
Chalgrove	Closed	Approved
Great/Little Haseley	Closed	Approved
Great Milton	Closed	Approved
Lewknor	Closed	26 th January
Little Milton	9 th December	26 th January
Nettlebed	30 th December	26 th January
Pyrton	30 th December	26 th January
Watlington	Not open	Not scheduled

THE CONDOLENCE BOOK FOR H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

We hope that all who wanted to sign this book have now been able to do so. There are a total of 68 different entries but some of these are joint, therefore a total of 88 individuals are represented in the Book. If you are reading this and feel that it has passed you by and you really want to sign it then please do telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 for its whereabouts...better late than never!

S. A. Dennis

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1st January

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

Friday 6th January

6.00 p.m. Compline for Epiphany St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 8th January

9.00 Holy Communion St Mary's Great Milton

10.30 Family Worship
St Peter's Great Haseley
(This is a planned change)

Sunday 15th January

9.00 Holy Communion St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Family Worship St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 22nd January

9.00 Holy Communion BCP St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

4.00 p.m. Family Gathering St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 29th January

Benefice Holy Communion St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 5th February

9.00 Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

10.30 Family Worship St Peter's Great Haseley

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
1st Jan			No Service	
8th Jan	3.00 p.m.	Great Milton	David Harper	
15th Jan	11:00 am	Great Milton	Rev. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion/ CS
22nd Jan	11:00 am	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
29th Jan			Sue Barratt	

RECTOR'S PINT

It is a shocking thing that food banks have become a fact of life and are now to be found in every city, and probably every town, in the country. We have a foodbank in Thame, a town which outwardly we would call prosperous, but tragically there is need for it. However, the response to our first monthly foodbank collection at St Peter's church was magnificent, and I very much hope that this generosity will continue.

We all know that 2023 will be a challenging year. The cost of living and energy crisis affects us all. We know that there are huge challenges ahead for our climate and we hope beyond hope that there might be a resolution to the terrible war in Ukraine and an end to the ongoing suffering because of conflict in the Middle East, in Syria and Yemen.

The Gate of the Year is a poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins, a retired London School of Economics academic. It was famously read by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas radio broadcast when this nation and the world faced a very dark and dangerous time. I have used it before so forgive me if this feels a little 'recycled,' however I think it is very apt to use again, it is filled with hope when we know there is a difficult road ahead.

The Gate of the Year – Minnie Louise Haskins

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied: 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

A member of our Benefice also suggested this, a poem written by novelist Susan Coolidge at the turn of the last century, and which is also particularly relevant at the start of a new year:

New Every Morning

Every day is a fresh beginning,

Listen my soul to the glad refrain.

And, in spite of old sorrows

And older sinning,

Troubles forecasted

And possible pain,

Take heart with the day and begin again.

Whatever the challenges that lie ahead this year, we can still embrace the joys, and there will be many of those as well. I pray and hope that you have a truly Happy New Year.

Simon

OBITUARY BARRY BROOKSBANK

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that Barry Brooksbank passed away on 16th December 2022. Barry was a gentle and kind person and will be missed by his friends and neighbours. Our thoughts are with Gill at this time. **Ed**

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JANUARY

W/E 1st January	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 8th January	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 15th January	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 22nd January	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 29th January	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
<i>S.A. Dennis</i>		

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Christmas 2022 and life seemed almost back to normal with the Fayre back in its traditional venue in the Pine Lodge. The weather was chilly but sunny and you turned out in large numbers to enjoy the occasion, meet Santa, and catch up with neighbours. I cannot express enough thanks to all those who made it possible – the makers, bakers, crafters, raffle sellers, children's activity organisers, stall holders, table movers, drinks sellers, and, of course, all of you who turned out in such great numbers to show your support.

We made over £1,700 profit to be shared between the School, the Orchard and St James's Church

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Teresa

CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE WINNERS

£100	A Walker	
£50	Jill Evans	
Christmas Hamper	Sarah Holifield	
Christmas Wreath	Kath Stacey	Haseley Road
Bottle of Prosecco	Chloe Gill	Chalgrove
Bottle of Wine	Allen	15 Old Field
Bottle of Rioja	Allen	15 Old Field
Mince Pies + jar of pickle	Heather Peers	Views Farm
Bottle of Giggles Wine	Liz House	Haseley Road
Cheese savouries with a dish	Annie	
Bottle of Fizzy and Fruity	Willis	Haseley Road
Bottle of Fizzy and Fruity	Kath Stacey	Haseley Road
Sammy the Snowman cracker	Stuart Humphreys	

CHURCH FLOWERS

The rota for next year will be available in January. If there is anyone who would like to join our small but happy group, please let me know.

Also if anyone wants to give a donation so that flowers can be put in church to remember someone on a special day we would be happy to oblige.

Teresa Quedstedt 278922

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

It's been a busy month in the Hall...at the beginning of December the Lamb hosted our Seniors Christmas Lunch with the first turkey of the season, served by members of



the Hall committee. At the end of lunch children from the Village School came and sang carols which was really great. Like all Christmas events there have to be presents for each of our guests, which had been prepared and beautifully wrapped. Our thanks to Ben and Charmaine at the Lamb; the School for singing; Teresa for organizing the presents, and the Hall committee for helping out.



The **World Cup** was a bit of fun and gave us a chance to get people off their sofas and out of the house in front of our big screen in the hall where we showed all the England matches using the Shop's WiFi (thanks Kevin for the access and Brian Stacy for helping set this up for us). We managed to do damage to several barrels of beer and a good few trays of hot pies. In the middle of December there was the annual village **Christmas Fayre**, back in the Hall this year, with Father Christmas in residence. Turnout must have been pretty good as the stalls were all pretty much empty of stock before the close at 4.00.

Is there anyone in the village who is or was an architect? We want to see if the internal layout of the hall could be redesigned to make better use of the available space. If so please contact Linda below.

Dates for the diary: **20th January** after recovering from New Year festivities we will have a **Traditional Pub Games** night in the Hall with Darts, Cribbage, Table Football, Shove Halfpenny and more.

Also the next **Quiz Night** at the Hall will be in **28th January**.

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 of the month. 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

Giles

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

December

1st No;	Mark Willis	£9
2nd No;	Amanda Bourne	£7
3rd No;	Louise Schembri	£5

Diane Austin Little Milton School 200 Club Organiser

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

At the time of writing, a very busy term has come to an end, and the children and staff are enjoying a well-deserved festive holiday.

With best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year,

Linda, Chair of Governors

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In December, we started the Christmas celebrations with Cocktails & Carols. Thank you to Adele for accompanying us on the piano, Amilia for the beautiful solo, Jane for the yummy nibbles and Lucinda for the delicious drinks.

At our next meeting on **Thursday 12th January at 7pm** are going out for our annual New Year dinner to a local pub.

We'll be back in the Pine Lodge on **Thursday 9th February at 730pm** with a **Pilates taster class by Lee Caulfield**. Some gentle exercise to shift those Christmas calories! Everyone welcome - Visitors £5.

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

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

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

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

It's a new year and the build up to spring when nature awakens with renewed energy. Many animals will rely heavily on their reserves now and birds will welcome all the

support they can get as they come into our gardens once the seeds and berries have all been used up on the reserve. We had three lapwings visit Wells in December, possibly on their way to Otmoor. There are now several hundred starlings looking for food in Jubilee fields and late afternoon we get a mini murmuration of them flying in formation. Jubilee fields are named so as they are next to the wooded area which was planted during the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977.

By now some of the Dexter cattle will have returned to Wells Farm and will be making good use of the shelter which has been built in Blenheim field 2. This time of year, livestock need supplementary feeding and our wonderful stock watch volunteers will be providing them with hay to keep them in good condition. These black cattle are a little shy but have great characters once you get to know them. They do an important job, creating organic matter to enrich the soil which is really important to maintain soil structure.

Some hedge laying has been done between Ford and Poplar fields. The approach is a more "practical" one and won't win any awards but is fast and enough to maintain the structure of the hedge. We plan to plant some more hedges starting 4th and 5th February and need some of you to help get as many plants in the ground as we can. Look out for more information on the village Facebook site and also notices on the reserve. This is your chance to help nature and mitigate against climate change.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

THE SEWING GROUP

This will meet again on Wednesday 25th January from 11.00 onwards at Spring Cottage in the Haseley Road. If you are interested in coming along and joining the group please do telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 for further details. Regulars please telephone by 24th for the catering numbers!

S. A. Dennis

LITTLE MILTON CHRISTMAS CARD

I have just received a letter of thanks from Sobell House recognising the incredible generosity of our village in raising over £2,350 with the Village Christmas Card.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and a special thanks to Juliette at Morgan Associates for her continued support.

Next year's card is already in the pipeline, the photos have been taken and your home could be featuring!

Roger Longshaw

Editor

I should like to thank Roger for all his hard work and commitment to make this such a successful village success.

Quiz Night

Saturday

28th January 2023

7pm @ The Pine Lodge Little Milton

Everyone welcome!

Come on your own or with a team

Ticket include dinner

Licensed bar

Corkage £2 per bottle

Tickets now on sale at Little Milton Shop

£10 in Advance

£12 on the Door

News at www.littlemilton.org.uk

QUIZ NIGHT: 28th JANUARY 2023

In order to help with the planning for the catering at the quiz night the organisers urge that you purchase your tickets by the 23rd January. This is important as the quiz could be cancelled if insufficient tickets have been sold. Please help make our quiz nights a big success.

VIEW FROM VIEWS

I don't think I can remember such a good autumn planting season, with everything planted without a hitch and, as I said last month everything planted in ideal conditions, and now the whole farm looks a picture. Just how long this lasts depends on what the weather throws at us in the next few months, or actually between now and next Harvest. It really would be extraordinary were it to continue for the next 10 months, that would be too much to ask or expect. Nor do we know where the market for our produce will be in that time with Putin playing games with the rest of the world. Looking at our rape recently, there is an area that is obvious not so good, this is where 2 years ago it was set-aside for conservation, also it is the area that last season the Barley was exceptionally good. Why? Is it doing so badly this time I ask myself, is it that the good crop took more out of the land or is it that because the previous crop was so good leaving more crop residue which is taking up nutrients in order to break it down, starving the growing crop. Probably only a soil analysis would give us the answer, just another one of the conundrums we have to face.

Good to see many more Hares about must have had a good breeding season, managed to see some 20 on one field (only on one day) plus many sightings of a Kestrel, these once a feature on this farm have not been seen for a few years now. Many of the small unidentified birds are around in abundance, even a solitary Blue Tit that has taken up residence inside our front door, with the hoot of Tawny Owls often heard at night, I also saw a Stonecat on the next door farm.

It will not have escaped the notice of many interested in the countryside that there is a strong movement to Regenerative farming (Regenag) or Rewilding, and some may be confused between this and Organic Farming. My take on this issue is, that Regenag does exactly the same in mainly improving the soil structure, by the use of Chemicals, whereas Organic Farming produces food without the use of chemical aids. Regenag uses Glyphosate to control weeds etc. and Artificial Fertiliser, whereas Organic uses cultivations, which uses Fossil Fuel to do so, but no Artificial Fertiliser. For those concerned they have a choice if, they are worried about the planet and Carbon then Regenag is more attractive but, if they are more interested in what the put into their stomachs then I would suggest that Organic is more attractive, both have their ifs and buts. We have to remember that we are all now looking at conserving our soils structure as it is this that sequesters Carbon.

Now for some figures, I have been preaching as has the NFU that food security is so important, of course these birds have now come home to roost, due to Mr Putin. I read a report issued by the US Dept. of Agriculture which gave some very interesting facts about China's food situation. As China's Government having witnessed severe starvation in the past, have aggressively been stockpiling food with, I can only presume,

food security in mind. Have now amassed 69% of the world's corn reserves, this has of course helped push up world prices of this 60% is rice and 51% is wheat, data shows that rice imports were up 53% and wheat 50% last year. China has 20% of the world population and only 7% of the world's arable landmass, with only 13% now able to produce crops. Apparently, they do produce 95% of their wheat & rice needs with yields 50% more than the US average, in spite of this they are still the world's greatest importer. Another little nugget, the above isn't all the information, in 2013 they leased 4million hectares from Ukraine for 50 years, and I am not quite sure how they view Mr Putin's war with this in mind!

We still read about the food waste scandal, not only in the retail sector but in the field as well. Most of the field waste is said to be down to the lack of labour. To a naive old Farmer like me we are over run by immigrants with nowhere for them to go, why cannot they be employed picking this produce that is said to be going to waste, most or the farmers who need this sort of labour have accommodation as well. I am sure it is not as simple as that, but it ought to be, they must be costing us a fortune, there seems nothing we can do will stop them coming onto our shores, and like the proposed development this island has not the capacity to cope with this number of humans, as I have mentioned many times before. Add to this that the children of these refugees are taking places away from our local population, certainly at the expense of our local children, at a time when Head teachers are having to cut back on their expenses, possibly cutting down on teachers. I think it is wonderful that our country has opened its arms to these unfortunates, especially those from Ukraine, but we have also to think of those that are having to pay for it. Now we are expected to welcome a new development of 6,000 houses that will overload the sewage plants and the Haseley Brook, let alone the Schools and Doctor's surgeries, all of which are overloaded as it is, not to mention taking more land away from nature. I understand from those who attended the publicity events that they were asked to fill in a questionnaire I assume their feelings on the development, it contained questions with answers that would be stilted in the direction of the writer being in favour of it giving a very false impression, in their favour, in other words a con

Charles Peers.

From comments I have received following my December article about migrants I would like to point out that far from not welcoming them, it is the over population of this country that concerns me. This is part of the problem of the pollution which we farmers are sometimes to be blamed. Many readers will have read me making this point constantly. It is over population and the need to feed them that is the cause of all the pollution. As a fact in the last couple of weeks we had the pleasure of welcoming 2 Afghan children and one Syrian child to our "Jack Peers Centre" where they would have had specialist attention by the wonderful staff we have there, of course, a fact not recognised by the authorities. Perhaps readers will understand my worries rather than objections to migrants.

Charles

Editor

Occasionally I receive a comment about the suitability of the material included in the newsletter. I have tried to keep our publication as a newsletter and not a newspaper and avoid the temptation to have views expressed to the editor for publication. I have printed the response from Charles on this occasion and trust this closes the matter.

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

A tough 2022 but every year is different and this year could be a great year to grow your own. It is really important to get the ground prepared, remove perennial weeds and prune back fruit bushes, thinning out old woody stems and reshape the plants to ensure good growth and more fruit later in the year. Organic matter is key to success and we do have some manure left but I will endeavour to source some more before Spring. Contracts start again in April. If you no longer wish to have your plot please let me know. If there is anybody who wishes to have a go or find out more please contact me

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

MORLAND HOUSE SURGERY NEWS– 16 December 2022

Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre

Cowley is now host to the recently developed Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre. This site can provide blood tests, ‘x-rays’, ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs, echocardiograms and more.

The Centre, which is not too far from the Eastern By-Pass and BMW Cowley Works:

- Will reduce waiting times
- Provide services nearer patient homes in a quieter location than the acute hospital sites
- Has free parking!!

There is a drop-in x-ray service (for people aged 18 and over)

Once your GP has requested your x-ray (electronically so no paperwork to take) please attend the Centre between 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. As this is a drop-in service there is no need to book in advance.

Blood tests (for people aged 16 years and over)

Once your GP has given you your test forms, please book an appointment

1. Through <https://my.drdoctor.co.uk/clinic/OUH-Phleb-CDC> . You will need your NHS number from your request form.
2. If you don't use the internet, you can call 01865 222652

If you need to reschedule or require the blood test within the next 3 days and none are available on the website you can also call 01865 222652.

Please remember to take your blood forms!

Address: Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre, Perspectum Building, Gemini One, 5520 John Smith Drive, OX4 2LL.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, a link to the NHS App and opening hours, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk The website also provides access to a large amount of information and advice on managing your health and wellbeing, including a large range of conditions, symptoms, treatments, and medicines.

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 January 2022 Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th January** The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published

**“If I can just get
one more meal
out of this”**

... sound familiar?

Let's help point you in the right direction

Oxfordshire County
Council helps with free
school meals, childcare
and holiday schemes

Your district council
helps with free and
low cost food services

gov.uk lets you check
if you're entitled to the
£,000's unclaimed in
benefits each month in
Oxfordshire

For practical local and national support to help you care for your family this winter, visit

oxfordshire.gov.uk/living or your local advice centre or library

**“If I wear just
one more
jumper”**

... sound familiar?

Let's help point you in the right direction

Oxfordshire County
Council helps with
energy efficiency
grants for your home

Check out the county's
network of spaces to
meet, work and play
this winter

Live Well Oxfordshire
suggests activities and
support to keep you
warm and well

For practical local and national support on saving energy and cutting costs this winter, visit

oxfordshire.gov.uk/living or your local advice centre or library

Walks Programme January 2023

- Thursday 5th** Meet at Christmas Common, layby side of road to Northend, for a 5½ mile walk via Pishill and Northend.
- Sunday 8th** Meet at Kingston Blount Village Hall for a leisurely 6½ mile walk via Crowell, Aston Rowant and Sydenham. Shorter 3 mile option available.
- Tuesday 10th 1pm** Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH, for a leisurely 5 mile railway-themed walk to visit both ends of the tunnel on the former Oxford to Princes Risborough line.
- Friday 20th** Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH, for a 7 mile relatively easy walk to Holton, Forest Hill and Shotover Country Park.
- Thursday 26th** Meet at Christmas Common, layby side of road to Northend for a 6 mile ramble through some of the woods above Watlington.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

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

or phone 01844 213608

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

Whatever your personal beliefs Christmas brings with it a spirit of goodwill. As always I am writing my newsletter in the middle of the month and there are just a couple of weeks until Christmas. However due to publication lead times for some this will be included in a January magazine. As a new year dawns I hope that something of the Christmas spirit of goodwill might linger on.

I know that for many life is not easy and personal and global struggles can weigh us down. I share the concern for all those who struggle and who worry about making ends meet. I know that cost of living issues are a very real fear for many, especially in relation to heating and power. There is real hardship and while the Government has helped the actions of others outside of the UK, such as Russia, take their toll on us all. It is not just in the UK. Inflation is increasing across the world and there is great need to bring it under control. I know that the Government will continue to do all that it can to assist, and I will whole-heartedly support them.

Social media and the internet are very welcome in many ways. However they also bring another very real fear when misused. We cannot ignore the very real harms people face online every day and this is one area where the Government can and has acted. The Online Safety Bill, which is currently going through parliament, introduces new laws to protect children online and tackle the worst abuses on social media, including racist hate crimes. The Bill still has stages to go through for scrutiny and I look forward to this becoming law in due course so that the vulnerable are protected.

Both here at home and across the world there are many deserving of our thoughts and concern. The media will put an issue at the forefront but once something else comes forward it is easy for us to forget the plight of many. This year the war in Ukraine shocked us. The aggression of Russia continues to create so many problems and heartaches. Our thoughts go to all those weighed down by oppressive regimes and war. Through my work in the Council of Europe I have been privileged to speak directly with President Zelensky and parliamentarians in Kyiv and look forward to being able to do so again next year to offer continued support. I do sincerely hope that the New Year may bring some peace and joy.

As we begin 2023 and the year progresses I hope that we will all do what we can to ease the burdens of others. Any action however small carries on the spirit of goodwill. If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.

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

Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead. I know that for many life is not easy and personal and global struggles can weigh us down. I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring some comfort and joy.

May I take this opportunity to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all who give their time to help others in their communities. There are some many different ways to support one another and our communities are strengthened by the generosity of so many people. Thank you all.

Whatever your beliefs may I wish you the Peace and Joy of the season. **John**

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	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	07484 187852 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Giles Denby (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 The picture was recently featured on BBC Weather
“It’s a new day. It’s a new dawn. And I’m feeling good!”**

