

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2017

Published by the Parish Council

No. 528



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

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

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

Parish Council Representatives

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

Front Cover

A sunflower to brighten the gloomy days. Photo: Manny Stone.

In My Opinion...

And so another year begins, with trees blown down, minor floods and planning applications blighting our otherwise peaceful existence!

The latest contentious planning application is the proposed works to improve the economic viability of the Bull, the pub owned by the community. It's just a small village pub, intended to provide a gathering place for local residents to relax and unwind, but because it is small, and because there has been a shift in consumer habits away from traditional pub support, it is difficult to make ends meet in running such an establishment. Hence it is considered necessary to improve/enhance the facilities at the Bull to try and increase the revenue (and profits) for the tenants. The planning application has been submitted to SODC and comments from local residents are welcomed via the SODC website, some of which have already been received and are available for scrutiny thereon.

In my opinion, it is important to point out that, due to the overlaps in membership of both the Parish Council and the Pub Management Committee by various individuals, it has been decided that the Parish Council will refrain from commenting on the application and leave the decision entirely in the hands of SODC's planning officers, thus avoiding any potential conflicts of interest.

We await the outcome of the consultation period and will see what SODC decide...

In the meantime, I must thank Bill Fox for an exemplary piece of writing in last month's Bulletin, during my absence on holiday – I think we need to see more of this budding author's compositions!

Also, big thanks to all who have assisted in dealing with the fallen trees and flooding that have occurred in recent weeks.

Don't let apathy rule...

Stephen Harrod, Chairman



Draft Parish Notes

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bill Fox and Peter Fewell.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th December were signed and approved as an accurate record.



Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 279474	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

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

Planning Applications

The Council RESOLVED that it held no strong views on application P17/S4260/LDE (Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock) for installation of DNO-standard GRP housing.

Application P17/S3619/FUL (The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JW) for retention of staff accommodation static caravans will be considered by SODC's Planning Committee on Tuesday 16th January. SODC is minded to grant permission as per the application, upon which the Parish Council commented as follows:

At a meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, it was decided that we would recommend that this application should be refused. The original application was granted for a two-year period while this application seeks renewal for three years which is excessive given that the caravans are unsightly and close to residential houses. We would support a renewal for two years from the date the caravans were first installed (July 2017).

The Council RESOLVED that its position on this application remained as outlined above. No councillor was able to attend the Planning Committee but the Clerk will reiterate the Council's view in advance of the meeting.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised:

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £536.28

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production, January edition: £226

A full bank reconciliation and the quarterly accounts were received and signed. The current account balance was £13,954.75 as of 8 January 2018

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

Green and Growing has been asked to carry out minor jobs as per the quote received in December, and also to remove the collapsed ivy on the path between Fullers Field/The Green. These works will have been completed by the time The Bulletin is circulated.

The Clerk is meeting Vanessa Buckley from OCC Highways to discuss the proposal for fencing off an area of highways land on the corner of the A40 and A329 at Milton Common on Thursday 18th January. Two quotations have been received from the village handyman for this work, for £2077.58 and £3376.54 for different extents of fencing. Both were considered too costly to be pursued at this stage: the possibility of funding from development, a 'partnership' approach with OCC or other sources will be investigated. Cllr Bennet suggested that the strategic planting of trees may present a lower-cost option if needed.



There is unfortunately no remit for the Parish Council to fund the works that have been carried out on the footpath across the fields at the bottom of Lower End, although they are noted and appreciated.

Other matters

An e-mail has been sent to Sue Whalley (Royal Mail C.O.O) by the Chairman voicing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction about the possible division of the village round into two.

OCC is refilling salt bins and has once again been reminded of the presence of a bin in Fullers Field which has not yet been dealt with

A piece will appear in the February edition of the Bulletin outlining the plans for increasing the online presence of the magazine and a parallel reduction in the number of printed copies, which has been necessary given increasing costs. This will give the opportunity for residents to opt in for the continued delivery of a printed copy of the Bulletin should they wish to receive one.

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

Tim Darch, Parish Clerk

Ramblings from the Rectory

I took a month off in January from writing a Ramblings, so a little bit late to wish everyone a happy new year!

Time for an angry rant.

'I'm Gobsmacked' was the comment from my brother in law Julian as we went on a post Christmas walk. We were walking down the road towards Cuddesdon Mill from the Little Milton to Wheatley road. It was the rubbish that drew this exclamation, hundreds of cans all the way down the road, mainly of special brew with strongbow following a close second.

Cath and I periodically clear the rubbish from our own lane, the Forties (it is due another clean up) and I know that certainly around Great Milton, there is an annual litter pick. However, The Cuddesdon road is another order of littering altogether. I did actually have a go about 18 months ago, collecting bin bags full of cans all the way down the road. Whatever I achieved then has long since been lost. Is it one person who dumps their cans down that road, or is there a consortium of special brew and strongbow devotees who are determined to trash this lovely little corner of south Oxfordshire?


Services in Our Benefice for February

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 4th <i>2 Sunday before Lent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 11th <i>Sunday Next before Lent</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Wednesday 14th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>			Holy Communion 7:30pm
Sunday 18th <i>Lent 1</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Wednesday 21st	Compline 7:30pm		
Sunday 25th <i>Lent 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor 10:45am Sung Matins	
Wednesday 28th		Compline 7:30pm	

Services in Our Benefice for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 4th <i>Lent 3</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Sadly, littering is an every day part of our lives, as is fly tipping, that same week we came across piles of the stuff the other side of the river on the road up to Cuddesdon.

At the beginning of 2018, the issue of the rubbish we create was very much a live issue. We found out that China will no longer take our re-cycled plastics and cans, we will have to come up with a home grown solution. Many of us saw the remarkable David Attenborough series 'the Blue Planet' at the end of 2017 but we were reminded that the beauty is badly marred, with so much plastics in our oceans. Someone has estimated that there 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris in the ocean. In that mass 269,000 tons float on the surface, while some four billion plastic microfibres 

litter the deep sea (source Laura Parker, National Geographic Jan 11 2015 - since then the figures will have increased!) Plastics have entered the food chain, it is being recycled into us through the fish we eat.

Against that backdrop, our Prime Minister, Mrs May, with the environment secretary, Mr Gove early in the New Year announced a 25 year plan to clean up our own mess. Anything is to be encouraged, but is 25 years rather unambitious? It has also been pointed out by critics that fine words they might have been, but there also need to be solid legislation to back them up. There have been improvements, paying for plastic bags in supermarkets has been a start, that is now being extended to smaller shops (Wales and Scotland got there way before us of course!). But could we not do better than 25 years? We are going to have to in any case, with China no longer taking our trash, good for them.

Anyway back to our local context. One of our Lay ministers, Tony Jefferis preached an excellent sermon at Little Milton a couple of weeks after Christmas in which he talked about the amount of rubbish in the roadsides and lanes round here. It had been in my mind anyway to write this and so that was a confirmation that I should! Tony talked about our mentality of entitlement, basically to do what I want without any thought whatsoever about the consequences. There was a song way back in 1990 by a now long forgotten band the Soup Dragons (yes you read it here!) called 'I'm Free', the chorus went like this (actually most of the song was basically the chorus, such was the scope and depth of imagination of whoever wrote the lyric) 'I'm free to do what I want any old time, I'm free to do what I chose...' I remember hearing that song, it was very catchy, rubbish lyrics though. That just about sums up where we are 'I'm free to do what I want any old time', including dumping my trash where I want, proclaiming whatever opinion I want, tweeting what I want (one for the President that) without any thought of the consequences for anyone else. Tony brought us back to the much maligned word, sin. We don't talk about sin these days, it is considered rude and people don't want to be told something negative about themselves, and anyway 'I'm free to do what I want any old time.' Actually Lent (which will shortly be upon us) is precisely about that, a moral check up of just how wrong I can be if I follow that line of thought. The centre letter if sin is of course the letter I, when my entitlement becomes all about me, despite the consequences for anyone else, then something somewhere has gone badly wrong. I see the epidemic of thoughtlessly disposed rubbish, anytime anyplace as a metaphor for sin, it is all about me.

The impact on what the human race is doing to the environment is of course a very real and live one. The beginning of the Bible talks about our race being given stewardship. That has to be seen at every level, including how we are affecting our

climate, and how we deal with our waste. We have to find a different way of doing things in harmony with our environment. We have to see concerted political will and a change in corporate practice. Our supermarkets must sit up and listen. Give us plastic free aisles and let us make our choices. There is too much talk, the time has come for us to be forced to pay if we want to use a non disposable-recyclable cup from Costa or Starbucks. Better still, make Costa or Starbucks or Macdonalds or where-ever it is pay for the non-perishable materials themselves, attack their profit margins, that might lead to change. So much of this is unnecessary, why do we have to have so much of even our fruit and vegetable wrapped in plastic? But we as consumers have to change our habits and take responsibility wherever we can. I suspect that anyone reading this will agree but in the highly unlikely eventuality that anyone who glances at this might be one of the local offenders, for goodness sake, please take your rubbish home, put it in the bin.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

February				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jennifer Thompson	
11th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Hannah Stammers	
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Matthews	

Used Postage Stamps

Providing Funds for Training 'Hearing Dogs' for Deaf People

Thank you to all who have very kindly responded to my request and given your used postage stamps to assist this worthy cause.

The Great Milton school, the local Post Office, and our letter box have had a wonderful response! I guess we are about 50% up on last year. I do hope that you, plus your family and friends, will continue your generous support throughout the year.

Thank you all once again.

Pat Dawson, Tinkers Cottage, The Green

The Neighbours Club

2018 opened with an informal meeting on 4th January. We had a collection in memory of Fred who sadly passed away last month. The collection amounted to £65 which will be sent to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

On the 18th January we held our AGM when the Treasurer's Report was presented by Celia. The Club members were thanked for their hard work during the year in order to keep the Club running and those with specific responsibilities agreed to continue in their posts for a further year. Janet is currently working on this year's programme and is making quite good progress. It was suggested that we hold a coffee morning in order to boost our funds. We do not yet know if we will receive a grant this year from the Sheppard Trust and if we do how much it will be. We had one of Lin's famous quizzes which this time was not too difficult. We held a Bring and Buy which raised £47.40 for Club funds. It was agreed to hold a meeting in Fullers Field on Monday the 29th January at 2.30 p.m. in order to discuss this year's outings.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - January and February

Wed 24th Jan - Pantomime Cinderella at Corn Exchange, Wallingford

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

The Neighbours Hall

The AGM is scheduled to take place in the hall on Wednesday 21st February at 7:45pm. All welcome.

Church Fete

The Great Milton Church Fete will be on Saturday 9th June at 2pm.

Please put this date in your diary now to avoid missing this fabulous event!!

We are looking for people to help join the organising committee. If you have any time to help us, even the smallest contributions are gratefully appreciated. Please get in touch with Simon Cronk (Simon.cronk@btinternet.com). Our first meeting will be in February.

We are also looking for helpers on the day, so please get in touch if you are able to do this.

The Village Archive has recently received several donations.

First was a memoir from the 18th century concerning a miller in Thame and his descendants. Secondly a very enjoyable visit from David Crabb who gave a collection of photographs. These were carefully copied for our archive, the names and places will be recorded and then the originals returned to their owner. The following week Les Preston gave us the Minute book of the Jubilee Celebration Committee 1977 for safekeeping.

The whole point of the collection of old documents and photos is to keep the village history safe and available for study by any interested person.

If you have, or inherit, any old photos or documents, do remember Great Milton History at the Community Room, The Bull. We can care for the originals or copy them for posterity.

Old pictures of sporting occasions are particularly welcome just now, as we are preparing a booklet on Village Sports from the 1860's, and need all the information available.

The Blakeston Survey

Copies of the reprinted Blakeston Survey of 1967 are still available from the History Society at a cost of £6.



Senior Citizens Party Committee

Quiz

With 74 people forming 11 teams, the event proved to be a record financially with £439.19 being raised for party funds – the previous highest being £404.54 back in June 2014. Our sincere thanks to all of you who contributed towards the quiz night.

Congratulations to the winners, 'The Saturday Strollers', who finished with a total of 86.5 points, followed by 'Where's Colin' on 78.5 with the 'Milgars' in third position on 74 points. My apologies to the members of team '4 plus 1' for making a mistake in their final score – should have read 64 not 42, which put them in 7th position as against 10th as announced on the night.



Our thanks again, with special thanks to Paul Dennis for once again taking on the task of Quizmaster.

Christmas Cake Raffle

Another successful fund-raiser to report on – £108.50 being raised. Our thanks to Christine, Patrick and Sharon at The Shop, and Tasha and her staff at The Bull, for selling the tickets. Above all, thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

Ann Price – Secretary/Treasurer

The Editor apologises for misplacing this article last issue.

Christmas Cake Raffle Prize-winners

	Prize	Ticket	Winner	Sold at
1.	Cake	69Y	Eric	The Bull
2.	Red Wine	167P	P. Walker	The Shop
3.	Scotch	907P	John & Deb	The Bull
4.	Hot Water Bottle	26Y	Eric	The Bull
5.	Travel Iron	57Y	Eric	The Bull
6.	Port	765P	Bert	The Bull
7.	4 Cans of Bitter	123P	R. Griffin	The Shop
8.	Sparkling Wine	88P	J. Hill	The Shop
9.	Photo Album	557P	Diddy	The Bull
10.	Notelets	598P	Ian	The Bull
11.	Tin of Cookies	556P	Diddy	The Bull
12.	Pimms	725P	Bert	The Bull
13.	Beer Selection	824P	Bob	The Bull
14.	Men's Toiletries	380P	Les Preston	The Shop
15.	Rosé Wine	493P	P. Donnelly	The Shop
16.	White Wine	673P	Michael Coles	The Bull
17.	Chocolates	356P	Sylv Preston	The Shop
18.	Toiletries	94Y	Eric	The Bull
19.	Mulled Wine	815P	Bob	The Bull

Y = yellow ticket P = Pink ticket

£108.50 raised for Party Funds. Thank you for your support.

The Editor apologises for misplacing this article last issue.

The Village Bulletin

There has been a Village Magazine since 1866. It started as a Church Magazine, and gradually included general village news as well. The publication was almost unbroken – halting only for 2 World Wars, and a short time later before it was resurrected by John Davis.

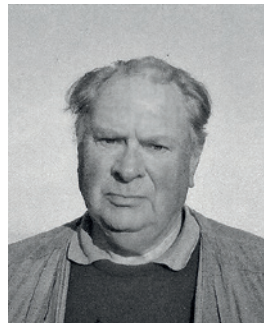
It is important to keep the link alive. We suggest at least consult all local organisations and conduct a survey of the village. At present there is a good network of deliverers/deliveries. There should be careful consideration before this is dismantled.

Members of the History Society

PS. Like the buses, easily terminated, not easily resumed.

View from Views

The weather now seems to have settled down to the usual cold damp and dismal days of winter, 2017 on the whole was a dryish year I measured some 100mm less rain than most previous years, having said that December did try and make up for lost time with some 116mm probably a third more rain than we should expect. For the first time in something like 18 months the floods came out and seemed determined



not to recede it remains to be seen now things progress. The farm is still looking good except for the rape which is suffering badly from Pigeon damage.

With great flourish our environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced his vision for the future of Agriculture subsidies, (this is nothing new as he has been talking about this ever since he took up the post), would be focused on the environmental issues and public good, rather than food production, in many ways this has to be welcomed. But as the ex-leader of the Liberal Democrats stated it does rather forget that food production is actually rather important to our survival and does tend to lead one to think that Gove has listened to the environmental pressure groups rather than farmers, as they are more numerous and more vociferous. This is not to say that the environment is not important, it does though rather forget the fact, as has been proved, that what some of us have been doing has made a difference, so it is wrong of him (Gove) to rubbish rather than something to build on.

Mr Gove's idea of a beautiful landscape rich in habitats for wild life and a just and fair economy, is a little pie in the sky, I only hope he can achieve his aims and



allow us farmers to make a living. There is another worry in what our Minister has been stating indicates that after Brexit we will be making our own food standards decisions, this makes it look like we have accept chlorinated Chicken, hormone treated Beef and the like just so we can do business with other countries. This of course is fine as long as it is all properly labelled so that we all know what we are buying

We still get visits from all sorts of different birds, nothing much that is unusual but good to see these winter flocks of whatever they are, we were able just around Christmas to observe one of these flocks fairly closely coming to the conclusion that they were probably Corn Buntings not rare but unusual a few years ago. I really think things are improving on this front, not that this is vital to agriculture, but we do have to take this sort of thing rather seriously, as to a certain extent our future does rely on nature in spite of what Donald Trump might think. This is not to say I am in favour of the reintroduction of species, on which subject I have recently read and heard of instances where these reintroductions have created problems.

Previously I have aired my concerns with reference to these introductions (Lynx and Wolves), but there are concerns also due to the species that have already been introduced. Here are some examples Wild Boar in the forest of Dean, (not necessarily due to reintroduction) reports of successful reintroduction of Beavers in Devon and Scotland, and of course our own Red kites. Beavers, where a number in Scotland have escaped with Scottish Nation Heritage putting the numbers at about 500, whereas local farmers estimate it is more like 1,000-2000, of course both have an axe to grind. On the Red Kite, the RSPB are adamant that they only take carrion, I recently heard a report from a free range egg producer, who was adamant that he has seen them take chickens. This is a very interesting point as when we cleared out our chickens we discovered we did not have nearly as many as we thought. Now we know the foxes had some, but not the numbers that were obviously missing. These losses were occurring with very little sign as to what was going on, a fox will always leave evidence, this I thought could be stoats, but I just wonder now! as there were always Kites about in the trees around the chickens. This all illustrates how delicate Nature is and how easy it will be to unbalance it.

We now learn that martin Baker have a lease on Chalgrove Airfield which they will not release meaning no building. As the land is in Government ownership, of sorts, anyone with a brain would have thought of asking that question first, or cynically one could ask was Chalgrove muted to take the spot light off other contentious sites

Charles Peers

Wheatley Library and Friends Group

01865 875267

Dates to note:

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 10:30am

“Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs”

Between 1997 and 2010, in collaboration with local authors, Roger Simmonds wrote and led the staging of three operas for and by the Wheatley community.

Come and hear about the rollercoaster ride that was the writing and co-producing of:

- “The Enchanted Loom” – based on a novel by Raymond Vernède
- “Letters to Paola” to a Libretto by Robert Avery
- “Poet and Plumber” to a Libretto by Kit Arnold.

10th February – 17th February

Winter Olympic children’s colourings and craft

Saturday 24th February at 10.30am

Jigsaw puzzle exchange

Bring your old jigsaw puzzles to swap with others.

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
- Safe shopping online
- 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.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Despite the advice I frequently give in this column that all bulbs should have been planted before Christmas, I found myself desperately trying to finish planting bulbs in the second week of January. I topped up Ballerina Tulip in the back courtyard where it provides bright orange to contrast with the lime green of euphorbia bracts, purple of the honesty, bright pink flowers of *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' and yellow of Primroses and Hellebores. I can see this from my kitchen sink so it is worth the effort.

The other bulbs I planted (possibly too late for blooming this spring, but we will see) were pheasants eye narcissi and *Narcissus actaea* which flowers up to a month earlier than the former. Both are Old highly scented varieties.

In order to plant these bulbs I had to continue cutting back all the old plant growth which has become sodden with winter frosts and rain. I am trying to leave things which still look reasonable and may be beneficial to birds and other wild life for the remaining winter period. Ideally most of the growth would be left, but I can't keep up with the garden jobs in the spring if I don't start now. However, there is the side effect of bare earth being revealed which will lead to weed growth appearing in warmer periods; it is swings and roundabouts. Hopefully, there will be germination of wanted seedlings of plants. Usually there will be the appearance of forget-me-not seedlings which I reduce (having already removed most of those germinating last summer) in order to get healthy non crowded plants which will flower well; perhaps they will be less susceptible to mildew which always seems to be a particular problem with them.

I came across another problem with such late planting of bulbs. There has been dieback of a lot of foliage and, when my other half was digging one hole, what had appeared to be an empty space proved to contain a Paeony; we immediately replanted the bits and will hope for the best. I have made a mental note to be better at labelling things; every year I do my best, but always fail at this one.

In the greenhouse I have made a lot of effort to label all the cuttings of tender plants so I have at least a fighting chance of knowing what I have got in the spring. I have just cut back all the tender *Salvias* which were giving such a wonderful display in the greenhouse. I did this for two reasons, firstly to encourage bushy plants with lots of new growth in the spring and secondly to make more room in the greenhouse as spring approaches and space becomes a problem.

I am so looking forward to spring which seems be very close when I see how fast some things are already growing. It was so lovely to hear birdsong on a mild morning recently along with enjoying the scent of Christmas box and *Daphnes* in full flower.

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay

caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

Little Milton WI

Thank you to Lassco for a wonderful evening of food and jazz. A great start to 2018 and some cracking suggestions for activities for this year's programme - lindy hop or a visit to the Oxford gin distillery anyone? This month we're out again, to the bowling alley on 8th February. Contact me if you'd like to join us.

We're starting to plan our new programme for 2018/19 so if you have any more ideas or suggestions of talks or activities, or would like to give a talk or run a workshop, please let me know.

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

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

News from The Pine Lodge

Good news for gamers, we're restarting our monthly Board Game Nights. Book these dates in your diary: 22nd February, 22nd March, 26th April & 24th May. Only £4 each, lots of games to choose from and a licenced bar serving beer, wine, cider, soft drinks and tea/coffee. Everyone welcome, on your own or in a team. Tickets available at The Village Shop. We also have Craft Club a week later than usual on Wednesday 28th, weekly Yoga & Fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am.

We urgently need new volunteers to join the Pine Lodge management committee. Could you help with village events, admin, accounts, cooking, fund-raising ideas? We would especially like a book-keeper or accountant - you will be provided with a dedicated computer and full training. Would you like to become more involved in village life? Want to feel part of the community? There's something for everyone. Please get in touch and keep the Pine Lodge alive.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

John Howell MP writes...

In a constituency that stretches from the edge of Reading to the south and the edge of Bicester to the north, and from the River Thames to the West and the Buckinghamshire border to the east there are often relatively local issues that do not immediately affect the whole constituency – although there may be implications on a wider scale. One such issue is that of an additional bridge over the River Thames in Reading. There has been a recent round of concern on this as a Strategic Outline Business Case was published by Wokingham Borough Council in the Autumn of last year. This is a hot topic in the south of the constituency. Many people commute south to Reading and beyond and would welcome improved access but others fear that a new bridge will put strain on the road network in South Oxfordshire. I have made it very clear that robust assessment of the implications on the road network to the north of the bridge must be made and appropriate mitigation of any negative impact be included as part of the project. We must be alert to the potential for additional traffic moving north from Reading to the M40 at junctions 6 and 8 and also across to the west to join the A34.

In the middle of the constituency concern has been raised over the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. as there has been suggestion of a route which cuts through the Green Belt around Oxford. In my view such a route is entirely unnecessary and not the most practical. A key area for growth is the Oxford – Milton Keynes - Cambridge arc and such a road would need to include Milton Keynes in the link. I have made my views known to the Secretary of State for Transport and have also called for full public consultation on this project.

An issue which affects many pockets across the whole constituency is the provision of Broadband. Some communities are still struggling with speeds too slow to access even the most basic websites. With so much dependency on the internet today broadband is fast becoming a basic utility. I am delighted that the Culture Secretary announced a Universal Service Obligation that will give everyone in the UK access to high speed broadband of a minimum of 10 mbps by 2020. For some this is still some way off and in the meantime improvements are continually being made through the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme. Information is readily available on progress by postcode and is updated every two weeks. www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk)

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues as well as writing in these parish magazines. If you would like to subscribe to these please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com

The Great Milton Litterpick IS BACK!!!



Saturday 3 March
Meet at The Old Garage at 1000
Just an hour or so of your time
will go a long way towards
keeping your village tidy!

For more info contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk):
e-mail contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or tel. 01844 278347

THE PINE LODGE, LITTLE MILTON

GAMES NIGHT

22nd February

7:30 – 10:00pm

Licensed Bar

Everyone welcome – on your own or in a team

Tickets on sale at LM Shop or on door £4

CRAFT CLUB

28th February

7:30 – 10:00pm

Drop in or stay for the whole evening

All crafts and crafters welcome

Only £4 including refreshments

Like us at

www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details at

www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it
up to date so please could you
advise Carina Martin of any
updates that need to be made
(carina.martin@gmail.com)



Saturday Nights

At 7.45pm

At the Neighbours Hall Gt. Milton

All welcome

Refreshments

Transport available from local area

Bus route from local villages



Contact David Spiers 07702 085962

or Melanie Scully 07990 985411



Neighbours Hall

A large, pleasantly decorated and well heated community hall with well equipped kitchen and ample parking – ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, corporate training, weddings etc available for hire by the hour or the day.

Free use of tables, chairs and kitchen equipment

£10 per hour, £50 per ½ day, £100 per day

For more details please contact:
Secretary, Ann Price 01844 279 474

Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground

Ideal for children's parties, meetings, family get togethers, classes and lessons, corporate days and sports events.

Table and chair hire also available

For booking and more info, call 01844 278116

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
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

**1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm)
£5 or £50 per year**

**1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm)
£10 or £100 per year**

**Full page (w128mm x h185mm)
£20 or £200 per year**

**Full back page colour
£35 or £350 per year**

Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

**Please contact Tim Darch
Tel: 01844 278347**

**Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford
OX44 7PJ**



www.kindergym.co.uk
07754 518034
kindergymjenny@gmail.com

Gt. Milton Neighbours Hall
Fridays 9:30am

6 months to 4 years
£4.75 per session

Refreshments & time to chat

Let the Wild Rumpus Begin!

LASSCO
THREE PIGEONS

Shop Open
Mon to Sat, 9am-5pm

***Architectural
Salvage***

Coffeeshop
& Restaurant

MILTON COMMON 277188
Lunch 12-3, Sun Roast 12-3, Dinner 6-9 (Thurs-Sat)
Live Jazz Thurs Night, Live Band Fri Night

Wheatley Dental Practice
01865 873314

We are currently accepting new patients at our friendly local dental surgery.
Please phone our receptionists or call in for more details!
Tooth whitening and facial aesthetic treatments available.

Catherine Peers BDS, Alison Chapman BDS MFDS RCS
Jessica Jefferis BDS MFDS RCS, Carolyn Wright RDH

96 Church Road, Wheatley, OX33 1LZ
wheatleydental@kdsconnect.com

Graham Blake soft furnishing

- Loose covers
- Curtains
- Re-Upholstery
- Tracks & Poles

TEN YEAR GUARANTEE

For personal, helpful service
please call

Tel: 01844 261769

Mob: 07802 213381

grahamblake123@btconnect.com

www.grahamblake.com



Family portrait photography

Precious memories
to look back on

Call Nick on 07976 684009

www.nickbelcherphotography.co.uk



**£10
OFF
MOT'S**

All Brands of Tyre Competitively Priced
Servicing & Repairs

Loan Cars, Collection & Delivery Available

01844 278177

Milton Common, Oxford, OX9 2NP

workshop@rcpservices.co.uk

Est. 1974

www.rcpservices.co.uk

One voucher valid per transaction

Valid until 31/12/17

Thame Therapy Clinic

www.thametherapyclinic.co.uk

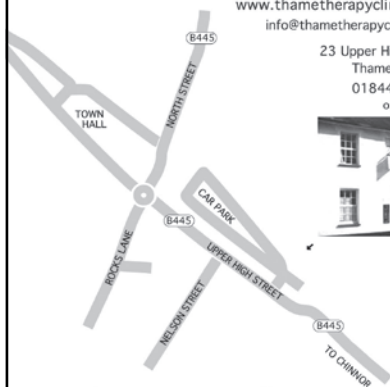
info@thametherapyclinic.co.uk

23 Upper High Street

Thame OX9 3EX

01844 261592

or 215555



Range of treatments we can offer you

Osteopathy • Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Patents • Cranial Osteopathy
• Homeopathy • Physiotherapy • Reflexology • Japanese Acupressure &
Seitei Body Therapy • Aromatherapy Massage • Holistic Massage • Indian
Head Massage • Hot Stone Massage • Relationship & Psychosexual
Counselling • Speech and Language Therapy • Zero Balancing

Rob Hawes

Painting and Decorating Finished to a High Standard All Aspects Undertaken

Phone

01844 213358

07729 881306

ASHURST ARCHIVES

STORAGE

- Archive and Documents
- General Household
- Car
- Boat
- Caravan
- Business
- Short or long term

HOLLANDS FARM GREAT MILTON

jonnie@hollandsfarm.com

07768 408389

Great Milton Toddler and Baby Group



Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat whilst your children play.
We are a small, friendly group open to all Mums, Dads and Carers in the local area.
We have lots of toys for all ages to enjoy in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Great Milton Village Hall

Friday 9:30 to 11.30

For more information contact:

Hayley on 01844 279016

TIDDINGTON GARAGE

TEL: 01844 339210

SERVICING ALL MAKES AND MODELS

MOT'S WHILE YOU WAIT

FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY

COURTESY CARS AVAILABLE

SPECIAL DEALS ON SERVICE AND MOT

TYRES & LASER TRACKING AVAILABLE

DIAGNOSTICS

the
Good Garage Scheme 

OPENING TIMES MON-FRI 7.30AM-6PM

NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8AM-1PM



**Waterperry
Gardens**

Gardens, Teashop, Plant Centre,
Play Area, Orchards, Museum,
Art Gallery, Courses

Open All Year Round
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley,
Oxford. OX33 1LA. T. 01844 339226.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

February at Waterperry

Alphabet I Spy

10th – 18th February

Family fun over the February half term. Spy the whole alphabet in the gardens and win a treat.

Suitable for all ages. £2 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

Snowdrop Weekends

17th/18th & 24th/25th February

With more than 60 different snowdrop varieties carpeting the ornamental gardens over the season, enjoy these little heralds of spring in a magical setting. Free guided tours at 11am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm (Garden entrance fee applies).

Windmill Windows

Est 1999

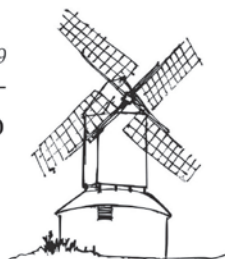
www.windmillwindows.com / Tel: 01844 237070

"Windmill Windows is a local family run business established in 1999, supplying and installing a large range of products in all materials, including uPVC, Composite, Timber and Aluminium.

Please feel free to pop in to see us, call us or visit our website for any information you are after. All our quotes are free of charge and obligation free."

Address:

Unit 1,
68 Worminghall Rd
Oakley, Bucks
HP18 9QY



Products:

- *Windows
- *Doors
- *Bi-Folds & Patio Sliders
- *Conservatories
- *Fascia / Soffit & Guttering
- *Glazing

OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALL SEASONS TREE CARE

Specialists In Tree Care & Garden Management

- Felling • Reductions & Thinning
- Crown Cleaning • Tree & Scrub Clearance
- Hedge Trimming • Stump Grinding • Logs

Domestic & Commercial

EMERGENCY 24 HOUR SERVICE

FREE No Obligation Quotes

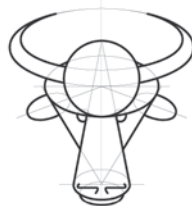
5 Million Public Liability NPTC & Lantra Qualified

www.allseasonstrees.com

Mob: 07823 332 247

Tel: 01865 430 536

Tel: 01869 250 473



J.M. DUDLEY GRAPHIC SERVICES

Artwork Creation
Photo Retouching
Colour Printing
Photocopying
Scanning

01844 279761 07721 457035

JONNY@ORODRUIN.CO.UK

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*

February

- 19th Mon Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion 7:30pm
- 21st Wed Neighbours Hall AGM at the Hall 7:45pm
- 22nd Thurs Games Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:30pm
- 28th Wed Neighbours Club: Lunch & Skittles at The Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe
Craft Club at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:30pm

March

- 3rd Sat Litterpick starting at The Old Garage 10:00am

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th February 2017**.
Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.
01844 278347 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**
Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**
Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PB.

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.
The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.

Mallams

1788

Throughout February
Mallams jewellery
specialist,
Louise Dennis FGA DGA,
is available to give free,
confidential valuations
on any piece of jewellery
you are considering
selling at auction.

Enquiries:
01865 241 358
louise.dennis@mallams.co.uk
www.mallams.co.uk



A pair of Art Deco
diamond earrings
by Cartier
Sold for £72,000
hammer price
in November 2017

BOCARD O HOUSE, ST. MICHAEL'S STREET, OXFORD OX1 2EB