

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2016

Published by the Parish Council

No. 515



## Great Milton Parish Council

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989**

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

**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:	Lesley Bush, Liz Sands
Kent & Couling Charity:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

### 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.

### Front Cover

Mick Robinson, first senior athlete representing GM Athletics Club at the Oxfordshire XC league, Round 1, Newbury Showground on Sunday 6 November 2016. Photo: Miranda Cook.

**If you have any photos of the village or events, we would love to include them!**

## In My Opinion...

You may have seen a recent call to arms asking for volunteers to put their names forward to assist in our Emergency Plan. In case this has not yet reached you, here it is:

The Parish Council is preparing an Emergency Plan so that we are prepared for an extreme event such as severe snowfall, flooding or a wide scale and prolonged utility failure. Not only is this good practice but it will enable us to access funds for equipment, such as a defibrillator. To complete this work we do need your help and support.

You can help us in a number of ways:

- We are looking for volunteers to assist in the case of an emergency. Would you be willing to join a group to help coordinate our response?
- Are you a trained first aider? Would you be willing to be “on call” should an emergency arise?
- Do you own or drive a 4x4? We need people who would be prepared to use their 4x4 vehicles, should there be a major snowfall, to rescue vulnerable people from their homes, provide a lift to the doctors or hospital, ferry vital food supplies or medicines etc.
- Do you own a chainsaw? Would you assist in clearing fallen trees from roads or pathways?
- Would you be able to help in any other way? Do you have equipment or training which could be used in an emergency? Would you be prepared to assist in preparing food and refreshments should we have to evacuate some of our residents to an emergency shelter such as The Pavilion? Could you help in identifying and contacting vulnerable people in our village?

We are aiming to complete our plan in the next 4 weeks. If you can assist us, or have any questions, please contact:

Peter Allen at [prallen770@btinternet.com](mailto:prallen770@btinternet.com)

In my opinion, this is a very important exercise, though I do hope we never need to use it! Please support it any way you can, and don't let apathy rule....

*Steve Harrod, Chairman*



## **Draft Notes from the Parish Clerk**

The November meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Steve Harrod with Cllrs Bill Fox (vice chair), Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and one member of public. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday 19th December starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

### **Planning Applications**

A separate meeting was scheduled to review P16/S3749/FUL (Full Application) - Ashurst Court London Road Wheatley OX33 1ER

Proposal: Change of use of building from B8 to B1a (offices) with alterations to facilitate the new use (amendment to approval P16/S0238/FUL to allow for altered/extended side lean-to to east side providing washrooms)

GMPC held NO STRONG VIEWS for planning application P16/S3603/FUL received from SODC:

P16/S3603/FUL – The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Rd, Milton Common

Erection of two detached and two semi-detached houses

P16/S2272/HH & P16/S2273/LB

Garden Close (Monkey Puzzle Farm) Lower End Great Milton

No. 2 - dated 13th October 2016 Proposal : Proposed two-storey rear extension, insertion of dormer windows and replacement front windows following demolition of modern rear extension, conservatory and two-storey side extension. (As amended and amplified by plans received on 13 July 2016 showing minor revisions to front elevation openings and new railings and as amended by revised plans and supporting documents received on 12 September 2016 and amended by revised plans received on 13 October 2016 showing a reduction in the scale of the extensions proposed).

GMPC recommended refusal of this application received from SODC

P16/S3325/HH - 5-6 Priory Bank Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PA

New one and half storey oak framed extension to rear. Conversion of remaining attached barn to habitable space. Retaining walls to rear garden and erection of new double garage with ancillary space over to northern end of garden. New conservation roof light in south facing thatched roof slope.

GMPC recommended no strong views of this application received from SODC

Application Reference: P16/S3466/FUL (Full Application) Swarebrook Lower End Great Milton OXFORD OX44 7NJ

Application Type (see definition over): Minor Proposal: Demolition of existing building and erection of small dwelling; provision of garden and parking

GMPC recommended approval of this application received from SODC

South Oxfordshire District Council gave notice that planning permission is GRANTED for: Application No : P16/S2272/HH Application proposal, including any amendments : Proposed two-storey rear extension, insertion of dormer window and replacement front windows following demolition of modern rear extension, conservatory and two-storey side extension. (As amended and amplified by plans received on 13 July 2016 showing minor revisions to front elevation openings and new railings and as amended by revised plans and supporting documents received on 12 September 2016 and amended by revised plans received on 13 October 2016 showing a reduction in the scale of the extensions proposed). Site Location : Garden Close (Monkey Puzzle Farm) Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL

### **Police Report**

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) consists of Inspector Mark Harling, Sergeant Vicky Hoskin, PC Ian Kent, PC Mel Stafford, PC Michael Goodenough, PCSO Lee Kehoe, PCSO James Hopkin, PCSO Lewis Carpenter, PCSO Natalie White, PCSO Dawn Hunt, PCSO Diane Jackson, and PCSO Ryan Dollery.

### **You said... we did**

- You said there was speeding issue on the Oakley Road in Chinnor. After a deployment of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) it showed only one vehicle going faster than 30mph which was a motorbike. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- We have received numerous reports of motorbikes being ridden along the Phoenix Trail and footpaths in Thame by young people not wearing helmets. We have increased patrols in these areas and have identified these young people. We shall be aiming to confiscate these motorbikes off them and give them section 59 warnings.

### **What is anti-social behaviour (ASB)?**

ASB covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance. Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- Street drinking
- Environmental damage including littering, dumping of rubbish and abandonment of cars





- Begging and vagrancy
- Fireworks misuse
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles

### **Theft from vehicles**

Over recent weeks we have seen an increase in Theft from Vehicles throughout the Thame Sector. These have been mostly in rural locations such as Aston Rowant nature reserve and Chinnor areas. We have been stepping up patrols in these areas however there are things that you can do to prevent becoming a victim of crime.

Make sure you don't leave any valuables on show in an unattended vehicle. Take all high value items with you and don't make it easy for criminals. We have been leaving crime reduction advice notices on vehicles to help in preventing vehicle crime.

The large majority of thefts from vehicles have involved work vans and cars containing power tools as these are the most sought after items. If you regularly keep these items in your vehicles, please get into a habit of removing these items when the vehicle is not in use. If anyone would like more advice, some security stickers or property marking kits then please contact the neighbourhood team who would be more than happy to help.

### **Crime prevention advice**

To prevent thefts from sheds please ensure your shed door is locked with a good quality padlock and consider buying tamper proof screws for your hinges. A good quality shed alarm can be purchased from most DIY stores and this acts as a very good deterrent should entry be gained to your shed. The Thame Neighbourhood team are always on hand to provide free crime prevention advice so please do utilise this and contact us if you feel you need some advice about your home/vehicle security.

Please assess your crime reduction/prevention measures to ensure your property is kept safe and secure. The below website will give you some great advice regarding this: [www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com](http://www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com).

### **Rural Crime**

There has been a spike in the reports of poaching and hare coursing in the Watlington, Lewknor and Chinnor area. These persons are coming onto our area in a silver Subaru forester and driving through hedges, gates and over fields to gain access to farmland in which they use dogs to chase and catch animals for sport. This offence causes extensive damage to fields and crops and therefore a financial loss to the farmer. Not to mention the distress and suffering experienced by the animals involved. Thame Neighbourhood are undertaking high visibility patrols in these areas. We would like to ask land owners, farmers and person living in rural locations to be on the lookout for such activities and call the Police immediately.

## Working with partners

Thame Neighbourhood along with SOHA helped facilitate a garden clean-up for an elderly resident who was unable to tend to their garden. This enabled the resident to gain access to their garden which was long missed.

## Contact Us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email: [ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it.

## Draft budget 2016/17

The draft budget was reviewed but will not be agreed until the next meeting in December. It was suggested to earmark money towards a bus service. Raising the precept was discussed. The precept was raised by 2% last year. The responsible financial officer suggested that further savings could be made by reviewing budgeted items further.

## Bus service

Peter met the organiser of the Princes Risborough bus which has been running for 7 years. Although they received a grant for the bus, they also receive public donations and the drivers are voluntary. It was felt we would not be able to sustain such a service as we have a lack of passengers compared with Princes Risborough which is similar in size to Thame.

Currently it looks as if the only option is taxis.

Please note that confirmed minutes will be uploaded to Great Milton Parish website <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

*Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council*

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## Services in Our Benefice for December

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 4th <i>Advent 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Wednesday 7th		Christingle Service Little Milton School 6:00pm	
Sunday 11th <i>Advent 3</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Thursday 15th	Christmas Service Great Milton School 2:00pm		
Sunday 18th <i>Advent 4</i>		Holy Communion BCP 8:00am Lessons & Carols 5:30pm	Lessons & Carols 3:00pm
Wednesday 21st	Lessons & Carols 6:15pm		Lessons & Carols Rycote Chapel 8:15pm
Saturday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>		Benefice Crib Service 4:00pm	Midnight Communion CW 11:15pm
Sunday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	Christmas Day Family Communion 9:30am		

## Services in Our Benefice for January 2017

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st <i>Christmas 2</i>			Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am



## Ramblings from the Rectory

Oh No. As I write, only just half way through November, I have just returned from a well known local supermarket. I stood waiting by the self service checkout by a Christmas card stand. I glanced at what was on offer, several Disney characters and several cards that had Darth Vader as the central them. No Jesus though, not even Santa Claus. Darth Vader apparently rules for Christmas.

Things got worse, as I checked out my goods, In Dulci Jubilo was blasted out of the SuperMarket PA. I had my first attack of pre-christmas seasonal cynicism. It is not even half way through November, they could have had the decency to wait until December, I felt sorry for the Staff.

It is so easy to get overwhelmed by it all, and I am sure that I am not the only one who suffers the annual pre-season cynical attack. Actually, I loved last Christmas, our first here. The Carol services were uplifting and extraordinarily well attended, as was the midnight service and a really celebratory service on Christmas day in Great Haseley (this year the Christmas day service is in Great Milton). I freely confess that after twenty four years of having to get up to take 8.00am Christmas day communions, and then a couple of other services in the morning, having one main service on Christmas morning and no 8.00 am (believe me, it's a bit of a struggle following the midnight service) was a total and utter delight!

The Christmas message is of course one of the central and mysterious messages of the Christian faith, God born as man. The challenge however, at least for me, is to help people to see that it is not the only message, nor indeed necessarily the main one, for that we need to look ahead to Good Friday and Easter, over the Cradle hangs the shadow of the Cross but beyond that the promise of resurrection. I was with Tim Suter looking at the Great Haseley Carol service and I asked him to give to me the words of one of the Choir pieces that picks up this theme so beautifully.

Sing Lullaby, Lullaby bay, now reclining,  
Sing Lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant King.  
Angels are watching, stars are shining  
Over the place where he is lying:  
Sing Lullaby!

Sing Lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,  
Sing Lullaby!



Hush, do not wake the infant King,  
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,  
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:  
Sing Lullaby!

Sing Lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing.  
Sing Lullaby!  
Hush do not wake the infant King.  
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,  
Then in the grave at last reposing:  
Sing Lullaby!

Sing Lullaby! Lullaby - is the babe awaking?  
Sing Lullaby!  
Hush, do not wake the infant King,  
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,  
Conquering death, its bondage breaking:  
Sing Lullaby!

Our packed services for Christmas was a revelation to me last year, I hope they will be repeated again this year, and of course all are welcome, there is so much to celebrate, God has become man, but there is also so much more to come. Bethlehem was only the beginning, the baby grew up. We really miss out if all we do is leave Jesus in the crib.

*Simon*

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## **St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on 5th February 2017**

Some of the silver Communion Plate belonging to St Peter's Church Great Haseley is on loan to St George's Chapel, the Patrons of our Benefice. Every February at one of their Services, some of the plate is used and the Benefice of Little Milton, Great Milton and Great Haseley is mentioned.

We are planning to attend the 10.45am Sung Mattins with Sermon on Sunday 5th February, 2017 when The Military Knights of Windsor will be on parade.

Transport arrangements and further details will be published in the January and February Village bulletins.

## Bible Study/Prayer Group Advent Course

We're going to follow the Advent York Course 'Living in the Light' in our Tuesday evening group and anyone interested is very welcome to come along and join us.... The dates are 29th November, 6th, 13th and 20th December. We meet at 7.30 pm in different homes, our first being in Great Milton at the home of Jane and Tony Jefferis on the 29th. For more explanation or to find out where we're meeting do phone the number below...

*S.A. Dennis (278029)*

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## Decorating St Mary's Church for Christmas

We would like to invite families to come along to St Mary's church on Saturday 17th December between 10am to 12 noon to help decorate the church for Christmas.

Bring a jam jar, if you have one, and we will provide greenery and baubles for some simple decorations. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you!

*Tricia Treanor – 279644*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

December				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	
11th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	Carols
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion

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## Great Milton Bellringers

### William and Joseph Allen

We remembered these two brothers at our Benefice service on Sunday October 30th. Our Captain halted the ringing and gave a short homily to William and Joseph Allen.



These two men were related to one of the ringers, and he also added his thoughts.

We have now marked the passing of all three of the Great Milton Bellringers/soldiers lost in the Great War. These were three normal men of the village – 2 gardeners and a baker – Harold Tame, William Allen and Joseph Allen – a hundred years ago.

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## **The Neighbours Club**

On 27th October we had John Fox back with us to talk about the floods which ravaged Rome in 1966. John was a student at the time and as they had asked for anyone with two hands to go and help a group of them went out. Rome had 80 days of heavy rain and filthy water and sewage was 30ft high in the streets and buildings though most buildings were swept away and cars etc were floating in the streets. The slides he showed were truly horrendous.

On 10th November our great favourite Beryl Hulbert was with us showing slides and telling us all about the Seychells. This was Beryl's 1,750th talk so she is cutting back now and only doing local shows but we will definitely still be on her list!

On 16th November we set off for Coventry again as it was so popular last year. We had a very enjoyable day and the rain held off until we were on the coach on our way home.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Thurs 24th Nov - Keep Fit with Yvonne - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 1st Dec - Christmas Lunch - 1.00 p.m.

Wed 18th Jan - Pantomime at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Wed 15th Feb - Lunch and kittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe

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## **Play Area Update**

I am delighted to announce that the project to rejuvenate the Play Area on the Recreation Ground has been completed and there is now something new for everyone.

For the younger members of the community there are new springers, a toy train, a rotaplay, a cylinder slide, a zip wire and a large mulitplay unit. We have also refurbished the swings and there is a new picnic table along with litter bins and new safety surfacing under all the units.

To make everyone's experience as nice as possible there is also a new safety fence designed to keep footballs and cricket balls away from the users. And adjacent to the

Play Area there is a new multi-gym activity unit and a cradle swing which are designed for teenagers and adults.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this possible - our funders (SODC, WREN, The Sheppard Trust, the Parish Council and Greenford Ltd) and everyone else who has been involved and helped, and especially Emily Johns who has battled through a mountain of forms and paperwork to make it all possible.

For those who may be new to the area the Recreation Ground was given to the village by the Rev Percivall Pott in 1931. The Rec, the Play Area and The Pavilion are owned by a charity which is managed by a small group of volunteer trustees who make sure that everything is maintained and kept clean and tidy. To ensure that this continues to be the case we need more people to come forward and share the load so if you can help please call me on 01844 278116. Thanks.

*Andy Noble*

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## **Neighbours Club Outing**

The Sinodun production of the pantomime The Pied Piper is at The Corn Exchange Theatre, Wallingford on Wednesday 18th January at 7:30pm. This is always very enjoyable. Tickets £10. Coach £10. Pick up in the village. If you are interested, ring 279459 asap.

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## **Fitness & Yoga Classes**

The last class this year will be on Monday 19th December 2016.


All classes will recommence from Monday 9th January 2017.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas & healthy and peaceful New Year!

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## **Great Milton Athletic Club**

Great Milton Athletics Club (GMAC) continues to move from strength to strength. This summer the club was invited to join the Oxfordshire Junior League as a non-scoring team. The track and field season ended in September, at the final league meeting with a flurry of personal bests for Esther Davies (70m hurdles), Emma Lamont (long jump), Phoebe Coleman (200m), Freddie Cunningham (high jump), and Jack 

Spencer and Luke Robinson (long jump). Jack Spencer was also selected to represent Oxfordshire in his first English Schools national final competing in a pentathlon at Exeter. We also managed an away day in Cheltenham for pole vault training.

The winter terms sees the focus of training shift to cross country. Eight of the squad, not forgetting, Mick Robinson, our first senior athlete (as seen on the front cover) raced in the first league match at Newbury on a bitterly cold day in early November. A trip to Aldershot to train with the most talented squad of endurance athletes in the country under Mick Woods will also be a key point in the winter training calendar.

GMAC would like to extend a huge thank you to the management and gardening team of Le Manoir for allowing our athletes to carry out their cross-country training in Le Manoir's field above their Orchard. We are also extremely grateful for the extra paths, which were cut in the field. They have allowed more variety to our running and most importantly enabled the coach to keep the younger athletes in sight during training.

GMAC are also grateful to the continued support of the Sheppard Trust and the Trustees. The funds provided have helped pay for training equipment, a first aid course, a tent for shelter at cross-countries, race entry fees, field official courses and coaching courses. We are very proud our older athletes who at 14 years are starting out on their coaching pathway and are helping with the under 11s on training nights. We hope by the time they leave school some will have become fully qualified UK Athletic coaches. The club, as ever, is extremely grateful for the continued coaching and guidance of Pat Read without whom our success would not be possible.

GMAC would like to welcome any new athletes from year 4 to year 9 and would very much like to hear from senior athletes (aged 11-14) to join our keen and competitive older athletes. We would also like to extend an open invitation to any volunteers interested in coaching the athletes or helping out generally in the club. Please do get in touch via [enquiries.gmac@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.gmac@gmail.com). GMAC can also be found on the village website.



GREAT MILTON  
HISTORY SOCIETY

We have been asked to open on a Saturday morning and so, for a trial time, the History Room will be open from 11:00am to 1:00pm on the following 3 Saturdays:-  
January 14th, February 18th and March 18th

Come and see us – we have information about families, individuals, births, deaths



and marriages, maps, photographs, cottages, houses, pubs, and lots more. Maybe you have some goodies to show us – bring your family photos/mementos – and learn more about the history of our Village.

### **A Few Thank Yous**

As I missed the November edition of the Bulletin, these are now a bit late, but here we go! I always like to have a word about the History evenings that we have had over the years – hope you enjoyed them as much as I did when putting them together. We touched on many subjects, and I would like to thank all those people who loaned me their treasured photos. etc. including the Great Milton History Society. I know most have been thanked already, but one person who was very helpful to me was Phil Rapps. He re-recorded the 40 year old tapes that I had, on to CDs, and also did a bit of tweaking here and there to make them more listenable. I think many of the older Miltonians would have known Phil - he used to live down Pegswell Lane. I often met up with Phil in the old 'Kings Head'. He was associated with Radio Oxford for many years, and later lived in Thame. Sadly, I have just learned that Phil passed away during the last 2 weeks. Our thoughts are with his wife, Desiree and his family. R I P Phil.

*Les Preston*

### **The d'Arcy Dalton Way**

The d'Arcy Dalton Way runs for 52 miles, from north of Banbury to south of Abingdon. Col WP d'Arcy Dalton was a notable defender of Oxfordshire's rights of way and the first Chairman of CPRE's Rights of Way Group. With his wife, the Colonel was long a resident in Great Milton and both can be located at rest in the churchyard here.

The newly revised edition of Nick Moor's guide to the route, which passes through almost wholly unspoilt countryside, is available from CPRE Oxfordshire for £9.99. A copy will be kept in the Great Milton History Room.



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## **Cyclists Make Hay**

For their late-Summer training camp this year, your village cycling association returned to the Welsh Marches (last visited in 2014), and based themselves at two substantial barn conversions in the village of Clyro, a mile from Hay-on-Wye. Clyro's sole claim to fame is its hotel, Baskerville Hall, rumoured to be the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's eponymous Hound.





Cathy Harrod's superb curry dinner on the Friday evening was a nervous affair, the navigator (your correspondent) having taken the opportunity to brief the cycling cohort of the meteorological and topographical challenges that lay ahead the following day. A sense of foreboding descended as the squad slunk off to bed.

In the event, Saturday dawned overcast but dry, and a peloton of seventeen (including, as ever, the unfailingly cheerful Eva and Oscar Lloyd) headed across the river Wye to Hay, and eastward alongside the river Dore in what is known locally as the Golden Valley. After a re-invigorating coffee and doughnut at the Poston Mill Tea Rooms, the valley floor was abandoned as the navigator steered a course up a steep 540 foot climb to the village of Michaelchurch Escley.

There was much dark muttering as the now bedraggled group lurched into the car park of the Bridge Inn for a much-deserved lunch. The landlord of the Bridge, with whom the lunch had been booked in advance, expressed amazement that we had actually made it, particularly having observed that most of us were not exactly in the first flush of youth!

As we set off after lunch, the Rogers took the lead roles in a farce, epic even by their exalted standards. Ken, having forgotten that he'd given his car keys to Margaret, thought he'd left them at the pub and duly abandoned the peloton to look for them. Margaret followed him. By the time they'd established that Margaret had the keys all along, the peloton were miles away. Undeterred, Margaret was convinced she knew the route back and set off, purposefully, on a back road of appalling difficulty. Along the way, they picked up Malcolm (Horsley) who had also mysteriously become detached from the pack. The three of them eventually made it home, exhausted, having had to push their bikes up several vertiginous ascents.

Meanwhile, the main group enjoyed an incident-packed ride back, involving a long glorious high-speed descent, a hailstorm, several punctures, and a curious episode involving Nick Belcher who was roundly berated by a passing motorist (a local farmer)

for stopping in the middle of the road at a blind junction. After much discussion, the group decided that their sympathies lay with the farmer. Once back at base, Paul Wakefield announced that we'd cycled 33 miles at an average moving speed of 11 mph; that our lowest altitude was 264 feet (above sea level), our highest was 972 feet, and that we climbed a total of 2,440 feet on the day. The group duly congratulated themselves on their efforts, and agreed that Paul ought to get out more.

That evening, Steve Harrod armed himself with an apron, his gardening gloves, some marinade and a vat of white wine, and proceeded to turn a small cow into the most delicious barbecued beef fillet imaginable, all in almost complete darkness. Truly, the man's genius knows no bounds!

Sunday was a magnificent day, no wind and not a cloud in the sky. Seldom can the Wye valley have looked so crisp and clear and inviting. The cycling cohort was significantly reduced as the rigours of the previous day had taken their toll, so a smaller group, augmented by the uplifting presence of Olivia and Simon Stanleigh and their two boys, set off for a 27-miler alongside the Wye and towards the "black and white" villages of west Herefordshire. It was a complete delight, only marred by Malcolm's tediously interminable reminiscences of his school days in the area. Apparently, the school was closed down before he'd completed his education, which, given what we learned that day, came as no surprise! At one point, after a short climb, Olivia mentioned that she'd spotted "an angel-like figure in white" up ahead and this had sustained her in her effort. It subsequently transpired that she was referring to the navigator, and Olivia was promptly disowned by the sisterhood.

That evening, having soaked up the remaining booze with bread, cheese and an assortment of leftover bits and pieces, the group gathered round the wood-burner and played charades. Aficionados of the parlour game will understand why Steve's interpretation of the film, *Shawshank Redemption*, caused several of those present to question whether what they'd just witnessed had actually happened. And Nick's portrayal of the splendid play, *The Vagina Monologues*, would not have made it onto any TV screen before the 9pm watershed!

Thus ended another week-end of hard exercise, wonderful food (courtesy of Cathy and her assistants, Bridgett Duncan and Jane Belcher), recurrent insobriety, and lots of laughs. Several regulars were unable to join us this year, but Gill and Henry Standing and their kids, Phoebe and Alex, were welcomed to the fold for the first time, and they, the Lloyds and the Stanleighs, give us comfort that the future of this great village institution is in wonderful hands.

Bibo ergo sum.

*Bill Fox*

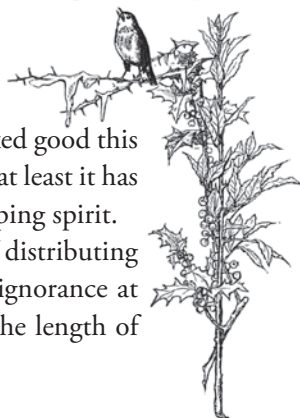
## From The Archive

### Kents Charity, December 1866

It is feared that “Kent’s Charity” has not been an unmixed good this year to the poor of Great Milton. In two or three instances at least it has given people an opportunity of betraying a grudging, grasping spirit.

Perhaps the fault has been chiefly in the Vicar’s way of distributing it. He confesses to have made two mistakes through his ignorance at the moment of the age of the claimant in one case, and the length of residence in the parish in the other.

No one was to blame for these mistakes but the Vicar.



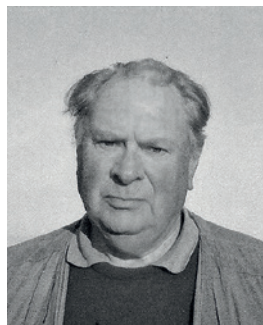
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## Christine at Le Manoir aux Quat’ Saisons



## View from Views

The mild and dry weather continues, which is certainly a bonus for the crops, having said that we do not want the wheat to grow too much at this time of year as it makes it more susceptible to fungal diseases, however the rape the better it grows now the less likely it is to suffer from Pigeon damage later in the winter as they do not like landing where there is no bare ground, up one down the other that's nature, we farmers live to learn that. I am told that the pigeons are still feeding on Beach masts which appear plentiful this year. Don't take any notice of this statement just try and remember it later in the winter, I feel in my bones, don't ask me why nor do I have any reason to say it, I just feel we could well be in for a hard winter, I will say no more as I have no real reason to make such a statement. It is not due to the fact that there are more berries about, an old wives tale, as that has nothing to do with the weather we are going to have but the weather we had last summer.



Talking of the onset of winter, wild life is making its preparations for winter small birds grouping up game birds foraging further afield as food supplies dry up, Foxes attacking our chickens as their food starts to run short, in spite of the fact I tell then there are plenty of rabbits about. Whilst on the subject of wildlife I was particularly disturbed to hear in the media of a new species of worm that had been imported probably in a pot plant and is likely to devastate our indigenous worms. This is very serious as worms are probably the most important part of the natural food chain as they help breakdown all waste material so that it can be absorbed back into the soil. Also they are also a very important part of soil structure in that they keep the soil aeriated allowing the ground to absorb water and thus help control flooding. This just illustrates the importance of proper border control that we do not seem take seriously enough. There are other countries that would not allow importation of soil unless it was either sterilized or decontaminated, it is just asking for trouble. The result this type of contamination, could be us being forced to use some very nasty chemicals to control these imported pests, just to save our natural environment. Try getting into NZ after saying you have been on a farm, you will soon understand how serious they think it is.

What a momentous year this has been, we are now coming out of the EU, Donald Trump entering the Whitehouse, and we have an unexpected new Prime Minister, and they tell me that due to the mild weather turkeys are likely to be some 10% heavier this Christmas, not good for the waist-line, there is nothing we can do about it just nature taking advantage of what is on offer, whatever next? We humans will have to



spend more on our Christmas Dinner.

I see these recent election results as showing how we the public are fed-up with the political elite, dictating to us what they want without consulting us first. It seems to me that whatever big project there is, and however many public enquiries/consultations we have, the project will go-ahead no matter what the public say. Be it 3rd runway, HS2, Chalgrove Airfield to mention but a few, I could go on, we've had enough, and no one takes any notice of our views, after all we live here and know what the traffic is like, and pay their bloated salaries through our TAXES. Since I last wrote I have learnt of even more alarming reports of development in our area. I feel somewhat trapped and cornered nowadays, threatened by the encroachment into the country side by everything that is not country, and the general pressure on everything and everybody, and no matter what we say it goes ahead because the government wants it, supposedly for the better of humanity forget the environment and wildlife. Wherever you go there are traffic jams, the sound of planes, ground and soil structure being damaged by machines, great open spaces laid bare ready for new roads, railways, Airports, or other development, trees being pulled out for the same reason, and so on. I just ask what is the most important that we preserve human nature and business, or the world? All humans seem to be doing at the moment is bombing and killing each other, time we took note of nature and what it is doing, as it solves it's problems without any fuss or doing anything different. We have just had a referendum which showed that we did not agree with being dictated to, why cannot all these issues I mention above be annotated with a tick box for in favour or against, with modern technology it could all be counted electronically for very little cost, and done at the same time as we vote, it would also save MPs time in debating the issues.

Anyway have a happy Christmas

*Charles Peers*

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## Little Milton WI

The November meeting was an interesting talk on West Wycombe Park, house and the Dashwood family.

Our next meeting on Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm is a Fabric Wreath workshop with Mulled wine & mince pies. Some material will be provided but please bring your material stash, such as light cottons, ribbon, netting, gauze, velvet, tinsel, embellishments and scissors.

Please let me know if you'd like to join us. Everyone welcome, visitors £5 or free if



you join up on the night.

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.

No need to be shy, contact me for more information.

Keep up to date with WI news & events at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](https://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge) and at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438*

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## **News from The Pine Lodge**

Hope you managed to attend some of our many events in November. The fireworks were a bit hit, with lots of people from outside the village. The Craft Market raised over £1,800 for Bloodwise and at the time of writing this, we have Quiz Night and Clive Carroll to look forward to. Thank you to all the committee and many helpers for making our events so successful.

Come along to our annual Christmas Fayre on 3rd December 11am - 2pm. There will be homemade crafts for sale, children's activities, a festive café, raffle, tombola and a visit from Santa! All in aid of The Orchard Pre-school, St James' Church and The Village Hall. We're also funding the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch on 10th December at The Lamb - thank you to Teresa, Ian & Des for organising this special get-together every year.

Clubs this month include WI on Thursday 8th with a Fabric Wreath workshop, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30pm, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm. There's no craft club this month.

Keep up to date with news & events at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](https://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge) and at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*

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

I recently read an article in a gardening magazine which described 1960s gardens as grim. Being born in the mid-fifties, my childhood was lived in the '60s and I remember gardens with a great deal of pleasure and I don't agree with the author.



My father was a keen gardener despite having been brought up in a one-up-one-down terrace with no garden whatsoever. His own father, son of a farmer, had been a jobbing gardener all his life in addition to his day job of railway porter. I helped with weeding and my favourite weekend of the year was Easter when my dad would be in the garden all weekend planting potatoes and sowing vegetable seed in the back garden which was given over to fruit and vegetables. There was also a small greenhouse in which he grew tomatoes; this had pipes running round with a tiny solid fuel boiler which I think was fed with coal at night. I have never seen another such system other than in large country estates. One of my most powerful childhood memories is of entering the greenhouse in the sun and being on a narrow earth path surrounded by tomato plants covered in ripe fruit; sadly my greenhouse never smells so good. My brother and I also had our own small plot where we grew annuals.

Our front garden was given over to Dahlias in a multitude of bright colours which I loved; I have no memory of what was there when those in-your-face flowers were not. There were also, planted by the house wall, two mop head Hydrangeas one blue and one pink. I remember dad putting colourant on one to make it blue. In the early sixties the Dahlias were banished for ever and roses were planted throughout the front garden with the front and back walls of the house having the beautiful climbing rose 'New Dawn' trained over. Naturally, I now have that rose and others I remember including 'Peace' in our garden.

When my father died my grandfather naturally took over tending our garden until my grandmother had a stroke when he became her sole carer. It then fell to my mother to garden and, being from a gardening family, she was a natural. Everything she touched grew and it seemed sad she had never before been allowed to do more than the occasional weeding. She sourced her plants and potting compost largely from Woolworths and made her own compost at home. In the summer months we had what seemed like an endless supply of fruit and vegetables. I vividly remember the summer of '69 as being the year of the strawberry when we were picking about a stone (6kg) a day for three weeks. This was a problem in the days before freezers as my mother was unable to source enough jam jars and we children were struggling to eat strawberries for every meal including breakfast! I remember my little brother and I being sent out with punnets of strawberries to all the elderly people my mother knew; my mother was a good woman, the extent of which we only discovered at her funeral. Eventually her garden won a garden competition and she was so pleased and deservedly so.

Of my three siblings, one has a degree in horticulture and another is a keen gardener and flower arranger. My teenage son was once overheard telling his sister that there was no point fighting gardening as she was destined to be one because it was in her genes;

that is certainly true as my other half also comes from a family of keen gardeners.

*Liz Moyses, Membership Secretary*

[liz@moyses.org](mailto:liz@moyses.org) • 01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year.

This year's Christmas party and talk will be by Dominic Hamilton on:

"The history and restoration of the Painswick Rococo Garden"

Painswick is a historically important garden, it is the country's sole surviving complete rococo garden. The talk will be both about the history of the garden and its rescue from decline. Wednesday December 7th Great Haseley village hall at 7.30pm.

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## Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

Firstly, as this newsletter will appear in December magazines I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

The end of the year is often a time of reflection and planning. As I look back it has not been an easy year. There have been many challenges and some of these will continue forward into the coming year. We are in times of change and as such it can be unsettling. I welcome correspondence on issues of concern. Whether or not our views are shared it is good to know how others perceive situations and what issues are uppermost in people's minds.

There is no doubt that some constituents face hard times but overall in this constituency we have many privileges much due to the work of many in our communities who give their time in many voluntary activities. May I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done in 2017.



# 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](mailto:carina.martin@gmail.com))**

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We raised a whopping £950 for Children In Need with our fancy dress car wash, so many thanks for all who contributed.

In October we had been trading for 5 years, so when our 10,000th invoice was issued, we honored it with awarding ANDY BELL (a local businessman from Sandy Lane Farm) a FREE MOT and repairs on his car.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR.

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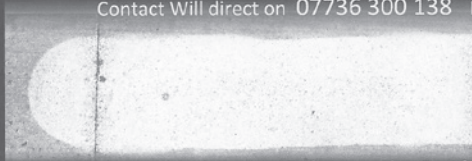
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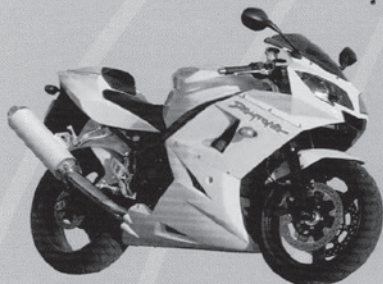
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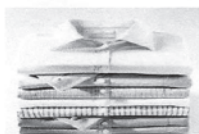
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## Great Milton Toddler and Baby Group



Come along and join us for a coffee and a  
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**Friday 9:30 to 11.30**

For more information contact:  
Hayley on 01844 279016



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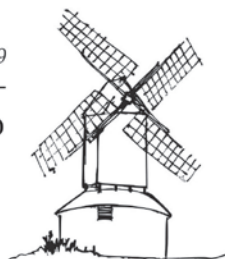
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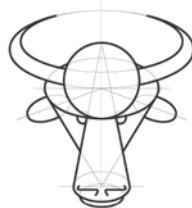
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## Diary

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

## December

- 1st Thurs Neighbours Club: Keep Fit with Yvonne 2:15pm
- 3rd Sat Christmas Fayre at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 11:00am
- 8th Thurs W.I Meeting at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:30pm
- 17th Sat Decorating St. Mary's Church for Christmas 10:00am
- 19th Mon Parish Council Meetin in The Pavilion 7:30pm
- 25th Sun Christmas Day! :-)

## January 2017

- 18th Wed Neighbours Club: Pantomime at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford —

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th December 2016**.

Adverts to **Helen Cherry** 21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

07554 516989 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PB.

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